

TRAVEL PROGRAM **Green-blue Apulia**

Along the sea, among ancient trees and baroque palaces

From Lecce along the Ionian and Adriatic coasts passing by Gallipoli, Leuca and Otranto. Go inward to discover beautiful lands full of flowers, menhirs and cyclopean stones.

From 27th September to 4th October 2020

The tour starts and finishes in Lecce, lovely baroque city, and develops mostly along the sea. We will bike around the whole Salento peninsula, always having the sea on our right side, with stops in Gallipoli, Santa Maria di Leuca and Otranto.

We pedal along the Ionian coast, where wide strands and sand dunes alternate with low cliffs, and then along the undulating Adriatic coast, with higher broken cliffs and intimate bays.

We spend two nights in Otranto and Santa Maria di Leuca in order to explore the interior: the beautiful Apulia countryside in bloom, neverending olive groves, isolated rural houses and the remains of stone-age civilizations.

And then, small villages rich of elegant palaces, old quarries, private and botanic gardens, churches with amazing frescos, sanctuaries and oil mills carved in stone, most of them open just for us.

Off the bike, we have time to visit the narrow streets of Gallipoli and Otranto, white-stone-made villages facing the sea, and finally the baroque city of Lecce.

PROGRAM

DAY 1 – Lecce

Individual arrival to Lecce. Meeting with the agency in the hotel. Briefing and bike delivery.

LECCE – Hotel Delle Palme ****

DAY 2 / Lecce > Gallipoli

Approximately 65 km – mainly flat

Just outside Lecce, we cycle through the Apulia countryside, where the flowers in bloom cover the fields. We cross Copertino flanking an imposing castle, then we visit Galatina and its church rich of frescos and finally we reach Gallipoli, enjoying a great view over the sea.

GALLIPOLI – Palazzo del Capitolo B&B

DAY 3 / Gallipoli > Leuca

Approximately 56 km – few climbs

We flank the Ionian Sea and its beautiful white sand beaches until we get to Santa Maria di Leuca. It's the very bottom of the "Italian heel", overlooked by the church of Santa Maria De Finibus Terrae and a very high lighthouse.

LEUCA – Hotel Terminal ***

DAY 4 / Leuca > Presicce > Leuca

Approximately 45 km – few climbs

We cycle inland, among olive groves and mysterious dry-stone buildings. Top attractions are Centopietre, a very ancient burial site, the little village of Presicce, with remarkable palaces and underground oil mills, and the Sanctuary of Leuca Piccola, hidden gem in the countryside.

LEUCA – Hotel Terminal ***

DAY 5 / S. Maria di Leuca > Otranto

Approximately 60 km – few climbs

We follow the coastal road with great views over the sea and the high cliffs. Before getting to Otranto we stop to admire the Palascia lighthouse and the blue sea, and the vivid colors of abandoned bauxite quarries. Once in Otranto, we visit the old town, defended by a castle and thick ancient walls.

OTRANTO – Albània Hotel ***

DAY 6 / Otranto > Giuggianello > Otranto

Approximately 55 km – few small climbs

Just outside Otranto we visit stunning high cliffs that deep into the shining sea. We head inland and following small country roads that bring us to stone-age sites, dolmens and menhirs, still shrouded in mystery. After a break in the botanical garden “La Cultura”, featuring hundreds of wonderful cactuses, we ride back following the coastal road.

OTRANTO – Albània Hotel ***

DAY 7 / Otranto > Lecce

Approximately 55 km – flat

On the way back to Lecce we stop in the beautiful fortified village of Acaya. Once we get to Lecce, a professional guide shows us the city and its baroque palaces. Not-to-be-missed are the pastry shops with the renowned delicacies of Lecce.

LECCE – Hotel Delle Palme ****

DAY 8 / Departure

Breakfast at the hotel, free day and individual trip back.

