

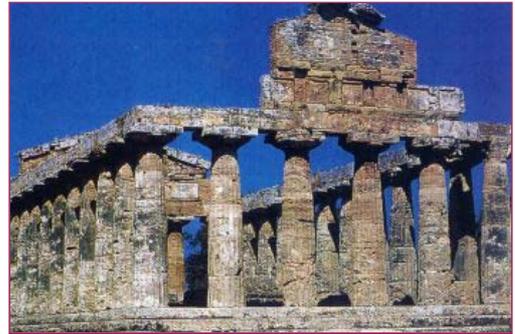
Cilento and *Vallo di Diano* National Park with the Archaeological sites of Paestum and Velia, and the *Certosa di Padula*

Engineering geological conditions and problem:

The ancient town of Paestum was founded around VI-VII century B.C. The settlement rests on organogenic calcareous encrustations (travertine) that originated from flowing waters at a distance from a few meters to a few hundred meters from their springs.

In the Paestum area the most recent travertines have an age spanning from more than 4000 years to less than 1000 years and may be divided in two levels: older (lower) travertines which form the deposits underlying the town and where used to erect temples, buildings and defensive walls; younger (upper travertines) that cover Greek and Roman remains.

The depositional event which produced the upper travertines is a case of fossilization of a whole town, that occurred in historical time by encrustation waters flowing from inside to outside of the town walls. The process is not still active.



One of the Paestum temples
(<http://utenti.lycos.it/villaangela2>)



Velia, Tower of Sanseverino (900 A.C.)
(www.paestum.de/it/cilento.htm)

Supplementary information:

Cilento and *Vallo di Diano* National Park and the archaeological sites of Paestum and Velia were inserted in the UNESCO World Heritage List because during the prehistoric period, and again in the Middle Ages, the Cilento region served as a key route for cultural, political, and commercial communications in an exceptional manner, utilizing the crests of the mountain chains running east-west and thereby creating a cultural landscape of outstanding significance and quality. In two key episodes in the development of human societies in the Mediterranean region, the Cilento area provided the only viable means of communication between the Adriatic and the Tyrrhenian seas in the central Mediterranean region, and this is vividly illustrated by the relict cultural landscape of today.



Velia, archaeological zone
(www.paestum.de/it/cilento.htm)



Cilento coast (www.wonderful-italy.it)

References on studies already done:

VIOLANTE C. e D'ARGERIO B. (2000) "I travertini alle origini e nel declino dell'antica città di Poseidonia – Paestum (2500 – 1000 a. prima del presente)" Convegno GEOBEN 2000" – Torino 7-9 giugno 2000, 841-848.