



ITINERARI ARCHEOLOGICI IN PROVINCIA DI FOGGIA



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR ON THE GARGANO PENINSULA

Sponsored by:

PROMODAUNIA

In collaboration with:

UNIVERSITA' DI FOGGIA

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Monte Sant'Angelo - Pulsano - Vieste – Peschici Manfredonia - Mattinata

5 days – 4 nights

1st day Wednesday

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 Manfredonia, where the welcome cocktail is served. Dinner and overnight stay.

2nd day Thursday Monte Sant'Angelo - Pulsano

Breakfast in the hotel and departure.

Monte Sant'Angelo

The picturesque town is situated on the top of a mountain about 831 metres above the sea level and it overlooks the beautiful Gulf of Manfredonia. Monte Sant'Angelo has always been a suggestive village whose inhabitants have always worshipped the Archangel San Michele. It is believed that Archangel appeared here in one of the caves in the 5th century. As a result, this unknown town became one of the most interesting religious destinations for pilgrims arriving here from all over the world while following the famous *Via Sacra Langobardorum*. The sanctuary has been enlarged and

renovated throughout the centuries. It was erected in the Junno area, characterised by simple ground floor houses built along the narrow alleys of the town. This religious site has got an interesting history: at the end of the 5th century, after the first apparition of the Archangel, the bishop Lorenzo decided to create there a worship place. The first church turned into an "official" sanctuary for the Longobards, who often visited this place in the course of time. They left numerous epigraphic evidences of their visits on the walls and on the cellar of the building. On the highest point of Junno, the **Castello Normanno-Svevo-Angioino** was built. It has been renovated only recently and from here it is possible to enjoy some splendid panoramic views. Another interesting construction to be visited is the so called **Torre dei Giganti** (the Giants' Tower) with its pentagonal shape. The religious part of the history of the town can be experienced during a visit to archaeological remains of an ancient church dedicated to **San Pietro**. Only the Romanesque apse and the adjoining baptistery of **San Giovanni in Tumba**, called "Tomba di Rotari", can be still visited. In the same area, there is the famous **church of Santa Maria Maggiore**, which is a perfect example of the Romanesque architecture in Apulia. The **Museo delle arti e tradizioni popolari** (The Museum of Art and Popular Traditions) in Gargano "G.Tancredi" offers its visitors a possibility to learn

much about the history and culture of different communities living in this territory.

Lunch in the restaurant.

Pulsano

It is worth going for walk on the outskirts of the town, where some natural treasures can be admired. The route leads tourists towards the Abbey of **Santa Maria di Pulsano** - the monastery which has got very ancient origins. The main building of the abbey consists of a Romanesque church, which was partly dig out from the rock. It is entirely surrounded by other buildings, where ancient manuscripts were produced. Some architectural elements of the abbey are safeguarded in the Museum in Monte Sant' Angelo. The Vallone di Pulsano attracts tourists' attention, who stay in this area. It is a perfect place for those ,who want to admire the natural environment and the picturesque landscape of the Gargano Peninsula. Many visitors compare the Karst valleys of Vallone di Pulsano with the American Grand Canyon. It cannot be denied that it has something in common with the incredibly beautiful landscapes of Arizona or Colorado.

Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

3rd day Friday Vieste – Peschici

Breakfast in the hotel and departure.

Vieste

The old town dates back to the 10th century a.C.. Later on, Vieste was a Greek colony and a Roman borough. In the Middle Ages, it was regularly attacked by Saracens especially because of its favorable location. The old town overlooks directly the Adriatic Sea and it is characterized by narrow alleys and stairs which connect comfortably different areas of the town.

On the highest point above sea level, there is the Castle erected by Federico II and rebuilt in the 16th century.

