

Day 11 -- Cupertino

Today we head to almost the southern most tip of the Italian peninsula to Copertino, located in the heel of the boot in the southern portion of the province of Lecce bordered by the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas. This was the native town of Giuseppe Maria Desa born on 17th June 1603, who became a saint of the Catholic Church as San Giuseppe da Copertino. Visit to the church of San Giuseppe da Copertino erected where the saint was born, in a stable where his mother, the countess Franceschina Panaca took shelter to escape from persecution. Saint Joseph of Cupertino is the patron of students and aviators. Tonight a farewell dinner (included) with wine and music will abound. Overnight in Lecce.



Day 12 – Flying – From Bari

Today, we bid not farewell, but *Arrivederci* (see you again) to Italy as we transfer to the airport. Upon boarding our flight homebound, not only will we be carrying many kilos of Italy in our luggage, but many memories of fun days, wonderfully interesting meals shared with friends, a bit more culture to add to our already cultured consciousness, but above all the recollection of an impressive and wonderful journey on the Adriatic side of the **ITALIAN PENINSULA**. Dinner aloft and overnight at HOME!!!

INCLUDED

- ROUND TRIP AIR from US INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- ROUND TRIP AIRPORT TRANSFERS IN ITALY when using our group flight
- ENGLISH SPEAKING TOUR ESCORT \ DAY of ARRIVAL to DEPARTURE
- ENGLISH SPEAKING LOCAL GUIDES THROUGHOUT
- ENTRANCE FEES INCLUDED
- BUFFET BREAKFAST DAILY with coffee, tea, juice
- DE LUXE AIR-CONDITIONED MOTORCOACH
- PORTAGE in HOTELS in ITALY
- TAXES & SERVICE CHARGES (includes 19% Italian VAT tax)

EXCLUDED

- ROUND TRIP TRANSFERS TO US INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- PASSPORTS and/or VISA FEES
- GRATUITIES to DRIVER, GUIDES, TOUR ESCORTS
- PORTAGE IN AIRPORTS
- ITEMS OF PERSONAL NATURE (Laundry, telephone calls, room service, etc.)
- BEVERAGES at MEALS UNLESS LISTED IN THE ITINERARY

Dear Friends;

We sincerely hope that you will take part in this fabulous tour among the green valleys and rolling hills of Emilia Romagna and the spectacular sea views of Puglia as we travel from north to south along the Adriatic Coast of Italy. This trip is somewhat different from a mainstream tour and a mainstream pilgrimage, highlighting aspects of both. The famous shrines of the eastern coast, boasting the architectural influences of Byzantium, along with the magnificent cities and enchanting villages. Along the way, we will be tasting the renowned wines originating from rich and luscious grapes produced from this land, the delicious food products, olive oil and more. Even more importantly there will be sometime to relax in the charming 4 star hotels, soak in some sunshine on an Adriatic beach and enjoy the beauty and magnificence of these most treasured regions of Italy, this "little bit" of paradise. Accompanied by our expert and well-informed guides during visits of The Republic of San Marino, Padua, Pesaro, Molfetta, Bari, Alberobello, San Giovanni Rotondo and more. Marvel at the city of Lecce, called the "Florence of the Baroque". You will be in trustworthy hands with your English speaking tour escort Louis and your spiritual leader, Fr. Ken from time of arrival in Italy to time of departure during this trip. This trip has been completely created and customized by Fr. & Lou to be different from any other. Our journey promises you a memorable venture that you will not soon forget!

Thank you,

Louis & Fr. Ken

Pray - Savor - Enjoy
Relish in the culinary delights
Taste the Fruits of the Vine

Enjoy Spiritual, Leisure, Relaxed Settings & Breathtaking Views
All while visiting the wonderful Shrines of the Adriatic Coast of Italy

Adriatic Italy
May 2011

Saint Nicholas of Bari

Tour Highlights
 Republic of San Marino – The Little House of Loreto
 St. Anthony of Padua – Padre Pio – Monte Sant' Angelo – Molfetta
 Bari – St. Joseph of Cupertino – Alberobello – Lecce – Wine Olive Oil and
 Local Food Tastings and much more

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Day 1 Flying – USA to Italy

This evening we board our international, trans-Atlantic flight from the USA to Italy. Meals and entertainment aloft.

