

# MARATEA

## Basilicata

*“Thea-Maris” (Goddess of the Sea), “Mar-an-Thà” (God has come) or “Marathus” (field of the fennels), the given names different historians still discuss over about.*





## “The Cave of Wonders”

# The city of the 44 churches and Christ the Redeemer. Birth-town of the famous Italian cinema personage “Totò”.

The splendid Tyrrhenian shoreline, mostly composed from steep hillsides covered by the Mediterranean maquis, the alluring hidden bays, beaches with multicolored pebbles, the typical Lucanian soul of the hinterland acts as a background to Maratea, also denominated the *Tyrrhenian Pearl*, and precious treasure from the South of Italy. Charming and captivating also as far as concerning the cultural attractions and the monuments. Not everybody knows, indeed, that the beautiful town is known also as the **City of the 44 Churches**, and that every religious building preserves precious artistic testimonials.

Undoubtedly, thou, the symbol which represents the town is **Christ The Redeemer**, the famous statue situated on the summit of the **Mountain Saint Biagio**. With its unmistakable outline visible from

all the towns of the entire Gulf of Policastro, the Christ is a piece wanted by the Count Stefano Rivetti who, in the Sixties, made a contribution for the development of the town. It represents not just a strong symbol of belief but it has become, over the years, one of the most visited attractions. Differently from traditional iconology, it presents itself with a young face, the beard barely hinted and short hair, in acknowledgment of a certain modernity. Its position seems like is about to advance forward with its arms opened towards the Basilica of Saint Biagio, in a welcoming and protective gesture towards the entire community, almost as wanting to embrace it. The figure of the statue does not stand as a foreign body into the surrounding environment, rather, its simple and clean lines merge well with the surrounding landscape.



The Cave of Wonders is the smallest in Italy, it actually extends for only 90 meters of length. Discovered in the 1929 this ravine became with time one of the major attractions of the Marine of Maratea fraction thanks to its irresistible appeal, composed by just a wide single hall which measures around 70mq, here the presenting scenery is truly fascinating: stalactites and stalagmites of countless dimensions ( some so thin to go by the name of "spaghetti") decorate a natural composition formed by impressive columns along which it seems to be settled on some fascinating natural drapes. The Cave of the Marine of Maratea is visible in the summer period thanks to the presence of specialist guides who accompanies the visitors during the excursion of around 30 minutes.

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