

## The Apulia



### Day 1 - Matera

Arrival and departure for MATERA.

I Sassi are the oldest part of the city of Matera, which developed around the Civita, constitute an entire city carved into the limestone rock, locally called "tufo", an articulated accommodation system, perched on the slopes of a deep ravine by the unique and surprising natural characteristics: the Gravina. At a time when the heart of civilization, now restructured and made "noble", the stones come alive and take your breath away, especially at night when the small lights of residences, craft shops and restaurants make them like a papier-mache nativity scene. The stones are composed of two large districts: Sasso Barisano and Sasso Caveoso, divided in the middle by the hill Civita, the oldest settlement of the city of Matera, the heart of medieval urbanization. Lodging in Matera

### Day 2 - MATERA - POTENZA - GRUMENTUM - MATERA

Breakfast

Visit of Potenza.

Potenza, founded in the 2nd century. BC. BC by the Romans, is the highest capital of Italy, which clings to a hill dominating the Basento valley. Among the most important monuments you must visit the Roman bridge in 280 BC and the Villa of the Roman imperial era that is in the area of Malvaccaro. The old town center of Potenza is characterized by an elegant Via Pretoria which runs from the east to the west of the old town. Among the most important enterprises in the capital of Basilicata are the Archaeological Museum, the Conservatory of Music of Gesualdo da Venosa, the National Library, the Teatro Stabile Francis and the headquarters of the University of Basilicata.

In the afternoon visit of GRUMENTUM. At the heart of the Val d'Agri, more precisely in the south-western part of the Basilicata region and more than 700 meters above sea level, is Grumento Nova. Formerly called Saponaria, Grumentum was probably founded around the third century. BC. And, thanks to its strategic location in the Val d'Agri, became one of the most important Roman military colonies in Lucania. In this small town there are important vestiges of Roman colonization, theater, bathrooms, the area of the hole with the Capitol, the amphitheater and some magnificent domus. Return to the hotel. Housing.

### Day 3 - MATERA - MELFI - VENOSA - LAGOPESOLE - MATERA

Breakfast

Excitation and visit of MELFI:

on the territory of Melfi there were already settlements in the Neolithic, in the plains of Lower Melfese along the Ofanto River.

Located at the foot of Mount Vulture, the town of Melfi, the pre - Roman center, has a significance that in the Middle Ages: the capital of the South before Norman Palermo, unlike the Byzantines, was sacked by Frédéric Barbarossa and faithful to the family then the Jura. Later it became a stronghold of the orange and the Doria and thriving commercial center.



Continuation with the visit of VENOSA: Venosa, an ancient city, full of exceptional signs of the stratification of the history lies on a plain at the foot of Mount Vulture.

Samnite city was conquered by the Romans in 291 BC, becoming one of the largest and most prosperous cities of the ancient world, as it was crossed by Via Appia, perhaps the most important artery of communication Antiquity, connecting East and West.

Continuation with LAGOPESOLE:

Fragment of Avigliano, set in a beautiful location at 830 meters above sea level on the hills between the Ofanto and Bradano rivers, its name apparently derives from a lake quaternary era "pensilis de Lacus" hanging lake, which occupied the valley vitalba

Return to the hotel. Housing

#### **Day 4 - MATERA - TARANTO - METAPONTO - MATERA**

Breakfast

Excursion to TARANTO: Ancient and powerful city of Magna Grecia, Taranto was founded in 706 BC by Spartan settlers who gave life to this colony for reasons of expansion and trade.

She gave birth to Archita da Taranto and Livio Andronico, a poet and playwright, and was much loved by some great Latin literature such as Horace, Virgil, Propertius and Tibullus who lived in Taranto in search of inspiration for their works. The city is built around a small bay, called Mar Piccolo, closed by two peninsulas connected by the turning bridge and the great sea, on a small island, there is the Aragonese castle. The city has buildings that bear witness to its history and culture that some ancient places of worship, including the ruins of the Doric temple and the Redeemer's crypt, the houses belonged to noble families such as Palazzo Pantaleo and Palazzo d'Ayala .