Day 2 - Early Morning Arrival on the Continent– Visit Padua / Basilicas of St. Anthony & Sta. Giustina

This morning upon our arrival we will go directly to the ancient city of Padua, here we will visit the Shrine of St. Anthony. This miracle worker is adored and revered by Christians world-wide. The Basilica of Saint Anthony was built in 1231 immediately after the death of the Franciscan monk. It was built over the ancient little Church of Santa Maria Mater Domini where he wanted to be buried.

We will also visit the Basilica Santa Giustina, martyred in the 4th century, the spiritual daughter of St. Cyprian. This ancient basilica also contains the tomb of St. Luke; The remains of St. Luke were brought to Padua, Italy, sometime before 1177. The [abbey](#) and the [basilica](#) of Santa Giustina houses art dedicated to the saint. The complex was founded in the 5th century on Giustina's tomb, in the 15th century became one of the most important monasteries in the area, until it was suppressed by Napoleon in 1810. In 1919 it was reopened. The tombs of several saints are housed in the interior, including those of Justina, [St. Prosdocimus](#), [St. Maximus](#), [St. Urius](#), [St. Felicitas](#), [St. Julian](#), as well as relics of the Apostle [St. Matthias](#) and the Evangelist [St. Luke](#).

Overnight will be in “La Serenissima Repubblica di San Marino”. (*Official title/The Most Serene Republic of San Marino*) According to tradition, [Saint Marinus](#) left the island of Rab in present-day Croatia with his lifelong friend Leo, and went to the city of [Rimini](#) as a mason. After the [Diocletianic Persecution](#) following his Christian sermons, he escaped to the nearby [Monte Titano](#), where he built a small church and thus founded what is now the city and state of San Marino. San Marino claims to be the oldest surviving sovereign state and constitutional [republic](#) in the world, as the continuation of the monastic community founded on 3 September 301, by [Marinus](#) of Rab. Dinner (included) and overnight in San Marino.



Day 3 - San Marino to Loreto

After breakfast we will have brief walking tour of San Marino including a visit to the Basilica of San Marino.

We will then begin our journey from San Marino to Loreto. The little town of Loreto lies on a hill near the Adriatic Sea, some 13 miles south of Ancona. Since the 14th century it has been Italy's second most important place of pilgrimage after Rome. After a short orientation tour with our guide, explanation of Loreto, the Basilica and the story of the Little House, there will be free time in Loreto to shop and enjoy this peaceful city of Our Lady. Dinner in San Marino (or vicinity). Overnight San Marino. *Mass in Loreto.*



Day 9 – Alberobello

A day out of the city to visit the Trulli of Alberobello. This small and quaint village has been made a UNESCO World Heritage site for its unusual districts of *trulli*, the characteristic white-washed conical-roofed houses of the area. We will also visit to the Basilica of Sts. Cosma & Damiano. Today, lunch (included) will be at a local osteria or trattoria in Alberobello. Later, there will be free-time in this great village to shop and enjoy the local flavor. There are many little cafés snack-shops, restaurants and trattorias in the main square. Overnight in Lecce.



Trulli are unique to Puglia and these mysterious buildings, with their thick limestone walls and graceful conical roofs, originate from many hundreds of years ago. Roughly circular in shape, they are normally built from solid limestone blocks. While the modern builder uses 'Calcio', a limestone mortar, to seal the spaces between the rocks, in olden times Trulli would have been built, 'a secco', or 'dry', meaning that no mortar was used. The thick walls helped to keep the Trullo cool during the very hot summers and warm during the cool, damp winters.

Day 10 – Lecce

Lecce is a riot of cherubs; the Baroque masterpiece of southern Italy. This magnificent city is described as the 'Florence of the Baroque'. Lecce has a lovely historic center, and travelers can easily spend a day or two exploring picturesque little lanes and finding the more far-flung Baroque churches. The most important is the Church of the Holy Cross (Chiesa di Santa Croce). It was begun in 1353, but work was halted until 1549, to be completed only in 1695. The church has a richly decorated façade with animals, grotesque figures and vegetables, and a large rose window, so typical of the Lecce Baroque style. The Duomo (cathedral) is also one of the most significant in Italy. It was originally built in 1144, and rebuilt in 1230. Dinner (included) and overnight in Lecce.



