







A network committed to the promotion of unexpected places of historical, cultural and environmental importance in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites

> MIRABILIA - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF UNESCO SITES Promotion of UNESCO sites, territories and paths by the Chambers of Commerce



Under the Patronage of ENIT - National Tourism Agency

THE PARTENARIAT

A network of Chambers of Commerce to promote Cultural Tourism



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THE NETWORK

With "Mirabilia", the Italian Chambers of Commerce set up the network of the 10 Italian Unesco world heritage sites

The Sassi di Matera and the Palazzi dei Rolli in Genoa; the Dolomites and the Cinque Terre; the Palladian villas and the Franciscan sites in Assisi and the Patriarchal cathedral in Aquileia; the trulli in the Murgia area and the botanic gardens in Padua; the Aeolian islands and the Amalfi coast: these are the 10 unique and wonderful Italian landmarks and places that are now Unesco world heritage sites and have been included in the "Mirabilia" project by the Italian Chambers of Commerce.

This project is named after the ancient "Mirabilia Urbis Romae" guidebooks. These practical guides were written by travellers who used to guide pilgrims to Rome, the Eternal City, and told them stories of peoples and places that they had encountered during their travels. This initiative is launched by the 10 different Chambers of Commerce (each one located in a different city: Brindisi, Genoa, La Spezia, Matera, Messina, Padua, Perugia, Salerno, Udine and Vicenza) on whose territory there's at least one Unesco world heritage site (there are 49 Unesco sites in Italy), and they aim at being included among the emerging tourist destinations.

"Mirabilia" – the European Network of Unesco Sites - establishes a link among areas that share the same historic, cultural and environmental significance. This is a network of places that are recognized as Unesco world heritage sites, but Italian and international tourists are not familiar with them. The main goal is to promote these sites and make them known to the general public.

This tourist offering is different and wants to promote a different kind of Italy, those places that have not been conquered by mass tourism. This is tailor-made tourism, on a smaller and more human scale, which welcomes and takes very good care of tourists. "Mirabilia" was established in 2012, thanks to the Matera Chamber of Commerce, which is still the leading partner. At first, there were just five Chambers of Commerce. In 2013, there were nine of them already and now, thanks to two new partners, the Chambers of Commerce of Padua and Messina, there are 10 of them. What we aim at, is promoting and focusing on these areas and their cultural peculiarities - as well as their wine and food traditions - creating promotion tools and establishing a network of companies in order to develop a number of integrated tourist products dedicated to international tourists.

This project envisages a number of promotion events on foreign markets and an international event is being organized and it will be held in Italy in November. During this event, a number of B2B meetings will be organized in order to match what the 10 destinations are offering and the demand coming from the main international tourist buyers, selected by TTG Italia. After the events in Lerici (2012) and Matera (2013), the "Borsa" (the tourist stock exchange) will be held in Perugia, where there are two Unesco world heritage sites: the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi and the other Franciscan sites, as well as the Italian Lombardic sites. This year's promotional tour will stop over in Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom.

"Mirabilia" is a clear and unmistakable example of how to create a network by involving the Chambers of Commerce and by using and optimising their human and financial resources to concretely promote our cultural heritage. The involved territories can thus benefit from a higher income and the creation of new jobs. We focus on quality and the organization of the Chambers of Commerce to remain competitive on the market and also (and especially) offer our adequate proposals at big events.

BRINDISI

Its Port, "Gateway to the East", and the Itria Valley

THE PORT OF BRINDISI AS MONUMENT AND CULTURE OF PEACE MESSENGER SITE (UNESCO RECOGNITION 2010)

MURGIA DEI TRULLI AND ITRIA VALLEY (UNESCO NOMINATION 2013)

At the time of the Roman Empire, Brindisi was considered the most important port to reach Greece and the East. This is proved by the existence of the Appian Way, which connects Rome to Brindisi, ending in front of the port, close to the Roman Columns and the Virgil's Staircase. UNESCO recognized the port of Brindisi as monument and culture of peace messenger site on the 29th of January 2010.

Brindisi has always played an important role as meeting place between the East and the West; its port has always been considered a safe harbor for travelers and a point of departure for further journeys. And in fact the historical, artistic and human heritage of the city has always highlighted its vocation as peaceful and welcoming place. Itria Valley is a portion of the territory, an extended hill characterized by the sequence of depressions, hillocks and gentle undulating karst roads; it is the heart of the area called Murgia dei Trulli. This is the Trulli valley par excellence, the area with the highest concentration of Trulli scattered everywhere: an enchanting scenery, a unique and imaginative landscape.

Trulli are ancient and mysterious drywall constructions, typical of the region of Puglia. They were originally thought as temporary shelters for shepherds and depots for agricultural equipment, but later they were transformed into permanent dwellings by farmers and elected architectural symbol of the "rural civilization" by scholars. Today, they are used above all as holiday houses and tourist accommodation: silent and peaceful places but at the same time not so far from the ancient villages animated by cultural events.







Brindisi, the Port Promenade.
 The Cathedral of Brindisi
 Centuries-old olive tree in Carovigno.
 Cisternino.
 Gilmpse of Itria Valley with Trulli.
 Design detail.
 Carovigno, natural reserve of Torre Guaceto.
 Panoramic view of Ostuni, the White Town.







PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Brindisi early in the afternoon. Hotel check-in, visit to the city centre and dinner in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

Day 2

Guided tour of the Itria Valley and its typical landscape: you'll follow the typical country paths characterized by dry stone walls that run along the paths that are surrounded by "trulli", manor farms, ancient millstones, olive groves, vineyards and cultivated fields. Then you'll visit one of the typical educational manor farms. In the afternoon, you'll enjoy Torre Guaceto, a natural reserve and Italian marine protected area and the hiking tour in the natural reserve: you'll experience its pristine nature, hidden bays and crystal clear sea water.

Day 3

Boat guided tour of the inner port (a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Culture and Peace Monument) and its monuments. The Castello Alfonsino, the typical fishermen village, the monument dedicated to the Marinaio d'Italia (one of the historic symbols of the town) and the Castello Svevo can all be admired from the boat. It is also possible to visit a few of the above mentioned monuments; guided tours are organized. During the afternoon, you'll travel to Ostuni and visit the famous "Città Bianca".

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.



Surroundings

The Natural reserve of Torre Guaceto, Ostuni (the White Town), the Park of the coastal dunes, Itria Valley, Ceglie Messapica, Savelletri di Fasano, San Vito dei Normanni.

Main Connections

Salento airport (Brindisi, Casale), Bari airport, Port of Costa morena, Brindisi (daily connections with Greece and Albania), Port of Bari.

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MIRABILIA - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF UNESCO SITES

GENOA

The buildings that welcomed guests in the XVI Century

LE STRADE NUOVE AND THE SYSTEM OF PALAZZI DEI ROLLI (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2006)

Genoa has recently rediscovered its tourist vocation, which has roots in a distant past: from the Middle Ages and the 16th century - el siglo de oro - to the 20th century. It was a step-by-step rediscovery: from the Expo in 1992, with the reclamation of Porto Antico area and of the Aquarium; to the G8 Summit in 2001 and Genoa -European Capital of Culture in 2004; and to the inscription on the Unesco - World Heritage List of 42 out of 150 existing Genoese "Rolli" in 2006.

