

Calabria, where the Tyrrhenian Sea kisses the Ionian Sea!

Italy will always be one of Europe's most requested travel destinations and last year there were about 2 million foreign tourists who spent their holidays in Italy's most under-appreciated region. The German Travel Association has recently selected the region of Calabria for its international conference.

Calabria stands out not only with its multicolored seashores and its large sandy beaches, but also with its impressive signs of the past.

Full of hidden and still to be explored attractions such as well-preserved castles, Greek settlements and some of the most beautiful villages in Italy, Calabria is waiting for you.

Services:

8-day bus rental from / to Lamezia Terme Airport

Local guide according to the program

1 night half board in good middle class hotel in the area of Cosenza

2 nights half board in good middle class hotel in the area of Crotona

4 nights half board in good middle class hotel in the area of Tropea

1 half day excursion to Cosenza

5 full day excursions:

- Crotona, Capo Rizzuto, Le Castella
- Pizzo Calabro, Serra San Bruno
- Reggio Calabria, Scilla
- Tropea, Capo Vaticano
- Locri, Gerace

1 typical ice-cream break (Pizzo Calabro)

1 tasting of typical products with Tropea red onions

1 farewell dinner in hotel

**Package price per person, 8 Days
from € 628,00**



Program

1st day - Arrival in Calabria

Meeting with our guide at the airport of Lamezia Terme and drive to the hotel in the Cosenza area. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight.

2nd day - Cosenza

After breakfast, explore the historic center of Cosenza, one of the most ancient cities of Calabria and is situated on seven hills. On a small hill you will find the Castello Svevo, originally built in the 5th century by Byzantines. In the afternoon we continue to your hotel in Crotona area, one of the most thriving cities of the Greek empire, and a center of culture and science built in the 6th and 5th centuries BC.

Hotel accommodation in the Crotona area and dinner. Overnight.

3rd day - Ionian coast: Crotona, Capo Rizzuto, Le Castella

Today we first visit the city of Crotona. Along the fortified walls of the castle lie the historic city centre with its noble palaces. Among the most renowned sites, the Castle of Charles V, the Cathedral, the Archaeological Museum and Piazza Pitagora. Then you will experience a nice trip on the Ionian Sea. Capo Colonna, the cape south of Crotona, is worth visiting both from an archaeological point of view and its beautiful location. The tip of the small peninsula south of Capo Rizzuto on the Ionian coast offers a very special attraction — an elaborately restored fort on the sea. Return to the hotel and dinner. Overnight.

4th day - Serra San Bruno and Pizzo Calabro

After breakfast we head back to the Tyrrhenian coast. On the way we stop to visit the famous Certosa di Serra San Bruno, a very important and renowned monumental monastic settlement founded at the end of the 1100s. Later we head for Pizzo Calabro, a town immersed in a wonderful natural scenery. It is of medieval origin with the buildings and narrow lanes sloping down towards the sea. After a walk through the old town and the ice cream break we visit the small, cave-church "Piedigrotta". The interior of the church is impressive - everything, including the figures of the saints, were carved in the tuff stone.

Hotel accommodation in Tropea area and dinner. Overnight.



5th day - Reggio Calabria and Scilla

Today you will visit the enchanting landscape of the Costa Viola to Scilla, a typical town for the region. Here you visit the old fishing village Chianalea and make a stop at the medieval Ruffo Castle and the Rocco Church. Then drive to Reggio Calabria, an elegant Liberty style town, an Italian variant of Art Nouveau. You will visit the National Archaeological Museum, which owns the richest collections of *Magna Græcia* and the famous Bronzi di Riace. Then take a walk along the promenade, which Gabriele D'Annunzio described as "Italy's most beautiful kilometer". Return to the hotel and dinner. Overnight.



6th day - Tropea and Capo Vaticano

After breakfast drive to Tropea, the "Pearl of the Tyrrhenian Sea", which is located on a 50 m high cliff. Tour of the old town, which is rich in old palaces and to 12th century Norman cathedral. Worth of visiting is also the Benedictine pilgrimage church of Santa Maria dell'Isola, which is surrounded by white sandy beaches. Then you visit an estate where the "Cipolla Rossa", the red Calabrian onion, is cultivated and processed. Continue to the quite unspoiled landscape at Capo Vaticano with lookouts on rough rocks and many small bays. Return to the hotel and dinner. Overnight.