Enrollment deadline: 40 days before departure

Duration: 8 days, 7 nights, 6 biking days

When: from 27th September to 4th October 2020

Difficulty: beginners / medium

Place: Italy > Apulia

Tour description: The tour is a trail made out of two ring routes for a total of 6 bike days, start and arrival in Lecce. The trail follows secondary roads with low car traffic and some stretches with medium car traffic. The road bank is mostly asphalt, rarely we will be pedaling on nice dirt roads. The path is mostly flat with few easy climbs on the Adriatic coast.

PRICES AND CONDITIONS

Number of participants

Minimum 12 participants, maximum 20 participants.

FEE PER PERSON

€ 1.050 in double room

€ 1.230 in single room

> [These prices have € 50 discount! #Italystartsagain #Italiacheriparte](#)

INCLUDED

- 7 overnights with breakfast in three and four stars hotels.
- 7 dinners (3 courses) with typical dishes, drinks included (¼ l wine or 300 cl beer), water and bread. Fish dinners with an alternative for those who don't have fish.
- 7 city taxes.
- 5 pic-nics, with bread, cold cuts, cheese, fruit, dessert, ½ l. water.
- 1 light lunch in *trattoria*.
- 3 tour leaders: 2 by bike, 1 on the support van (2 tour leaders for groups from 12 to 17 participants).
- Visit of Galatina old town and Basilica di Santa Caterina.
- Visit of Gallipoli old town.
- Visit of the Sanctuary of Leuca Piccola.
- Visit of Presicce old town and the underground oil mills.
- Visit of Otranto old town.
- Visit of Botanic Garden La Cultura.
- Visit of Lecce old town.
- Support vehicle during the whole tour, with luggage transportation, pic-nic service and assistance.
- Medical and baggage insurance.

Details about the hotels are written on the program; due to reason of force majeure, hotels may be substitute with others of the same (or higher) category.

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel cancellation insurance

- Transfer from private accommodation to Lecce
- Bike rental
- Entrance tickets to museums and monuments
- Tips and everything not mentioned in the section “included”

Information about the fee

3 tour leaders are provided with groups of minimum 18 participants, 2 with smaller groups. The tour starts with minimum 12 participants. If minimum number is not reached, the tour doesn't start and the downpayment is refunded via bank transfer.

EXTRA, UPON REQUEST

Bike rental. > [These prices have a discount!](#) #Italystartsagain #Italiacheriparte

€ 80 for high-quality bike rental.

€ 150 for high-quality e-Bike rental. Padlock and one waterproof side bike pannier Ortlieb. Bike delivered and collected on the spot.

OTHER INFORMATION

Registration, substitution, penalties.

250 € needs to be deposited as downpayment at the moment of the enrollment. Once the tour is confirmed, balance needs to be deposited not later than 30 days before departure. Customer renouncing may be substitute by another person if the organizer receives written notice. The substitute must satisfy all the conditions necessary to the service fruition. The substitute must reimburse the organizer for all the secretarial allowances, 20 € are to be deposited plus any extra costs related with the substitution.

If the customer withdraws from the contract, penalties are applied. Penalties are:

- from the moment of the enrollment to 40 days before departure, downpayment;
- 30 days before departure, 50 % of the cost of the tour;
- 14 days before departure, full cost of the tour.

Information and program changes

Full information will be sent via email before the departure, with tour leaders' name and contacts. Due to logistic or weather reasons, there might be some program changes.

How to get to Lecce

By own vehicle. It is possible to park in Hotel Delle Palme courtyard in Lecce, for the whole tour and according to the availability. Parking is free, limited places and not bookable.

By airplane. Closest airports are *Karol Wojtyła* in Bari and *Aeroporto del Salento* in Brindisi, both linked with Lecce with shuttles.



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Province of Verona authorization no. 6382/2010 - Verona REA CCIAA n. 380687/2010

Liability insurance: ERGO Assicurazione Viaggi no. 62370160 - RC16

Insolvency protection insurance: NOBIS Compagnia di Assicurazioni no. 6006002342/C

This program is drafted in accordance with the Directive (EU) 2015/2302 has been transposed into Italian national legislation by Legislative Decree no. 62 of 21 May 2018.