Cotinuation for METAPONTO: To better understand the history of ancient Greece is a must visit for the remains of the important colony of Metaponto, founded by the Achaeans in the eighth century. BC. These are divided into three places: the archaeological park, where you can see both the sacred part of the city with the ruins of the temples of Athena, Apollo, Hera, Aphrodite, both in the purely urban area with the remains of houses and the great theater factory, the archaeological museum, which houses many artifacts discovered in the surrounding area and the shrine of Hera, said: "Palatine paintings" where the columns of the Doric temple dedicated to this deity stand out over the sky after 25 centuries of history Back to the hotel. Housing

#### **Day 5 - MATERA - BARI - POLIGNANO A MARE - BARI in the vicinity**

Breakfast

Departure for BARI:

One of the biggest commercial cities, the economic and cultural center of the South gives us a city full of Christian history and tradition: the basilica of Saint Nicholas, which accumulates in the name of the most revered saint in the world (as it is also present in Orthodox culture) a thousand pilgrims a year, the Cathedral of S. Sabino, a beautiful Romanesque church that holds the body intact (visible) of Santa Colomba.

And continuation for POLIGNANO A MARE:

Visit the historical center (Church table, terraces with sea view).

Polignano a Mare is famous for being the only urban center of Bari facing the sea, with charming sea caves and terrace by reflections of the romantic and unique atmosphere .... It is also the birthplace of Domenico Modugno and the recognized ice cream capital!

Check in hotel

Housing

#### **Day 6 - BARI - CASTEL DEL MONTE -TRANI - BARI**

Breakfast

Visit of CASTEL DEL MONTE:

Visit the castle (whose image is on the Euro coin), and the reconstruction of the fascinating yellow that surrounds it ...

The most mysterious and the most studied in the world. It is a beautiful octagonal castle resting on a high hill dominating the whole plain of North Bari. Has not yet been clarified its innumerable mysteries: it is a fortress? The chase of Frederick II? A place of meditation? A monument without the will? What did it look

like that was not habitable? Who built? What happens in the castle every year in the days of the solstices and the equinoxes? All this will be rebuilt and specified in this fascinating and unforgettable excursion!

Cotinuation in **TRANI**:

The city of the beautiful cathedral of St. Nicholas the Pilgrim, one of the most famous cathedrals of Puglia, the strong demand for commercials! ....

And "the cathedral" in half and half on the water. "An important step in the Romanesque architecture of Apulia Trani also has a very evocative Porto

Return to the hotel. Housing

### **Day 7 - BARI - ALBEROBELLO - LOCAROTONDO - MARTINA FRANCA - BARI**

Breakfast

Excursion to **ALBEROBELLO**:

a walk between 1500 trulli, the famous conical buildings connected to form an urban agglomeration that has always been the most visited by tourists from around the world.

Absolutely unique, trulli are an important step in rural architecture: in fact, what seems to be simple heap of stones is actually one of the most brilliant rural buildings that man has ever designed.

The excursion includes: visiting the trulli of Aia Piccola (still inhabited), the rooftop terrace, the Monti quarter, the artisans' street (where, among other things, there are women who still work on fabrics of 1600), the Church trulli.

Cotinuation in **LOCOROTONDO**:

The town is a real bonbonnière has a sloping roof traditional houses called "inverse". We visit the church of St. George and the rooftop terrace where you can enjoy views over the Itria Valley with its 20,000 trulli

And **MARTINA FRANCA**:

Continuation of the visit of the famous baroque city. It shows us a comfortable, charming old town, whose visit culminates in the collegiate church of St. Martin. In the Ducal Palace of the Caracciolo is held each year the Festival of Valle d'Itria **ITINERARY** :. Porte de Saint-Etienne (or arch of Saint-Antoine), the Palazzo Ducale, the Collegiate Church of St. Martin

Return to the hotel

Housing

### **Day 8 - BARI - LECCE - BRINDISI**

Breakfast

Departure for the visit of **LECCE**:

the beautiful city where art thrived architectural and exclusive decorative style that took the name of the city, the Baroque Leccese.

The itinerary starts from Porta Napoli and provides the picturesque Via Palmieri full of palace, Piazza Duomo (cathedral, episcopal palace and seminary), Piazza S. Fred (Column of the Holy See, Roman amphitheater) the Basilica of Santa Croce, workshop of Maestro cartapestaio (Lecce ancient art whose statues were made of the churches of Lecce), with demonstration of the creation of a sacred statue or Nativity (15 'duration)

Departure from the airport of Brindisi

