



## Rome to Gemini

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### *Via Francigena - Part 3*

The Via Francigena, also known as the Francisca or Romea, is part of a bundle of routes that led from Western Europe in Southern Europe to Rome, continuing on to Puglia, where there were ports of embarkation for the Holy Land, a destination for pilgrims and crusaders. It includes several stages that take pilgrims to discover culture, history and spirituality.

In addition to being a pilgrimage route, the Via Francigena is also an important cultural and trade route, which played a crucial role in the development of medieval Europe and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994.

The original route of the Via Francigena is on foot and is marked by a series of red and white symbols, which indicate the route to be followed. There are also a number of guidebooks and maps available for pilgrims.



One of the most important sections of the Via Francigena in Italy is the St. Francis Walk, a route of about 850 kilometers that runs through central and southern Italy, from Assisi to the port city of Brindisi in Puglia. This stretch is named after St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Italy, who traveled to the Holy Land in 1215 to convert Muslims to Christianity. After visiting the holy places in Jerusalem, he returned to Italy by crossing the Via Francigena and southern Italy.

The reconstruction of this aerial excursion faithfully reproduces the actual route of the Via Franchigena, offering the possibility of enjoying breathtaking landscapes from above. It is then enriched, in addition to the precise flight directions according to the VFR standard, with copious historical, geographical and cultural information of all points of interest. All to provide an immersive and educational flying experience.

No. of Legs:	4
Total distance:	366 nm
Author:	Perfect Flight
Project:	pf2k-fsact-franchigena3



## Legs

### Leg 1: LIRU - LIGU

Departure: Urbe (LIRU)

Destination: Campo Di Volo Umberto Nobile (LIGU)

Distance: 78,3 nm



### POI1-Lago di Albano



Distance: 13,6 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 13,6 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 64,7 nm  
True Course: 149°  
Magnetic Course: 145°

About this flight.

This flight winds along the Tyrrhenian coast and past Gaeta, a seaside town with an ancient fortress. Arrive at the Campania region, where the Umberto Nobile Airfield is located.

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Take off from Urbe Airport and fly while maintaining alignment with runway 16. Fly over Rome Ciampino Airport and you are in sight of Lake Albano.



Lake Albano, which is volcanic in nature, is located in the province of Rome in the Castelli Romani area of the Alban Hills. Almost circular in shape, on its shores are important prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains, such as the Village of the Macine, the artificial outfall and the Doric and Bergantino nymphaeums, the latter an integral part of the Albanian villa complex of Domitian. At this lake the rowing competitions of the 1960 Rome Olympics were held.

The shores of the lake are steep and almost everywhere descend abruptly or even vertically. The morphology of the lake is different because of its geological composition and because the northern part has been weathered for longer.

The lake basin has been covered by beautiful oak and chestnut forests since ancient times. Alba Longa, which gave the lake its name (Albanus lacus), was built on the shores of the lake. During the imperial age, many wealthy villas were built around the lake, many of which still have numerous remains.

#### POI2-Lago di Nemi



Distance:	3,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	16,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	61,6 nm
True Course:	139°
Magnetic Course:	136°

Noemi Lake is just ahead. For this flight maintain an altitude of 4500 feet.

The small Lake Nemi is also of volcanic origin located in the Alban Hills area of the Castelli Romani. It is 25 meters higher than Lake Albano and is fed by small springs and streams. The lake does not have a natural outfall, but has an artificial underground outfall built in ancient times .

The lake is known for its blue-green waters and is home to the South American fish species, the king fish . In ancient times, it was a popular place for entertainment and vacation for the Romans. Near the lake was a forest and a place of worship dedicated to the goddess Diana. 'Nemi' takes its name (and gives it to the town on its shores) from Nemus Dianae, a sacred forest dedicated to the goddess . The Roman-era building dedicated to her, the Temple of Diana, originally stood on the shores of the lake but is now relatively far from it because of the diminishing capacity of the basin .

The historical importance of this place is confirmed by its archaeological richness. Since ancient times Lake Nemi has been the subject of a legend concerning two fabulous ships of gigantic size, built in Roman times, rich in pageantry and possibly containing treasures, which were allegedly buried at the bottom of the lake for mysterious reasons .

#### POI3-Latina

Distance:	17,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	34,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	43,8 nm





True Course: 149°

Magnetic Course: 146°

Continue southeast until you intercept the SS7 highway toward Latina.

Latina is a city of about 120,000 inhabitants located in the region of Lazio, south of Rome. It was founded in 1932 by the fascist regime as Littoria and assumed its present name in 1946. It is located in the coastal plain of Agro Pontino, a few kilometers from the Tyrrhenian Sea. The territory of Latina is characterized by a wide variety of natural environments, including the Pontine marsh, coastal dune, hills, and mountains.

The city has a very recent history and has no significant historical monuments. However, Latina was chosen as the site of the Museo della Terra Pontina, which collects evidence of the history and culture of the Agro Pontino. It also houses the Civic Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, which exhibits works by local and international artists.

#### POI4-Monumento Naturale Campo Soriano



Distance: 14,7 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 49,1 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 29,1 nm

True Course: 114°

Magnetic Course: 110°

At Latina, turn left to continue following SS7 and fly over a protected area called Campo Soriano Natural Monument.

Campo Soriano Natural Monument is a protected area located in the municipalities of Terracina and Sonnino, in the province of Latina. The area is part of the Ausoni Mountains and Lake Fondi Regional Natural Park and is characterized by the presence of spectacular limestone rock formations, called hums, that emerge from the ground like natural sculptures. The most famous of these is the 18-meter-high Rava di San Domenico, also known as the Cathedral.

The Campo Soriano Natural Monument was established in 1985 to safeguard the geological, landscape and naturalistic value of this area, which is home to a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. Plant species include oaks, garrigue and flower meadows of orchids, poppies and anemones. Animals include peregrine falcons, buzzards, owls, foxes, wild boars, porcupines and vipers.

The reserve can be visited year-round, but the best time is spring, when nature's colors are most vibrant. The area has a visitor center, where you can find information and educational materials about the area. It is possible to walk several hiking trails and admire the karst landscape from various vantage points.



POI5-Lago di Fondi



Distance:	6,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	55,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	22,7 nm
True Course:	113°
Magnetic Course:	109°

Just beyond the protected area you can see Lake Fondi.

Lake Fondi is a coastal lake located in the territory of the municipality of the same name, in the province of Latina. It has a sickle shape, with the apexes facing the sea, from which it is a few kilometers away. It was declared a Natural Monument in 2006 by the Lazio Region and is part of the Regional Natural Park of Monti Ausoni and Lake Fondi. The lake is of great ecological importance, as it is home to a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna, including numerous species of resident and migratory birds. Plants include reeds, water lilies, ash trees, alders, and hibiscus. Animals include carp, eels, bass, mullet, peregrine falcons, buzzards, owls, foxes, wild boars and vipers.

POI6-Formia



Distance:	13,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	68,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	9,7 nm
True Course:	109°
Magnetic Course:	105°

Continue southeast staying within the coastline and the SS7 highway in the direction of Formia.

