

KEY: **D** Dinner **L** Lunch  UNESCO site

13 days

\$3,997

taxes and airfare included!

Book within April 2016 and save \$100!



Include 10 UNESCO sites!

APULIA * BASILICATA * CAMPANIA * SICILY

LECCE - OTRANTO - GALLIPOLI - CASTELLANA

POLIGNANO - ALBEROBELLO - PUTIGNANO

FASANO - OSTUNI - MATERA - NAPLES - CAPRI

AMALFI COAST - CASERTA - POMPEII - TAORMINA

MOUNT ETNA - SYRACUSE - MODICA - CATANIA

TOUR DATE

September 5, 2016

TOUR INCLUDES

- Roundtrip airfare Toronto/Italy and transfers
- Hotel accommodation as listed in itinerary (or similar) superior tourist class
- Meals included: breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- Guided tours as per itinerary
- Multilingual tour director
- Hotel taxes and service charges

ADDITIONAL INFO

- The price is intended per double accommodation. Single traveler additional cost is \$500
- The price excludes the City Tax Fee (per person, per night), to be paid locally at every checkout that applies.
- Itinerary subject to change
- Travel insurance extra
- Credit card payments subject to additional 3% fee
- Tax and fuel surcharge subject to change
- The price excludes everything not mentioned in the section "Tour Includes"

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ITINERARY

DAY 1 - LECCE (APULIA) Upon arrival in Brindisi airport, transfer to your hotel. Afternoon on your own then welcome dinner at the suggestive Greek restaurant, located in a XV century palace located downtown Lecce, close to the Duomo. Apulia's cities are deeply rooted in Greece culture that affected not only the language but also arts and food. The typical Greek tastes and music will transport you in that unique country. **D**

DAY 2 - Introduce yourself to the wonders of **Lecce** with an expert guide and a private walking tour. See the piazzas, palaces and churches of this beautiful Baroque city with your guide during a 3-hour walk. Visit the Basilica di Santa Croce, the ancient Roman amphitheater and the Piazza del Duomo as you explore the so-called 'Florence of the South'.

DAY 3 - OTRANTO and GALLIPOLI Departure for the visit of Otranto, "the door to East", is one of the most famous gems of the Salento coast: this little town facing the Adriatic Sea lies on the most oriental point of Italy.

Our walking tour will lead us through the ancient part of the town which lies within fortified walls facing the wonderful sea that boasts transparent waters.

Departure in the afternoon for Gallipoli, a real gem of the Salentine peninsula, it is situated on the Ionic coast: the name of this town comes from the Greek "kalè polis" and it means "charming city". Fish lunch at a nice restaurant and visit of the city.


The town is formed by two different parts: the old city with its narrow streets was built on a little island connected with the mainland by a bridge of the 17th century and the more recent part is situated behind the old centre.

Return to the hotel in Lecce. **L**

DAY 4 - CASTELLANA, POLIGNANO and ALBEROBELLO Check-out and departure to Castellana and visit of the Caves. The tour winds along a distance of 3 km, a unique guided tour of the caves to more than 60 meters deep in an amazing

scenario made of stalactites, stalagmites, concretions, incredible shapes, fossils, canyons and caves with fantastic names; calcifications from conformations and amazing colors solicit the imagination of children and adults.


Departure to Polignano a Mare, birth city of the singer Domenico Modugno, visit of the historic centre, pictures on the suggestive balconies on the sea. In the afternoon, hotel **check-in** and visit of Alberobello, a **UNESCO World Heritage** site – its narrow streets crowded with conical, white-washed trulli, clustered together like mushrooms, constructed entirely out of lime stones without mortar.

Evening and dinner on your own and return to the hotel. 


DAY 5 - PUTIGNANO, FASANO and OSTUNI Visit the farm at Conea agriturismo, you will discover the path of the milk, from cow milking to its transformation into different diaries like mozzarella, cheese, ricotta and final tasting. Visit to the Selva of Fasano with its panoramic view on the sea from the top of the mount. In the afternoon, visit of Ostuni, one of the most stunning cities in southern Italy famous for the dazzling effect of its whitewashed houses. It is a genuine and charming example of Mediterranean architecture.

The city of Ostuni is a series of levels, staircases, small roads, alleys, arches. Hints of the Middle Ages are at hand in every corner, in every view to the sea, in the portal of a palace, in the walls of a convent or the front of a church. Dinner on your own. Return to the hotel. **L**

DAY 6 - MATERA Hotel **check-out** and departure to Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Matera has become very popular in the world because it was chosen by Mel Gibson to provide the backdrop for his movie "The Passion of the Christ". This choice doesn't surprise us: the time passes but some things don't change.

Matera has a charming aspect, it leaves its visitors without words, because it seems to be out of time. Visit of Sassi, transfer to Naples in a 4stars hotel, check-in and dinner. **D** 

DAY 7 - NAPLES (CAMPANIA) Walking visit of Naples, Italy's third-largest city is one of its oldest, most artistic and most delicious. Naples' historic centre is a **Unesco World Heritage Site**, its archaeological treasures are among the world's most impressive, along with its swag of vainglorious palaces, castles and churches. The Naples region is one of Italy's epicurean heavyweights, serving up the country's best pizza, pasta and coffee, and many of its most celebrated seafood dishes, street snacks and sweet treats. Beside its chaotic urban sprawl, you'll uncover a city of breathtaking frescoes, sculptures and panoramas, of unexpected elegance, of spontaneous conversations and profound humanity.

