



Maremma Nord

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Maremma Toscana Area Nord

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The Tourist Destination North Maremma: visit suggestions from the sea to the mountains

This part of Maremma is marked by geographic factors, each different from the rest. In fact, this large area is characterized by hills and mountains, and also by coastal lines.

It is precisely these characteristics that have given rise to different stories, which are linked to the human's relationship with this sometimes hostile nature, the same nature that has conditioned the land's history, culture and landscape.

A vast territory, rich in history, food and wine traditions and culture. An ideal place for multiple sports, excursions and adventures.

A coastal scenario formed by dunes, protected wetlands, Natural Reserves, with stretches that run along the ancient ridge of the *Strada dei Cavalleggeri*, with its watchtowers, and some of the most prestigious marine ports, renowned among sailing enthusiasts. Sunsets where the trajectory of the sun disappearing into the sea leaves you speechless.

Moving away from the coast, the Maremma inland becomes an endless and sunny countryside with its vineyards, olive groves, farmhouse and lines of cypress trees lining the roads. With its ancient villages, flowered terraces and silent churches rich of artworks. Then forward towards the most mountainous part reaching the heights of the Colline Metallifere (Metalliferous Hills) and the Cornate di Gerfalco, with the protected areas and theme parks, unique panoramas for those who love close contact with the natural environment.

The touristic destination *Maremma North Area* is composed of 8 municipalities: **Castiglione della Pescaia, Follonica, Gavorrano, Massa Marittima, Monterotondo Marittimo, Montieri, Roccastrada and Scarlino**; each of these splendid places will offer you fascinating, unique and engaging experiences.

1.

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Castiglione della Pescaia



The municipality of Castiglione della Pescaia is one of the best known and most frequented by tourists who prefer seaside locations. An ancient village that overlooks a stretch of sea rewarded by the most important recognitions in terms of environment, eco-sustainability and accessibility, thanks to the quality of its waters and beaches. A vast territory with a rich network of trails that intersect and connect important hamlets, cultural and historical places, such as **Vetulonia**, with its **Museum** and **Archaeological Areas**, **Tirli**, known for its cuisine, the **Hermitage of San Guglielmo di Malavalle**, surrounded by nature that evokes mysterious sacred legends, **Buriano**, a small medieval hamlet with its historic monuments and breathtaking views. Routes that also unfold through the most important vineyards and cellars of this municipality, which attract food and wine enthusiasts.



Do not miss the tastings of typical products, such as oil and Tuscan Bruschetta, which represents one of the most important aspects linked to the typical flavours and traditions of Maremma and the Monteregio Wine Route.



An unmissable stop for sailing enthusiasts is the **port of Punta Ala**, an exclusive tourist destination, well-known in sailing circles for having hosted **Luna Rossa**, the Italian boat that starred in the America's Cup regattas in 2000.

A place that offers unforgettable moments for its light and silence is the **Casa Rossa Ximenes Museum**, whit **Regional Natural Reserve of Diaccia Botrona**, testimony of a past that is linked to the first reclamation interventions of this part of Maremma, once remembered as the “bitter Maremma” (*Maremma amara*). Throughout the year, a variety of over 200 bird species transit through this **Protected Wetland Area**, and they can be seen from the sheds scattered along the path, allowing you to admire closely this splendid and diverse nature.

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2.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Follonica

This municipality overlooks the homonymous Gulf of Follonica, which at sunset present us amazing colours along the stretch of the coast. A modern inhabited centre that was born around its **Royal and Imperial Foundries** commissioned by Leopold II of Tuscany, still visible in that area known as "ex-Ilva", the original heart of this factory-city. Inside the old furnace **Forno di San Ferdinando** you can find the **Museum of the Cast Iron Arts of Maremma**, with a multimedia display on the ferrous alloy production process, as well as a section dedicated to the Etruscans. In fact, Follonica has been known since ancient times as a landing place, but above all as a town linked to the steel industry, from Etruscan times to large part of the 20th century.



Some protected natural areas are part of this territory, **magnificent pine forests of Ponente and Levante and the Wooded Area of the Bandite of Follonica**, together with the *Montioni Park* and the new itineraries for mountain bikes, a great attraction for lovers of this sport. Thanks to its natural position, facing the Elba Island, Follonica is safe and protected, with beaches suitable for families and children. Follonica is in fact considered as one of the main Italian seaside locations, honoured by numerous awards that certify the quality of the waters and the coasts.



The night life of Follonica, especially during the summer, is located on the seafront and on the beaches, but also the historic centre hosts many pubs and lounge bars where you can spend a pleasant evening, before the night dances.