Formia is a city of Auruncan origin, an ancient Oscan population, first appearing in history in 338 BC, during the Latin War. The Via Appia, the regina viarum, passed through here, connecting it to Rome and Naples. In 188 BC it obtained full Roman citizenship and was ascribed to the Aemilian tribe. In the 2nd century AD it became a colony under the name Colonia Aelia Hadriana Augusta Formiae.

It was a popular tourist resort in Roman times, as evidenced by the numerous remains of villas, among which those of Mamurra and Maecenas were famous. On this stretch of the gulf came to build one of his favorite country houses even Cicero, who was killed here in 43 B.C. by assassins sent by Antony.

Formia still preserves some monuments and places of historical and cultural interest, including:

Cicero's mausoleum, a cylindrical tower that stands on Vindicio beach and according to tradition marks the place where the great orator was buried.

The Roman cistern, an impressive underground water reservoir built in the Augustan period and fed by an aqueduct from the Aurunci Mountains.



The church of St. John the Baptist, the oldest in the town, dating back to the 12th century and featuring a beautiful Romanesque portal and a square bell tower.

The Castellone, the historic core of the town, perched on a hill and surrounded by medieval walls. The town hall, the cathedral of St. Erasmus and the municipal theater are located here.

The Aurunci Mountains Regional Park, a protected natural area covering more than 16,000 hectares between the provinces of Latina and Frosinone and offering splendid views and numerous hiking trails.

#### LIGU-Campo Di Volo Umberto Nobile



Distance:	9,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	78,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	97°
Magnetic Course:	93°

Turn slightly left and follow the SS7qtr highway to reach the Umberto Nobile Airfield.

Umberto Nobile Airfield is a small airport located in the municipality of Sessa Aurunca, in the province of Caserta, Lazio. The airport is dedicated to Umberto Nobile, an Italian general, explorer and engineer famous for his polar crossings by airship.

The airport has a grass runway 2352 feet, oriented 07/25 The airport is mainly used for gliding and ultralight activities. It is home to the 'Umberto Nobile' Study and Research Center for Gliding, which organizes flying courses and aviation events.



## Leg 2: LIGU - LIBF

Departure: Campo Di Volo Umberto Nobile (LIGU)

Destination: Gino Lisa (LIBF)

Distance: 92,4 nm



## TEANO-Teano



Distance: 11,2 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 11,2 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 81,2 nm

True Course: 86°

Magnetic Course: 82°

About this flight.

This is a flight that takes you to discover two southern regions: Campania and Puglia. You depart from Umberto Nobile Airfield, and fly east, passing Caserta, a city famous for its Baroque palace. Arrive at the Puglia region, where you will find Gino Lisa Airport, located near Foggia, a city that has played an important role in Italian aviation history.

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After takeoff maintain a heading of about 82 degrees for about 11 miles, toward Teano.

Teano, in the province of Caserta, Campania, is a town of Oscan origin, founded in the 4th century BC as the urban capital of the Sidicini people. It was involved in the Samnite wars and then conquered by the Romans, who named it Teanum Sidicinum. It became an important municipium





and then a colony, enriching itself with public and private buildings. It was an episcopal see from the 4th century AD and suffered invasions by the Lombards, Saracens and Normans.

It was a fief of various noble families, including the Marzano, Carafa, Borgia and Caetani. In 1860 it was the scene of the historic meeting between Giuseppe Garibaldi and Vittorio Emanuele II, which took place at the Cajanello bridge in the hamlet of Borgonuovo.

Teano still preserves some monuments and places of historical and cultural interest, including:

The pre-Roman walls, which surrounded the ancient city of the Sidicini and are still visible in some sections.

The Roman theater, built in the 1st century B.C. and capable of seating about 3,000 spectators. It is located in the hamlet of San Pietro and preserves part of the cavea and stage.

The Roman mausoleum, a monumental tomb in the shape of a cylindrical tower, located in the hamlet of San Giuliano. It dates back to the first century AD and is attributed to the Erennii family.

The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, built in the 12th century in the Romanesque style and then remodeled in later centuries. It preserves inside a valuable 17th-century wooden choir and an 18th-century organ.

The ducal castle, built in the 14th century by the Marzanos and later enlarged by the Carafas. It has a quadrangular plan with four corner towers and houses the civic archaeological museum.

### CAPUA-Capua



Distance:	10,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	22,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	70,4 nm
True Course:	142°
Magnetic Course:	138°

Turn right so as to follow the course of the A1 Highway, also known as the Autostrada del Sole.

Capua, also in the province of Caserta, is a city of very ancient origin, founded by the Volscians or Etruscans on the site of present-day Santa Maria Capua Vetere. It was later conquered by the Samnites and the Romans, who called it Capua Antica. It was one of the most important and richest cities in ancient Italy, second only to Rome according to Cicero. It was involved in the Second Punic War, when it allied with Hannibal, and in the Social War, when it rebelled against Rome. It was destroyed by Sulla in 82 BC and then rebuilt as a Roman colony.

Capua was later the seat of a Lombard principality and a Norman county. In the Middle Ages it was a fortified and demanial city, that is, not subject to feudal lords but directly dependent on the king. It was the ideal city of Frederick II and Charles V, who provided it with impressive defensive works. It was also the seat of an important legal school and a metropolitan archdiocese.



It was the scene of various historical events, including the Capuan Placito of 960, one of the first documents written in the Italian vernacular; the Council of Capua of 1127, which sanctioned the peace between Pope Honorius II and Roger II of Sicily; the Sack of Capua in 1501, when the city was sacked by French troops; the siege of Capua in 1734, when it resisted the Austrians for three months; and the siege of Capua in 1860-1861, when the city was the last Bourbon stronghold before the Unification of Italy.

Capua has some monuments and places of historical and cultural interest, including:

The cathedral of St. Erasmus, built in the 12th century in Romanesque style and then remodeled in later centuries. It preserves a valuable 17th-century wooden choir and an 18th-century organ inside.

The Norman-Swabian-Angevin-Aragonese castle, built in the 12th century and then expanded in later centuries. It has a quadrangular plan with four corner towers and houses the Civic Archaeological Museum.

The Roman bridge on the ancient Appian Way, built in the 1st century BC and restored in the 18th century. It has five arches made of tuff and travertine and is still passable.

The Church of the Annunziata, built in the 15th century in Catalan-Gothic style and then modified in later centuries. It preserves inside a cycle of frescoes from the 15th-16th centuries and a painting by Caravaggio depicting the Martyrdom of St. Ursula.

The Capuan mithraeum, a temple dedicated to the worship of the god Mithras, discovered in 1922 under the cathedral. It dates from the 2nd-3rd centuries AD and is one of the largest and best preserved in Italy.

#### POI7-Caserta



Distance:	5,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	27,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	64,7 nm
True Course:	110°
Magnetic Course:	107°

Keep following the A1 highway and reach the city of Caserta.

Caserta is a city in Campania of relatively recent origin, founded in 1752 by King Charles of Bourbon as the new capital of the Kingdom of Naples. The king wanted to build a grand palace, inspired by that of Versailles, which became the symbol of the city and Bourbon power. The palace, together with the park, the Belvedere di San Leucio and the Acquedotto Carolino, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997.