Enjoy the visit of Naples Underground, Toledo metro station, the principal churches, the Gallery and San Carlo Theatre. Lunch at the restaurant, panoramic tour of Chiaia and Posillipo shores. Dinner on your own and back to the hotel. **L** 


DAY 8 - CAPRI Ferry to Capri. Capri's beguiling combination of fabled beauty and hedonism has charmed Roman emperors, Russian revolutionaries and Hollywood stars for decades. It's the perfect microcosm of Mediterranean appeal – a smooth cocktail of chichi piazzas and cool cafes, Roman ruins and rugged seascapes.

It's also a hugely popular day-trip destination and a summer favorite of holidaying VIPs. But explore beyond the swish cafes and designer boutiques and you'll find that Capri retains an unspoilt charm, with grand villas, overgrown vegetable plots, sun-bleached, peeling stucco and banks of brilliantly colored bougainvillea. All of this overlooks the deep blue water that laps into secluded coves and mysterious grottoes.

Visit of Capri and Anacapri with minibus and an expert guide. Lunch at a panoramic restaurant. Departure back to Naples. **L**



DAY 9 - AMALFI COAST Deemed by **Unesco** to be an outstanding example of a Mediterranean landscape, the Amalfi Coast is a beguiling combination of great beauty and gripping

drama: coastal mountains plunge into the sea in a stunning vertical scene of precipitous crags, picturesque towns and lush forests.


Guided excursion of the Amalfi Coast and fish-based lunch at Amalfi. **L** 

DAY 10 - CASERTA and POMPEII Hotel check-out, morning visit of the colossal, **UNESCO World Heritage Reggia di Caserta**. Italy's swansong to the baroque, the complex began life in 1752 after Charles VII ordered a palace to rival Versailles. Not one to disappoint, Neapolitan architect Luigi Vanvitelli delivered a palace bigger than its French rival. With its 1200 rooms, 1790 windows, 34 staircases and 250m-long facade, it was reputedly the largest building in 18th-century Europe.

Afternoon at the **ruins of Pompeii**: it's here that you'll find Europe's most compelling archaeological site. Sprawling and haunting, the site is a stark reminder of the malign forces that lie deep inside Vesuvius.



Alitalia flight to Catania from Naples Capodichino airport, transfer, hotel check-in and dinner at Taormina. **D**  


DAY 11 - TAORMINA Visit of the Mount Etna. Dominating the landscape of eastern Sicily, the volcano is a massive brooding presence. At 3329m it is Italy's highest mountain south of the Alps and the largest active volcano in Europe. It's in an almost constant state of activity and eruptions occur frequently, most spectacularly from the four summit craters.

Afternoon visit to Taormina. Spectacularly perched on the side of a mountain, Taormina is Sicily's most popular summer destination. And while it is unashamedly touristy and has a main street lined with high-end designer shops, the town remains an achingly beautiful spot with gorgeous medieval churches, a stunning **Greek theatre**, sweeping views over the **Gulf of Naxos** and Mt Etna. 

DAY 12 - SYRACUSE and MODICA Visit of Syracuse and Ortigia Island. Ancient Greek ruins rise out of lush citrus orchards, cafe tables spill onto dazzling baroque piazzas, and medieval lanes lead down to the sparkling blue sea. Life goes on here much as it

has for 3000 years, as you'll soon see from the snarling mid-morning traffic and noisy markets. In its heyday Syracuse was the largest city in the ancient world, bigger even than Athens and Corinth, notable for its rich Greek history, culture, amphitheaters, architectures and as the birthplace of Archimedes.

Afternoon in Modica, with its steeply stacked medieval centre and spectacular baroque cathedral, Modica is one of southern Sicily's most atmospheric towns. An important Greek and Roman city, Modica's heyday came in the 14th century when, as the personal fiefdom of the Chiaramonte family, it was one of the most powerful cities in Sicily. Modica's chocolate is one of the most famous products of the Ragusa area. It is still made the same way the ancient Aztecs made chocolate in Mexico and its tradition dates back to the 16th century. The technique was brought over by the Spaniards who in turn learned about it in what is now Mexico. Take some time to taste this delicacy, along with an almond granite and a brioche!  

DAY 13 - CATANIA This city has energy to sell and a beautiful historic centre. Grandiose black-and-white palazzi tower over baroque piazzas and the city has one of the most vibrant fish markets on the island, together with hundreds of bars, clubs and eateries that cater to the city's fun-loving population. All the while, Mt Etna broods on the horizon, its powerful presence adding a thrilling edge – and a beautiful backdrop – to Sicily's second-largest city. Discover the underground city, under the lava ground of the city of Catania is still the sixteenth-century city, with its streets, churches, baths, palaces and even the street signs that the lava buried in 1693, preserving it for posterity. In many places you can go down in the basement, which was reportedly witnessed amorous intrigues between nuns and friars, hideout of brigands and treasure for lovers of art. Farewell dinner and back to the hotel. **D** 

DAY 14 - Departure from Catania airport to Toronto.