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3.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Gavorrano



This municipality is located in the Maremma hinterland, on a hill from which you can enjoy a landscape that ranges from the Gulf of Follonica with its islands to the surrounding hills. The **medieval centre of Gavorrano** preserves the typical architectural structures of the Middle Ages, with narrow passages between the walls, the arches of the ancient buildings and the doors between the fortifications. This is a place where you can have some surprising views while walking. The ancient square hosts **the parish church of San Giuliano**, rebuilt in the 18th century to replace the older one. Inside, on the high altar, there is the 1336 precious marble statue with the **Madonna and Child**, sculpted by Giovanni d'Agostino. Gavorrano was an important mining town; the stone caves and facilities for mining and processing minerals are still visible today in the area. Some of the old mines of Gavorrano have been converted into a large

Mining and Naturalistic Park of Gavorrano, which also includes six other municipalities of the area: Follonica, Massa Marittima, Montieri, Monterotondo Marittimo, Roccastrada and Scarlino. The Mining Park is part of the larger *Colline Metallifere Grossetane National Park*, a place surely worth visiting. In the past, the land and **castle of Gavorrano** were run by the noble Pannocchieschi family, of which Count Nello was part of. He was the one who murdered Pia de' Tolomei from Siena, whose story is told by Dante in *Canto V* of the Purgatory in the famous verses: "Siena fême, disfecemi Maremma" (Siena made me, Maremma destroyed me). The hamlets connected to this municipality such as **Caldana**, with the church of San Biagio whose Renaissance façade is among the most beautiful in the area, **Ravi and Giuncarico** offer the visitor stunning views of this uncontaminated nature.

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4.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Massa Marittima

Nestled on a travertine stone hill in the Maremma inland, the historic centre of Massa Marittima stands partially enclosed within a medieval city wall. A town rich in history, documented by the many artistic and architectural testimonies found in the historic centre. The history of Massa Marittima is closely linked to the silver, copper and pyrite mines, exploited since the early metal age and then in the Etruscan and medieval periods. Walking through the city you can come across some unexpected places, such as the **Cathedral of San Cerbone** dominating at the square, which is also surrounded by other important buildings such as the *Palazzo del Podestà* (house of the Giovannangelo Camporeale Archaeological Museum) and the Townhall. In this square takes place twice a year (the last Sunday of May and August 14th) the extraordinary procession of 150 people parading between flag-wavers and drums, wearing splendid medieval costumes. Walking through the historical city centre, you can also bump into some unusual places and works of art, such as the Contemporary Art Garden dedicated to the partisan heroine Norma Parenti and the medieval wall painting depicting the **Tree of Fertility**, where male genitalia were painted to substitute fruits and on which contemporary historians still debate to understand its true meaning.



An excellent panoramic location is the **Torre del Candeliere**, where it is possible to walk along a stretch of the ancient Sienese walls and climb the tower to admire an unmissable view of the city and the hills, up to the sea. In the upper part of the historic centre you can visit museums, such as that of **Sacred Art with the famous Maestà by Ambrogio Lorenzetti**, the **Archaeological Museum**, the **Organs Museum of Santa Cecilia**, with its collection of mechanical organs from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and a body of harpsichords and fortepianos that document the technological and stylistic evolution of the piano instrument, an eminent symbol of Western musical civilization. Going down again towards the square you come across the **Mining Museum**. We are in the Monteregio territory (including 8 Municipalities of the touristic destination Maremma North Area), and along the Monteregio Wine Route we have an excuse to embark on an adventure among the farms, vineyards and centenary olive trees of this part of Maremma.

For the outdoor lovers, it is recommended to have a visit at the *Colline Metallifere Grossetane National Park*, one of the first theme parks established in Italy by the Ministry of the Environment and Land Protection. Furthermore, the dense network of marked trails dedicated to mountain bikes or e-bikes, allows for interesting excursions immersed in the Mediterranean scrub.

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5.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Montieri



It is probably the most eco-sustainable municipality in the touristic destination Maremma North Area, with its geothermal heating system which has been used to heat public and private buildings. Montieri remains hidden by thick vegetation of chestnuts, from which an exceptionally good flour is produced. For some years Boccheggiano, a hamlet part of the same municipality, has hosted the competition for the best chestnut flour in Italy.

In **Boccheggiano** there's the small **Church of San Sebastiano**, recently renovated, which welcomed in 1650 the marble statue of San Sebastiano by Bartolomeo Cennini, co-worker of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, who has been considered one of the greatest protagonists of Baroque culture. This town is also linked to mining, as shown by the

many tunnels that were discovered in the area, which are accessible to visitors. These tunnels were indeed used for mining and made Montieri an important extraction centre. Few people know that one of the earliest testimonies to the Italian vulgar language is preserved in this very area. Traces of it remain in the archives of the Diocese of Volterra where the '*carta di Travale*' is stored, a parchment dated back to 1158.