It was the scene of various historical events, including the Battle of Caserta in 1799, when the Neapolitan Lazzari clashed with French troops; the proclamation of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in 1816; the siege of Caserta in 1860-1861, when the city was the last Bourbon stronghold before the Unification of Italy; the signing of the Cassibile armistice in 1943; and the Battle of Caserta in 1944, when the city was liberated by the Allies.



Caserta has many places of historical and cultural interest, including:

The Royal Palace of Caserta, built between 1752 and 1780 to a design by Luigi Vanvitelli. It is one of the largest royal residences in the world, with more than 1,200 rooms and a 250-meter-long facade. Inside you can admire the royal apartments, palatine chapel, court theater and palatine library.

The palace park, covering 120 hectares and embellished with fountains, waterfalls, statues and English gardens. Inside are the Belvedere di San Leucio, an industrial and residential complex commissioned by Ferdinand IV for silk production; the Acquedotto Carolino, an engineering masterpiece that brought water to the park from the Fizzo spring; and the English Garden, a botanical garden with exotic species.

The medieval village of Casertavecchia, located about 10 km from the historic center. It is a picturesque village that preserves the Norman-Swabian-Angevin castle, the 12th-century Romanesque cathedral and the 14th-century Church of the Annunziata.

The Quattro Fontane royal palace, built in the 18th century to a design by Francesco Collecini as the summer residence of the Bourbons. It is located in the hamlet of San Leucio and houses the National Silk Museum.

The Capuan mitreo, a temple dedicated to the worship of the god Mithras, discovered in 1922 under the cathedral. It dates from the 2nd-3rd centuries AD and is one of the largest and best preserved in Italy<sup>3</sup>.

Caserta is also a dynamic and modern city, home to important cultural and scientific institutions, including the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, the Italian Aerospace Research Center, and the CAMUSAC contemporary art museum.

Caserta has an economy based mainly on the tertiary sector, with activities related to tourism, public and private services and trade. The secondary sector is represented by small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the metal-mechanical, chemical-pharmaceutical, food and textile sectors.

#### POI8-Maddaloni



Distance:	3,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	31,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	61,5 nm
True Course:	138°
Magnetic Course:	135°

Correct your course slightly to the right and fly over the nearby town of Maddaloni.

Maddaloni is located about 6 km from Caserta and about 30 km from Naples. It was founded by the Volscians or Etruscans on the site of ancient Calatia, a city allied with Rome and destroyed by the Saracens in 862. The name Maddaloni probably derives from Mataluni, a toponym first attested in 774 in a document of Arechi II, prince of Benevento. Some scholars believe that Mataluni derives from the name Matalo, a prince of the Boi who followed Hannibal in the Second Punic War.



Maddaloni was a fief of various noble families, including the Normans, the Swabians, the Angevins, the Aragonese and the Carafas. It was the scene of various historical events, including the Battle of Calatia in 1137, when the Normans defeated the Byzantines; the Barons' Revolt of 1485-1486, when Maddaloni sided with Ferrante of Aragon against the rebels; the Sack of Maddaloni in 1501, when the town was devastated by French troops; and the Battle of Maddaloni in 1806, when the French defeated the Bourbons.

To visit in Maddaloni:

The medieval castle, built between the 12th and 14th centuries and then modified in later centuries. It has a quadrangular plan with four corner towers and houses the Civic Archaeological Museum.

The Valley Bridge, built in 1753 to a design by Luigi Vanvitelli to bring water to the Carolino Aqueduct and the Royal Palace of Caserta. It is the tallest arched bridge in Europe, with a length of 529 meters and a height of 55 meters.

The Church of the Annunziata, built in the 15th century in the Gothic-Catalan style and then restored in the 18th century. It preserves inside a cycle of frescoes from the 15th-16th centuries and a painting by Caravaggio depicting the Martyrdom of St. Ursula.

The collegiate church of St. Michael Archangel, built in the 16th century in Renaissance style and then remodeled in later centuries. It preserves works of art from the 16th-18th centuries inside.

The Church of Our Lady of Grace, built in the 17th century in Baroque style and then enlarged in the 18th century. It preserves inside an 18th-century nativity scene and a 16th-century wooden statue of Our Lady of Grace.

Maddaloni is also a dynamic and modern city, home to important industrial and commercial activities in the food, cement, electronics and textile sectors. It is famous for the handcrafted production of wooden chairs, a legacy of the local carpentry tradition.

#### POI9-Montesarchio



Distance:	12,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	43,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	49,4 nm
True Course:	82°
Magnetic Course:	78°

Turn left to stay above the SS7 highway that winds through the valley heading east.

Montesarchio is located about 15 km from Benevento and was founded by the Samnites as Caudium. It was an important military and political center of the Samnite League and was the protagonist of a famous victory against the Romans at the Battle of the Forche Caudine in 321 BC. It was then conquered by the Romans in 314 B.C. and became a Roman municipium with the name Caudium Fregellae. It was involved in the civil wars between Marius and Sulla and then between Caesar and Pompey. Destroyed by the Goths in the 5th century AD and then rebuilt by the Byzantines under the name Montis Archi.





Montesarchio was then a fief of various noble families, including the Lombards, Normans, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese and Caracciolo. It was the scene of various historical events, including the battle of Montesarchio in 1266, when Charles I of Anjou defeated Manfred of Swabia; the barons' revolt of 1485-1486, when Montesarchio sided with Ferrante of Aragon against the rebels; the sack of Montesarchio in 1528, when the town was devastated by French troops; and the battle of Montesarchio in 1799, when the Neapolitan Lazzari defeated the French.

Monuments and places of historical and cultural interest include:

The Norman-Swabian-Angevin-Aragonese castle, built between the 11th and 15th centuries and then modified in later centuries. It has a quadrangular plan with four corner towers and houses the Sannio Caudino National Archaeological Museum.

The collegiate church of Santa Maria Assunta, built between the 12th and 13th centuries in Romanesque-Gothic style and then remodeled in later centuries. It preserves inside works of art from the 15th-18th centuries.

The Church of Our Lady of Grace, built in the 17th century in Baroque style and then enlarged in the 18th century. It preserves inside an 18th-century nativity scene and a 16th-century wooden statue of Our Lady of Grace.

The Church of St. Nicholas of Bari, built in the 18th century in neoclassical style and then restored in the 20th century. It houses an 18th-century organ and a Solimena canvas depicting St. Nicholas saving a ship in a storm.

The Roman bridge over the Sabato River, built in the 1st century B.C. and restored in the 18th century. It has three arches made of tuff and travertine and is still passable.

Montesarchio is also a dynamic and modern town, home to important agricultural and industrial activities in the wine, oil, dairy, engineering, chemical-pharmaceutical and textile sectors. It is famous for the production of Aglianico del Taburno DOCG wine and for the patron saint's festival of San Sebastiano, which takes place every year on January 20.

#### POI10-Benevento



Distance:	7,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	50,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	42,1 nm
True Course:	56°
Magnetic Course:	53°

Continue over the SS7 to the northeast and reach Benevento.

