

CALABRIA

FROM COSTA DEI BORGHİ ANTICHI TO COSTA VIOLA

7 nights/8days, 2 hotels 4* - For groups, minimum 25pax

FIRST DAY: Saturday. Arrival at Lamezia Terme Airport and hotel (4*) transfer meeting with tour escort, welcome drinks, dinner & overnight stay.

SECOND DAY: Sunday. After breakfast, visit to *Amantea*, starting from the Sunday Market, founded by Durazzo D'Anjou in 1432. The sellers are farmers of the area.

Later on, visit to the *Convent of San Bernardino*, where famous works of



art such as *Madonna con Bambino (Madonna and Child)* by Lorenzo Bernini (the famous architect of St Peter's Square in Rome) are preserved. Last year the sculpture's, severed with a hammer by a French soldier during the invasion of 1806, was miraculously recovered and was put back in its original place in front of the cameras of the most famous European TV networks.

After that, walking tour of the historical centre, where you can visit *Palazzo delle Clarisse*, a former convent, nowadays a charming place, home to a unique picture-gallery and a very renowned restaurant, where we will stop for lunch.

Back to the hotel, free time in the afternoon; dinner at the hotel, overnight stay.



THIRD DAY: Monday. After breakfast, leaving for *Fiumefreddo Bruzio*, beautiful Medieval village, included in the Club of Borghi più Belli d'Italia (the most beautiful villages of Italy Club). The village stands on a rocky promontory from which you can enjoy the view of the volcanic Island of Stromboli, Capo Vaticano and Capo Palinuro. This village was a source of inspiration for the Italian

artist *Salvatore Fiume*, who was fascinated by its extraordinary beauty. Some of Fiume's masterpieces are exhibited in the Castello della Valle Dimora. You will visit churches, noble palaces and the castle that was destroyed by the French Army, in 1806, in order to catch the last of the *bandits*. Since 2007 it has been declared *Monumento Contro tutte le Guerre* (Monument Against All Wars). In the main church, you will admire one of Solimene's masterpieces, that the most famous Italian art critic, Vittorio Sgarbi, judged as one of the finest exhibits in Calabria.

After the tour, transfer to a small local farm, situated on the surrounding hills, to watch the *Rite of Homemade Bread*, a custom still well rooted in *Costa dei Borghi Antichi*, while elsewhere it's just a memory. The bread prepared will be served with *Pitta Avanti o' furno*, bacon, homemade local cheese and salami, pickles, wine and spring water.

Back to the hotel in the afternoon, free time, dinner at the hotel, overnight stay.





FOURTH DAY: Tuesday. After breakfast, departure for *Santa Severina*, behind the Sila highlands. Santa Severina, also called *Agorà della Sapienza: a real Stone Book*, is evidence of thousands of years of history from the Roman Empire up to recent times. Lunch at the *Locanda del Re* restaurant, where you can taste the *cavatelli del marchesato*, a Medieval dish. After lunch, visit to the Diocesan Museum, home to an exclusive exhibition of Byzantine manuscripts.

Back to the hotel, typical Calabrian dinner, overnight stay.



FIFTH DAY: Wednesday. After breakfast, hotel transfer to Reggio Calabria. On the way stop at *Pizzo Calabro*, to visit the “*Chiesetta Votiva di Piedigrotta*”: a little church completely built with volcanic rocks. During the morning visit to the castle where Gioacchino Murat, Grand Admiral of France and brother-in-law of Napoleone Bonaparte, was executed.

For lunch, seafood based menu at a typical local restaurant.

In the afternoon arrival at the Excelsior Hotel in Reggio Calabria.

Free time, dinner at the hotel, overnight stay.

SIXTH DAY: Thursday. After breakfast, walking tour to the waterfront of *Reggio Calabria*, defined by the great Italian poet and writer Gabriele D’Annunzio “The most beautiful Kilometer of Italy”.

Later on, visit to the *National Museum*, where the famous “*Bronzi di Riace*” and other important archeological artifacts dating back to pre-historical eras are exhibited.

At lunchtime, transfer to the private Bergamot Museum, where you will taste a menu based completely on Bergamotto, the famous citrus fruit that grows only in this land: Calabria Greca.

In the afternoon, visit to the Cathedral, home to beautiful Baroque masterpieces.

Dinner at the hotel.



SEVENTH DAY: Friday. After breakfast, transfer to the enchanting village of Scilla, also called *The Venice of the South*.

Visit to the Ruffo di Calabria Castle, a powerful military structure, and to *Chianalea*, an extremely beautiful and picturesque village, that fascinated world famous artists and poets. Lunch at a local restaurant and see view of Sicily from *Baia delle Sirene Beach* (The Mermaid Beach) where you will be able to taste the local specialty: swordfish.

Back to the hotel in the afternoon, free time for your shopping, dinner at the hotel, overnight stay.

EIGHTH DAY: Saturday. Check out after breakfast. Farewell and transfer to the airport. End of service.

PRICE: € 940 P.P.