



Interreg - IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro

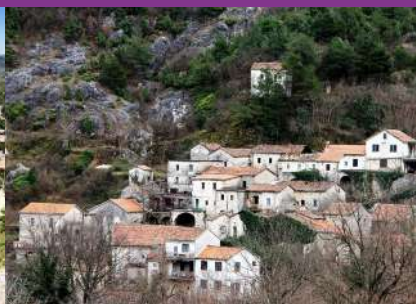


HAMLET

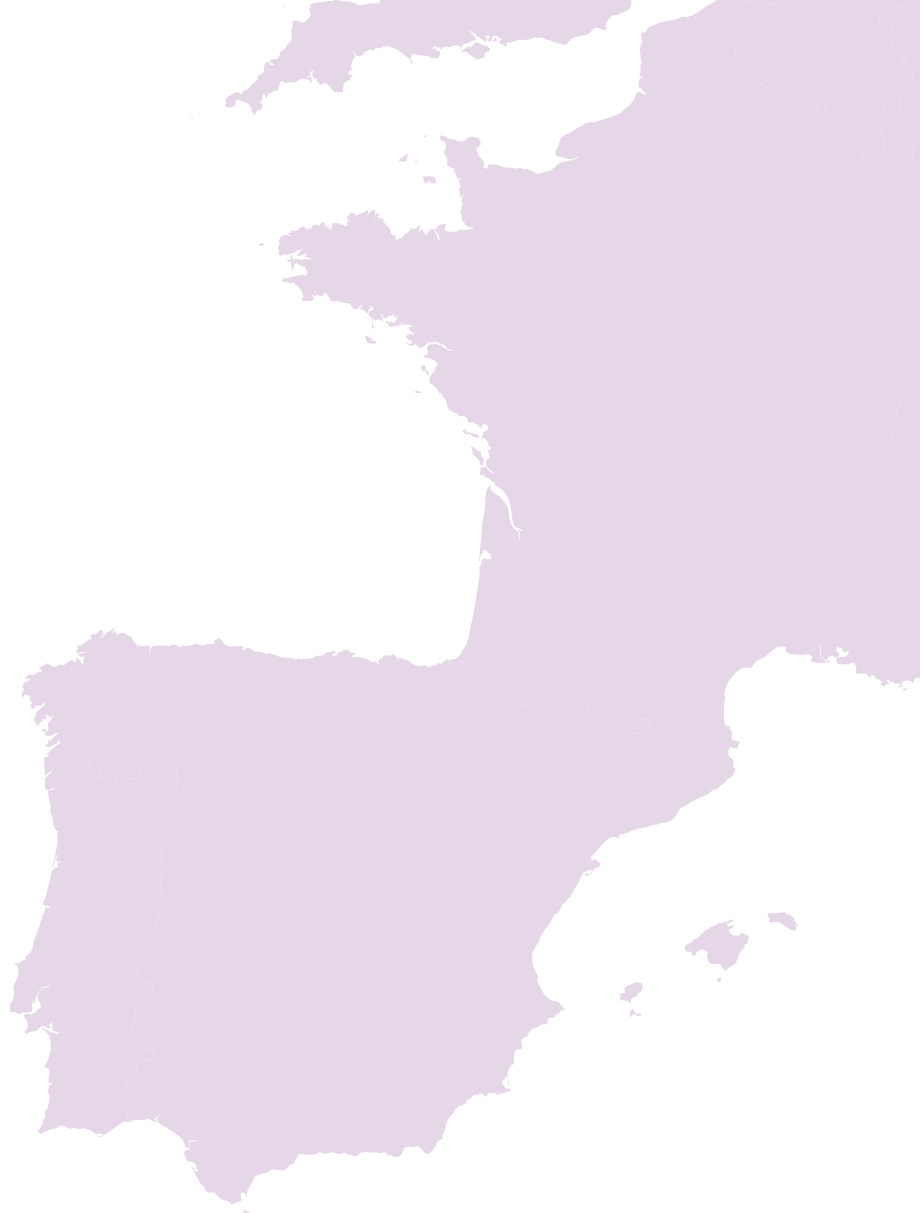


HAMLET

Highlighting Artisanal Manufacturing
Catalog of tourist itineraries



This project is co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)





Interreg - IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro



EUROPEAN UNION

HAMLET

THE PROJECT



Intended to highlight the artisanal manufacturing, culture and eco-tourism, HAMLET is a project aiming to boost attractiveness of natural and cultural assets to improve a smart and sustainable economic development.

