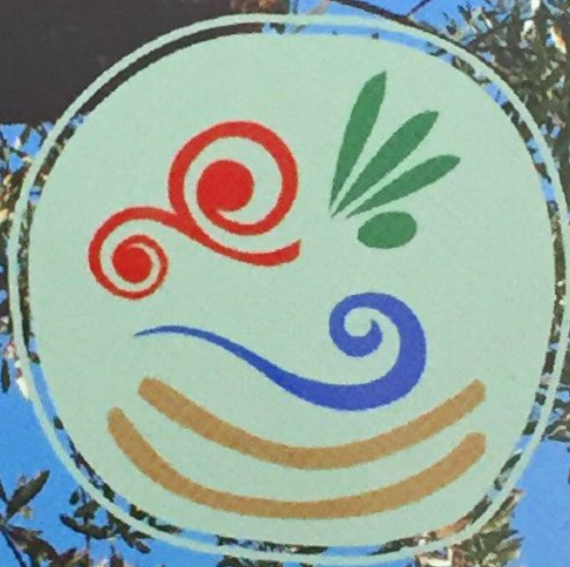




History Art Nature



LAMA D'ANTICO

PARCO RUPESTRE



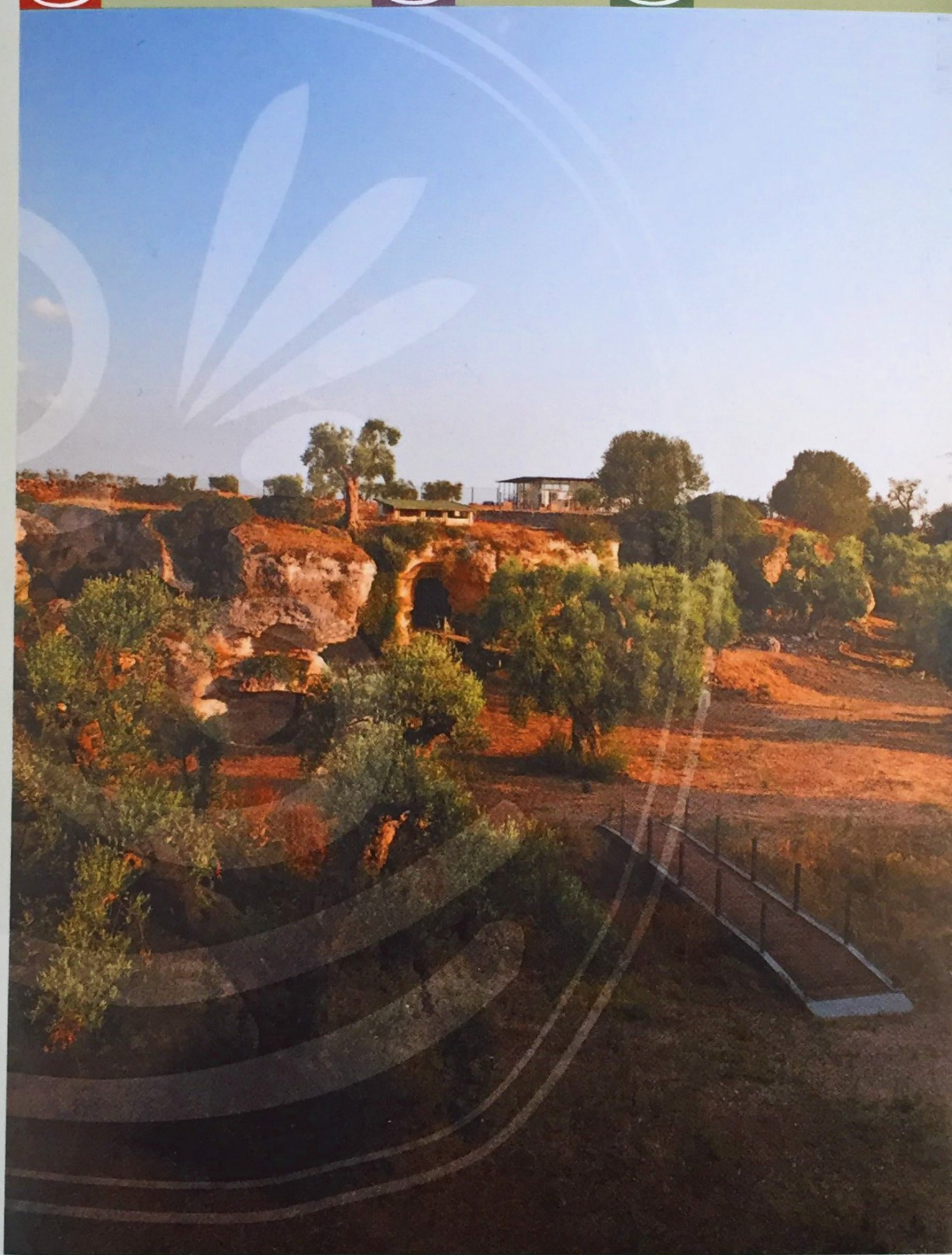
History



Art



Nature





The Cave Settlements



The cave is an element which is always been part of human history, since the pre-historic age, when it was used as a shelter or a burial place. In the Middle Ages, between the 6th and 14th century A.D., the cave became a new resource of exploitation for the rural communities. Through the excavation and carving of the rock, the caves became real residential buildings and workshops reserved to the processing of agricultural products such as olive oil, grains and honey. The cave was also a place of worship and prayer. This is the origin of these settlements.

The caves and cave-churches are a true documentation of the daily life, the religious values, the social organization, the economy, the artistic techniques and the architecture of the Middle Ages.



The Village



The origins of the rock settlements in the district of Fasano, and in general in Apulia, are considerably old. The most ancient signs of a human presence in these areas date back to pre-historic ages, however it is only during the Middle Ages that they became a residential settlement.

The village of Lama d'Antico is the most impressive and suggestive rock settlement of the area, developed between the X and XIV century. Hidden within the countryside, the site stretches along a small natural canal or "lama", characterized by the presence of several man-made caves on both sides. Inside the village the time seems to have stopped, allowing the visitor to capture the different aspects of the daily life of the Middle Ages: the homes, the workshops, the stables, all arranged around the church which was the main focus of the village and of course one of the most fascinating features of the entire site.



The Caves Church



THE CAVE CHURCH OF LAMA D'ANTICO

Situated in the center of the village, this church is one of the largest cave churches of Apulia. The entrance, which distinguishes the church from the other caves, is monumental. The visitor is led in to a large room divided into two naves and apses through a series of arches set on pillars. Furthermore the roof system, consisting of well-refined barrel vaults originally supported a dome.

