

ABRUZZO: Between the Sea and Culture



1st day : ROME

Arrival of the guests, at Rome's airport, meeting with a member of our staff and coach transfer to Rome, the "Eternal city", full of charm and amazing monuments . We'll admire:

- Via dei Fori Imperiali, one of the most beautiful roads in Rome, that separates the Imperial Fora from the Roman Forum;
- the emblem of Rome: **the Colosseum**. Its original name was Flavian Amphitheatre and in antiquity it was used for public spectacles such as fights of gladiators against animals. It could hold about 45.000 spectators.

Its construction began under Vespasian but was completed under Titus in 80 AD, with the famous inaugural games that lasted 100 days.

- The monumental Spanish Steps;
- the Palazzo della Borsa;
- the Palazzo di Montecitorio, present seat of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian State;
- the Palazzo Borghese;
- Via Condotti, full of luxury boutiques and shops.

In the evening, transfer to the hotel, check-in, dinner and overnight stay.

2nd day : SAN GABRIELE – CASTELLI – ROSETO DEGLI ABRUZZI

Breakfast at the hotel, coach transfer to Abruzzo and stopover at the big Sanctuary of St. Gabriel, located at the foot of the Gran Sasso in a unique scenery. It is one of the most known sanctuaries in Italy and in Europe. A recent survey places it among the first fifteen sanctuaries with more visitors in the world. The Sanctuary of St. Gabriel is in the middle of a holy triangle that touches three of the most famous sanctuaries of Europe: Loreto, St. Gabriel, San Giovanni Rotondo.

The Sanctuary dedicated to the young saint has become, in the last few years, one of the most exceptional phenomena of the people's religiousness in Italy. The Saint of the Miracles's fame is based upon a continuous sequence of supernatural phenomena, testified by thousands of votive offerings given to the sanctuary. Lunch in restaurant based on local dishes of the cuisine of Teramo, such as the "maccheroni alla chitarra" (local pasta). After lunch, coach transfer to Castelli, the city of ceramics, located at the foot of the Gran Sasso. It is famous for the production of ceramics, a tradition that goes back to the beginning of Renaissance. You'll admire the several shops and workshops where they make the manufactured products, the Church of S. Donato, that was a *cona* in *ancient times*, that is, a small country church. This little church has been called by the writer Carlo Levi "the *Sistine Chapel of Majolica*", because of its ceiling, completely made of majolica hollow tiles. We'll later drive till Roseto, check-in at the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



3rd day : ROSETO – CAMPLI

Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning for leisure time activities. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, coach transfer to Campi, a village in the province of Teramo, rich in valuable monuments. The village still keeps evidence of its *ancient defensive works* (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. In the evening, return to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay

4th day : ROSETO – CIVITELLA DEL TRONTO

Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning for leisure time activities or beach fun. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch 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.

5th day : ROSETO DEGLI ABRUZZI

Full Board at the hotel. Free day for leisure time activities or beach fun.

6th day : ROSETO DEGLI ABRUZZI – PESCARA

Breakfast at the hotel. Free morning for leisure time activities or beach fun. Lunch at the hotel. After lunch, we'll move to Pescara. 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.

7th day : ROSETO DEGLI ABRUZZI – SULMONA – CASERTA

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we'll go to Sulmona. Rich in works of arts, of ancient origin, it was the birthplace of the renowned poet Ovid and of Pope Innocenzo VII, famous for the goldsmith's art and for the production of sugared almonds. We'll see: S. Panfilo Cathedral – of Romanesque origin - , where Celestine V celebrated mass during his journey to L'Aquila; the SS. Annunziata Complex, founded in 1320 that features Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque traits; the imposing medieval Aqueduct, built in order to supply the city with water; the church of S. Francesco della Scarpa with its monumental Romanesque portal; Porta Napoli built in 1300, with its elegant rusticated ashlar-work characterised by small rosettes carved on the bosses. Afterwards, we'll stop at Badia Morrone. It was the hermit Pietro Angeleri, the future Pope [Celestine V](#), the founder of this abbey; it actually happened that the hermit, born in [Isernia](#), arrived at the foot of [Monte Morrone](#) in [1241](#) and finished the enlargement of the old chapel dedicated to *Santa Maria del Morrone* and then promoted the construction of a church dedicated to the [Holy Spirit](#). This is the place where the Celestinian order was born. Today the building is a huge monumental complex. Lunch in a restaurant based on local food and tasting of the sugared almonds of Sulmona. After lunch, we'll head for Caserta: visit of the great Palace, masterpiece by the renowned architect Vanvitelli. In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.





8th day : NAPLES

Breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Naples. Sights: Piazza del Municipio, one of the most important squares of the city; Castel Nuovo or Maschio Angioino, which soon became the symbol of the city. It was the stronghold of the Angevins at first, of the Aragonese later, and in the end, of the Bourbons. At present, this monumental complex has a cultural use and it houses, among the other things, the seat of the City Museum; the Teatro San Carlo, founded in 1737, therefore the oldest opera house in Europe. It was built according to Charles of Bourbon's will; the Royal Palace, a sumptuous 17th- century residence erected in honour of the King of Spain; the largest square in Naples, that is Piazza del Plebiscito; the Basilica of St. Chiara, built between 1310 and 1340, which still has some fragments of Giotto's

frescoes in the choir; the Duomo with St. Gennaro's relics. Lunch in a restaurant based on Neapolitan pizza. In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

9th day : RETURN HOME

Breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Rome's airport. END OF OUR SERVICES.