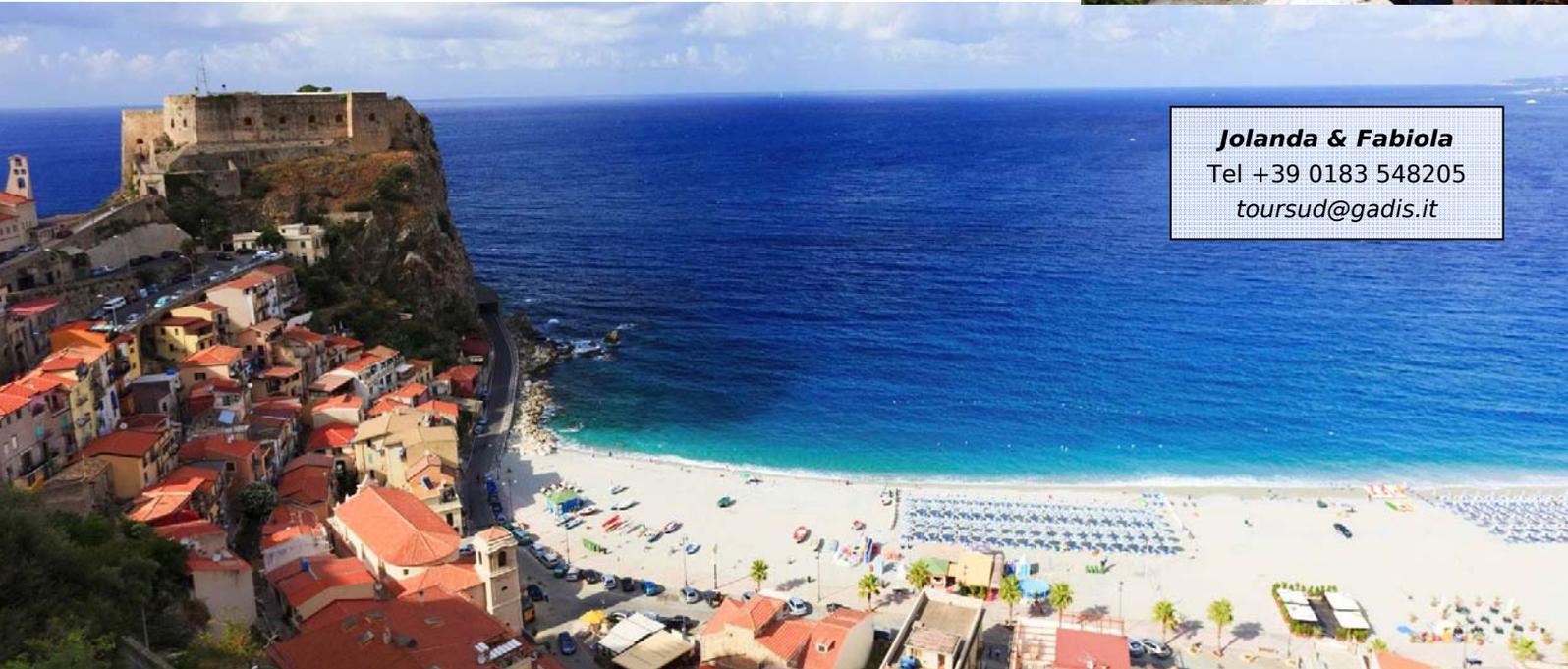
7th day - Locri and Gerace

Today you will travel towards the Ionian coast to the ruins of Locri, one of the first Greek colonies, dating from 673 BC. You will learn a lot about Demeter and Kore-Persefone and the relationship of these two deities to Calabria. In your next destination, Gerace, you can also feel the Hellenistic heritage. Gerace comes from the Greek word "Ierax", meaning sparrow hawk, and reminds of an old legend. Do you want to hear it? The town is located on a hill top with a gorgeous view on 50 kilometers of coast. The highlights of this medieval town are one of the largest churches in southern Italy and the Norman castle.

Return to the hotel and farewell dinner with 4-course typical menu. Overnight.

8th day - Farewell to Calabria

Along the coast you drive back to the airport of Lamezia Terme and Arrivederci Calabria!



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