



TOUR APULIA AND BASILICATA

DAY 1 - VENOSA - MONTICCHIO - MELFI -

Arrival of the group at the airport and departure by GT Bus to Venosa, home of the Latin poet Orazio Flacco. Guided tour of the Archaeological Park (with remains of thermal baths, domus and Roman amphitheater) and of the Benedictine Abbey of SS. Trinity with the medieval Unfinished. Continuation of the guided tour in the historic center of the city: House of the poet Horace and Ducal Castle Orsini which houses an interesting Archaeological Museum with a prehistoric section. Transfer to Monticchio and visit of the lakes, original craters of the Vulcano del Vulture. Lunch in a typical restaurant in Monticchio (Villa Maria). In the afternoon transfer to Melfi and guided tour of the town, capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies under the dominion of Frederick II of Swabia,

DAY 2- MATERA - MURGIA MATERANA -

Breakfast and meeting with the guide. Transfer by bus to the Parco delle Chiese Rupestri della Murgia Materana, a rocky plateau of ancient marine sedimentary origin, to reach the Belvedere of Murgia Timone, from which you can have a splendid panoramic view of the "Sassi" districts of Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit to the rock church of Madonna delle Tre Porte, carved out of the rock and a destination for pilgrimages until the middle of the last century. Visit of the Civita, where the beautiful 13th-century Romanesque-Apulian Cathedral stands. Continue to Piazza Vittorio Veneto, the heart of today's city of Matera, with its hypogea and the most beautiful panoramic view of the Sasso Barisano. Lunch in a typical restaurant in the stones. In the afternoon visit of the Sasso Caveoso valley, the most interesting part of the ancient districts as it is mostly excavated in the tuff rock. Piazza S. Pietro Caveoso, directly overlooking the spectacular Gravina di Matera canyon. Visit to the rock church of Santa Lucia alle Malve, with splendid murals of the XII-XIII century and medieval cemetery. Visit to a cave house, an ancient peasant house typically furnished. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 3- METAPONTO - SAN GIULIANO DAM - ORIGINAL SIN CRYPT –

Breakfast and departure from Matera for Metaponto and visit to the archaeological remains of the ancient Greek colony of Metapontum: Archaeological Park of Apollo Licio, Palatine Tables, what remains of the temple suburban dedicated to the goddess Hera, and National Archaeological Museum. Continue to the San Giuliano Dam, an artificial reservoir created for irrigation purposes in the 1950s along the course of the Bradano River. Short stop at the barrier of the river. Continue to the Crypt of the Original Sin. Possibility of visiting the Agri-Vinicola Masseria Dragone and lunch at the same company. In the afternoon visit to the Crypt, a natural cavity overlooking the "Gravina di Picciano" stream, defined the "Sistine Chapel" of rock wall painting in Basilicata for the extraordinary pictorial cycle of great theological and artistic value. We will continue to Puglia in the area of the Itria Valley. Arrival at the hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4- TRANI - CASTEL DEL MONTE - BARI -

Breakfast and departure for Castel del Monte in the territory of Andria at the foot of the Murgia. Guided tour of Castel del Monte, a monument declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Although it is commonly called "castle" the exact function of the imposing building is still unknown. Due to the strong symbolism with which it is imbued, it has been hypothesized that the construction could be a sort of temple, or perhaps a sort of temple of knowledge, in which to dedicate oneself undisturbed to the study of the sciences. We remember in fact that Emperor Frederick II was known with the appellations Stupor Mundi ("wonder or wonder of the world") or Puer Apuliae ("boy of Puglia"). Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon visit of the city of Trani with its majestic Romanesque Cathedral symbol of the Apulian Romanesque dedicated to San Nicola Pellegrino, the historic center, the Swabian Castle to defend the port. Return to the hotel, free evening, dinner and overnight.

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CAPPUCCINO TOUR OPERATOR

DAY 5- MARTINA FRANCA - CISTERNINO - LOCOROTONDO

Breakfast and departure for Martina Franca, capital of the Valle d'Itria which preserves a historic center of fine workmanship with numerous churches and noble palaces with finely carved facades. We will visit the symbolic monuments of this magnificent Baroque town that looks a bit like Lecce. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon visit of nearby Cisternino, a small village in the Itria valley less known but still very fascinating and suggestive in its historic center which retains its original plan and which is included in the list of the 100 most beautiful villages in Italy. Stop in Locorotondo along the way back to the hotel to get to know another village in this magnificent area. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 6- LECCE - OTRANTO -

Breakfast, departure to visit the historic center of Lecce, Visit of the most significant monuments of the Lecce Baroque: P.za San Oronzo, Church of San Matteo, Church of the Rosary, Piazza Duomo, Santa Cross. Transfer to Otranto. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon visit of the historical center of Otranto, the most eastern city of Italy. Visit of the cathedral with the 800 martyrs chapel, the crypt and the mosaic (one of the largest in the world) by the monk Pantaleone. Visit of the historical center of the city which preserves numerous monuments, churches as well as noble palaces of valuable architectural value. Return to hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 7- ALBEROBELLO - OSTUNI –

Breakfast, Visit of Alberobello, capital of the Trulli and symbol of all Puglia. Visit of the Monti district (UNESCO Heritage) the Trullo Church, the Siamese Trullo and other enchanting views of this unique town. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon visit of the ancient village of Ostuni, the White City develops on a hill overlooking hectares of centuries-old olive groves that thin out towards the sea. For lovers of good taste, stop with a visit and tasting at the Cooperative Oil Mill in Ostuni. Opportunity to purchase typical products. Return to the hotel, typical Apulian dinner and overnight.

DAY 8- DEPARTURE –

Breakfast, Eventual free time available, transfer to Bari Airport. Departure for return.

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