The grandeur of its size and the impressive architectural decorations, make it a real cathedral carved into the rock, while the remains of the frescoes reveal the coexistence of the artistic elements of both the Eastern and Latin traditions of the Middle Ages.



The Caves Church



SAINT LAWRENCE

The space inside the church of San Lawrence is different from the one of Lama D' Antico: a small entrance leads into an articulated space, where rock architecture and liturgical functions are connected, allowing the visitor to admire the complexity of traditional medieval religion. The well preserved frescoes are one of the finest examples of flourished art among the Apulian rock settlements.

SAINT JOHN

The church of Saint John still preserves many of the peculiar elements of the cave-church, such as the ancient "iconostasis" functional to the performance of liturgical rites. Its presence, with the frescoes and iconic representations of saints, enhances the feeling of sacredness within a remote place of worship, based on the model of Byzantine churches, entirely excavated into the rock.



The Frescoes



Beautifully and brightly painted, hidden or faded by the passing of time, the frescoes are situated in all three rural cave churches, and represent the best and well-thought examples of cave paintings in the Middle Ages.

Composed images of Saints, portraits of bishops or prophets, martyrs and monks, follow one another along the walls, while the apses show patterns of the Byzantine tradition with paintings of Christ sat on a throne next to the Virgin Mary and Saint John the Baptist.

In their austerity, figures stand out on the bare rock walls, scrutinizing the visitor who stares at the sacred images with awe. The frescoes have been preserved for nearly 800 years, as a rare testimony of popular devotion in the Middle Ages.



The Caves



THE CAVES – DWELLINGS

Among the several caves that arrange the village, many are those which were used as homes, distinguished by a rich collection of signs carved into the rock, on the walls, on the ceiling and on the floor. The alcoves, the shelves, the hooks are all precious evidence of an ancient way of life, able to transfer in the stone the features of the conventional architecture of the time.

THE CAVES – WORKSHOP

Among to the caves used as habitation, other caves show the existence of a complex and vibrant rural community: these are the spaces reserved for the production and storage of products, food and handcrafts, essential to the sustenance and economy of the village.



