

Paestum & Velia

The Temples & the Museum

Birthplace of the imminent Philosophers Parmenide & Zenone.





Holiday destination of the illustrious Cicerone and Orazio

Paestum is an example, of the most integer, of how much Italy is a nation rich of very important archaeological testimonials which from centuries attracts visitors from all around the world. Situated in the province of Salerno, is from 1998 part of the UNESCO World Heritage. In the center of the flat land celebrated also from the ancient writers for its beauty and climate, the ancient city of Poseidonia, from the name of the God of the sea Poseidon, it was found as a Greek colony around the VII Century B.C. In the 273 B. C. was concurred from the Romans who changed its name in Paestum. The Temples, the amphitheatre and lots of other edifices were accomplished in the Doric and Ionic stile, overcame the war, the centuries passing

by and severe weather, showing up as, still today with their greatness and majesty. The ponderous city walls which surrounds it was built from the Lucanians, who conquered the city before the Romans, in the 400 B.C. Not too distant is the necropolis from the Etruscan epoch, where it was discovered the ancient burial known as the *Tomb of the Diver*. The tomb consists of an excavation by the shape of a sarcophagus coated by slabs and closed with a cover. The internal walls of the tomb are painted and represent scenes of banquets and parties. The lid which covers it, instead, represents a naked young man who jumps from the top of a trampoline into a mirrored water alluding quite surely at the passage to the afterlife.

“The Museum”

The Archaeological National Museum of Paestum arose in the 1952 inside the old. Initially was made of a unique hall, by the external architectural look of a school from Piacenza, built on the dimensions of the structure portraying the first Thesaurus from the Sanctuary of Hera. This original nucleus was subsequently amplified and predisposed for new environments, built around an internal garden and with external windows. The new setting of the museum documents the evolution and the transformation of the city, from the founding of the Greek colony from the end of the VII and the beginning of the VI Century B.C. until the foundation of the Latin colony, reveals the transformations in the social and public organisation, in the religious rites, the aspects of daily life, art and handcraft. An introducing section reconstructs the history of the discovery of the archaeological site, the other section is dedicated to the prehistory.



Velia, where the prestigious *Medical School of Salerno* has its roots.

The ancient city of Elea (Hyele) was found from Greek colonists coming from Focea as a supporting base in the Thyrranean for the intensive commercial exchanges with the Italic population and the further habitants from the coast of the Egeo Sea. During the formation period of the Magna Grecia colonies, Elea assumed the characteristics of an autonomist city in powerful expansion, until achieving the civilization status that will give the nativity to the philosophers Parmenide and Zenone. It was the seat of a prestigious medical school of which the traditions and knowledge are considered from most the roots of the Medical School of Salerno. In the Roman Age with the changed name in Velia, it took part at the Punic wars; thanks to the merits of Velia's

Naval Fleet, the Romans recognized the privileges and autonomy of the city, as for minting coins. Cicerone, Orazio and other esteemed personalities found in Velia a temperate and welcoming climate, the ideal destination for their holidays. The decline of Velia occurred with the progressive cover-up of the harbors and succeeding flooding surges, so the end of the commercial exchanges and the economical wealth. With the advent of the Christianity it became the Episcopal establishment until the definitive impoverishments of the inhabited nucleus following the Saracen incursions. On a privileged position on the promontory in Norman's Epoch the still standing visible tower was built as a fortress and for the spotting the invaders from the sea.



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