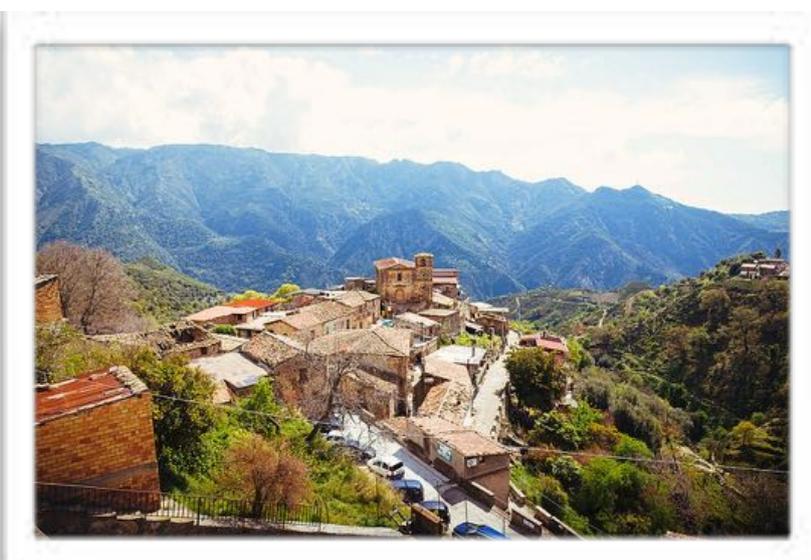




Dott. Rosa Maria Letts, an Italian, who studied a Masters at the Courtauld Institute and a M. Phil at the Warburg Institute, is our tour leader. Our local guide is Salvatore Mongiardo, an authority on the region and the Bronzes. He has written many books in English on these subjects.

Calabria is a beautiful region, with high mountains inland which descend dramatically to the violet sea below. High in the hills are a wealth of Byzantine and Medieval towns, churches, castles, and convents, while the coast is rich with the ruins of Greek settlements.



The fertile lands off the coast have been an attraction to Greeks sailing from their homeland towards a more fertile and free land since 700 years before Christ. While the hills inland provided a refuge for Greek orthodox priests fleeing from the marauding Turks since the Middle Ages.

Our tour starts in Reggio Calabria, the elegant capital of the region, and home to the famous Bronzes of

Riace. These superb sculptures created in Greece in the 5th Century BC, the classical period of Greek art, are masterpieces comparable to those of Michelangelo 2,000 years later. Phidias may have sculpted one of them.

We spend two nights in Reggio Calabria, allowing sufficient time to enjoy its elegant Liberty-style architecture and the fine shopping in the centre of the town. From there, we travel up the Ionian coast, alternating visits to Greek ruins with sorties to the mountains, to visit the Byzantine treasures inland.



A particularly interesting visit is Santa Caterina dello Ionio. High above the coast we find this city, now almost abandoned, with the ruins of cathedrals and palaces giving evidence of an important medieval centre. What brought about its decline? - The mystery will be answered by a resident of the city, and owner of at least one palace and a castle, where we will have dinner.

Continuing our journey up the coast, we will appreciate more and more the presentation and scholarship of the various Greek sites, the quiet sense of a by-gone age in the medieval towns and villages, the bustle of the modern coastal resorts and above all the welcoming hospitality of the Calabrian people.



Our tour terminates in Crotona, where the goddess Hera ruled. The famous Treasure of Hera, a golden crown, is in the museum of the town, while the Temple of Hera, with one column left dramatically overlooking the sea, is several miles outside the town, together with a splendid "Museum of the Sea", which we will visit.

Full price is £1660, no single supplement. This price can be reduced to £1495 by joining as a member of Artstur.

The price includes 6 nights B&B, all dinners except that on 9 and 12 May, all transport, guiding, entrance fees. Lunches not included; FLIGHTS NOT INCLUDED

Payment: should be made by bank transfer as follows:

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