Since the Middle-Ages, the aristocratic families of merchants and sailors used to settle in Genoa's ancient downtown, living in lots which were strictly controlled by the families themselves. In the 16th century, those families decided to build new streets and palaces, and they created that extraordinary urban heritage known as Strada Nuova: an elite district characterized by a modern public allotment system and a series of houses aligned along a 250 meters long straight stretch of street. The houses became real "republican palaces" where rich Genoese merchants, bankers and financial experts hosted emperors, kings and ambassadors.

A very innovative system was created. Today, it could be called the "chateaux relais" system, and it meant that important guests were accommodated in private buildings, according to what was envisaged by a XVI century decree by the Senate of the Republic of Genoa that established the "Rolli degli Alloggiamenti pubblici" (or lists of buildings for public accommodation, after which the site is named). The aristocratic families who owned the buildings were to welcome and accommodate the guests of the Republic of Genoa and were to bear all expenses.

This innovative system based on widespread accommodation is now being rediscovered by tourists visiting Genoa; tour guides show people around the Rolli and spectacular events are organized, e.g. the "Rolli Days". In addition to the Rolli, the 30 certified "Historical shops" are also being visited and rediscovered.





01. Strada Nuova - Via Garibaldi.

02. Palazzo Rosso (Red Palace), the Strada Nuova Museums, via Garibaldi 11, detail of the Room of Autumn's vault frescoes.
03. Tobia Pallavicino Palace, Chamber of commerce, Via Garibaldi 4, Golden Room.

- 04. Nicolosio Lomellino Palace, Via Garibaldi 7, façade.
- 05. The Portofino village.
- 06. The aquarium of Genoa.
- 07. One of the certified historical shops. Tripperia Casana.







PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Genoa early in the afternoon. Hotel check-in, visit to the historic city centre and dinner in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

Day 2

Tour of the town. Short walk to the XVI century Strada Nuova - which is now known as Via Garibaldi - and visit of a few of the 42 Palazzi dei Rolli: the Tobia Pallavicino and Lomellino buildings, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso, the Giacomo and Pantaleo Balbi buildings, the Grimaldi Spinola di Pellicceria building, which is the only one that still has its original furniture, and the Palazzo Reale Museum and its Sala del Trono, Salone da Ballo and Galleria degli Specchi (throne room, ballroom and hall of mirrors).

Day 3

Guided tour of the Palazzo del Principe in the morning: this is the largest and most magnificent aristocratic building in Genoa.

In the afternoon, you'll visit the Acquario di Genova and the new Cetaceans Pavilion designed by Renzo Piano. After leaving the Acquario, a guided tour will show you around the thirty Genoa's certified historical shops, a real architectural and cultural treasure, and you'll also be able to buy excellent typical products sold in quality shops along the Medieval "caruggi" (typical Genoa's alleys).

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.

Surroundings

The eastern part of Ligurian Riviera is characterized by fascinating villages, such as Portofino, S. Margherita Ligure, Rapallo, Camogli, Sestri Levante and Chiavari, and enchanting places, such as Paradiso and Tigullio Gulfs and the Promontory of Portofino. Just behind the city and the Riviera, the Parks of Antola, Aveto and Beigua.

Main Connections

Cristoforo Colombo International Airport.

Motorways: A12 along the eastern Riviera towards Livorno, A10 along the western Riviera towards France, connected to the routes Genoa-Milan (A7) and Turin-Aosta (A 26, motorway "of the Tunnels").

Railway connections with La Spezia, Imperia, Milan and Turin.

Ferry-boats to Sardinia, Sicily, Spain, Morocco.

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MIRABILIA - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF UNESCO SITES

LA SPEZIA

The Cinque Terre and Portovenere: an environmental heritage

PORTO VENERE, CINQUE TERRE AND THE ISLANDS (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1997)

Sheer hills, fascinating fishing towns, the perfect mix of history and environment, the harmonized relationship between man and nature which has shaped a landscape of extraordinary scenic beauty, symbol of a traditional way of living: this is the harmonic union of man and nature that can be experienced in La Spezia area.

This poetic spot at the easternmost point of Liguria region hosts the National Park of Cinque Terre and the Regional Nature Park of Portovenere: both of them, together with the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) became World Human Heritage on the 5th of December 1997, thanks to their incomparable landscape beauty and to the uniqueness of the ecosystems they succeeded to protect.

The variegated tourist offer of the province of La Spezia results also in the several circuits that start from the city of La Spezia and reach all the villages where museums, castles, fortresses, villas dating back to the Roman Age, geological areas, churches and sacred places let the tourists immerse into local culture and traditions, with the possibility to taste excellent wine and food recalling the taste and scent of the sea and the land which generated them and the wise hands that let them be unique.







01. View of the fishing town of Porto Venere.
02. Aerial view of Portovenere and the islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto).
03. View of Manarola.
04. View of Vernazza.
05. Porto Mirabello - Marina of La Spezia.
06. La Spezia, historic centre.

07. The Castle of Lerici.







PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in La Spezia early in the afternoon. Hotel check-in, visit to the city centre and dinner in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

Day 2

On day 2 you'll visit the Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso) and Portovenere. This can be a hiking tour along the exceptional paths running through the Cinque Terre or you can take the train. For those of you who love to travel by sea, please choose the boat trip that operates all year long and enjoy the unforgettable landscape from a unique and privileged point of view. During the afternoon, you may visit Lerici, its hamlet and the San Rocco oratory, the Saint Frances church and the impressive Castello di Lerici, where the geopaleontologic museum is.

Day 3

Guided tour in La Spezia and Sarzana. You'll visit the La Spezia historic centre, the city museum of ancient art and the archaeological museum in the San Giorgio Castle. If you wish to visit another type of museum, you may choose to visit the naval museum - which La Spezia is very proud of - at the navy yard (Arsenale Militare). In the afternoon, you'll visit Sarzana, its historic centre and Saint Mary's Cathedral, Via Mazzini, the ancient Via Francigena, and the Piazza del Comune. Your tour will end at the wonderful Fortezza di Sarzanello (Sarzanello Fortress).

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.



Surroundings

City of La Spezia, Cinque Terre, Portovenere, Levanto and Bonassola, the fishing town of Le Grazie, San Terenzo, Lerici and Tellaro, the Regional Nature Park of Montemarcello, the Magra Valley, the Archeological site of Luni, City of Sarzana.

Main Connections

By car (Motorways): A12 Genoa-Livorno, A15 Parma-La Spezia.

By train: Rome - Pisa - Genoa Railway line.

By plane: Genoa and Pisa airports.

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MATERA

Unexpected architecture in the karst rocks

THE SASSI AND THE PARK OF THE RUPESTRIAN CHURCHES OF MATERA (UNESCO – WORLD HERITAGE SITE DAL 1993)

Out of time! It is a paradox for a city having such a complex history: border town, characterized by contrasts, competition and fusion of different landscapes, civilizations and cultures. At first, the irregular landscape of Murgia Materana ideally supported the "Rupestrian civilization" of Byzantine and eastern origin; then, starting from the coming of the Normans, it was the time of a systematic attempt to force the "Rupestrian town" into the rule-based system of the European "culture of the city". From the Romantic Age to the Renaissance and the Baroque, eight centuries of building and finishing tried to shape the city, to gain over the natural "oppositions" of the prior Rupestrian habitat, creating urban architectures and arrangements which show particular quality and originality.

