

ABRUZZO : Sea and Monti della Laga Park



1st day: ARRIVAL - RIMINI - LORETO - ALBA ADRIATICA

Arrival of the group at Rimini's airport. Meeting with a member of our staff and coach transfer to Alba Adriatica. We'll stop in the big Marian Sanctuary of Loreto. In the evening, arrival in ALBA ADRIATICA, Check-in at the hotel. Dinner 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 Campi, 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 *Campi* 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 for leisure time activities or beach fun. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, meeting with the guide and coach transfer to Civitella del Tronto. Located on a travertine rocky cliff, the town is dominated by the *Fortress*, the last and desperate bulwark of the Bourbons of Naples and Kingdom of the

Two Sicilies that put up a gallant resistance and surrendered to the Piedmonteses only after the proclamation of the Unity of Italy. In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

4th day : ALBA ADRIATICA - GRAN SASSO-PRATI DI TIVO – SAN 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.

5th 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 Tyrolese 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.

6th day : ROME - Florence

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we'll drive till Rome. Visit of the "Eternal City" and its sights: San Pietro, the Colosseum, Piazza di Spagna, Via Condotti, Trinità dei Monti, Trevi Fountain. Lunch in a restaurant. Transfer to Florence. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

7th day : FLORENCE

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit of Florence and its sights. Lunch in a restaurant. In the evening return to the hotel, check-in, dinner and overnight stay.

8th day : RAVENNA - RIMINI

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Ravenna, visit of its sights. Lunch in a restaurant. After lunch, transfer at Rimini's airport. END OF OUR SERVICES.