The new tourist harbour of Taranto was built in the historic centre of the town overlooking the Mar Grande, on the site of the old “Molo Sant’Eligio” which had been used as a jetty for boats serving the commercial port.

The port was positioned in the historic centre due to the archaeological, architectural, cultural and historical relevance of the site, which allows many sites of particular interest to be seen. These ruins from the Magna Graecia period, ancient churches, nobles’ palaces and buildings in the characteristic local style make up an impressive tourist attraction.

The structure, which can hold 254 boats, includes floating and fixed jetty’s, a quay and a hauling dock, garage areas, car parks, enhanced green spaces, reception buildings and a restaurant area. The port is capable of providing the full suite of nautical tourism services (well-equipped dock, washrooms, tourist information, repairs, refuelling), together with recreational, sports, cultural and artistic activities and services, thanks to the wide availability of appropriately-equipped areas.

The privately-managed port area has been completed and operational since the summer of 2003.

The cost of the intervention totals 6 million Euros. The intervention was funded by the Puglia Multifund Operational Programme (MOP) 1994-1999, by the Puglia Regional Operational Programme (ROP) (to an amount of about 2.9 million Euros) and by the Commune of Taranto.