The human settlement in Matera is very ancient. The original centre was, and still is, Civita; at its sides, in two karst valleys, the amazing Sassi developed. In the 10th century, groups of shepherds started to settle there and to dig their rustic houses into the soft rock. These areas became so complex to completely occupy the slopes, creating one of the most incredible organized urban structures of the world, an absolute masterpiece of the intelligence and adaptability of human beings working hard to overcome environmental difficulties.

Thanks to the width of the concerned ravine and to the historical durability of the urban settlement which still exists, the ancient part of Matera can be considered "the capital of the Rupestrian civilization" which developed in Murgia Pugliese between the 9th and the 11th centuries a.C.







01. Lighting at Sassi during night.

Glimpse of Sassi and the Ravine of Matera.

05. Church of Santi Pietro e Paolo, better known as Church of San

06. Detail of a fresco in the Crypt of the Original Sin - 9th century

07. The Feast on the 2nd of July - Feast of the Madonna della

Bruna - detail of the wagon made of papier-maché.

Pietro - dating back to a period between the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century a.C.

04. Rupestrian Church of Santa Barbara.

View of Sassi of Matera.

a.C.



PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Matera early in the afternoon. Hotel check-in, you will be given the keys to the room that was booked for you. You'll visit the city centre and have dinner in one of the typical restaurants of the Sassi.

Day 2

Your tour guide will show you around the Parco della Murgia Materana: you will visit the Sassi di Matera, the Cripta del Peccato Originale, which is known as the Sistine Chapel of the parietal cave art, its frescoes are of Longobardic origin and date back to the IX century, and they are among the most ancient frescoes that you may come across in the Basilicata Region. You will then visit the Murgia Timone viewpoint: a panoramic viewpoint that is located opposite the Sassi di Matera. You will then visit the cave art areas. In the afternoon, you will visit the Santa Lucia alle Malve and Santa Maria dell'Idris rock churches and the extraordinary area of the Convicinio di Sant'Antonio.

Day 3

On this day, you'll visit the areas surrounding Matera. Miglionico, a small town overlooked by the impressive Castello del Malconsiglio: it has Norman origins and overlooks the valley. Your next destination is the Basilica Pontificia di Santa Maria Maggiore (the Papal Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore), where you'll enjoy the invaluable polyptych by Cima da Conegliano and a wonderful Norman crypt. Now, take your time and stroll through the town centre and then leave for Montescaglioso.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.



Surroundings

The park of Murgia, Miglionico, Montescaglioso, Gravina of Matera.

Main Connections

The closest airport is Karol Wojtila airport in Bari Palese, which is about 60 Km far from Matera. Another airport is Salento airport in Brindisi, which is about 150 km far.

Matera is the last station of the Bari-Matera section (narrow-gauge line) which is part of the railway network of Ferrovie Appulo Lucane.

PER MAGGIORI INFORMAZIONI

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11

MESSINA

The Aeolian Islands: the seven gems of the Mediterranean Sea

AEOLIAN ISLANDS: LIPARI, VULCANO, SALINA, STROMBOLI, FILICUDI, ALICUDI E PANAREA (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2000)

Half a million years ago, the Aeolian islands formed along a volcanic arc that developed thanks to the movements of the Earth's plates and the eruption of magma. The only active volcano is now the Stromboli volcano, the "Thyrrenan Sea beacon", the intermittent eruptions of which cause lapilli to fall out along the "Sciara del Fuoco", whereas the Vulcano crater has been sleeping since the end of the XIX century.

The sea surrounding the islands contributes to an enchanting landscape and every isle offers beautiful beaches: Pollara in Salina, Valle Muria in Lipari, Puntazze in Filicudi, Bazzina in Alicudi, Sabbie Nere in Vulcano, Cala Zimmari in Panarea, Piscità in Stromboli. Boat trips allow tourists to visit those places that can be reached only by sea, and which are mesmerizing thanks to the uniqueness of their sea bottom.

The Aeolian islands are also imbued with history, myths and legends that make them a very culturally stimulating place: humans have been living on these islands for 7,000 years and have certainly marked every single island with their presence. So, prehistoric villages were found in Panarea, Filicudi and Salina (Capo Graziano and Serro del Capo); Lipari can boast its Castello, the heart of the acropolis, and the Regional Aeolian Archaeological Museum "Luigi Bernabò Brea", one of the most important museums of the Mediterranean area.

Hiking routes can be followed on the islands, thus plunging visitors into pristine nature, the landscape of which is constantly dominated by the rich Mediterranean scrub. The tourist offering is also characterized by the great wine and food tradition of the islands that blends the delicious products of this land and the fish coming from its sea.







Salina - the path to the sea at the Pollara beach.
 Alicudi - the Alicudi Porto beach.
 Lipari - aerial view of Lipari.
 Vulcano: its typical fumaroles.
 Stromboli - explosive eruptions of magmatic lapilli.
 Pararea.
 Filicudi - "La Canna" sea stack.





PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Upon arrival at the Catania Airport, you will reach Milazzo by means of the shuttle service, you will then board the hydroplane to get to Lipari. You will then visit the island and its castle: a group of buildings that were built on the top of a volcanic cliff overlooking the sea. You will then enjoy a typical supper in one of the restaurants located in the historic centre of the island.

Day 2

Tour of the island by boat, you'll visit the enchanting beaches of Valle Muria, Spiagge Bianche and Canneto. In the afternoon, you'll leave to reach the Vulcano island, and there you cannot leave the island without swimming in the waters of the famous Spiagge Nere. After which, you'll enjoy a tour of the island by boat. The island is characterized by constant volcanic activity, which tourists really appreciate since it is possible to enjoy hot mud baths and the underwater fumaroles that are very well known for their therapeutic effect. In the evening, you'll leave for Stromboli and you'll be able to watch the glow of volcanic explosions in the night from the sea. At the end of the boat tour, you'll travel back to Lipari.

Day 3

You'll leave for the Salina island by boat and you'll stop over at the extraordinary Pollara and Lingua beaches. In the afternoon, you'll leave for Panarea, the smallest of the Aeolian islands. To the north-east, at the Calcara beach, you may still see the fumaroles coming out of the crack in the rocks. Supper will be in one of the typical restaurants of Panarea, the one island where you can really enjoy the Aeolian night life, the island is also very well known for its clubs and bars. At the end of the evening, you'll travel back to Lipari.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to Milazzo, you'll then travel back to your home town.



Main Connections

The Aeolian islands can be reached by sea by following a number of routes. Maritime services operate all year long and during the summer they run more often.

Boat services from Milazzo, Messina and Reggio Calabria and Naples run all year long and during the summer hydroplane services are operated from Salerno to Catania or Messina, and from there, Milazzo can be reached.

The nearest airports are the Catania-Fontanarossa Airport (110 km) and the Stretto-Reggio Calabria (110km) Airport.

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MIRABILIA - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF UNESCO SITES

PADUA

Art and nature in the town of Saint Anthony

PADUA'S BOTANIC GARDENS (UNESCO HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1997)

Padua is known worldwide as the town of Saint Anthony, Giotto, Galileo and Petrarca, and hosts the oldest Botanic Gardens in the world. The gardens were established in 1545 by the University of Padua to study and cultivate healing herbs, which in those years were the the most widely used "simple" remedies, i.e. those remedies coming from nature.

