

The Lucanian Experience

Unspoiled Southern Italy

2020 Ten-Day Tour of Potenza and Southern Italy

Friday, October 09 – Monday, October 19

Join us on a customized journey to experience authentic Italy. Enjoy its inspiring, rural landscapes, local hospitality, and the relaxed rhythm of life in small towns and villages where cultural traditions have been upheld for over 500 years. You won't miss must-see destinations in Southern Italy either - many have been built into the itinerary. This boutique tour is limited to a group of seventeen travelers.



Day 1 (Friday, October 9)

Arrival at Bari airport, in the Puglia region

Overnight city/Meals

Alberobello / dinner

Book your flights to arrive in Bari on Friday, October 12th, and arrive at your hotel by 3:00 p.m. Alberobello is the capital of 'Trulli land', and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Hobbit-like houses with conical roofs called 'Trulli' are unique to this area and characterize the landscape.

Afternoon guided visit of Alberobello. Included **welcome dinner** at the garden restaurant of Ristorante Fidelio.





Later, an afternoon arrival in the town of the Sassi (cave dwellings), officially called Matera, where excitement is running high because of its nomination as Cultural Capital of Europe. Experience this Flintstone-like town in real life - ahead of next year's stamped.

Check in to your hotel, La Locanda di San Martino, right in the heart of the Sasso Barisano cave district. Enjoy some down time to explore and unwind before this evening's sumptuous **group dinner** of local specialties.

Day 4 (Monday, October 12)
Matera

Matera / B

Start the day on a gentle, but enlightening walking tour of Matera with a local expert. Hear about the town's incredible history, how it went from rags to riches; from 'the shame of Italy' in the 1950s to Cultural



Capital of Europe in 2019. The detail in Carlo Levi's most famous painting of Matera will put you in the picture.

Afternoon at leisure. Why not visit the impressive, underground cistern or relax in the hotel's underground Roman bath and spa? Dinner at your discretion tonight will not be a problem with so many good restaurants from which to choose.

Day 5 (Tuesday, October 13)
Matera / Castelmezzano / Potenza

Potenza / B & D

Evocative, even hypnotic, Castelmezzano, 'Il Borgo più Bello d'Italia' (Italy's most beautiful village) is perched 1,000 metres above sea level against the dramatic backdrop of the Lucanian Dolomites. Situated between Matera and Potenza, its stunning mountain setting, makes the village a compelling stop. Then, on to Potenza for an orientation of the town, and a chance to meet the mayor. Check in to the hotel before a fun evening out for a **group dinner** with Potentini friends at a local restaurant with musical entertainment.

Day 2 (Saturday, October 10)
Puglia Region – Ostuni, Lecce, Brindisi

Alberobello / B

Dazzling Ostuni on the Adriatic, with its milk-white streets, staircases and houses, is the destination for our morning stop. No matter how tiny and bare inside, the houses in the old town are spick and span as royal palaces; by tradition the white-washed paint symbolizes the priority local people have always given to cleanliness.

In 1657, the citizens of the town prayed for the divine intervention of Sant'Oronzo (Orontius of Lecce), the first martyred bishop of Lecce, to deliver the town from the plague. Their prayers were answered and he became Ostuni's patron saint. The next stop is Lecce.

Lecce's extraordinary, baroque elegance contrasts with its country setting in the heel of Italy. On arrival, a local guide will introduce you to some of its splendors, then there will be time for lunch and leisure. Chance for a photo stop at the port of Brindisi on the return to the hotel.

Day 3 (Sunday, October 11)
Alberobello, Putignano, Altamura, Matera

Matera / B, L & D

Learn about local crafts this morning as we drive to Matera. First, in Altamura, watch while Italy's most famous bread is being made. Taste it straight from the oven along with fresh pizza for a **light lunch** today.



Day 6 (Wednesday, October 14) Potenza – the Vulture Volcano District

Potenza / B, S & D

The Vulture district is known for its outstanding Aglianico wine. Situated just north of Potenza, Mount Vulture is the only volcano, now extinct, on the eastern side of the Appenines.

On our way there today, we stop to visit the museum of emigration, housed in the Norman castle of Frederick II at Lagopesole. The emigration of Lucanians, mainly to the United States, up until the 20th century is documented here. On your visit, relive the different stages of their journeys overseas in search of a better life.

Next on the agenda, visit the Eubea ancient wine cellar and its organic vineyards, growing on volcanic soil. Hear from a local expert, with a life-long passion for the art of wine making, how good Aglianico wine is produced. There is an included tasting of three different wines and **snacks**.

The rest of the afternoon and evening is dedicated to learning how to cook a perfect Italian meal. Assist Rosaria, a chef with amazing talent, prepare typical local dishes - starter, first and main courses and dessert, and then savor them for **dinner**.



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Day 7 (Thursday, October 15) Potenza / Pompeii / Sorrento

Sorrento / B & L

This morning on your guided visit of the Scavi (ruins) of Pompeii, a local expert will unveil some of the mysteries of this world renown Roman town. It had 20,000 inhabitants when it was destroyed during the

eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. What better **lunch** than a Neapolitan pizza today?

Later, check in to your comfortable hotel in the center of Sorrento and take the rest of the afternoon and evening to explore this exciting and vibrant resort town, or maybe shop for cameos and inlaid wood. Dinner is at your discretion.