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Noteworthy are the ancient stone fountains dating back to the 11th century, which were found again in the hamlet of Boccheggiano.

They can tell stories of lives spanning thousands of years. Don't miss the **Fosini Castle**,



which was built around the 10th century to guard the silver mines scattered in the surrounding area, nor the **Sounds Garden** by Paul Fuchs, where art and nature are in harmony and the wind yields pleasant sounds among the German artist's works. The visit continues heading towards the small village of **Gerfalco**, which is located in the area of the *Natural Reserve of Cornate and Fosini*, a perfect starting point for hikers who can choose a variety of paths to follow.



The remains of a church are hidden in these woods, with an extraordinary apse shaped as a six petal flower, a symbol of completeness. Legends linked with this place tell about a wounded knight who donated the treasure he carried to the women who had saved his life. During excavations, a fibula jewellery made with unique and precious stones was found, perhaps part of the legendary treasure, and now preserved in the National Art Gallery of Siena.



6.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Monterotondo Marittimo

The medieval town of Monterotondo Marittimo stands on the *Colline Metallifere Grossetane National Park* and it is a perfect destination for anyone who loves the beauty of nature and outdoors activities. In this area there are geysers, fumaroles and hot springs, full of bicarbonate and calcium, bubbling to the surface at 43° C, which until a few years ago were used for thermal purposes at the Terme del Bagnolo SPA. One of the most evocative aspects that makes this territory truly fascinating is its landscape, characterized by the unusual colours of the rocks and vegetation.

If you want to have an unforgettable experience, it is worth visiting the Biancane Natural Park. You'll be suspended in an almost surreal atmosphere, where the ground gives off its heat thanks to the volcanic 'solfataras', fumaroles, geysers and mofettes. The air is heavy with sulphur and columns of steam dissolve into the atmosphere. Probably thanks to these geological and climatic characteristics, an atypical flora has grown in this area making it extremely unique.

The *Biancane GeoMuseum*, which enriches the larger Tuscan Mining Park, the *Colline Metallifere Grossetane National Park*, is considered a UNESCO heritage site. The visitor can have a fantastic and virtual but extremely real experience, thanks to evocative and immersive installations. The **Monteregio Wine Route** runs also through this area, it is an ideal journey to discover the vineyards and wineries, typical gastronomy produces and quality craft shops.

turismomonterotondomarittimo.it
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7.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Roccastrada



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Roccastrada stands strategically on a rocky hill and enjoys an excellent position over the Maremma plain. The historic centre of the town is structured as a fortification, while the smaller hamlets of this municipality were built as a castle. Some examples are **Sassofortino**, **Montemassi** and **Roccatederighi**, just to name the most characteristic ones, with a fascinating look of impregnable fortresses. **The Montemassi Castle** was depicted by Simone Martini in the 14th century in the famous fresco preserved in the Palazzo Pubblico of Siena. All around town, modern settlement areas have developed such as the Teatro dei Concordi, the Town Hall and the library.

Roccastrada is also home of the **Vine and Wine Museum**, which documents the culture and traditions and represents the identity of the Maremma area, allowing visitors to have a sensory journey among the scents of the Maremma vines, through an itinerary dedicated to the **Monteregio Wine Route** as well.

Hidden in a wood of holm oaks is the **Cripta di Giugnano**, halfway between Montemassi and Roccastrada, which is the only surviving structure of a vast monastic complex dedicated to the **Monastery of San Salvatore** whose origins date back to the 11th century. The Crypt of Giugnano is part of the formal culture of the early Romanesque period.

Smaller hamlets but interesting from a historical and scenic point of view, are **Torniella**, which in the Middle Ages was a small castle whose structure is still recognisable today,



Piloni, which originated from a rather recent village of woodcutters, and **Sticciano**, which enjoys a splendid view over the Maremma, where the Romanesque church is the only preserved building of the old medieval castle.

Ribolla, the most recent inhabited hamlet, is linked to mining activity and the tragic event that in 1954 saw the death of 43 miners, whose story was told by the well-known writer from Grosseto Luciano Bianciardi. Roccastrada is also part of the **Colline Metallifere Grossetane National Park**, full of itineraries for outdoor enthusiasts to cover on foot, horseback or a mountain-bike. The 120 kilometres of Roccastrada Trekking trails, the route of the **Via Equestre grossetana**, (a route to do on horseback), together with the project **Via delle Città Etrusche** (which goes through the 8 Municipalities of the Maremma North Area) make it possible to reach the **Farma and La Pietra Nature Reserves**.

In the area around the town you can discover the water sources of Roccastrada surrounded by nature, with the ancient washhouses, fountains, fishponds and dams dating back to the 16th century.

8.

