



ITINERARI ARCHEOLOGICI IN PROVINCIA DI FOGGIA



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR IN THE ALTO TAVOLIERE

Sponsored by:

PROMODAUNIA

In collaboration with:

UNIVERSITA' DI FOGGIA

Texts of Anna Inprota and Marida Pierno (ArcheoLogica)

TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION:

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Troia – Lucera – Foggia – San Severo – Apricena – Sannicandro Garganico

4 days – 3 nights

1st day Thursday

Tour participants are picked up from the airport or from the railway station in Foggia. Then they are transferred by bus to one of the hotels in the area of Foggia, where the welcome cocktail is served. Dinner and overnight stay.

2nd day Friday

Troia - Lucera - Foggia

Breakfast in the hotel and departure for Troia.

Troia

The town is situated on a hill which overlooks the surrounding area of the Tavoliere. It was founded with its present name in 1019 on the ruins of the ancient Apulian site *Aecae*, which was considered an imperial community located along the famous *Via Traiana*. One of the most remarkable monuments of the Apulian Romanesque was erected in the centre of this ancient town and it is called **the Cathedral of Assunta**. The first part of the cathedral was built in the 11th century exactly in the same place where a much older church dedicated to S. Maria already

existed. The Cathedral was completed in the first part of the 12th century when the bishop Guglielmo II was still in power. In the adjoining rooms of the Cathedral, it is possible to admire the rich **Tesoro**. On the other hand, the church of **S. Basilio** was conceived in the Proto-Romanesque period. Most probably it was built in the same time when the town was founded under Byzantine influence. Later on, it was partially rebuilt in the 16th century and in the Baroque period. It is possible to visit the **Museo Civico**, which displays interesting archaeological finds originating from the Roman Era and those coming from the Medieval Period, as well as the **Museo Diocesano**, where some of the most precious exemplars of the famous *Extultet*, created in the *scriptorium* of the city during the Byzantine Period, are preserved.

Lucera

The town is considered one of the most important cultural centres of the Daunia region in Apulia. Lucera became a community with the Latin Rights in the period that goes from 315 to 314 a.C. At the very beginning, the town of *Luceria* was a borough in the 1st century a.C. and later on a Roman colony during the Augustus Era. During the Roman Empire Lucera was one of the main cities of the region because of its flourishing agriculture, sheep farming and wool production. During the Lombard domination it was a gastaldate and when Federico II reigned the period of greatest prosperity began. The wealth

and the strong growth of the population attracted attention of the Saracens. The Roman influences are still visible in the breathtaking **anfiteatro**, which was built between the 1st century a.C and the 1st century d.C. The magnificent **Castle** was erected in the 13th century by Carlo I d'Angiò on the ancient ruins of the Roman town and the great Federick's *palatium*. The French King ordered his proconsuls to design and build a pentagonal towered wall. Excavations revealed evidence of a pre-existing church and dwellings raised by the provencal community living there under Angevin rule. The Cathedral of Lucera (the so called **Duomo**) was constructed in the same period following the wish of Carlo II d'Angiò. Also the **Church of San Francesco** was conceived then. In the Nicastrì Palace it is possible to visit the **Museo Civico Giuseppe Fiorelli**, which safeguards a great variety of archaeological finds coming from the Roman era and the Middle Ages. It is worth visiting the **Museo Diocesano**, sited in a former 18th-century bishop's palace as it displays precious sacred works of art such as the famous Tesoro dell'Archivio Capitolare.

Lunch in the restaurant.

Foggia

The present urban area preserves much of the city's ancient origins especially in the neighbourhood of preexisting racetrack. Most probably archaeological finds excavated there belong to one of many neolithic villages which grew in this territory. In the Pre – Roman and Roman period, the development of this area blends with the history of the Arpi centre, which left some interesting archaeological finds safeguarded in the Museo Civico. Foggia was founded in the 11th century and it was chosen by Federico II to become the Imperial headquarter, where he decided to construct the famous *palatium* in 1223. Unfortunately, it was nearly completely destroyed in the course of time. Foggia became a very important commercial town in the Angevin period after having established "Dogana della Mena delle Pecore". The oldest part of the city is characterised by the **Cattedrale** dedicated to S. Maria Icona Vetere constructed following the rules of Romanesque building techniques. Later on, it was revised in the 17th century and after the famous earthquake. The Cathedral safeguards some interesting Romanesque masterpieces as well as a strongly worshipped Byzantine icon of Madonna, whose cult began in the 11th century. Foggia was nearly completely destroyed during the earthquake in 1731 but it developed once more under Bourbonic domination. The most important evidence of the strong growth of the city is still visible in some of noble palaces and Baroque churches such as the **Basilica** and the unique **Chiesa delle Croci (del Calvario)**. At the end of the most ancient part of the Via Arpi, it is possible to admire the rests of the already mentioned Federick's *palatium*. Close to it, there is the **Museo Civico** with a rich exhibition of archaeological finds such as ethnographic and historic remains of the ancient town. After passing by the **Tre Archi**, which are situated next to the museum, it is worth visiting the church of **S. Giovanni Battista**. Numerous museums in Foggia are spread all over the city: the **Museo del Territorio** (the Museum of Territory), the **Museo di Storia Naturale** (the Museum of the Natural History) and the **Pinacoteca "il 9cento"**.

Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

San Severo - Apricena - San Nicandro Garganico

Breakfast in the hotel and departure for Troia.

San Severo

It has ancient origins but it became a borough only in the 11th century. Its name comes from *Castellum Sancti Severini*, which was under Benedictine's control, whose San Pietro monastery was situated in the ancient city of *Torre Maioris*, called today Torremaggiore. This ancient town developed strongly in the course of time to become the most important Apulian centre, which enhanced the economic and social growth of the Tavoliere. It is here that the Governor of the Capitanata Province, of Cotando del Molise and of Regia Udienna lived until 1578. Then San Severo was under Federick's domination and under the Templars' influence as well as that of the Family Di Sangro, which ruled until 1809. The Baroque route in San Severo is particularly suggestive while it leads tourists through ecclesiastical buildings and aristocratic residences and allows everybody to discover pictureque alleys, squares and cloisters, which preserved their original character. It is worth visiting the **Museo dell'Alto Tavoliere** (the Museum of the Alto Tavoliere), which has been renovated only recently and, which occupies the historical seat of the ex-convent dedicated to San Francesco d'Assisi. The museum lets its visitors learn about habits and customs of different communities living in the territory of San Severo from the Prehistory to the Roman Era. There is the **Pinacoteca "Luigi Schingo"** inside the museum, which was established in 2006.

Apricena

The territory of Apricena offers a great variety of traces of ancient civilisations such as: an evidence of an early pleistocene human presence of the so called **Uomo di Apricena (Man of Apricena)**, whose rests were excavated in an old cave in Pirro nord, or different community settlements, which were founded throughout the centuries up to the period of the Romanization. The name *Precina* is registered for the very first time in some old manuscripts originating from 1157. Federico II loved the town and stayed there for many years. Later on, in the Angevin period, Apricena was given to the bishop of Lucera. In the old town, there is the 17th-century **Palazzo Baronale**, built on the ruins of the old Federick's Castle. At present, the Palazzo Paolicelli hosts a cultural association with the **Mediateca Federiciana**, which is entirely dedicated to the life history of the emperor as well as to his era. The old town preserves interesting remains of the 2nd – century church dedicated to **S. Martino**, which was renovated in the 17th century (the only original part of the building is the Torre dell'Orologio (the Clock Tower). Going towards the south from Apricena, tourists can visit the **Castel Pagano**, which was erected in the Norman and Suevo Period.

Lunch in the restaurant.

San Nicandro Garganico

The old town, which is called "**terra vecchia**" (the old land), is surrounded by a Medieval wall. It embraces the **Museo storico-archeologico, etnografico e della civiltà contadina** (The Archaeological Museum of History, Ethnography and Farmers' Community) established in the Palazzo Fioritto as well as the Castle in Sannicandro Garganico, which was most probably built in the Norman and Suevo period and preserves some visible elements typical of Rinascimento thanks to improvements introduced by the Della Marra family. The object has got a

3rd day

Saturday

square structure with four towers, square and circular ones. On the outskirts of the town, there is an archaeological site **Monte D'Elio** with a church dedicated to Santa Maria di Devia, built in the 11th century. It was embellished with magnificent frescos between the 13th and 14th century. Going towards the seaside, it is possible to admire the remains in opus reticulatum of the **Villa di Santannea**, which was built in the 1st century a.C., made larger in the Augustus Age and used as a dwelling in the Middle Ages.

Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

4° day Sunday return

Breakfast in the hotel. Participants are taken to the airport or to the railway station in Foggia.

The end of all services.

- Individual participation without bus transport € 220,00
- Individual participation with bus transport € 280,00
- Single room supplement: € 45,00

1 person free in a single room for every 25 paying persons

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in a 3*/4* hotel for 3 nights
- HB (breakfast and dinner)
- 2 x lunch in selected restaurants
- ¼ l of wine + ½ l of mineral water for each meal
- Welcome cocktail
- Tourist guide during excursions
- Bus service (on request)
- Taxes and provision for the services

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Extra drinks
- Admission fee
- Tips in restaurants
- Everything which is not mentioned in "PRICE INCLUDES"

- N.B. Offer is valid for a group of min. 25 paying persons.