Day 8 (Friday, October 16) Amalfitana – Positano / Minori / Vietri / Salerno Sorrento / B S & D

The Amalfi coast is one of the world's most breathtaking drives. Today we will tour its full length from Sorrento to Salerno.



Experience famous locations along the way, such as Positano, Minori, and Amalfi. Stop at the famous Sal del Riso's for included **refreshments**.

A stop at Vietri is planned to learn how the local ceramic pottery is made, and painted by hand.

On arrival in Salerno, there will be time to stroll and enjoy the city's atmosphere before a **group dinner** in one of its fine restaurants.



Day 9 (Saturday, October 17) Sorrento

Sorrento / B

Today is a day at leisure in Sorrento and your opportunity, maybe, for an independent visit to the island of Capri, Procida or Ischia, and to drink in the splendid coastal setting of this lively resort. You may also consider taking the local bus down the Amalfitana highway for something that piqued your interest on yesterday's drive.

Day 10 (Sunday, October 18) Sorrento / Caserta / Rome

Rome / B & L

On our way to Rome today, we stop for an included guided visit of the Reggia di Caserta. This is Italy's Versailles and was the former royal palace of the Bourbons Kings. Their kingdom consisted of the entire southern half of the peninsula until 1861, when a united-nation state was declared under the Sardinian king Victor Immanuel II. **Lunch** is included en route today. On arrival in Rome, check into your overnight hotel.



Day 11 (Monday, October 19) Transfer from your hotel to Rome airport.

Departure day / B

Departure from the hotel to Fiumicino's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for your return home, or you may continue your trip on your own on an extended tour of Italy.

For more information, contact:

Denver Sister Cities (DSCI) office - 303-832-1336

Kathy Jackson – kathytalavera@hotmail.com

Anne Griffin – grifpotenza@hotmail.com

Or go to www.denversistercities.org

Denver Sister Cities is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by membership dues, City grants and public contributions. This trip is a fundraiser to sponsor school children wishing to study the Italian language and travel abroad.

All of this is included in your tour

- **Hotels** - 10 nights in 3 to 4 star hotels with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, service charge, state and local taxes, tips for baggage portage.
One of the hotels includes access to mineral baths / pools. Spa services are available at the traveler's discretion and expense. Hotels subject to change based on availability.
- **Meals** - 10 breakfasts, 4 group lunches/snacks, and 5 group dinners.
- **Excursions**
 - Amalfi Drive (*road conditions permitting*)
- **Culinary**
 - Breadmaking in Altamura
 - Cooking lesson in Rionero
 - Wine tasting in the Monte Vulture district.
- **Tours** – Locally guided tours, entrance fees included.
 - Alberobello
 - Lecce
 - Sassi of Matera
 - Orientation of Potenza
 - Pompeii
 - Caserta Royal Palace
- **Local Favorites**
 - Stop in Ostuni
 - Stop in Castelmezzano
 - Meet the Mayor of Potenza
 - Visit Emigration Museum in Lagopesole
 - Eubea Winery and Wine Tasting
 - Rosaria's Italian cooking lesson
 - Ceramic factory in Vietri
 - Stop in Salerno
- Fully air-conditioned motor coach accommodating 17 passengers.
- Final transport to Rome airport.
- Services of a professional, licensed, multi-lingual Tour Director throughout the trip.

Connecting Globally, Inspiring Locally

Price based on 12 travelers* \$3,200 Double occupancy \$3,700 Single occupancy	Price based on 16 travelers* \$2,800 Double occupancy \$3,325 Single occupancy
Price based on 14 travelers* \$3,000 Double occupancy \$3,500 Single occupancy	Price based on 17 travelers* \$2,750 Double occupancy \$3,300 Single occupancy

Important Travel Information

Viability of the trip is based on a minimum of fourteen travelers.

Deposits in the amount of \$1,000 are due to the Denver Sister Cities office by Friday, May 22, 2020, with the balance due on Friday, August 7, 2020. ***To secure your reservation in advance, you may send \$1000 at any time to the Denver Sister Cities office.***

Spaces will be held based on receipt of deposits.

Final pricing, based on number of travelers, will be locked in on Friday, July 17, 2020. *

All travelers are responsible for their own airfare and arriving at the appointed hotel on or before the published departure date of the tour bus.

Travelers must obtain traveler's insurance.

Luggage per person will be limited to **two** bags, of the following sizes: one 55 linear inches (e.g. 25 x 18 x 11.5); one carry-on bag (e.g. backpack, overnight bag) no more than 45 linear inches.

Participants will be responsible for signing an agreement with Denver Sister Cities and returning it to the office with the initial deposit.

In event that a scheduled tour item must be canceled or changed due to circumstances out of the control of the group organizers, every effort will be made to provide a comparable alternative. No refunds will be made.

Any expenses incurred over and above the costs covered by the trip, outlined above, are the sole responsibility of the individual traveler.

The cost of an Italian qualified, licensed, Tour Director, and an Italian speaking DSCI Representative are included in the cost of the trip.

Airfare and trip extensions may be arranged directly through Anna Vann, North West Travel, 303-650-1057, email tmvenv@msn.com, or by the individual traveler.

** Prices are per person, based on \$1.12 exchange rate and subject to change due to fluctuation of the euro.*

*** In the event there is a financial overage from the trip, those amounts will be forfeited by travelers and deemed a donation. Appropriate tax statements will be mailed to travel participants once those amounts are established.*