Italy, Albania and Montenegro are known for the presence of numerous natural sites, historic villages and small towns and the project is implemented in territories characterized by monuments, historical artefacts and natural assets currently underexploited but that can play an important role in the national tourist offer.

HAMLET addresses the valorization of historical centers, villages and small towns and introduces selected areas into the tourist circuits and aims to boost the cooperation and networking between three Mediterranean countries, while working towards identification of Adriatic area peculiarities.

Beside modernization of tourist signs with a particular attention for access services for disabled people, the project aims to achieve a geographical and cultural mapping thus providing a full comprehensive list of ancient traditions, works and natural peculiarities in order develop a new tourist offer, with new itineraries and activities gathered under a common brand. Its core expectation is the increased knowledge and awareness of local heritage, the involvement of community and public entities in tourism promotion and the improvement of social inclusion and employment.

Total budget	€ 975.800,00
IPA II co-financing 85%	€ 829.429,99
Duration	04/04/2018 – 02/01/2021



VILLAGES' EXCELLENCES - LEGEND



Fortifications



Art



Architecture



Churches



Archeology



Craftsmanship



Legends



Food & Wine

ITALY

ITINERARIES



ITINERARY 1



Photo by WildRarFilm

Bovino

Cradled within the gentle slopes of the Daunian Mountains, among old mills and post houses that were once home to local crooks, Bovino and its maze of alleys are sure to amuse visitors. When looking up, among the white limewashed brick houses, the ochre roof tiles and the sturdy stone bell towers, it is impossible not to spot the stately Ducal Castle built by Drogone, count of Apulia, in 1405, which still appears in excellent conditions. The Cathedral dedicated to Saint Mary of the Assumption, built in the 10th century in Romanesque style, is slightly older than the castle and is a real gem in the heart of one of the most beautiful Italian villages. older than the castle and is a real gem in the heart of one of the most beautiful Italian villages.

ITINERARY 2



Photo by Carlos Solito

Cisternino

Cisternino, a marvellous fresco in the Itria Valley and one of the most beautiful Italian villages, is a town with two souls: one is more introverted, it looks for contentment and quiet spaces; the other is unconventional, it enraptures you at night with its bars and clubs, music and tables filled with food along its alleys.

Plunged into one of the most characteristic landscapes of the whole region, among Trulli and dry stone walls, olive trees and vineyards, Cisternino shines under the summer sunlight that reflects against the walls of its white houses and the "chianche" stones that cover the streets of the city centre.

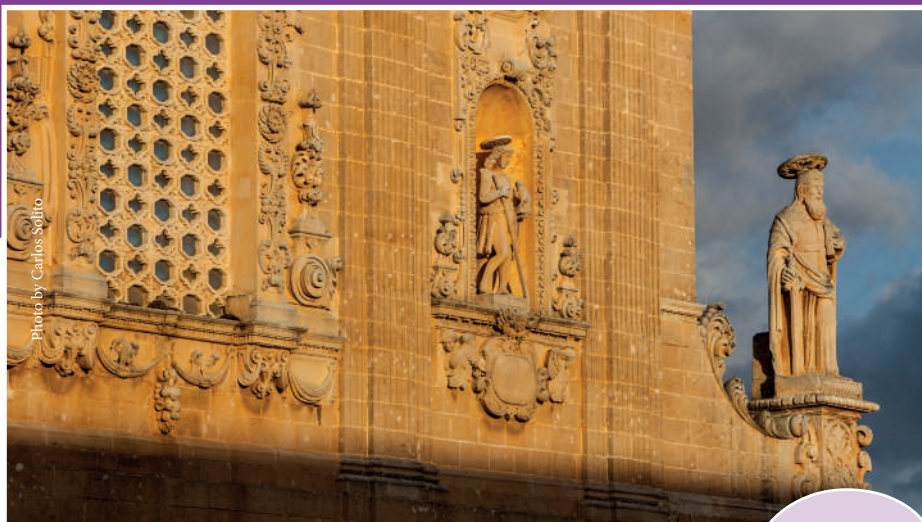
The most striking aspect of this town is the amazing personality of its historical centre with its wrought iron banisters, its blooming gardens and stone arches. A balance of narrow and well looked after spaces and breathtaking balconies, from which the view stretches until the horizon and pierces through the whole valley.

In this fairy tale scenery we find the Porta Grande tower, at the top of which stands the statue of Saint Nicola, as well as numerous historical residences such as the Governor's Palace, a beautiful example of Apulian Baroque style, or the sixteenth century The Bishop's Residence, Palazzo Amati, Palazzo Lagravinese and Palazzo Ricci-Capece with its wind tower. To conclude with the characteristic symbol of the city, Clock Tower in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele.