Benevento is a city of very ancient origin, founded by the Samnites under the name of Malies or Maloenton. It was an important military and political center of the Samnite League and was the protagonist of a famous victory against the Romans at the Battle of the Forche Caudine in 321 BC. It was then conquered by the Romans in 275 BC and became a Roman colony under the name



Beneventum. It was a key road junction, crossed by the Via Appia and the Via Traiana, and was enriched with monuments, including the Arch of Trajan, the Leproso Bridge and the amphitheater. It was involved in the civil wars between Marius and Sulla and then between Caesar and Pompey. It was the seat of an important rhetorical school attended by Horace and Seneca.

Benevento was later the seat of a Lombard duchy, founded in 571 by Zottone and transformed into an autonomous principality by Arechi II in 774. It was one of the main centers of Longobard culture and was endowed with artistic works, including the church of St. Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was later contested by the Byzantines, Franks, Saracens and Normans. In 1053 it was given by Henry III to Pope Leo IX, who confirmed it to the Lombard prince Pandulf IV. In 1077 it was recognized as a State of the Church by Gregory VII, but it was always the subject of disputes between the popes and the sovereigns who ruled over Naples: it was occupied by Frederick II, Manfred, Charles I of Anjou, Ladislaus of Durazzo, Joanna II, Alfonso V of Aragon, Charles V, Philip II of Spain and the Bourbons.

Historical events that took place in Benevento include the Battle of Benevento in 1266, where Charles I of Anjou defeated Manfred of Swabia; during the barons' revolt of 1485-1486, Benevento sided with Ferrante of Aragon against the rebels; the 1528 sack of Benevento, when the city was devastated by French troops; the 1799 Battle of Benevento, when the Neapolitan Lazzari defeated the French; the signing of the Cassibile armistice in 1943; and the 1944 Battle of Benevento, when the city was liberated by the Allies.

A number of monuments and places of historical and cultural interest are worth visiting, including:

Trajan's Arch, built in 114-117 AD to celebrate the opening of the Via Traiana. It is one of the best-preserved Roman triumphal arches with reliefs and depicts scenes from the life of the emperor and the city.

The Leproso Bridge, built in the first century BC to allow the Appian Way to cross the Sabato River. It has three arches made of tuff and travertine and is still passable.

The Roman amphitheater, built in the 2nd century AD and capable of seating about 15,000 spectators. It is located under the Capuchin monastery and preserves part of the cavea and arena.

The church of St. Sophia, built in 760 by the Lombard duke Arechi II as a palatine chapel and then modified in later centuries. It has a star-shaped plan with six columns and a semicircular apse. It has 8th-9th century frescoes and a 12th century cloister inside. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site as an example of Lombard art.

The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, built between the 12th and 13th centuries in Romanesque-Gothic style and then restored after the 1688 earthquake. It has a salient facade with a rose window and a bronze portal from 1207 with biblical scenes. It preserves works of art from the 14th-18th centuries inside.

The church of St. Francis, built in 1243 in Gothic style and then remodeled in later centuries. It has a gabled facade with a Gothic portal and rose window. It preserves inside the tomb of Mary of Enghien, Queen of Naples, and a 15th-century cloister.



The rocca dei Rettori, built in 1321 as the residence of papal governors and then enlarged in later centuries. It has a quadrangular plan with four corner towers and a walled enclosure. It houses the Sannio Museum, which collects archaeological, artistic and historical artifacts from the city and province.

The basilica of Our Lady of Grace, built in 1713 to a design by Filippo Raguzzini at the behest of Archbishop Vincenzo Maria Orsini, later Pope Benedict XIII. It has a concave facade with twin bell towers and a portal with statues of angels. It preserves inside a 14th-century wooden statue of Our Lady of Grace.

Benevento is also a dynamic and modern city, home to important industrial activities in the paper, glass, engineering, chemical-pharmaceutical and textile sectors. It is famous for the production of Strega liqueur, invented in 1860 by Giuseppe Alberti, and for the patronal feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, which takes place every year on August 24.

#### POI11-Casalbore



Distance:	12,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	62,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	29,9 nm
True Course:	59°
Magnetic Course:	55°

At Benevento, turn slightly left. Pass the town and maintain a 55-degree course for 12 miles.

Casalbore, in the province of Avellino, is situated in the Apennines of Campania in a dominant position over the Miscano valley.

The oldest archaeological evidence in the territory of Casalbore dates back to the early phase of the Eneolithic: in particular at the locality of Santa Maria dei Bossi several well-furnished tombs have been found dating from between 3,860 and 3,360 B.C. (carbon-14 dating). There are also numerous and varied finds from the Samnite period, that is, from the seventh to the end of the fourth century B.C., the concluding period of the Samnite wars. The materials found come both from the necropolis area, to the north, and from the areas near the present town. The territorial belonging to the Samnite tribe of the Irpini is certain, since Titus Livius expressly mentions Hannibal's transit among the Irpini when he went from Arpi to Telesia, thus avoiding crossing the Roman colony of Beneventum; in all probability it was on that occasion that ancient Casalbore ended up destroyed.

The town is known for its imposing square Norman tower (12th century), which can be accessed through a magnificent archway, adorned with an ashlar portal -at one time it had two internal courtyards-; the cave of St. Michael the Archangel, dating from the Byzantine era and embellished internally by a stone altar and an 18th-century tombstone; the archaeological area of Macchia Porcara, where the remains of an Italic temple erected in the 6th century B.C. can be admired. C.; the Museum of Castles; the church of Santa Maria dei Bossi (5th century C.E.), built on a Roman apsidal chamber tomb (2nd century C.E.).



The town's economy is based mainly on agriculture and tourism.

#### TROIA-Troia



Distance: 16,0 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 78,5 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 14,0 nm  
True Course: 60°  
Magnetic Course: 56°

Stay the course to reach Troia.

Troia is located in the province of Foggia, Apulia. Its name derives from that of the ancient city of Troy, in Asia Minor, which was the scene of the famous war narrated in Homer's Iliad. According to legend, the founder of the town was Diomedes, one of the Greek heroes who participated in the Trojan War and later settled in Apulia.

The history of Troia is linked to that of the county of Apulia and the Kingdom of Sicily, of which it was part from the 11th to the 19th century. The town developed around the Romanesque cathedral dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta, built between 1093 and 1120 and considered one of the most beautiful churches in Puglia. The cathedral preserves a precious bronze rose window, the work of master Oderisio da Benevento, and a rich treasury with reliquaries, crosses, and sacred vestments. Other monuments of interest are the bishop's palace, the ducal palace, the Franciscan convent, and the churches of St. Basil the Great and St. Dominic.

It is known for its musical tradition, especially related to the accordion and tambourine, and for its handicraft production of ceramics, embroidery and lace. Among the most important events are the patron saint's festival of San Secondino (April 29), the sheep festival (August) and the international accordion festival (September).

Troia lives mainly on agriculture thanks to the cultivation of olives, wheat and vines, and sheep and cattle breeding. The town's typical product is caciocavallo podolico, a pasta filata cheese made from the milk of podolica cows raised in the wild. Other typical products include extra virgin olive oil, Troia DOC red wine and almond and honey-based sweets.

#### POI12-Foggia



Distance: 11,8 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 90,2 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 2,2 nm  
True Course: 57°  
Magnetic Course: 53°

Continue straight in the direction of Foggia.

Foggia, capital of the province of the same name in Apulia is located in the Tavoliere plain, between the Gargano and the Dauno Subappennines. It is the most populous and important center of Capitanata, a historical region that corresponds to the northern part of Puglia.