It is an extraordinary place in the heart of the town, its scientific, historic and naturalist value is inestimable and it has been a Unesco heritage site since 1997. In the shade of Saint Anthony's dome and close to the largest square in Italy - Prato della Valle - the Botanical Gardens and its 3,500 different plant species, want to show visitors a significant part of the plant kingdom, even if on a small scale. A number of precious and very old plants do live in these gardens (historical trees) : the "Palma di Goethe" (Goethe's palm tree) is one of the best known trees of the gardens and it is also the oldest one (scientific name Chamaerops Humilis L planted in 1585).

The Botanic Gardens are also looking at the future and 5 new glass greenhouses can be seen in the gardens and are home to 1,300 new plant species. While visiting the town of many beautiful frescoed buildings (Cappella degli Scrovegni, Palazzo della Ragione, Battistero del Duomo), do not forget to visit Padua's Botanic Gardens.





Botanic Gardens - Panoramic view .
 Botanic Gardens - the Botanic Gardens' hot spring water basins.
 Botanic Gardens - detail of a sunflower.

04. Cappella degli Scrovegni - Internal view.
05. Cappella degli Scrovegni - Detail of a fresco.
06. Cappella degli Scrovegni - View of the building.
07. Padova - Basilica di S. Antonio
08. Esta - Castle







PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Padua. Hotel check-in and visit to the city historic centre. You'll visit the Caffè Pedrocchi, a bourgeois café where students and intellectuals meet

Day 2

Day 2 is dedicated to visiting Padua. First, you'll visit the Cappella degli Scrovegni and its famous frescoes by Giotto. You'll wander through the historic city centre and get to Palazzo Bò, where the ancient University of Padua was located. Not far away, in-between the squares of the historic centre, you'll see the Palazzo della Ragione, where the largest suspended room of the world can be admired, it is characterized by a wooden ceiling in the shape of a giant capsized hull. Early in the afternoon, you'll visit Prato della Valle, one of the largest squares in

Day 3

Tour of Padua's Botanic Gardens. The gardens were established in 1545 as the Giardino dei Semplici, i.e. a place where to find healing herbs that could be used to treat diseases or to be studied. These ancient university botanic gardens are still located in the same place as many centuries ago. The gardens are now 22,000 sgm and there are more than 6,000 cultivated plants. In 1552 a wall was built all around the gardens to prevent people from stealing healing herbs, and the gardens are still divided into four areas. At the centre of the gardens, there is a basin full of warm spring water dedicated to aquatic plants. Padua's Botanic Gardens are famous because they contributed to bring the ginkgo biloba, magnolia, potato and jasmine plants, as well as the acacia plants and sunflowers into Italy.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.



Surroundings

Terme Euganee, Colli Euganei, Cittadella, Este, Monselice, Montagnana, Piove di Sacco.

Main Connections

By car: Venezia - Milano (A4) motorway; motorway exit - Padova Est if you are travelling from Venice; motorway exit Padova Ovest if you are travelling from Milan. Bologna - Padova (A13) motorway motorway exit Padova Sud. By train: Padova Station. By plane: Marco Polo (Venice) Airport, around 50km from Padua.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PADOVA PROMEX Special Agency of the Padua Chamber of Commerce Tel. 049 8208320 Email: info@pd-promex.it Web: www.pd-promex.it



PERUGIA

The treasures of the "Green Umbria Region"

ASSISI, THE BASILICA OF SAN FRANCESCO AND OTHER FRANCISCAN SITES (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2000) LONGOBARDS IN ITALY. PLACES OF THE POWER (568-774 A.D.) (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2011)

Umbria has been for centuries a witness of the transit of proud populations of warriors, knights, artists and saints. The echoes of its glorious past are clearly present within the historic walls of towns such as Todi, Gubbio, Narni, Amelia, Assisi, Perugia (established by local valorous people), or Orvieto (a noble Etruscan city-state), or all along the ancient Roman via Flaminia. Nevertheless, the Middle Ages are the unique protagonist of the landscape of Umbria, with its fortified towns, its castles and abbeys.

Umbria is a "green region", it boasts a lot of protected areas (Tiber River Park, the Park of Lake Trasimeno, Monti Sibillini National Park, Monte Cucco Park, Monte Subasio Park) and three Unesco sites. Assisi, the Basilica di San Francesco and the other Franciscan sites (2000) represent the cutting-edge of the Italian artistic genius surrounded by an extraordinary natural scenery which is able to recall a strong spirituality. The basilica of San Salvatore in Spoleto (PG) and the Temple of Clitumnus in Campello (PG), are two excellent examples of the Longobardic art, within the circuit "Longobards in Italy: places of the power".

And once again, nature has contributed to create a wonderful atmosphere. In an area which is well-known thanks to its extra-virgin olive oil (Campello sul Clitunno and Spoleto are members of Associazione Nazionale Città dell'Olio, the national association gathering all the cities producing olive oil), it is possible to find out places of high historical and landscape interest such as the Sacred Wood of Monteluco or the marvelous Clitunno Springs.









Perugia - Piazza IV Novembre. Basilica of San Salvatore in Spoleto. Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco. Panoramic view of Assisi. The Temple of Clitumnus in Campello. Another view of the Temple of Clitumnus. Todi, historic centre.

PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Perugia. Hotel check-in, you will be given the keys to the room that was booked for you, and visit to the city and its historic centre.

Day 2

Guided tour of Assisi. You will discover St. Francis's places by visiting the Cattedrale S. Rufino (XII century), patron saint of the town and the Basilica Santa Chiara (XIII century) which is located where the ancient San Giorgio chapel was, the place where Francis was first buried. You will then visit the Chiesa Nuova, which was built in 1615 where St. Francis's family home was and the Basilica San Francesco. The church was built where St. Francis's grave is and is the centre of Franciscan spirituality, it is an architectural masterpiece, proof of the best part of the Italian medieval architecture. Your guided tour will end by visiting Porziuncola at Santa Maria degli Angeli and the ancient little church of San Damiano.

Day 3

On this day, you will visit Spoleto and Campello sul Clitunno. This tour starts in Spoleto, where you will visit the San Salvatore Cathedral that is dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel, who is here portrayed by means of gold and lapis lazuli powder. You will reach the Rocca Albornoziana by escalator and visit the National Museum of the Dukedom of Spoleto. After visiting the museum, you will walk through the historic city centre and reach the famous Piazza Duomo. You will then have lunch and, in the afternoon, you will visit Campello sul Clitunno and the Clitunno sources.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.



Surrounding

Todi, Gubbio, Narni, Amelia, Assisi, Perugia, Orvieto, the basilica of San Salvatore in Spoleto, the Temple of Clitumnus in Campello.

Main Connections

Aeroporto Internazionale dell'Umbria – Perugia "S. Francesco d'Assisi" (www.airport.umbria.it). A1 Motorway, European routes: E45 and E78. Florence-Rome Express Rail link; Florence-Rome Railway line; Foligno-Terontola Railway line; Rome-Ancona Railway line.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI PERUGIA Email: promozione@pg.camcom.it Web: www.pg.camcom.gov.it



SALERNO

The ancient times seen in the landscape of Cilento and the Amalfi coast

CILENTO AND VALLO DI DIANO NATIONAL PARK WITH ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES OF PAESTUM AND VELIA, AND THE CERTOSA DI PADULA (UNESCO- WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1998) COSTIERA AMALFITANA (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1997)

Standing out from the sea and sky background, Salerno represents the fascinating summery of what the Mediterranean area can offer to all the people interested in making closer acquaintance with it. Seat of the Principality of Duke Arechi, Salerno experienced a period of glory, becoming also an important educational centre thanks to the Salerno Medical School; the heart of the city is the medieval district, with its main arterial road, via dei Mercanti, and the Cathedral dedicated to Saint Matthew.