Since Cisternino is almost 400 metres above sea level, in the hot summer nights its fresh air attracts a great number of tourists and visitors who walk around the square and to local steak houses to enjoy the amazing food and cultural events that fewer places in the region can offer.



ITINERARY 3



Galatone and Pulsano

The Municipalities of Galatone and Pulsano are not only part of the provinces of Lecce and Taranto respectively, but they also belong to that vast Apulian area known as “Grande Salento”, which comprises as many as 148 Municipalities. Galatone is 76 km far from Pulsano. This distance can be travelled by car in about one hour and fifteen minutes.

Let us start by visiting Galatone, located on a hillside dotted with vineyards, fig trees as well as liberty and moresco style villas. The 17th century sanctuary Santuario del Santissimo Crocifisso, final destination of many pilgrims, is instead an example of Baroque style. The story goes that when the temple collapsed in 1682, the lamp that used to shed light on the sacred icon miraculously remained lit.

3

The most important religious building in Galatone is the Collegiata dell'Assunta, the town's majestic main church and its bell tower.

The old cave settlement in Tabelle is only three kilometres from the city centre. Wandering around the countryside between May and June, visitors might be so lucky as to pick and taste the first local apricots of the season. These, believed to have been originally imported from the East by the Templars, are small, sweet and juicy

Overlooking the crystal clear sea, the beautiful Pulsano is one of the oldest centres in the area with its necropolis and remains that date back to the 14th century B.C. When in the historical city centre, visit the Chiesa Matrice (Main Church), above which rises the tall bell tower, and in which are kept statues by the most important local masters of papier mache as well as a reproduction of Our Lady of Lourdes' rock cave, realised by a christian pilgrim who had been saved by a miracle during a journey to the original rock cave. In the suburbs, instead, visit the Museo della Civiltà Contadina "Papale" (Museum of Rural "Papal" Civilization) with over 600 items dating back to rural civilization displayed in a nineteenth century rural property.



Photo by Carlos Solito

ITINERARY 4



Vico del Gargano

In the heart of Gargano National Park, overlooking a breathtaking seashore, the old town of Vico del Gargano is among the most beautiful Italian villages. Similar to the nativity scene, when seen from above the eye stretches from chimney pot to chimney pot, from red roof to red roof, interrupted only by the the Main Church) on a hill, by Saint Peter Church on Mount Tabor, by the stately Castle and Palazzo della Bella, as well as underground locations such as Trappeto Maratea, that bear witness to the local agricultural tradition.

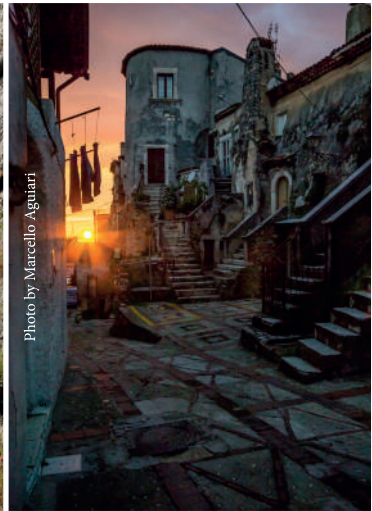
A must-see is most certainly Tiny Kissing Alley, a 30 metre long and 50 cm wide alley, so narrow that young lovers are bound to brush against one another.

4

The “love” theme is also central to Saint Valentine Festival, village patron and guardian of citrus orchards and lovers, celebrated with the traditional procession of the simulacrum, enwreathed with local oranges and white flowers that come with the fruit.

However, this marvellous village is not only famous for its citrus, but also for the most amazing hand made linen, wool, silk and gold embroidery realised with a particular technique that has been handed down for generations. The results of this tradition are precious trousseaus, but also fittings and albs for the week dedicated to Saint Valentine.

Just outside the town, it is possible to walk or horse ride around the archaeological site of the necropolis and the vast stretch of pine trees, oaks, beeches, yew trees and strawberry trees in the Umbria Forest. To reach the seaside, instead, you will need to walk across a thick forest of carob and fig trees as well as century-old olive trees until you reach a sandy beach, rich in spring water, the perfect spot for anything and anyone: Saint Menaio Beach, ideal for families, equipped and easy to reach, or more uncontaminated bays, such as the beaches of Sospetto and Calenelle, the closest to the village.