Its history is linked to that of the county of Apulia and the Kingdom of Sicily, of which it was part from the 11th to the 19th century. The town developed after the year 1000, from the remains of the ancient city of Arpi, founded by Diomedes according to legend, and following the Norman conquest. Foggia reached its peak in the 13th century, under Emperor Frederick II of Swabia, who made it his favorite residence and the seat of the sheep customs, a fiscal institution that regulated the transit of flocks along the transhumance route. The city then underwent Angevin, Aragonese, Spanish and Bourbon rule, and was involved in the revolutionary uprisings of 1799 and 1860. In the 20th century, it was hard hit by bombing during World War II and postwar reconstruction, which altered its urban and social fabric.

Foggia's culture is characterized by its musical tradition, especially related to folk singing and the tarantella dauna, and literary and artistic production, with personalities such as Umberto Giordano, Domenico Umberto D'Amato, Giuseppe Di Vittorio and Franco Gentilini. Among the most important events are the patronal feast of Santi Medici (May 26), the grain festival (July), and the international extra virgin olive oil festival (November).

Particularly flourishing is agriculture, especially the cultivation of durum wheat, olives, vines and vegetables. The agribusiness sector is highly developed, with the production of extra virgin olive oil, table and table wine, cheeses and typical cold cuts. Other relevant sectors are the mechanical, chemical, pharmaceutical and textile industries, trade and services. Tourism is centered on the natural beauty of the Gargano and the historical-artistic evidence of the city and neighboring towns.

#### LIBF-Gino Lisa



Distance:	2,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	92,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	180°
Magnetic Course:	176°

Turn south and land at Gino Lisi Airport.

Gino Lisa Airport is located about 3 km from the city center of Foggia and is named after a Foggia aviator who died during World War II. The airport was opened in 1930 and has undergone several transformations and expansions over the years.

It has a 4747-foot (15/38) runway equipped with night lighting. The passenger terminal has an area of 2,500 square meters and a capacity of 250,000 passengers per year. The airport also has a parking lot, bar, VIP lounge, and conference room.

In 2022, thanks to the intervention of the Apulia Region and the Aeroporti di Puglia company, an agreement was signed with the airline Lumiwings to operate flights to and from Milan Malpensa, Bologna, Cagliari and Catania.



### Leg 3: LIBF - LIBD

Departure: Gino Lisa (LIBF)

Destination: Palese Macchie (LIBD)

Distance: 61,1 nm



### POI13-Orta Nova



Distance: 10,0 nm

Dist. from Dept.: 10,0 nm

Dist. to Dest.: 51,1 nm

True Course: 128°

Magnetic Course: 124°

About this flight.

This flight takes about 40 minutes and allows you to enjoy views of the plains and the sea. Depart Gino Lisa Airport and head southeast, following Highway 16 and flying over Cerignola, a town known for its olive production. Here there is also a monument to the fallen soldiers from the battle fought in 1503 between French and Spanish troops. After passing Andria, Corato and Bitonto you arrive at Palese Macchie Airport, located in Bari, a city with a long maritime and commercial tradition. Bari is famous for its historic center and its gastronomy, based on typical products such as orecchiette, taralli and focaccia.

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After takeoff we will fly to the right of the SS16 highway to Orta Nuova.



Orta Nova is located in the province of Foggia, in the Tavoliere plain, 24 km southeast of Foggia. It is part of the Cinque Reali Siti, along with Stornara, Stornarella, Ortona and Carapelle.

The history of Orta Nova is linked to that of the county of Apulia and the Kingdom of Sicily, of which it was part from the 11th to the 19th century. The territory of Orta was originally a hamlet dependent on the abbey of Venosa and then a fief donated by Guglielmo il Malo to ser Giovanni Caracciolo. In 1611 the fief was purchased by the Jesuits, who founded the House of Orta there and gave rise to the first residential nucleus around the convent and church. In 1774 King Ferdinand IV established with the lands of the former Jesuits four colonies of peasants who with their families would come to populate the four farms, and in addition a fifth colony was planned near the Carapelle stream. Thus the Five Royal Sites were born. In 1795 Orta was sold to Duke Nicholas of Sangro and then bought back by the state property. In 1808 Orta was erected as an autonomous municipality by decree of Joseph Napoleon I. In 1863 the suffix Nova was added to Orta to distinguish it from other Italian towns with the same name.

The musical tradition characterizes the culture of Orta Nova and is mainly linked to the pizzica and tarantella dauna. The literary and artistic production is also notable, with personalities such as Giuseppe Di Vittorio, Giuseppe Grassi and Antonio Cerasa. Among the most important events are the patronal feast of St. Anthony of Padua (June 13), the onion festival (August) and the international independent film festival (September).

The economy of Orta Nova is mainly based on agriculture, particularly the cultivation of red onions, tomatoes, vines and vegetables. The agribusiness sector is highly developed, with the production of extra virgin olive oil, DOC red wine, cheeses and typical cold cuts. Other relevant sectors are the mechanical, chemical, pharmaceutical and textile industries, trade and services. Tourism is centered on the historical and artistic evidence of the city and neighboring towns.

#### POI14-Cerignola



Distance:	9,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	19,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	41,8 nm
True Course:	114°
Magnetic Course:	110°

Keep following the SS16 and reach Cerignola.

Cerignola is also located in the province of Foggia and the Tavoliere plain. It is the largest municipality in the Puglia region and in all of southern Italy, third in Italy after Rome and Ravenna. It is the bishopric of the diocese of Cerignola-Ascoli Satriano.

Cerignola's history is uncertain, partly because of the 1731 earthquake that destroyed much of the medieval town. The oldest evidence dates back to Roman rule, when the territory was a municipium. The earliest document mentioning the town is the Bari Diplomatic Codex of 1150, which refers to a domum Malgerii Cidoniole. In 1503 the battle between the French and Spanish for possession of the Kingdom of Naples was fought here, which was won by the Spanish led by Consalvo da Cordova. In



1808 Cerignola was made an autonomous municipality by decree of Joseph Napoleon I. In 1901 Giuseppe Di Vittorio, a union leader and politician who led the peasant struggles for the recognition of land workers' rights, was born here.

Among the most important events are the patronal feast of St. Peter the Apostle (June 29), the red onion festival (August), and the international independent film festival (September).

The economy is mainly based on agriculture, particularly the cultivation of red onions, tomatoes, vines, and vegetables. The agribusiness sector is highly developed, with the production of extra virgin olive oil, DOP red wine, cheeses and typical cold cuts. Other relevant sectors are the mechanical, chemical, pharmaceutical and textile industries, trade and services.

#### POI15-Andria



Distance:	18,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	37,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	23,6 nm
True Course:	97°
Magnetic Course:	93°

At Cerignola, a slight left turn puts us over the E55 highway that will take us to Andria.