Salerno is located in a wonderful position, over the gulf which is named after it; the city represents the entrance of the fascinating Costiera Amalfitana (Amalfi Coast), Unesco-world heritage, a 36 kilometers long paradise which covers fourteen places, each of which has its own unique features and peculiarities. Nature and art dominate also the Vallo di Diano (which is part of Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park), with its gorgeous Pertosa caves and the magnificent Certosa di Padula. Founded in 1306, the Certosa was built in compliance with the rule which required the separation of the monks accommodations and the cloisters. The elliptical staircase with two flights, which is inside the hexagonal tower, is guintessential. The historical town of Paestum is located at the edges of Sele Plain, at the beginning of Cilento: it is one of the most precious archeological treasures of Italy, covering 5 km and including historical evidences such as the majestic Temples of Neptune and Ceres.













01. Costiera cilentana - Capo Palinuro. 02. Area archeologica di Paestum. 03. Veduta panoramica del sito di Velia. 04. La Certosa di Padula. 05. Lo scalone ellittico a due rampe della Certosa. 06. La Costiera Amalfitana. Da Positano a Vietri sul Mare si estendono 36 chilometri di paradiso. 07. La riserva naturale dell'Oasi del fiume Alento.

PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Salerno in the afternoon and visit to the old part of the city. Dinner will be in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

Day 2

Your tour guide will accompany you through an enchanting journey to discover archaeology in the province of Salerno. You will travel to the Piana del Sele, the cradle of the Hellenic civilisation, you will visit Paestum and its extraordinary archaeological area and the renovated museum where the artefacts that have been found beyond the river can be admired. Early in the afternoon, you will travel back to Salerno and visit the town.

Day 3

This day is dedicated to the history of Salerno's ceramic, since its first appearance in the Neolithic age, through the Middle Ages at the Arechi Castle, and until the XX century at the Villa Guariglia Museum of Ceramics. The tour ends at the characteristic premises of the Ceramiche Solimene company at Vietri su Mare. You will then travel to Atrani. Early in the afternoon, a guided tour will take you to Amalfi, one of the ancient maritime republics. You will reach the sea by walking through the shopping streets of the famous Positano - where in the 60s you could enjoy the Italian dolce vita - and then you will travel to Ravello, where you will enjoy the enchanting landscape from the top of the cliff and see it through the eyes of all the writers who stayed in Ravello and strolled through the gardens of Villa Cimbrone.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.

Surroundings

The Thermal Baths of Tufano, the port of Palinuro, the Marina of Acciaroli, the Museum of Coral in Ravello, Amalfi and the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Positano and Costiera Amalfitana (Amalfi Coast).

Main Connections

Padula is about 100 km far from Salerno and 50 km far from Sapri. The village is 6 km far from the A3 SA/RC motorway, exit at Padula-Buonabitacolo tollgate.

The closest airports are Naples - Capodichino and Salerno - Pontecagnano, which are respectively about 150 km and 90 km far from Padula.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

INTERTRADE Special Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Salerno Tel: +39 089 2786111/542 Email: investinsalerno@intertrade.sa.it Web: www.intertrade.camcom.it



UDINE

Archaeology and pristine nature

ARCHEOLOGICAL AREA AND THE PATRIARCHAL BASILICA OF AQUILEIA (UNESCO - WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1998) LONGOBARDS IN ITALY. PLACES OF THE POWER (568-774 D.C.) (UNESCO- WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2011) THE FRIULIAN DOLOMITES (UNESCO SITE SINCE 2009) VENETIAN DEFENCE WORKS DATING BACK TO A PERIOD BETWEEN THE 15TH AND THE 17TH CENTURIES (UNESCO NOMINATION 2011)

Aquileia is the most important Roman archeological site in Northern Italy. In 1998 it became a UNESCO site thanks to its two thousand-year-old basilica, with its admirable Paleochristian mosaics, and to the remains of the public buildings which used to characterize a great Roman city in the past: the forum, the civil basilica, the roads paved with basoli (volcanic rock plates), the city walls, the port, the necropolis, the public markets, as well as the wide residential areas. Cividale del Friuli welcomes its tourists with a landscape full of history and refined architecture. Since 2011 the most significant signs of Cividale Longobarda, the Longobard temple and the remains of the episcopal compound have been listed under the UNESCO - World Heritage List "Longobards in Italy. Places of the power". The pure nature of the Friulian Dolomites Park, with its extraordinary heritage represented by the biodiversity of flora and fauna, comes together with the fascinating historical records in Forni di Sopra. Since 2009 Friulian Dolomites has been listed under the UNESCO - World Heritage List. Finally, since 2011 Palmanova belongs to the series of Venetian Defense Works dating back to a period between the 15th and the 17th centuries, nominated to be enrolled into the UNESCO - World Heritage List, together with other fortified cities in Italy, Croatia and Montenegro. Technically, it is a transnational serial site, representing the whole defense system designed and realized by the Republic of Venice to control its territories and the trade routes from the Adriatic Sea to the Middle East.









Paleochristian museum at the archeological area of Aquileia.
 Panoramic view of the City of Palmanova.
 Cividale del Friuli, detail of Theory of saints in the Longobard Temple.
 Cividale del Friuli, Longobard Temple (interior).

05. Palmanova, Porta Aquileia (city gate).
06. Forni di Sopra, Summer view of the Friulian Dolomites.
07. Forum of Aquileia.





PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Arrival in Aquileia early in the afternoon and hotel check-in, you will then visit the most important archaeological site of Friuli Venezia Giulia thanks to its Basilica Patriarcale.

Day 2

On Day 2, you will travel to Palmanova, the nine-point star-shaped fortified city founded by Venetians in 1593. During Renaissance, literature and scholars described it as the "ideal city" and the perfect example of impeccable military architecture. You will visit its Duomo and the History Museum of the City. In the afternoon, you will reach Cividale del Friuli and enjoy the guided tour of the historic centre of the ducal town that was founded by Romans between 56 and 50 BC when Julius Caesar decided that the Forum Iulii would be based there. Do not miss the Tempietto Longobardo (Lombardic temple) and the Museo Cristiano (Christian museum).

Day 3

You will travel to Forni di Sopra, hotel check-in and after that you will spend your day at the "Parco Naturale delle Dolomiti Friulane" (Natural park of Friuli's Dolomites) which can only be walked through. According to the visitors' requests, a number of theme walks may be decided which will present and describe the natural park area and will allow people to experience the natural richness of the area and the biodiversity of its fauna and flora that - in Forni di Sopra - intermingles with the fascinating traces of history.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.