ALBANIA

ITINERARIES



ITINERARY 1



On the path toward the Castle of Libohova and the famous Saint Mary's Church at Labova e Kryqit

One cannot miss a visit at the impressive historic town of Libohova and its magnificent castle. Once built as a dowry for the sister of the local ruler Ali Pasha, it overlooks the Drino valley and serves as a communication and observation point. The town of Libohova apart from the Castle offers the possibility of a nice pause under the centuries old shades of the Platanus trees. Labova e Kryqit and its homonymous church are 20 minutes' drive from Libohova. A nice scenic road leads up the mountain side and as you approach the village, the image of the church immediately attracts your attention.

ITINERARY 2



Built for love, destroyed because of hatred - a journey at the archaeological park of Antigonea

The city was first constructed by orders of King Pyrrhus of Epirus, with an orthogonal pattern, including an agora and the impressive fortification wall. The first archaeological excavations started a little over than a century ago and since than year after year more impressive remains of a once glorious city are coming to light. Pyrrhus named the city in honor of his wife Antigone, the step daughter of King Ptolemy of Egypt. It thrived for several centuries after its construction but its bustling life came to an abrupt end in 167 BC, when as a punishment to the Epirotes, the Roman consul Aemilius Paulus ordered its complete destruction.

2

A mere 16 km on a well paved road leads up the mountain just across from Gjirokastra in the direction of the village of Saraqinishta. Cold war bunkers decorate the landscape as you drive up towards the villages, serving as a reminder of the recent bitter times that Albania went through. The city of Gjirokastra is a bird's-eye view away, the fresh air and the animal flocks grazing nearby bring a much-welcomed pastoral feeling to Antigonea. It should be considered as a journey back in time so please refrain from using your phone apart from taking photos. The exquisite mixture of archaeological remains and nature is breathtaking. The entrance is situated at the lower part of the once glorious acropolis and the path takes you one by one towards the most important monuments of the ancient city, including the Peristyle House, the Agora, fortification wall, late 5th century AD church and its mosaic, the latter depicting a dramatic scene of Abraxas, the cockheaded demon slayer, while in battle with a snake representing the powers of darkness.

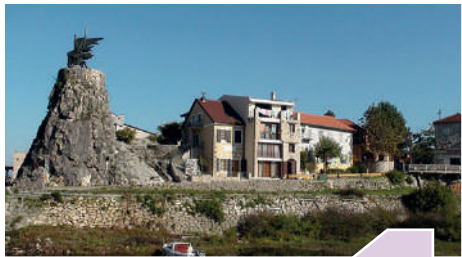


MONTENEGRO

ITINERARIES



ITINERARY 1

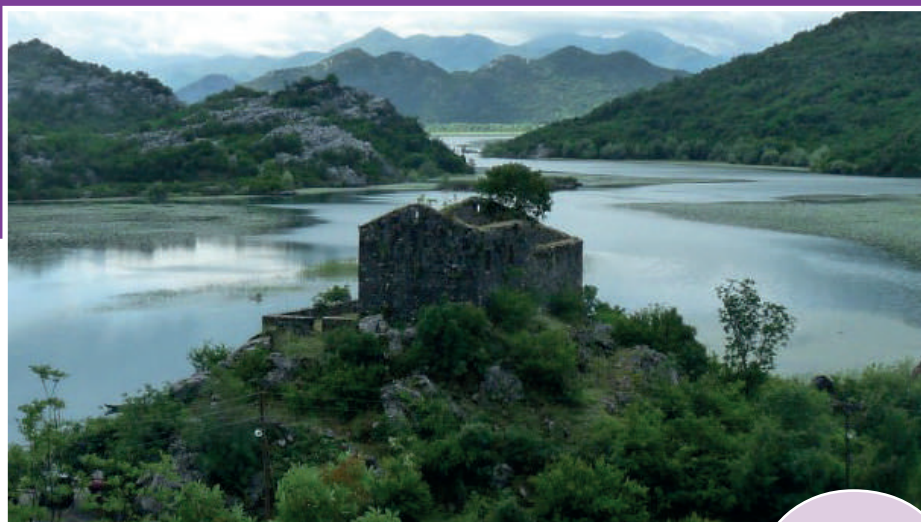


Virpazar

The settlement of Virpazar is the most visited part of the Montenegrin Shore of Skadar Lake. In addition to a specifically conceived urban core, Virpazar today has a frequent port, which is most often used for touristic purposes. Apart from the settlement, the Besac Fortress is a special location in the vicinity of the village, while the intangible treasures of this area are preserved by numerous wine producers. The tour in Virpazar, therefore, includes a visit to the urban settlement, Besac Fortress, Lesendro Fortress, a boat ride on Skadar Lake and a visit to one of the wine producers.