The Romanesque Cathedral is dedicated to Assunta and it was renovated in the 18th century. According to the popular tradition it was built on the ruins of the ancient pagan temple. The small isle of Sant'Eufemia, where a lighthouse is situated, is very near to the old town and some of mysterious writings in Greek and Latin were found in its caves. Most probably they refer to the importance of divine presence in the life of the community living in Vieste. Another important evidence of the past times is evoked by "**chianca amara**", a huge piece of rock, where hundreds of inhabitants lost their lives after being decapitated in 1544 as a result of an attack of pirates. It is worth visiting the Roman site with the Villa of **Santa Maria di Merino**, sited in the neighbourhood of the sanctuary of the same name. The archaeological **Museo Civico "M. Petrone"** safeguards different objects found in the Gargano territory and which date back to the Roman period as well as to the Middle Ages. Not so far from the city centre it is possible to pay a visit to La Salata, an archaeological site, where remains of an ancient necropolis (from the 4th and 6th century d.C) were found. Along the way which leads tourists from Vieste to Peschici there is a great variety of unique constructions to be admired such as **trabucchi and coastal guard towers**, which were erected to defend the coast against the continuous attacks of the pirates.

Lunch in the restaurant.

Peschici

The origins of the town date back to 970, when a Slavic commandor Schiavoni Sueripolo decided to settle down on the rocky coast in front of the Adriatic Sea. The Byzantine Castle in Peschici is situated on the top of the hill and gives the tourists a possibility to admire a panoramic view from above. It can be easily reached on foot during long walks among narrow alleys and inside the labyrinth of small streets with cozy shops in the old town. Here tourists can pay a visit to the **Torre del Ponte**, too. Around the town, directly on the coastline there are many **trabucchi**, which were once used for fishing. It is an unforgettable experience to visit the prehistoric site called **Grottone di Manaccora**, which is a natural cave divided into different rooms, each of which was used differently, too. There are some traces of the handcrafts in the outer part of it while the inner part bears evidence of its use for funerals in the past.

Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

4th day Saturday Manfredonia – Mattinata

Breakfast in the hotel and departure.

Manfredonia

The city was founded in 1256 by Manfredi, the son of Federico II. The emblem of the history of Manfredonia is the Castle: it was just Manfredi, who constructed it in 1263. It was rebuilt under the Angevin and the Aragonese domination and today it hosts the **National Archaeological Museum**. Visitors can admire different archaeological finds dating back to the prehistoric times and to the Roman Era such as Daunian stele, which were stone funerary monuments. In the centre of the city tourists have a possibility to visit the **Cathedral** erected in the 17th century. It was destroyed and reconstructed in Gothic style. Going towards the south of the city it is worth visiting the remains of the ancient Roman colony *Sipontum*: an important commercial port. **The archaeological park of Siponto** preserves still one part of the wall, which was built in the 2nd century a.C, as well as some traces of public buildings of the past. The **Paleochrstian Basilica** was meant to have only one nave but it was extended in the 5th century with another two naves and a mosaic quadriportico. The magnificent Romanesque **Church of Santa Maria** was built on the ruins of a Roman palace. Its construction began in the 11th century but it was rebuilt partially in the 13th century. Along the famous *Via Sacra Langobardorum*, which lead the pilgrims towards Monte Sant'Angelo, there is a Romanesque building **S. Leonardo**, used as a *hospitale* for pilgrims until the 15th century.

Pranzo in ristorante

Mattinata

The ancient *Matinum* (whose origins date back to the 6th century a.C.) was considered a port under the Roman domination. Its history is brought back into life thanks to the great **Villa di Agnuli** which was built in the 1st century in the neighbourhood of the port. It was renovated during the late ancient period and it was still in use until the 7th century as it is evoked in different manuscripts. It is worth visiting the **Sansone collection**, preserved in the old pharmacy, where archaeological and etnographical finds coming from the surrounding area are displayed. In the old town, there is the **Museo Civico**, which preserves funerary objects dating back to the early centuries a.C. and which were discovered in the surrounding area. At the distance of about 3 kilometres from the town centre, on the top of the **Monte Saraceno** it is possible to visit the ancient necropolis situated high above the

sea level. It consists of hundreds of tombs excavated in rocks, which date back to 2600 years ago. Going towards the south, tourists have a possibility to admire the Monte Sacro (Sacred Mountain) with remains of the ancient Benedictine Abbey of Divine Trinity built in 1058..

Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

5th 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 € 240,00
- Individual participation with bus transport € 310,00
- Single room supplement: € 60,00

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

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in a 3*/4* hotel for 4 nights
- HB (breakfast and dinner)
- 3 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.