Surroundings

Forni di Sopra: Saguidic Castle and Dan Floriano Church: the late-Roman castrum located in Cuol di Ciastiel, the Lombardic necropolis in Andrazza; winter sports areas. Aquileia and Palmanova: the Medieval hamlet of Clauiano, and the Strassoldo hamlet; Villa Manin in Passariano; Lignano Sabbiadoro, The Laguna di Marano wildlife sanctuary, the Foci dello Stella wilderness area and nature reserve. Udine: Piazza Libertà and its Castle. Cividale del Friuli: the Beata Vergine di Castelmonte Church, important and noble areas where DOC (Controlled Designation of Origin) wines are produced; San Daniele del Friuli: the Cathedral of Saint Micheal the Archangel, the Guarneriana library and the production area of the famous San Daniele ham. In addition to this, cultural itineraries and museums dedicated to WWI.

Main Connections

By plane: Trieste - Friuli Venezia Giulia Ronchi dei Legionari Airport. Motorways: A4 Turin -Trieste; A23 Palmanova - Udine - Tarvisio; A28 Portogruaro - Conegliano.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CAMERA DI COMMERCIO DI UDINE Azienda Speciale Imprese e Territorio I.ter Tel: +39 0432 273230 Email: promozione@ud.camcom.it Web: www.ud.camcom.it



MIRABILIA - EUROPEAN NETWORK OF UNESCO SITES

VICENZA

The architectural and urban works of art

CITY OF VICENZA AND THE PALLADIAN VILLAS OF THE VENETO (UNESCO – WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 1994-1996)

The inscription in the UNESCO – World Heritage List was an exceptional procedure for this site. In fact, the city of Vicenza, its historical centre and 3 Palladian Villas of the urban belt (villa Trissino, villa Gazzotti Grimani and the most famous villa Capra called La Rotonda, the most copied villa in the world) were enrolled in 1994.

In 1996 UNESCO accepted the request to extend the inscription to include 21 other Palladian villas of the Veneto, 16 of which are located in Vicenza area. This exception was accepted unanimously because of the different Unesco evaluation criteria that the site satisfies. It represents the masterpiece of the genius of its designer (Andrea Palladio) and the remarkable influence he had during that historical and cultural period on the city as well as on the world (thanks to Palladianism) and on the architectural development of monuments within the urban framework and in the landscape.

The explanation in few words is that Vicenza is an exceptional artistic achievement in consideration of the several architectural contributions by Andrea Palladio integrated with an historical context to which they give character. Because of its architecture, the city has highly influenced the architecture and the urban plan rules of almost all European countries and of the whole world.







Vicenza, the Palladian Basilica.
 Vicenza historic centre viewed from on high.
 Villa Godi Malinverni in Lugo di Vicenza.
 Villa Almerico Capra called La Rotonda in Riviera Berica.
 Chiericati Palace, Piazza Matteotti in Vicenza.
 Monte Berico, Vicenza.







PROPOSED ROUTE

Day 1

Hotel check-in early in the afternoon. You will be assigned the room that was booked for you and visit the city centre. Dinner will be in one of the typical restaurants of the historic centre.

Day 2

Your tour guide will show you around the historic centre of Vicenza and you will follow the Palladian itinerary and "discover the gems built by this great architect". In the afternoon you will visit Villa Almerico Capra, known as La Rotonda, one of the most famous and copied buildings of the history of modern architecture and the most famous building built by the architect Palladio. You will then visit the Villa Valmarana ai Nani, which is very well known thanks to the frescoes by Giambattista Tiepolo. The Monte Berico sanctuary is your next destination, this is two churches into one.

Day 3

You will leave for Bassano del Grappa and stop over in Marostica. You will then visit the famous Piazza degli Scacchi and the Castello di Marostica, which is made of two castles, and dates back to the early XIV century. You will then visit the historic centre of Bassano del Grappa and the famous Bassano Bridge on the Brenta river, known as Ponte Vecchio or Ponte degli Alpini, which is celebrated by a song of the Alpini (the Italian Alpine Troopers). Early in the afternoon, you will travel to Lugo di Vicenza and visit the Villa Godi Malinverni, one of the first buildings built by Andrea Palladio, and Villa Caldogno in the municipality of Caldogno. You may also choose to visit the Villa Cordellina Lombardi di Montecchio Maggiore and the Castles of Romeo and Juliet.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.

Surroundings

Asiago mountain areas and the seven municipalities plateau, Recoaro Terme and the Small Dolomites, Tonezza del Cimone and monte Grappa, where the tragic conflicts of the two world wars took place. Famous tourist destinations are located on the slopes of the mountains: Marostica, Bassano del Grappa, Schio, Thiene.

Main Connections

Vicenza is located in the "heart of the Veneto" and it can be easily reached by car, by train or by plane thanks to the motorways (A4 connected to A22 from Brennero and A23 from Tarvisio) and to the airports of Venice (which is 60 km far), Verona (which is 50 km far) and Treviso (which is 62 km far).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONSORZIO VICENZA È Tel: +39 0444 994770 Email: info@vicenzae.org Web: www.vicenzae.org - www.visitpalladio.com



A NETWORK OF ITINERARIES

The places included in this initiative: itineraries proposed according to their geographical area

For the first time, this project establishes a link among areas that share the same historic, cultural and environmental significance. This tourist offering is different and wants to promote a different kind of Italy, those places that have not been conquered by mass tourism.

This is tailor-made tourism, on a smaller and more human scale, which welcomes and takes very good care of tourists.

What the "Mirabilia" - network aims at, is promoting the sector of cultural tourism and services, tourist networks, hotel offers and the quality of "tourism" as a product. The project wants to create and sell ad hoc tourist itineraries to allow tourists to visit one or more places participating into this initiative.

New places have been added to the itineraries that were developed for the previous edition: these new itineraries offer short stays, focused on one Unesco site only, and include places that are closer together.











NORTH EAST

Vicenza, Padua, Udine Art and Culture

Day 1

After arriving in Vicenza, you will check in the hotel and visit the city centre. Dinner will be in one of the typical restaurants of the historic centre.

Day 2

You will visit the historic centre of Vicenza and follow the Palladian itinerary and you will "discover the gems built by the great architect Palladio". In the afternoon you will visit Villa Almerico Capra, known as La Rotonda, one of the most famous buildings of the history of modern architecture which has been often copied - and the most famous building built by architect Palladio. You will then enjoy the Villa Valmarana ai Nani that is famous for the frescoes by Giambattista Tiepolo. The Monte Berico sanctuary is your next destination, and it is two churches into one: the first church is a Gothic building dating back to the XV century, and the second half is a baroque cathedral dating back to the second half of the XVII century.

Day 3

On day 3 you will leave for Bassano del Grappa and stop over in Marostica, where you will enjoy your visit to the famous Piazza degli Scacchi and the Castello di Marostica: two castles have been united into this one, and it dates back to the early XIV century. Your next stop is the historic centre of Bassano del Grappa and its famous Bassano Bridge on the Brenta river, known as Ponte Vecchio or Ponte degli Alpini. The next city on your list is Lugo di Vicenza and the guided tour of the Villa Godi Malinverni, one of the first buildings built by Andrea Palladio, and Villa Caldogno in the municipality of Caldogno. However, you may also choose to visit the Villa Cordellina Lombardi di Montecchio Maggiore and walk to the Castles of Romeo and Juliet.