Day 7 – Bari City Tour & Basilica of San Nicola (Santa Claus / St. Nick)

Today we begin with a city tour of Bari including the Basilica of San Nicola di Bari – There will be ample time in the Basilica for devotions. Founded in 1089 to shelter the stolen relics of St. Nicolas of Myra, the Basilica di San Nicola (St. Nicholas Basilica) in Bari is a majestic edifice that became the model for later Puglian Romanesque churches. Its crypt still contains the relics of St. Nicholas, a.k.a. Santa Claus. Bari is the largest and most important city of Apulia and stands on the Adriatic coast. It's mainly famous for being one of the exit doors of Italy, where travelers leave on ferries for neighboring countries. Bari's old town has retained its ancient medieval plan and contains many historic buildings and sites. The old town was the heart of pre-Roman and Roman Bari. It is now possible to find several hip bars and restaurants open "from dusk 'til dawn". Dinner local restaurant with local wines and overnight in Bisceglie.



Day 8 – Molfetta

Molfetta is one of the most important fishing, fruit and vegetable centers in Puglia. The first community of fishermen already existed in the area in the IV century B.C. The village experienced major development under the rule of Byzantium. The Madonna dei Martiri Sanctuary in the past, was the destination of pilgrims returning from the Holy Land or in search of their own spirituality. Today, the sanctuary is also the destination of art lovers, attracted by the many works inside the Basilica and the convent, including the icon of Madonna della Tenerezza dating back to the XIII century and probably donated by one of the pilgrims in thanks for the hospitality received. Today, in the USA, Hoboken, New Jersey has the largest community of Molfettani (people with origins from Molfetta) outside of Italy. In the USA the tradition has found its way from the Adriatic coast to the shores of New York harbor, with celebrations, masses and devotions. A procession begun in the 14th century by Crusaders returning to Italy from Jerusalem now winds its way through the streets of Hoboken onto vessels into the Hudson River for the blessing of the Fleets. The Baroque church of Saint Dominic was built between 1636 and 1699 when it was consecrated. The façade is decorated with the statues of Catherine of Alexandria and Mary Magdalene, patroness of the Dominican order. In the church one can admire the painting of the Madonna del Rosario (il Santissimo Rosario) with Saint Dominic by Corrado Giaquinto. Dinner and overnight in Bisceglie.



Day 4 - San Marino to Pesaro

Pesaro, on Italy's Adriatic coast, is not well-known to foreign travelers, but it is a popular traditional seaside resort, Italian visitors have been coming here to enjoy the sandy beaches for a hundred years. Pesaro's cathedral on Via Rossini has an attractive Romanesque facade, and a history that goes back further than the present building. The composer Gioachino Rossini was born in Pesaro, and his home is one of the town's proudest tourist sights. In the composer's honor, each summer Pesaro hosts the Rossini Opera Festival. A stroll along the seafront, a coffee in Piazza del Popolo, and some free time for exploring in Pesaro will round off this day. Dinner and overnight in San Marino.



Day 5 – San Marino to The Puglia Region of the Adriatic

Today, after breakfast, we depart the region of Le Marche and head in a southerly direction along the Adriatic Coastal road so named "L'Adriatica". Today will be a long journey with several stops en-route; a good day to catch up on some rest and relaxation, reading or bringing up to date your travel journal. Along the way there will be some scenic views of the beautiful Adriatic Sea and the Apennine mountain ranges. Check in to our hotel, dinner and overnight in the Puglia Region outside of Bari in Bisceglie.

Day 6 – San Giovanni Rotondo and Monte Sant'Angelo.

After breakfast we will begin with a guided visit of the Shrine of Saint Pio, the Gallery of St Pio including the room in which this great modern day saint lived and eventually passed into eternity. We will also visit the tomb where his remains are visited by millions of pilgrims. Then onto Monte Sant'Angelo; the quaint village made holy and famous to Christians by Saint Michael the Archangel who appeared here in the 5th Century for the conversion of pagans. It was also the site where the Crusaders came to pay homage before their departures to the east. We will visit the Grotto of Saint Michael the Archangel, a pilgrim site since the 5th Century. *Time for mass/ at the Shrine of St. Pio.* Dinner and overnight in Bisceglie.

