

A VISIT TO CALABRIA IONICA: THE HIDDEN JEWEL OF ITALY

12 – 19 September 2018



Panoramic view of Scilla

In the words of the Italian writer Guido Piovene in his ‘Viaggio in Italia’, Calabria is certainly the strangest of Italian regions. Among the vast extent of its mountains one almost thinks of not being in the South of Italy but in the Alps or Scandinavia. Starting from Lamezia Terme’s Airport we travel down the Tyrrhenian Coast to Scilla famous for the mythological legend which links it to Cariddi, Ulysses and the Sirens. From there we take a short journey to Reggio Calabria the delightful capital of the region and home to the Bronzes of Riace. From here we leave the Rocky Coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Ionian Coast where mountainous peaks plunge to the violet blue sea, proceed to our Hotel, a few steps from the Museum, the Grand Hotel Excelsior.

DAY 1 - Wednesday 12 September

From the Airport we drive directly to Scilla. Afternoon visit to Scilla with its splendid castle and historical centre thence to Reggio Calabria, the superb Capitol of the region and home to the Bronzes of Riace. They are now in the Archeological Museum of Magna Grecia; we then proceed to our Hotel the Grand Hotel Excelsior, located a few steps from the Museum. Return to hotel. Dinner by Invitation

DAY 2 - Thursday 13 September

10 am - Guided Visit to the Museum of Magna Grecia where are the famous classical Greek sculptures "The Bronzes of Riace", the most famous statues from the Classical period of Greek Art. Free for lunch and afternoon. Reggio Calabria offers first class shops all on its main road next to the Museum of Magna Grecia. Dinner at leisure.

DAY 3 - Friday 14 September

9.30 am - Departure for the Ionic Coast. Arrive in Bovalino to visit the Archeological Park where is also the Roman Villa of Casignana - a very interesting visit. Continue to the ancient Greek ruins of Locri and thence to Gerace for lunch and to visit their Medieval Churches and charming historical centre. Returning to the coastal road we go to our Hotel in Soverato, specially chosen by our friends in S.ta Caterina dello Jonio. This will be a very pleasant surprise where we will be based for two nights. Dinner by invitation.

DAY 5 - Sunday 16 September

9.30 - Departure for Borgia to visit the Archeological Park and the Museum of the Roccelletta. In the afternoon we will go to Tiriolo to visit the Medieval Castle and after lunch the historical centre. We will see the local artisan manufacture with their typical looms to create the cloths, shawls and various other objects typical of the village. We continue to Crotone where we will stay on the beautifully located Hotel Lido degli Scogli - right on the sea. Dinner by Invitation.

DAY 6 - Monday 17 September

Leave for Santa Severina to see the Medieval Centre with its Castle, Cathedral and Byzantine Baptistery. Afternoon and dinner at leisure. Return to the Hotel.

DAY 8 - Wednesday 19 September

Early start to return to Lamezia Terme for Alitalia Flight to London



The Two Bronzes of Riace

DAY 4 - Saturday 15 September

9.30 am - Guided visit to the Archaeological Park of Ancient Caulonia. Proceed inland to Stilo the well known Town of the philosopher Tommaso Campanella to visit very ancient Churches like S. Giovanni where is a famous painting by Battistello Caracciolo. We then visit the dramatically located Norman Church and Convent of San Giovanni Therista established by Eastern Monks escaping from the Turkish invasion. On our return to Soverato we deviate to the hill town of S.ta Caterina dello Jonio. High above the coast this ghost town raises many questions. Why did this clearly important medieval town die? We cannot answer until we visit it and hear from somebody from the area who, later, will join us for dinner in a charming local Restaurant. (by Invitation)

DAY 7 - Tuesday 18 September

Guided visit to the Archeological Museum in Crotone and its Castle. We will then move to Capo Colonna to visit the Museum of the Sea, the Archeological Park with its famous Treasure of Hera and the most romantic solitary Single Column of the Temple of the Goddess Hera spectacularly situated above the high rocks. Return to the Hotel for Dinner. (by invitation)

The recommended FLIGHTS:

Departing: Ryanair - 12 Sept 2018 from Stansted airport at 9.55 am arriving in Lamezia Terme at 13.55
Returning: Alitalia - 19 Sept 2018 from Lamezia Terme airport at 10.55 am arriving at Heathrow at 16.05

PRICE

£1495

Single supplement £150

Deposit £400

This price is the discounted price offered to members therefore all participants should become members.

The price includes 7 nights B&B, all dinners except that on 13 and 17 September, all transport, guiding, entrance fees. Lunches not included.

Payment: should be made by bank transfer as follows:

Bank: CARDONEBANKING - Name: Artstur Ltd; Sort Code: 23 18 84; Account: 78597529