

The Magic of Traditions



Strong and ancestral traditions show that the people of Molise are strongly attached to their land and to the rites connected to fertility. The people are extremely religious and they take part in liturgical rites which include processions of statues and icons of saints.

There is a very big participation of both local people and tourists in the "Misteri" of Campobasso (it is a parade in the historical centre of machines of the 18th century by Di Zinno which represent the 13 Mysteries); the "Carresi" in San Martino in Pensilis, Ururi and Portocannone (race of carts pulled by oxen); the "Traglie" in Jelsi and the Procession of S. Anna in Pescocostanzo (parade of wagons with artistic figures made of wheat ears), the sea Procession in San Basso in Termoli; the "N'docciata" in Agnone (parade of hundreds of "n'docce" (tall lit torches carried on the shoulders); the rite of Faglia di Oratino (a huge torch made of reeds is lit in the centre of the churchyard); the Horse Race in La Querciola Locality in Ripalimosani; the Riflemen's Parade in San Giuliano del Sannio; the Maja Feast in Acquaviva Collecroci; the Feast of S. Antonio in Isernia (a parade of horses decorated by the local gypsies); the Pentro - Caraceno Rodeo in Montenero Valcrocchiara (mounting of wild horses); the Procession of San Nicandro in Venafro (the statues of the Patron Saints Nicandro, Marciano and Daria are carried through the streets accompanied by a famous musical aria). You will see this and much more in the towns of Molise. There are rites such as "Il Cervò" in Castelnuovo al Volturno, "Il Diavolo" in Tufara and "I Mesi" in Bagnoli del Trigno or there are historical commemorations in many towns (Boiano, Campobasso, Bagnoli del Trigno, Fornelli). There are singing festivals ("Mario Lanza" in Filignano), festivals of ethnic music (Bagpipe Festival in Scapoli), local fairs connected with the feasts of patron saints (onion fair in Isernia) or having to do with gastronomic specialities (festival of beans and pasta, truffel, omelette, fish), happenings for those who enjoy nature and horses (the Corsalonga in Staffoli), rites connected with the Nativity (Live Nativity scenes) and with the passion of Christ.

Much is still to be discovered in Molise which is strongly linked to its past traditions which continue to re-emerge with surprising vitality.