The Nature



LAME

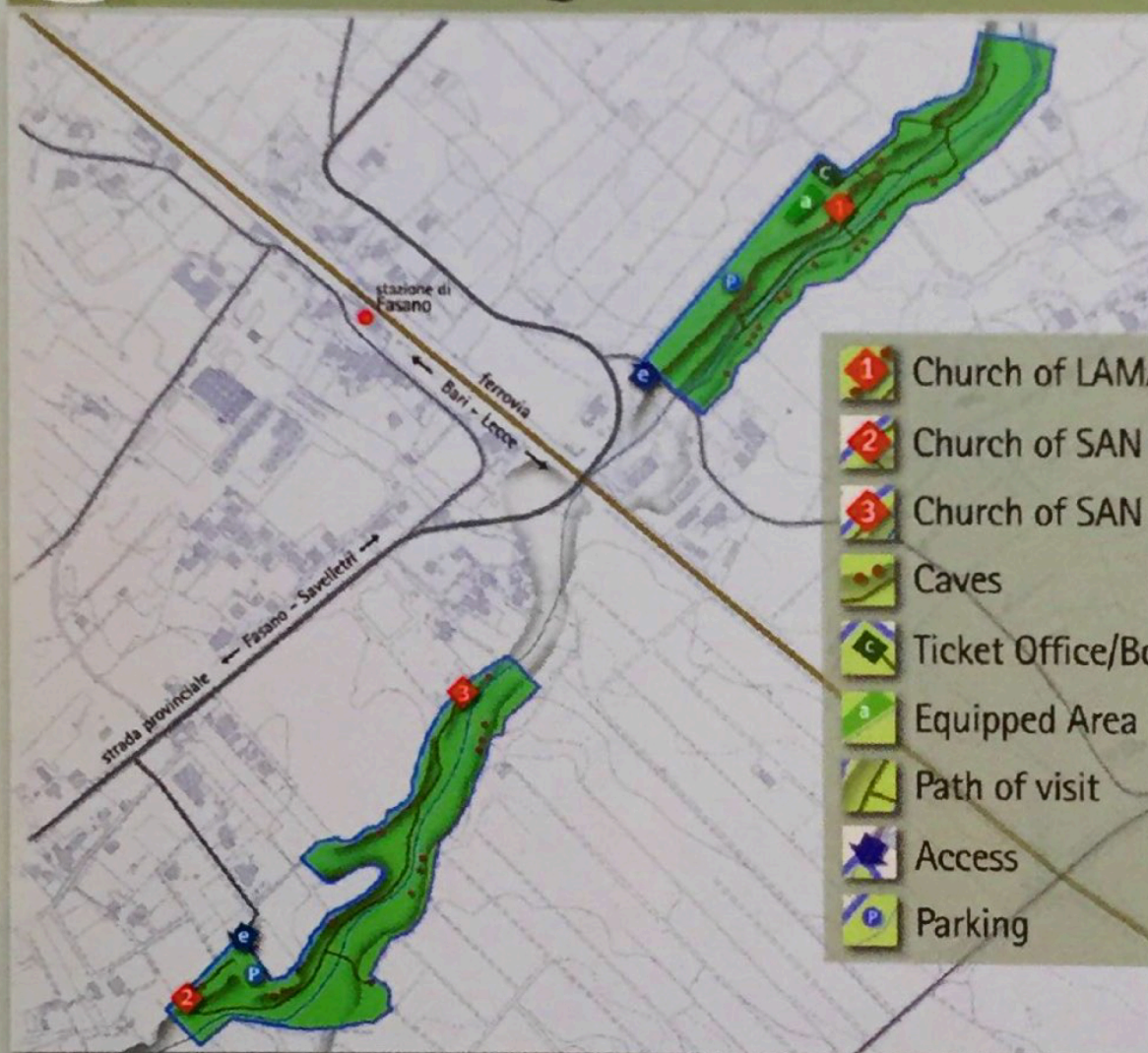
Ancient river beds formed during the geological era, nowadays these are natural canals which represent one of the few places where it is still possible to observe a perfect balance between native vegetation and rural landscape, characterized by the presence of hundred year old olive trees, and majestic carob trees with their trunks that look like real natural sculptures.

THE MEDITERRANEAN LANDSCAPE

This traditional natural vegetation, which is also diffused throughout the Lama, is often so thick and tangled to hide the view of the rocks behind. Among the dominant species at Lama D'antico, it is possible to recognize the lentisk shrubs, often distinguished by their considerable size and disposed along the side of the canal, the yellow sage called "Salvione", a typical Trans-Adriatic species, and caper bushes that, with their summer-blooming flowers look like amazing purple colored falls.



The Village Area



- 1 Church of LAMA D'ANTICO
- 2 Church of SAN LORENZO
- 3 Church of SAN GIOVANNI
- Caves
- Ticket Office/Bookshop
- Equipped Area
- Path of visit
- Access
- Parking

TRANSLATION BY DANIELE MITTICA AND DONATELLA DANIELE

PH. ROBERTO LEPORE

GRAPHIC CONCEPT ANGELO LOFANO



LAMA D'ANTICO
PARCO RUPESTRE

Strada Provinciale FASANO-SAVELLETRI
C.da Sarzano - FASANO (BR) - ITALY

TOUR

Summer months

h 9.30 AM - 1.30 PM

h 4.00 PM - 8.00 PM

Winter months

From October To May:
opening only by booking



CITTA' DI FASANO

INFO

+39 328 3597517

www.lamadantico.it
info@lamadantico.it