There you will enjoy the guided tour of Padua's Botanic Gardens, which were established in 1545 as the Giardino dei Semplici, i.e. a place where to find healing herbs that could be used to treat diseases or to be studied. These are the oldest university botanic gardens that are still located in the same place as many centuries ago. The gardens are now 22,000 sqm and there are more than 6,000 cultivated plants. The gardens are surrounded by a wall and are divided into four areas that are subdivided into small cultivated garden plots. At the centre of the gardens, you will discover the basin full of warm spring water dedicated to aquatic plants. Padua's Botanic Gardens are famous because they contributed to bring many plants into Italy, e.g. the ginkgo biloba, magnolia, potato and jasmine plants, as well as sunflowers and the acacia plants.

Day 4

You will spend this day in Padua. First, you'll visit the Cappella degli Scrovegni and its famous frescoes by Giotto. Then stroll through the historic city centre and get to Palazzo Bò, where the ancient University of Padua was located. Not far away from here, you will bump into the Palazzo della Ragione that is located in-between the squares of the historic centre; this Palazzo boasts the largest suspended room of the world, which is characterized by a wooden ceiling in the shape of a giant capsized hull. Early in the afternoon, you'll visit Prato della Valle, the Basilica di Santa Giustina, and the great Papal Cathedral of Saint Anthony of Padua. The cathedral is one of the most venerated sanctuaries of the Christian world.

In the afternoon, you will travel to Aquileia, check in your hotel and visit the most important archaeological site of Friuli Venezia Giulia, where you will find the Basilica Patriarcale - which dates back to 2000 years ago, and is characterized by wonderful mosaics belonging to the early Christian art - and the valuable archaeological area dating back to Roman times. Aquileia's golden age was during the I century AD and later on it became an important centre of Christianity and home to the patriarchate.

Day 5

On Day 5 you will visit Palmanova, the nine-point star-shaped fortified city founded by Venetians in 1593. The Renaissance literature described Palmanova as the "ideal city" and the prefect example of military architecture. You will visit the Duomo, where a number of very interesting works of art can be admired, and the historic museum of the city where weapons, relics and documents tell the story of this fortified city from its foundation until WWII. In the afternoon, you will enjoy your guided tour of Cividale del Friuli, you will visit the historic centre of the ducal town that was founded by Romans between 56 and 50 BC when Julius Caesar decided that the Forum Iulii would be based there. Do not miss the Tempietto Longobardo (Lombardic temple), one of the most extraordinary examples of western late-medieval architecture.

The Ratchis altar and the Callisto baptistery are exceptional examples of Lombardic art and can be admired in the valuable Museo Cristiano (museum of Christian art) and Tesoro del Duomo (treasure of the cathedral); the first Lombardic dukedom established in Italy was located in Cividale del Friuli.

Day 6

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.

or Vicenza, Padua, Udine mountain resorts

Day 4

In the afternoon, you will leave for Forni di Sopra, in the Friulian Dolomites, which has been one of the Unesco world heritage sites since 2009.

Day 5

The first day is dedicated to Forni di Sopra, where you will visit the historic centre, the Museo Rurale (rural museum) and the "Il filo dei ricordi" museum (the "memory lane" museum). You will also be able to visit the archaeological sites of Forni di Sopra and walk back to the little town by following the "Anello di Forni" path and stop over at the ponds.

Day 6

The "Parco Naturale delle Dolomiti Friulane" (Natural park of Friulian Dolomites) is the ideal place for people who love hiking and trekking. This is a natural and wilderness area that can be really enjoyed thanks to the lack of roads and discovered thanks to a number of theme walks that will present and describe the area. In Forni di Sopra, the natural richness of the area intermingles with the fascinating traces of history. While visiting this area, you will also be able to taste local and traditional products and recipes.

Day 7

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.

















NORTH WEST

Genoa and La Spezia

Day 1

You will arrive in Genoa early in the afternoon and check in your hotel. You will then enjoy a short visit of the historic centre and you'll have a pleasant dinner at one of the many typical restaurants.

Day 2

On Day 2 you will enjoy your first visit of the town. Walk a short distance and reach the Strada Nuova, now known as Via Garibaldi, and visit a few of the 42 Palazzi dei Rolli (the Rolli buildings): Palazzo Tobia Pallavicino, Palazzo Lomellino, Palazzo Bianco and Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Giacomo and Pantaleo Balbi, Palazzo Grimaldi Spinola di Pellicceria - where the authentic furniture can still be admired - and the museum of Palazzo Reale and its Throne Room, the Ballroom and the Hall of Mirrors. You may also decide to visit the Rooms of the Crown Princes. Please choose this option upon booking your visit.

Day 3

You will spend your morning at the Palazzo del Principe, the biggest and most sumptuous aristocratic building in Genoa. You will walk through the rooms of the prince and you will reach the majestic gardens, where big celebrations were organized to welcome important guests. Your next destination is the Acquario di Genova and its new Cetacean Pavilion, which was designed by Renzo Piano. After visiting the Acquario, a guided tour will accompany you to visit the thirty certified historical shops that are located in the heart of Genoa and are architectural gems rich in traditions. Buy Genoa's excellent typical products from very prestigious shops along the Medieval "carruggi" (narrow alleys).

Day 4

Leave for LA SPEZIA and stop over at the famous Portofino

bay to have a coffee and taste focaccia in the famous "piazzetta". After sipping your coffee, leave for the Cinque Terre. You will spend your day at the Cinque Terre (Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso) and Portovenere. You can walk through these villages and from one village to the other and follow the wonderful paths that run from one to the other or just take the train. For those who love the sea, just hop on a boat and enjoy the unforgettable landscape seen from a very privileged point of view. In the afternoon, Lerici, its hamlet, the San Rocco Oratory, the Church of Saint Francis and the impressive castle of Lerici will welcome you! The castle is also home to the geo-palaeontological museum, where you can find prints of dinosaurs and thecodonts that lived more than 200 million years ago.

Day 5

Guided tour of La Spezia and Sarzana. You will enjoy a nice walk and visit the historic centre of La Spezia, the Museo Civico di Arte Antica (City Museum of Ancient Art) and the Museo Archeologico (Archaeological Museum) of the Castle of Saint George. You may wish to visit the Naval Museum instead, which the town is very proud of and is located inside the military arsenal. Your next stop is Sarzana, which you will reach in the afternoon. You will visit the historic centre and the Saint Mary's Cathedral, Via Mazzini and the ancient Via Francigena, and the Piazza del Comune (the Town Hall Square). Last but not least, you will visit the wonderful Fortress of Sarzanello.

Day 6

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town









The Perugia province

Day 1

Your tour guide will accompany you to visit the Unesco sites: Spoleto and Campello sul Clitunno. This tour starts in Spoleto, where you will visit the San Salvatore Cathedral that is dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel. You will have lunch in Campello sul Clitunno and then you will visit Campello sul Clitunno and the Clitunno sources. This is an ancient hamlet at the top of a hill covered in olive trees. You will wander through the water garden - which was celebrated by the poets of the past. Follow the ancient Via Flaminia, until you get to the Tempietto, which is an exceptional example of the Lombardic presence in the area. You will visit an oil mill and taste the "olio nuovo", the freshest possible olive oil you can find.

Day 2

On day 2, your tour guide will accompany you to visit Norcia and Valnerina. Norcia is located on the slopes of the Sibillini mountains. It is surrounded by mountains that are taller than 2000 m a.s.l. and are the perfect place for hikers and skiers. The home town of San Benedetto, it is one of the "Most beautiful hamlets in Italy". The norcino art was created here: this is a very special method that is used to process pork meat. Taste the excellent local food products.

