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PAESTUM VELIA PADULA

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF PAESTUM AND VELIA



Paestum

Paestum is an archaeological site known for its large sacred area which houses the temples of Hera from 560 BC, Neptune from 450 BC, and Athena from 500 BC. The three temples are still standing, never reconstructed, and since ancient times, they have preserved remnants of the great sacrificial altars. Recognized as UNESCO treasures, they are among the best-preserved temples in the world, allowing visitors to travel, in a few steps, from the Greek era to the Roman era. In the National Archaeological Museum of Paestum, which houses the Tomb of the Diver, it is possible to appreciate scenes of daily life, heroic deeds, and metaphorical depictions.

Velia

Velia, a Greek colony founded in 540 BC, preserves the remains of the southern quarter of the ancient city and overlooks the sea. The excavations of the Porta Marina open the tourist path that once welcomed sailors and merchants. It was a wealthy city, renowned for the therapeutic use of water. In Velia, it is still possible to appreciate the architectural structures used to channel and preserve water, making it a fundamental element for the well-being of the thermal complex. The Greek road, a truly unique example of intact pavement from that era, leads to the Porta Rosa, a round arch. At the highest point, the acropolis, the theater, and the head of Parmenides stand.

LA CERTOSA DI PADULA

The Certosa di Padula was built by order of Tommaso Sanseverino in 1306 and preserves artifacts from different historical periods. On the door of the church, dating back to 1374, the panels have inlays depicting scenes from the life of San Lorenzo. It took five centuries to complete the construction of the largest monastery in Italy, which, with its 51,500 square meters, is second in size in Europe only to the Certosa Madre of Grenoble. The Certosa di Padula is a journey through time: looking upwards, you can see the frescoes from the Gothic era, while the wooden furniture takes us back to the 16th century. The altars, decorations, stuccos, and floors represent the Baroque period. The library, the spiral staircase leading to it, the cloisters, and the monumental facade, begun in 1500, are magnificent.