Andria is a city of about 97,000 inhabitants, located on the lower slope of the Murge Mountains, 10 km from the Adriatic Sea. Its origins are uncertain. Some trace it to the Greek Diomedes, hero of the Trojan War, from whom it would derive its name from his native island Andros. Others believe it was a Roman colony founded by Cato the Censor. In medieval times, it was an important Norman and Swabian center, linked to the figure of Emperor Frederick II, who had two of his wives, Jolanda of Brienne and Isabella of England, married there and buried in the cathedral. Frederick II also had the famous Castel del Monte, symbol of Apulia and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built near Andria. Andria then underwent Angevin, Aragonese, Spanish and Bourbon dominations, participating in the revolutionary uprisings of 1799 and 1860. In 2004 it joined the

Among the most important cultural events are the patronal festival of St. Richard of Andria (April 9), the almond festival (August) and the international independent film festival (September).

The economy is mainly based on agriculture, particularly the cultivation of almonds, olives, vines and vegetables. The agribusiness sector is highly developed, with the production of extra virgin olive oil, DOP Castel del Monte red wine, cheeses and typical cold cuts. Typical products include burrata di Andria IGP and Mucci confetti. Other relevant sectors include the mechanical, chemical, pharmaceutical and textile industries, trade and services. Tourism focuses on the city's historical-artistic testimonies and the natural beauty of the Murge Mountains and the Alta Murgia National Park.





## POI16-Corato



Distance: 6,9 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 44,4 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 16,7 nm  
True Course: 132°  
Magnetic Course: 128°

Turn slightly right and follow the provincial road SP231 to Corato.

Corato is located in the metropolitan area of Bari, Apulia. It was an important Norman and Swabian center, linked to the figure of Emperor Frederick II. In 1926 it became part of the province of Bari.

Among the most important events are the patron saint's festival of San Cataldo (May 10), the almond festival (August) and the international independent film festival (September).

## POI17-Bitonto



Distance: 12,8 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 57,2 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 3,9 nm  
True Course: 101°  
Magnetic Course: 97°

Keep following SP231 and you will soon reach Bitonto.

Bitonto is an Italian city of about 53,000 inhabitants, located in the metropolitan area of Bari, Apulia. Its ancient history dates back to the Neolithic period, when the area was inhabited by cave settlements. In ancient times, Bitonto was an important Peucetian center, culturally influenced by the Magna Graecia Taranto, and then a Roman municipality. In medieval times, it was an important Byzantine, Norman and Swabian center, also linked to the figure of Emperor Frederick II, who had the castle and church of St. Valentine built there. In 1734 it was the scene of the historic battle between the Austrians and Bourbons, which led to the birth of the Kingdom of Naples as an independent state. In 1926 it became part of the province of Bari.

## LIBD-Palese Macchie



Distance: 3,9 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 61,1 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm  
True Course: 63°  
Magnetic Course: 59°

Turn slightly to the left and you are aligned with runway 07 at Bari Palese Macchie Airport.

Bari-Palese Airport, or Karol Wojtyła Airport, is the main airport in Puglia and one of the most important in Italy. It takes its name from the Palese-Macchie neighborhood where it is located, 9 km northwest of downtown Bari.



It was built in 1934 as a military facility dedicated to Prince Umberto di Savoia. In 1939 it was also opened to civilian traffic, with connections to Rome, Ancona, Venice and other Mediterranean cities. Over the years it has undergone several expansions and adjustments to its infrastructure and services. In 2005 it was named after Pope John Paul II, known as Karol Wojtyła.

Bari-Palese Airport has a 9839-foot (07/25) runway, equipped with ILS (RW07 111.35, OBS 65) and VOR (116.40) systems. The passenger terminal has an area of 28,000 square meters and a capacity of 4 million passengers per year. The airport offers domestic and international connections with several airlines, including Ryanair, which has an operational base at the airport. It also has a multi-story parking lot, a rail link to Bari Central Station, and various passenger services, such as bars, restaurants, stores, banks, post office, and VIP lounge.



#### Leg 4: LIBD - LIHT

Departure: Palese Macchie (LIBD)

Destination: Campo Di Volo Gemini (LIHT)

Distance: 134,0 nm



#### BARI-Bari



Distance: 4,8 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 4,8 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 129,2 nm  
True Course: 109°  
Magnetic Course: 105°

About this flight.

This last leg is a bit longer but not very challenging. We will travel along the Apulian coast to its most extreme point, then climb back up and fly into the Basilicata region. Here is the Gemini Flying Field, a small runway located near Matera, a city that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its famous Sassi, ancient rock settlements.

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Leave the airport and head to the coast for a low flight over Bari.

Bari is a city of about 316,000 inhabitants, the capital of the Apulia region, located on the Adriatic coast and is the main economic and cultural center of the region.



The history of Bari is ancient and rich in events. The city was founded by the Illyrians in the 9th century BC and later came under Roman control in the 3rd century BC. In the Middle Ages Bari was dominated by the Byzantines, Lombards and Normans, who made it an important commercial and cultural center. During the Norman period, Bari experienced great economic and cultural development, thanks to the presence of an important port and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1087, a group of sailors from Bari forcibly seized and brought home the bones of St. Nicholas, the destination of many pilgrimages, which were preserved in Mira (now in Turkey), the city where the saint had been bishop and died.

In the 14th century Bari was dominated by the Angevins, who fortified it and made it one of the main cities of the Kingdom of Naples. During this period the city experienced great economic and cultural growth, thanks to the presence of an important port and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1860 Bari was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1926 it became the capital of Puglia. During the 20th century Bari underwent several expansions and urban transformations, becoming one of the most dynamic and modern cities in southern Italy.

Among the most important events are the patronal feast of St. Nicholas (May 6-8) and, the Fiera del Levante (September).

Bari's economy is mainly based on the tertiary sector, particularly trade, services, tourism and logistics. The port of Bari is Italy's largest passenger port in the Adriatic Sea and offers connections to several cities in the eastern Mediterranean. Palese Macchie Airport is one of Italy's major airports. The industrial sector is present with mechanical, chemical, pharmaceutical, food and textile activities. The agricultural sector focuses on the cultivation of olives, vines, vegetables and cereals.

#### POI18-Mola di Bari



Distance:	10,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	15,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	118,8 nm
True Course:	108°
Magnetic Course:	104°

Fly along the Adriatic coast and reach Mola di Bari.

Mola di Bari is located on the Adriatic coast and is known for its fishing port and agricultural tradition.

The city was founded by Illyrian peoples in the 9th century B.C. and later came under the control of the Peucetians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Lombards, and the Normans. In the Middle Ages Mola was an important port frequented by crusaders and eastern merchants and a landing place for pilgrims on the Via Franchigena. In 1277 Mola was destroyed and then rebuilt by Charles I of Anjou, who also had the castle built there. In 1436 Mola was enfeoffed to Landolfo Maramaldo and then to Niccolò Tovaldo. In 1583 Mola passed to the Tolfa family, and in the 17th century it regained the





status of a state town. In 1860 Mola was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1926 it became part of the province of Bari.

#### POI19-Polignano a Mare



Distance:	7,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	22,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	111,4 nm
True Course:	123°
Magnetic Course:	118°

Continuing southeast you reach Polignano a Mare.

Polignano a Mare is an Italian municipality in the Bari metropolitan area of Puglia. It is located on the Adriatic coast and is famous for its beautiful beaches and sea caves.