ITINERARY 2



Godinje – Karuč - Dodoši

Located on the southern shore of Lake Skadar, Godinje is a unique and authentic locality - not only within the micro-region to which it belongs, but also in the wider area. The route of the site includes a tour of the stone buildings, which represent one of the most significant segments of the rural architecture of this area, along with the visit to the summer house of one of the most prominent medieval dynasties of Montenegro, Balšić. The visitors will have a chance to visit one of the nine mills that are located in this area, and taste traditional food and wine in the nearby cottage. The route continues with the boat cruise along the lake and visit to the island Grmožur, which is often referred to as the Montenegrin Alcatraz.

2

From Grmožur, the cruise through Godinje Bay will continue to the beach Pješačac, which cannot be accessed by land, but only by boat.

After this segment, the route continues to villages Karuč and Dodoši. The beginning of the tour is located at the entrance of Karuč where the tourist guide will present the key historical information about the settlement that was formed more than two centuries ago. Upon completion of the tour of the settlement, visitors will be guests of one of the authentic local taverns, where they will see the traditional process of processing / preparing and frying fish in oil. The tour will continue by the boat, with the visit to local village Dodoši. During the voyage, participants will be able to see the ways in which fish are caught in the area of "Karučko oko". In Dodoši, participant will visit one of the traditional families of this area which is preserving the old craft of knitting reeds



ITINERARY 3



Vranjina and Žabljak Crnojevića

The island of Vranjina is one of the most visited touristic spots that belong to the northern shore of Lake Skadar. In addition to the settlement, monasteries and facilities such as restaurants and wineries, on each side of the island there is at least one site worth noticing. The „Vranjina“ tour thus includes a visit to the settlement, Monastery, Collection of the Visitors Centre of the National Park „Skadar Lake“, Fishermen Association „Vranjina“, but also the visit to the largest mass wine producer in Montenegro - „Plantaže“, Fortress Žabljak Crnojevića and families engaged in the production of traditional boats.

3

The beginning of the tour is located at the entrance to the Village of Vranjina, near the local market. The visitors will hear more about the history of the area and in cooperation with the Association of Fishermen from Vranjina, they will have the opportunity to see traditional local fishing equipment and boats. The tour continues with boat cruise and visit to the Monastery of St. Nicholas. From that location, sailing continues to the south coast of the island. Before docking, the Association of Fishermen „Vranjina“ will present the process of traditional fishing from boats on the lake itself. After that visitors will visit „Plantaže“ and NP „Skadar Lake“. At the end of this segment, the route continues to the settlement of Žabljak Crnojevića. The vehicle will transport visitors from the restaurant „Jezero“ to Žabljak, at a distance of 17 kilometers. Upon arrival in Žabljak Crnojević, a tour of one of the families engaged in the production of traditional boats will be organized.



ITINERARY 4



Bihor Area

The area of Bihor mostly belongs to the borders of the Municipality of Petnjica. The relatively new unit of local self-government includes about fifteen settlements located in the north of Montenegro, between the territories of the municipalities of Berane, Bijelo Polje and Rožaje. During the route in Bihor, the participants will visit the settlements of Petnjica, Kutnje Brdo, and optionally the place Trpezi, where there is a catering facility. The goal of the route is for the participants to be acquainted with all the stages of the creation of the Bihor carpet, starting from the production itself to the final product, including also the very structure of this segment of intangible cultural heritage of Montenegro.

4

The tradition of carpet weaving in Montenegro has a long history, mostly in the north of the country, but to this day it has survived only in Bihor. The starting point of the visit is the seat of the Municipality of Petnjica. In that place, the participants of the tour will have the opportunity to get information about the history of the Bihor region, but also about the skills that still exist in the area - carpet making. Visitors would see the carpets in one of the nearby facilities and locals would explain the structure - given the fact that the ornaments or patterns on the carpet often have a certain meaning.

After the tour of the locations in Petnjica, the participants of the visit would be transported to the second point of the route, the settlement of Kutnje Brdo, which is located five kilometres away. At that location, visitors would visit the small plant of the NGO "Valuable Hands", which gathers local producers of Bihor carpets.



CONTACTS

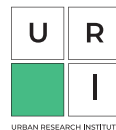
Volume produced by
Regional Tourism Board PUGLIAPROMOZIONE

Texts and images by
HAMLET project partners

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of Project Partnership and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union and of the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme Authorities.

Reproduction or even partial reproduction, without a clear indication of the source and the author is prohibited.

Free publication.



ZAJEDNICA OPŠTINA CRNE GORE
UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF MONTENEGRO







Interreg - IPA CBC
Italy - Albania - Montenegro



HAMLET



This project is co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)