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CAMPANIA REGION, SOUTHERN ITALY: A PERFECT PLACE FOR GEOTOURISM

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ABSTRACT

The present abstract documents the importance of Campania region of southern Italy in the context of Geotourism. Italy contains the greatest number (i.e., 58) of UNESCO World Heritage Sites than any other country in the world. The Campania region (especially Napoli city and its vicinity) contains some of the world's best areas for geotourism like historical infracture, museums and natural geological features, etc. The main geotourism sites include Mount Vesuvius, Pompei, Monti Lattari, Amalfi coast, Campania Archipelago, Paestum, Temple of Serapis of Pozzuoli, Mineralogical and Paleontological museums of the University of Naples Federico II, and the historic centre of Naples.

Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano in the southern Italy and last erupted in 1944. It is located on the Gulf of Naples, about 9 km east of Naples city. It is considered as one of the most dangerous volcano in the world due to significant population in the vicinity, which makes it the most densely populated volcanic region in the world. Despite being dangerous, it still attracts thousands of tourists from across the globe to visit world-famous volcano every year. Mount Vesuvius generated a nice landscape and enhanced beauty of the area. It is famous for the 79 AD catastrophic eruptions that destroyed the Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Before discovery, Pompei was buried by the volcanic materials produced from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Monte Lattari is a mountain range having great exposure of seismic-scale Mesozoic carbonates with some Miocene clastics. The carbonates portray shallow marine to pelagic facies, stratabound dolomites, dolomitization fronts, syn-sedimentary faulting and mass transport deposits, etc.

Adjacent to Monte Lattari, there is Amalfi coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site, along which Mesozoic carbonates with seismic-scale karstified caves can be noticed. The Campania Archipelago includes Capri (most visited island), Ischia, Procida, Nisida and Vivara islands. These islands have exposures of different sedimentary and volcanic rocks.

The archeological site of Paestum contains temples made up of travertine and tufa (i.e., continental carbonates). The Temple of Serapis of Pozzuoli has great scientific significance as Charles Lyell considered it as an exemplar of uniformitarianism. In the Naples city, Neapolitan yellow tuff and lava slabs are used in different buildings and streets. In short, Campania region has great sites of geotourism.

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