

## **Cilento, between unspoilt beaches, wild nature and charming hamlets [from italia.it]**

Cilento is a wonderful area of Campania, a land of rolling hills dotted with olive trees right by the Tyrrhenian Sea.

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As a crossroads of peoples and a treasure trove of ancient traditions, the territory is rich in chestnut and holm-oak forests, streams and hamlets overlooking the sea or built on rocks.

Here, we find some masterpieces included in the **UNESCO World Heritage List** in 1998: the magnificent **Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park**, with the **archaeological sites of Paestum and Velia** and **Certosa di Padula**.

Hidden beaches, small fishing villages, unspoilt nature and rich archaeological evidence make Cilento an irresistibly fascinating destination.

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**What is Cilento and where is it located?**

**The Cilento** area is located in the province of **Salerno**, southern [Campania](#). It offers a hundred kilometres of coastline between cliffs, rock-cut caves and headlands.

The **Cilento sea** has limpid waters that lap its fine sand; just a few kilometres away loom the peaks of the **Southern Dolomites**, an extensive mountain range that, in some places, exceeds 1,700 metres. The human settlements dotting the territory are of very ancient origin, some resembling cribs with centres of a few hundred inhabitants among sanctuaries, monasteries and ancient manors.

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## History and information on Cilento

The Cilento region played an important role in the development of philosophy and science, mainly due to the establishment of the **Eleatic school**, during the Magna Graecia period, in what is now identified as the **archaeological area of Velia**, not far from Salerno. Parmenides, Zeno and Xenophanes were the most brilliant representatives of this school.

Another site of exceptional historical interest is [the archaeological area of Paestum](#). From 560 BC onwards, the village experienced an architectural and cultural development that we can still enjoy today.

[Historical sitesLike](#)

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[Archaeological Park of Paestum and Velia: Art, rituals, architecture and culture.](#)

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## Why Cilento is a Unesco site

**Cilento**, located between the Gulf of **Salerno** and the **Gulf of Policastro**, has been designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** as a cultural landscape of extraordinary value, bearing witness to settlements dating back 250,000 years.

The National Park has also become a **UNESCO Mab Biosphere Reserve** area and has been included in the **UNESCO Geoparks** network due to its beautiful and numerous karstic caves.

La **Certosa di Padula** [Charterhouse] on the Vallo di Diano plateau is noteworthy because it is the largest monastery complex in southern Italy and is rich in artistic treasures.