The history of Polignano a Mare is ancient and rich in evidence. The city was founded by the Illyrians in the 9th century BC and later came under the control of the Peucetians, Romans, Byzantines, Lombards and Normans. In the Middle Ages Polignano was an important commercial and cultural center, thanks to the presence of a port and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1484 Polignano was besieged and conquered by Frederick I of Aragon, who fortified it and made it one of the main cities of the Kingdom of Naples. In 1860 Polignano was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1926 it became part of the province of Bari.

Domenico Modugno, author of the famous song 'Volare,' was born in Polignano a Mare. Among the most important events are the patronal feast of San Vito Martire (June 15) and the Red Bull Cliff Diving (August), a diving competition from great heights that takes place in the picturesque setting of the Lama Monachile.

Polignano a Mare's economy is mainly based on tourism, thanks to its natural and historical-artistic beauty that attracts numerous visitors each year. Its coastline is characterized by a high and rugged coastline that is home to numerous sea caves, such as Grotta Palazzese, Grotta delle Rondinelle and Grotta Ardito, and several inlets called 'Lame,' such as Lama Monachile, Lama San Giorgio and Lama Maltempo. The beaches are predominantly pebble or fine sand and are washed by crystal-clear water that has been awarded Blue Flag status.

#### POI20-Fasano



Distance:	11,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	33,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	100,1 nm
True Course:	145°
Magnetic Course:	141°

Turn slightly right and fly a little further inland, following the E55 highway toward Fasano.



Fasano is located in the province of Brindisi, Puglia. The town derives from the Casale di Santa Maria di Fajano, founded in 1088 by part of the population that had abandoned the ruins of Egnatia, one of the most important centers of the Via Traiana, with its port. In the Middle Ages Fasano was an important agricultural and commercial center, thanks to the presence of a Cistercian abbey and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1277 it was destroyed and then rebuilt by Charles I of Anjou, who also had the castle built there. In 1436 Fasano was enfeoffed to Landolfo Maramaldo and then to Niccolò Tovaldo. In 1583 it passed to the Tolfa family, and in the 17th century it regained the status of a state town. In 1860 Fasano was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1927 it became part of the province of Brindisi.

Fasano's culture is characterized by literary and artistic production, with personalities such as Giuseppe Ungaretti, a native of the hamlet of Pezze di Greco, and Domenico Modugno, who lived for a long time in the hamlet of Savellettri.

Fasano's economy is mainly based on the tertiary sector, particularly tourism, thanks to its historical-artistic and natural beauty that attracts numerous visitors each year. Its territory includes several hamlets, stretching 15 km along the coast of the Adriatic Sea and extending into the Itria Valley. The municipality is home to the Egnatia National Archaeological Park, the Coastal Dunes Regional Nature Park, the Zoosafari Wildlife Park and the Fasanolandia Amusement Park. The production of extra virgin olive oil, Locorotondo DOC red wine, cheeses and typical cold cuts is excellent.

### POI21-Ostuni



Distance:	11,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	45,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	88,4 nm
True Course:	125°
Magnetic Course:	120°

Follow the SS16 highway and fly over the town of Ostuni.

Ostuni is located in the province of Brindisi on the Adriatic coast and is famous for its white historic center. The town was founded by Messapian peoples in the 9th century BC and later came under the control of the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Lombards and Normans. In the Middle Ages Ostuni was an important agricultural and commercial center, thanks to the presence of a Romanesque cathedral and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1506 Ostuni passed to the Duchy of Bari of Isabella of Aragon and her daughter Bona Sforza: under Spanish rule the city's golden age began, both economically and culturally. In 1860 it was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy and in 1927 became part of the province of Brindisi.

Among the most important events are the patronal feast of St. Oronzo (August 26), the cavatello festival (July).

Ostuni's economy is mainly based on the tertiary sector, particularly tourism, thanks to its historical-artistic and natural beauty that attracts numerous visitors each year.



#### POI22-Brindisi



Distance:	17,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	63,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	71,0 nm
True Course:	109°
Magnetic Course:	105°

Turn slightly left to fly to the coast and reach Brindisi.

Brindisi is a capital city of the province of the same name in Puglia. It is located on the Adriatic coast and is famous for its port, one of the most important in Italy and the Mediterranean. The city was founded by Illyrian peoples in the 9th century BC and later came under the control of the Messapians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Lombards, and Normans. In 267 B.C. the Romans took over the city and made it their main commercial and military port of call with the East, linking it with the Appian Way and the Via Traiana. Brindisi was the scene of historical events such as the death of Virgil in 19 B.C., the civil wars between Caesar and Pompey in 49-48 B.C., the crusades to the Holy Land from the 11th to the 13th centuries, and the marriage between Frederick II and Isabella of Brienne in 1225. In the Middle Ages Brindisi was dominated by the Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese, and Venetians, who made it an important political and cultural center. In 1504 Brindisi passed to the Habsburgs of Spain and then to the Bourbons of Naples, suffering several Turkish and French raids. In 1799 Brindisi joined the Neapolitan Republic, and in 1860 it was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy. During the 20th century Brindisi suffered several bombings during the two world wars and experienced strong economic and industrial development.

Brindisi's economy is based mainly on the tertiary sector, particularly the port, which offers connections with several eastern Mediterranean cities and with Albania and Greece, and on tourism, thanks to its historical-artistic and natural beauty that attracts many visitors each year.

#### POI23-Squinzano



Distance:	12,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	75,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	58,2 nm
True Course:	159°
Magnetic Course:	155°

Head south by following the state highway SS13.

Squinzano is in the province of Lecce, Puglia. It is located in the northern part of Salento and is famous for its wine production and musical traditions.

The town was founded by Illyrian peoples in the 9th century B.C. and later came under the control of the Messapians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Lombards and the Normans. Its toponym derives from the hamlet of Quintianum, where the Roman consul Titus Quincius Flaminus erected his villa in 190 BC. In the Middle Ages Squinzano was an important agricultural and commercial center, thanks to the presence of a Benedictine abbey and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1560 Squinzano was proclaimed a free commune of the demanio, but in 1620 it returned to feudal status and the Squinzano fiefdom was assigned to the Spanish nobleman Giovanni Enriquez. In 1625



the Iberian aristocrat had the convent of Franciscan friars and the church of the Santissima Annunziata built. In 1800 Squinzano began the struggle against foreign domination, as happened throughout Italy during the Risorgimento period. In 1860 Squinzano was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1999 it was given the title of city.

Among the most important events are the patronal feast of St. Nicholas (December 6), the wine festival (September) and the Fratelli Abbate international music band festival (July).

The economy is mainly based on the primary sector, particularly the cultivation of vines, olives, vegetables and cereals. The agribusiness sector is highly developed, with the production of extra virgin olive oil, Squinzano DOC red wine, cheeses and typical cold cuts.

#### LECCE-Lecce



Distance:	7,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	83,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	50,3 nm
True Course:	128°
Magnetic Course:	124°

Continue to follow the SS13 and fly over the historic city of Lecce.

Lecce is the capital of the province of the same name in Puglia. It is located in the central area of Salento, between the Adriatic and Ionian coasts, and is the easternmost provincial capital of Italy. Lecce is known for its wealth and exuberance of typically 17th-century Baroque churches and palaces in the center, built in the local Lecce stone, which earned it the nickname 'Lady of Baroque.'

