

ABRUZZO : Sea and Monti della Iaga Park



1st day: ARRIVAL - ALBA ADRIATICA

Arrival of the group in ALBA ADRIATICA, check-in at the hotel and lunch. Free afternoon for bathing and beach fun. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

2nd day: ALBA ADRIATICA – CAMPLI

Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning to relax and enjoy the sea. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, meeting with the guide and coach transfer to Campoli, ancient art city. The city still keeps important remnants of its *ancient fortifications* (such as the Gate to get in the eastern district of Castelnuovo) and *sighting towers* (*Torre dei Melatino*, built in 1394). Between the 13th and the 17th C. the city lived its most glorious time and it was when most of the wonderful monuments that can be seen today in the city centre were built: the *Collegiate Church of S. Maria in Platea* (14th C.), the *Palazzo del Parlamento also known as Palazzo Farnese* (14th or 15th C.), the *Church of S. Francesco* (13th C.), with its beautiful portal, the *Church of S. Giovanni Battista* (11th C.).



Pope Clement XIV's bull of 21 January 1772 accorded to the city of *Campoli* the privilege of the *Scala Santa* (*Holy Staircase*) and in its interior there are precious art treasures. The *Scala Santa* features 28 steps in olive tree wood that believers walk up on their knees while praying in order to obtain the same indulgences as those obtained in the Holy Staircase in Rome. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

3rd day : ALBA ADRIATICA – CIVITELLA DEL TRONTO

Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning to relax and enjoy the sea. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, meeting with the guide and coach transfer to Civitella del Tronto dominated by its huge fortress. The *Fortress of Civitella del Tronto* is one of the most imposing works of military engineering in Italy. In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

4th day: ALBA ADRIATICA – ATRI

Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning to relax and enjoy the sea. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, meeting with the guide and coach transfer to Atri, ancient city of “picena” origin. Its Cathedral is worth seeing: it was built from 1260 to 1305, over an earlier 9th -C. church and a Roman cistern, still visible from the beautiful cloister. The interior houses exceptional frescoes by Luca d’Atri, Giovanni di Cristofaro, Giacomo d’Atri and Andrea de Lizio, the most important artists in Abruzzo of the 13th and 15th C. The fresco cycle of the Cathedral of Atri is the biggest in Abruzzo and one of the main pictorial cycles of central-southern Italy. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

5th day : ALBA ADRIATICA - GRAN SASSO - PRATI DI TIVO – ST. GABRIELE

Breakfast at the hotel. Full day in the heart of the Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga. We'll drive till Pietracamela, in the centre of the Gran Sasso Monti della Laga Park. It's a typical mountain village amid the woods, one of the highest towns of the Province of Teramo, and included in the prestigious list of the 100 most beautiful villages in Italy. Its name probably derives from the camel-shaped rock hanging over the village. The old town centre is a maze of alleys, stone houses, stairs, ups and downs. The parish church dedicated to St. Leucio, patron saint of the village, is noteworthy. We'll continue on our way till Prati di Tivo. Prati di Tivo, the most known ski resort of the province of Teramo, winds at the foot of the northern side of the Corno Piccolo, the most elegant rocky mountain of Gran Sasso. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, we'll stop in the Sanctuary of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of the Sorrows, in the foothills of the Gran Sasso massif, in the province of Teramo, which is among the best known in Italy and in Europe. A recent place list puts it among the first fifteen most popular sanctuaries of the world. The sanctuary dedicated to the young saint has become, in the last years, one of the most peculiar cases of people's religiousness in Italy. The fame of the saint of the miracles is based upon a continuous line of supernatural phenomena testified by thousands of votive offerings given to the sanctuary. The Sanctuary of St. Gabriel is in the middle of a holy triangle which contains three of the most famous sanctuaries in Europe: Loreto, St. Gabriel, St. Giovanni Rotondo. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

6th day: ALBA ADRIATICA

Full board at the hotel. Free day to relax and enjoy the sea.

7th day: ALBA ADRIATICA – MOSCUFO – PESCARA



Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning to relax and enjoy the sea. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, meeting with the guide and coach transfer to Moscufo to see Santa Maria del Lago, ancient Benedictine abbey built in the 12th C. The masterpiece of the church is its polychromatic ambo by Nicodemo da Guardiagrele: its capitals feature a carved acrobat, something unique in the Romanesque sculpture of Central Italy. The many remnants of the original colours make of this precious monument one of the most significant in Abruzzo and in Italy. We'll then move to Pescara and we'll visit Gabriele D'Annunzio's house, that is the place where this great poet was born and spent his childhood. We'll see also the Ponte del Mare, planned by the Tyrolean architect Walter Pichler and finished in 2009. This bridge connects the two riversides of the city. We'll then take the road along the coast where we'll see the Trabocchi, “The great fishing- machines”, as *Gabriele d’Annunzio called them in his novel “Trionfo della morte”*. Dinner in a typical trabocco. Overnight stay at the hotel.

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8th day: RETURN HOME

Breakfast. END OF OUR SERVICES.

Accommodation

Hotel 3/4 stars in ALBA ADRIATICA (8days / 7 nights)

During the tour our guests will taste the authentic Abruzzo's cuisine and meals such as :

CHITARRA CON LE PALLOTTINE

(local square spaghetti with meatballs)



Brodetto di Pesce

(fish soup)