MAREMMA TOSCANA AREA NORD

Scarlino



Some of the best known and most beautiful beaches in Tuscany are to be found in this municipality, such as the splendid *Cala Violina* and *Cala Martina*, located in the Bandite di Scarlino Naturel Reserve.

Cala Violina, famous for the sound that the sand emits when you step on it, recalling that of a violin.

At Cala Martina a monument commemorates Giuseppe Garibaldi who, pursued by the papal guards, set sail for Porto Venere from this shore.

From the sea you can reach the slopes of **Monte d'Alma**, a hilly massif that dominates the *Bandite di Scarlino*, with its dense woods of chestnut trees and holm oaks. An extensive trail network has been created within this area, which is frequented by many mountain-bike enthusiasts.

The town is dominated by the 13th century fortress built by Pisa. The historic centre keeps intact the typical charm of medieval villages made up of alleys, narrow streets and ancient doors. **The Church and Convent of San Donato**, now in inexorable decline, boasts a fair amount of wealth inside, with a high value collection of silverware forming part of the ecclesiastical furnishings, as well as frescoes and works of art bearing witness to a glorious past. From ancient times, Scarlino served as a lighthouse for the nearby Roman port of *Scabris*, today known as **Puntone**, a modern touristic harbour. It is precisely in this coastal area that recent underwater archaeological excavations have brought to light a relevant number of Roman artefacts that tell the story of ancient navigation techniques.

These finds are kept at the *Portus Scabris Museum* (MAPS). On the other hand, the *Riccardo Francovich Territorial Documentation Centre* collects archaeological finds that tell the history of the hillock on which the **Rocca Pisana** di Scarlino stands. Among these, the interesting Scarlino Treasure, consisting of one hundred gold coins from the 15th century, found during excavations of the *Rocca Pisana* rectory.



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Art, food, wine & culture

Art and culture can become keys to discover a territory, through routes and trails immersed in the Mediterranean scrub. Several kilometres of hiking trails twist and turn along the footsteps of ancient monasteries, hermitages, abbeys, archaeological sites and castles, following the amazing stories of public figures who lived in this area of Maremma. They offer an opportunity to abandon the routine of city life to discover small medieval villages, fortified castles, ancient streets.

Getting lost in the narrow streets of one of these ancient medieval villages, to then reach magnificent panoramas, dwelling on a multitude of artworks hidden within the walls of small sacred temples.

Weekends to escape city life, in harmony with the seasons and surrounded by the extraordinary colours of nature. Strolling among the excavations in the land of the

Etruscans, an ancient population who left countless traces to follow in the whole Maremma area. The Archaeological Areas cannot be missed, with their incredible monumental tombs. Guided tours including food & wine, culinary tastings, grape harvesting, are exclusive opportunities to get the knowledge of the culinary culture and traditions which preserve the flavours of ancient times, and also the traditions on the Monteregio Wine Trails, which crosses all the 8 Municipalities of Northern Maremma. These are places to discover the best chestnut flours, or handmade fresh pasta using ancient grains cultivated in these fields.

Or else, you can immerse yourself into stories, sitting on a fishing boat rocked by the sea, watching the sky full of stars from sunset until late night.

Medieval castles without a ceiling where, for a special night, extraordinary orchestras will play immortal masterpieces.

You can have unforgettable and unique experiences in the Maremma North Area.

vetrina.toscana.it



Nature & sport

Horse riding, mountain bike or e-bike excursions, birdwatching in the Nature Reserves or in the Natural Parks.

Stay in luxury and exclusive campsites, like glamping, blending comfort, design and nature, where health and nature have the same importance as comfort. Spaces designed for relaxation and small SPAs, places where to practice yoga and meditation.

It is possible to explore this land combining a variety of breath-taking landscapes and to discover stunning seaside resorts and pine forests close to the Mediterranean Sea. Beaches where you can practice water sports, such as sailing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, surfing, water skiing and Stand-up Paddle. You can walk or run for kilometres along the coastline, where the untouched nature blossoms as the beautiful *Sea Pancratium Lily*, a beautiful protected species of white water lily which blooms here from July to September.

Here you'll find accommodation facilities dedicated to tennis and padel, classic and five-a-side football, beach volleyball and outdoor gyms near the sea.

Trails and routes surrounded by vineyards, cypresses, endless fields of sunflowers, are all unique scenarios for road cyclists. In these 8 municipalities there are a multitude of outdoor routes where you can have fun off-road with mountain bikes or e-bikes.

Additionally, trekking on foot in the *Colline Metallifere Grossetane National Park* and in the many Natural Reserves where you can learn to recognize the songs of the birds and the sounds of nature following the Environmental guides.

For those who love Archery, there are several fields dedicated to this activity, immersed in nature.

Wines and typical dishes will be a perfect accompaniment for walks and excursions on foot or on horseback to discover a territory that will not give you any emotional disappointment.

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