The city was founded by Illyrian peoples in the 9th century BC and later came under the control of the Messapians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Lombards and Normans. In 267 BC the Romans took over the city and made it their main commercial and military port of call with the East, linking it with the Appian Way and the Via Traiana. Lecce was the scene of historical events the civil wars between Caesar and Pompey in 49-48 B.C., the crusades to the Holy Land from the 11th to the 13th centuries, and the marriage between Frederick II and Isabella of Brienne in 1225. In the Middle Ages Lecce was dominated by the Swabians, the Angevins, the Aragonese and the Venetians, who made it an important political and cultural center. In 1504 it passed to the Habsburgs of Spain and then to the Bourbons of Naples, suffering several Turkish and French raids. In 1799 it joined the Neapolitan Republic, and in 1860 it was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.

Lecce's culture is characterized by artistic production, with personalities such as Giuseppe Zimbalo, a Baroque architect and sculptor; Giuseppe Palmieri, an Enlightenment economist and politician; and Giuseppe Verdi, a composer who lived in the city for a long time. Among the most important events are the patronal feast of Saints Oronzo, Giusto and Fortunato (August 26) and the puccia festival (July).





Lecce's economy is based mainly on the tertiary sector, particularly tourism. Typical products include extra virgin olive oil, Salice Salentino DOC red wine, typical cheeses and cold cuts, pasticciotto leccese, rustico leccese, and friselle.

### POI24-Calimera



Distance: 7,8 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 91,5 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 42,6 nm  
True Course: 143°  
Magnetic Course: 138°

Stay the course and after about 8 miles you are at Calimera.

Calimera is located in the province of Lecce, in the central area of Salento, and is famous for belonging to the Grecìa Salentina, a linguistic island where Griko, a language of Greek origin, is spoken.

The town derives from the hamlet of Quintianum, founded by the Romans in the 2nd century BC and where the consul Titus Quincius Flamininus erected his villa. In the Middle Ages Calimera was an important agricultural and commercial center, thanks to the presence of a Benedictine abbey and its strategic position in the Mediterranean. In 1560 Calimera was proclaimed a free municipality of the demanio, but in 1620 it returned to feudal status and the Calimera fiefdom was assigned to the Spanish nobleman Giovanni Enriquez. In 1625 the Iberian aristocrat had the convent of Franciscan friars and the church of the Santissima Annunziata built. In 1800 Calimera began the struggle against foreign domination, as happened throughout Italy during the Risorgimento period. In 1860 it was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1999 it was given the title of city.

### POI25-Otranto



Distance: 11,6 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 103,1 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 31,0 nm  
True Course: 123°  
Magnetic Course: 119°

In Calimera, head southeast along the coast and reach Otranto.

Located in the province of Lecce, on the Adriatic coast, Otranto is famous for its port, one of the most important in the Mediterranean, and its historic center, recognized as a UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site as a Messenger of Peace. Otranto is the easternmost geographical point of the Italian peninsula.

The city was founded by the Messapians in the 9th century BC and later came under the control of the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Lombards and Normans. In 267 B.C. the Romans took over the city and made it their main commercial and military port of call with the East, linking it with the Appian Way and the Via Traiana. Otranto was the scene of historical events such as the death of Virgil in 19



B.C., the civil wars between Caesar and Pompey in 49-48 B.C., and the Crusades to the Holy Land from the 11th to the 13th centuries. In the Middle Ages Otranto was dominated by the Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese and Venetians, who made it an important political and cultural center. In 1480 Otranto was conquered by the Turks of Mohammed II, who massacred much of the Christian population; the following year it returned again to the Aragonese thanks to the intervention of Alfonso V of Aragon. It participated in the uprisings of 1647-48 against Spanish rule, and in 1860 it was annexed to the Kingdom of Italy.

Otranto's culture is characterized by literary and artistic tradition and production. Carlo Levi, writer and painter lived in the town for a long time. Among the most important events are the patronal festival of the Holy Martyrs of Otranto (August 14), the fish festival (June), and the international ethnic music festival (August).

The economy is based mainly on the tertiary sector, particularly the port, which offers connections to several eastern Mediterranean cities and Albania and Greece, and tourism.

#### POI26-Castro



Distance:	8,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	111,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	22,2 nm
True Course:	199°
Magnetic Course:	195°

Turn right to stay along the coastline in the direction of Castro.

Castro has a long history dating back to the Bronze Age and has seen the influence of many different cultures over the centuries. It was founded by the Messapi, an ancient Italic tribe, and later conquered by the Romans in the 3rd century BC. In the Middle Ages, the city was ruled by the Normans and then the Byzantines. In the 15th century, Castro was conquered by the Aragonese and became part of the Kingdom of Naples.

Today, Castro is a popular tourist town because of its natural and historical beauty. The town is located on the Adriatic coast and is famous for its sea caves and beaches. Castro also has a well-preserved historic center with many old churches and palaces.

The town depends mainly on tourism and agriculture. It produces olive oil, wine and fruit. In addition, there are many businesses that cater to tourism such as restaurants, hotels, and souvenir stores.

#### POI27-Santa Maria di Leuca

Distance:	12,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	124,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	9,5 nm



True Course: 195°  
Magnetic Course: 190°

Still toward the tip of Puglia to fly over Santa Maria di Leuca.

Santa Maria di Leuca is a hamlet of the municipality of Castrignano del Capo, in the province of Lecce, in southern Salento. It is known for its tourist vocation and for being the meeting point between the Ionian and Adriatic seas.

Its name derives from the Greek word leukós, meaning white, because of its limestone cliffs overlooking the sea. According to tradition, Aeneas and St. Peter landed here during their travels. A temple dedicated to the goddess Minerva also stood here, later transformed into a Christian basilica dedicated to Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae, or the end of the lands. The basilica is one of the most important monuments to visit in Santa Maria di Leuca, along with the lighthouse, the monumental waterfall and the many 19th-century villas that adorn the waterfront.

Santa Maria di Leuca is also famous for its sea caves, which can be explored by boat excursions. Some of these caves are linked to legends and myths, such as the cave of the Devil, the cave of the Dragon or the cave of the Three Doors. Others are rich in stalactites and stalagmites, such as the Porcinara Cave or the River Cave. The caves are located both west and east of the town and offer a natural spectacle of great beauty.

Economically, Santa Maria di Leuca lives mainly from tourism and fishing. In fact, the locality offers numerous services and accommodations for visitors, such as hotels, restaurants, lidos and stores. Fishing is a traditional activity that provides the fresh catch for the local cuisine, based on fish and seafood dishes.

#### LIHT-Campo Di Volo Gemini



Distance: 9,5 nm  
Dist. from Dept.: 134,0 nm  
Dist. to Dest.: 0,0 nm  
True Course: 307°  
Magnetic Course: 303°

Turn right and prepare to land at Gemini Flying Field, where our Via Franchigena journey ends!

Campo di Volo Gemini is a small airport located in the town of Ugento, in the province of Lecce, Salento, Italy. The airport is managed by the club FA.CO. Fly and offers services for ultralight flying and parachuting.

The airport has a grass runway of 1685 feet and oriented 13/31. The runway is equipped with hangar and clubhouse. The airport is open daily and is located about 5 km from the center of Ugento.



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