You will then leave for Foligno, a very nice Umbrian town, easy to reach and located on a plain: its most important monuments are located in the ancient and historic town centre.

Day 3

Guided tour of Assisi and the Franciscan places. The Cattedrale S. Rufino; San Damiano: the small church that was renovated by Saint Francis himself (1207), the Basilica Santa Chiara; the Basilica di San Francesco, which is located where St. Francis's grave is and is the centre of Franciscan spirituality, it is an architectural masterpiece, proof of the best part of the Italian medieval architecture; the Porziuncola in Santa Maria degli Angeli. At the end of the visit you will leave Assisi and travel to Perugia.

Day 4

Perugia is a very old and beautiful town, which is visited by unconventional and good-mannered tourists. Your visit will start in the heart of the town, Piazza IV Novembre, the Umbrian National Gallery where you can admire many Italian works of art dating back to Medieval ages up to the XVIII century. You will visit the San Lorenzo Cathedral and its Museo del Capitolo, Rocca Paolina, and the Frontone Gardens. Enjoy chocolate tasting organised by Perugia's chocolate district.

Day 5

On day 5, you will visit the Trasimeno Lake. Surrounded by the green Umbrian hills, this lake is the fourth largest lake in Italy. Many typical and charming hamlets can be found along its shores (Castiglione del Lago, Passignano sul Trasimeno, Tuoro sul Trasimeno, Castel Rigone and the equally charming hamlets that are located in the countryside surrounding the lake, such as the Etruscan village of Panicale, Lisciano Niccone and Piegaro). This itinerary reaches Città della Pieve, a town rich in art and history, which is also very well known for its saffron production. This is Pietro Vannucci' s home town (the artist is known as the Perugino), one of the most important painters of the Italian Renaissance. You will wander through the Medieval historic town centre and you will discover every little corner of this beautiful town.









SOUTH EAST

Brindisi and Matera

Day 1

Arrival in Brindisi early in the afternoon. Hotel check-in, visit to the city centre and dinner in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

Day 2

Guided tour of the inner port by boat (a Unesco World Heritage Site, Culture and Peace Monument) and its monuments. The Castello Alfonsino (the Alfonsino Castle), the typical fishermen village, the monument dedicated to the Marinaio d'Italia (The Italian Seaman, one of the historic symbols of the town) and the Castello Svevo (the Svevo Castle) can all be admired from the boat. Guided tours are organized to visit a few of the above mentioned monuments.

In the afternoon, you'll enjoy your visit of Torre Guaceto, a natural reserve and Italian marine protected area. You'll enjoy the hiking tour of the natural reserve and experience its pristine nature, hidden bays and crystal clear sea water. Journey back to Brindisi.

Day 3

Journey to Ostuni and visit of the famous "Città Bianca".

In the afternoon, you will enjoy the guided tour of the Itria Valley and its typical landscape: you'll follow the typical country paths characterized by dry stone walls that run along the paths and are surrounded by "trulli", manor farms, ancient millstones, olive groves, vineyards and cultivated fields. Then you'll visit one of the typical educational manor farms. Overnight stay in the Itria Valley.

Day 4

Journey to Matera: You'll meet your tour guide that will

show you around the Parco della Murgia Materana: you will visit the Sassi di Matera, the Cripta del Peccato Originale, which is known as the Sistine Chapel of the parietal cave art, its frescoes are of Longobardic origin and date back to the IX century, and they are among the most ancient frescoes that you may come across in the Basilicata Region. You will then reach the Murgia Timone panoramic viewpoint and visit the cave art areas. In the afternoon, you will visit the Santa Lucia alle Malve and Santa Maria dell'Idris rock churches and the extraordinary area of the Convicinio di Sant'Antonio.

Day 5

On day 5, you'll visit the areas surrounding Matera. Miglionico, a small town overlooked by the impressive Castello del Malconsiglio: it dates back to Norman times and overlooks the valley. Your next destination is the Basilica Pontificia di Santa Maria Maggiore (the Papal Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore), there you will be able to see the invaluable polyptych by Cima da Conegliano and a wonderful Norman crypt. Take your time now and wander through the town centre and then leave for Montescaglioso, which was governed by the Altavilla family and then visit the San Michele Arcangelo Abbey, one of the finest monuments in Southern Italy and the symbol of the town.

Day 6

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.









SOUTH WEST

Eolie and Salerno

Day 1

Upon arrival at the Catania Airport, you will reach Milazzo by means of the shuttle service, you will then board the hydroplane to get to Lipari. Hotel check-in. You will then enjoy a short visit of the island and its castle and a typical supper in one of the famous restaurants located in the historic centre of the island.

Day 2

Tour of Lipari by boat, and stop over at the enchanting beaches of Valle Muria, Spiagge Bianche and Canneto. In the afternoon, you'll leave for the Vulcano island, and there you cannot leave the island without swimming in the waters of the famous Spiagge Nere. Enjoy your tour of the island by boat afterwards. The island is characterized by constant volcanic activity, which tourists really appreciate since it is possible to enjoy hot mud baths and the underwater fumaroles that are very well known for their therapeutic effect. In the evening, you'll leave for Stromboli and you'll be able to watch the glow of volcanic explosions in the night from the sea. At the end of the boat tour, you'll travel back to Lipari.

Day 3

Leave for the Salina island by boat and stop over at the extraordinary Pollara and Lingua beaches. In the afternoon, you'll leave for Panarea, the smallest of the Aeolian islands. To the north-east, at the Calcara beach, you may still see the fumaroles coming out of the crack in the rocks: these are the last traces of volcanic activity on the island. Supper will be in one of the typical restaurants of Panarea, the one island where you can really enjoy the Aeolian night life, the island is also very well known for its clubs and bars. Journey back to your hotel in Lipari.

Day 4

Hotel check-out and journey back to Milazzo, you'll then reach Salerno.

Arrival in Salerno, where you will be given the keys to the room that was booked for you. Dinner will be in one of the typical restaurants of the town.

Day 5

Your tour guide will accompany you through an enchanting journey that will help you discover archaeology in the province of Salerno. You will travel to the Piana del Sele, the cradle of the Hellenic civilisation, you will visit Paestum and its extraordinary archaeological area and the renovated museum where the artefacts that have been found beyond the river can be admired. Early in the afternoon, you will travel back to Salerno and visit the town. You will visit the Salerno Province Archaeological Museum, the picture gallery in the XVII century Palazzo Pinto, the city cathedral of Santa Maria degli Angeli.

Day 6

Day 6 is dedicated to the history of Salerno's ceramics, since its first appearance in the Neolithic age, through the Middle Ages at the Arechi Castle, and until the XX century at the Villa Guariglia Museum of Ceramics. You'll also visit the characteristic premises of the Ceramiche Solimene company at Vietri su Mare. You will then travel to Atrani. Early in the afternoon, a guided tour will take you to Amalfi, one of the ancient maritime republics. You will reach the sea by walking through the shopping streets of the famous Positano - where in the 60s you could enjoy the Italian dolce vita - and then you will travel to Ravello, where you will enjoy the enchanting landscape from the top of the cliff and see it through the eyes of all the writers who stayed in Ravello and wandered through the Villa Cimbrone's gardens.

Day 7

Hotel check-out and journey back to your home town.



PHOTO CREDITS

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