



At the beginning of the 20th century, the Pollino National Park was created, covering an area of 1,100 square kilometers. It is the largest protected area in Italy, stretching across the regions of Calabria and Basilicata. The park is characterized by its rugged dolomite ridges, ancient forests, and stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

# Welcome to Pollino

Pollino: the wild heart of Southern Italy and Italy's largest protected area where dolomite ridges meet ancient forests, stretching across Calabria and Basilicata.

Comunicazione e interpretariato del patrimonio culturale: lingua inglese

FRANCESCA PIA DI GRUCCI

# What makes Pollino unique?

- While many parks are highly developed, **Pollino remains one of Europe's last true wildernesses**. It offers a sense of isolation and silence
- **Pollino sits at the crossroads of two seas and its geology is a mix of limestone peaks and deep inaccessible river canyons.**
- **The park hosts ancient Albanian communities** that have preserved their language and traditions for over 500 years.

# The Loricata Pine: The Symbol of the Park:

- The Loricata Pine represented in the Pollino National Park logo, it is the most iconic species of the area and it is the oldest tree in Europe.
- It has survived since the Ice Age. These trees grow in extreme conditions, on rocky ridges where nothing else can live.
- Its name "Loricata" comes from the Latin lorica (armor), referring to the thick, plate-like bark that resembles the armor of ancient Roman soldiers.

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# Why is UNESCO recognition important for tourism?

UNESCO status is a "gold standard" that guarantees a unique, world-class geological and natural experience for visitors.

It ensures the long-term preservation of the park's rare ecosystems

It promotes "slow tourism," focusing on authentic experiences, local traditions (like the Arbëreshë culture), and environmental education.

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| Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite per la Scienza e la Cultura                      | Pollino Geoparco mondiale UNESCO                                                    |



# The UNESCO Beech Forest

The UNESCO Beech Forests are recognized by UNESCO for their ecological importance and incredible resilience.

This area is a Sanctuary of Biodiversity; in fact it houses rare species like the Rosalia Longicorn (a stunning blue beetle) and the Apennine Wolf.

Pristine air and deep silence make these forests the perfect destination for natural meditation.

# The Pollino isn't a destination for everyone, so who will love it the most?

- First, the Adventure Seekers. If you want to feel the adrenaline of rafting down a wild river or climbing a 2,000-meter peak, this is your playground.





People who want to escape the crowds and "over-tourism" of coastal Italy to find silent mountains and hidden stone villages, and the travelers interested in the unique Arbëreshë traditions.



# Who is the Perfect Pollino Traveler?

People who travel for taste—seeking organic, "zero-km" ingredients like the Cruschi peppers, Pollino truffles, and mountain cheeses.

A photograph of a river flowing through a rocky, forested landscape. The river is surrounded by dense green trees and vegetation. The water is a light brown color, and the rocks are grey and jagged. The text "Safety during activities like rafting" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Safety during activities like  
rafting

The background of the image is a close-up of a rock surface covered in vibrant green moss. The moss is thick and textured, filling most of the frame. On the right side, there is a vertical crevice or crack in the rock, revealing a lighter, greyish-white interior. The lighting is soft, highlighting the various shades of green in the moss.

Certified Professionals: All activities, , are led by certified guides with years of local experience.

We provide high-quality, sanitized technical gear that meets all safety standards.

We offer tailored levels and constant monitoring.

Guides are trained in first aid and swift-water rescue.

River levels and weather conditions are monitored hourly to ensure zero-risk departures.

# Our rules:

- Keep the Silence
- It is strictly forbidden to pick flowers, mushrooms, or minerals.
- Open fires are strictly prohibited.
- The Pollino forests are ancient and fragile; we must protect them from the risk of wildfires.

# The role of a guide between people and nature

## Small Groups Only

We strictly limit group sizes to reduce physical impact on trails and minimize noise pollution for wildlife.

By directing tourists to small, family-run businesses, we ensure that conservation becomes a source of pride and income for local communities.

Guides often act as monitors, reporting trail conditions and illegal activities to the Park Authority.