

The fabulous southern tip of Italy.

1st DAY: Arrival to the airport or to the railway station.

Trasfer by bus from the airport of Lamezia Terme to Pizzo Calabro. Accomodation at the hotel **GRAN HOTEL ESPERIA ******, four-star along the "coast of Gods". Dinner at the hotel.

2nd DAY Vibo Valentia and TROPEA

Breakfast at the hotel and in the morning departure by bus to Vibo Valentia, which is located on a hilly landscape with a particular geographical position granting the view of the Gulf. It was the old Hipponion, the colony founded by the Greeks of Locri between the seventh and the sixth century B.C. In 192 B.C with the advent of Roman rule it was renamed Vibo Valentia. In the old centre of Vibo Valentia the geometrical layout of the medieval town is still intact. The residential centre is dominated by the solitary great Castle, built in the year 1000 by Roger the Norman; it is interesting because of its great cylindrical towers and the great door of the Angevin period. The town houses the State Archaeological Museum which contains several ruins dating back to the greek period. We will visit the ruins of the Proserpina's Temple and the the XVII century Cathedral with a baroque chapel dating back to the XIV century. We will walk and visit the main thoroughfare that literary cuts the town in two and it is full of noble palaces dating back to the XVII and XVIII centuries. Return to the hotel for lunch time. In the afternoon visit of Tropea, an ancient town emerging from a calcareous rock. Tropea, which is the most well-known jewel of the Mediterranean coast, is a small characteristic town of hidden squares and ancient palaces and churches. Visit to the interesting Cathedral, one of the most ancient calabrian churches, dating back to the Norman period. From a wonderful view on the whole coast we will admire the Benedictine Sanctuary of Saint Mary of the Island located on a great rock that has been linked to the mainland for two centuries. Then, following the unmistakable outline of the Aeolian Island on the horizon and the outline of the Coast of the Gods, now broken by many rocky bays, now soft and sandy, we will reach Capo Vaticano with the view of his "Faraglioni" and chance of swimming in the crystal water of very secluded beaches reached after climbing the dorse of a cliff. Return to the hotel, dinner and staying overnight.

3rd DAY Short-cruise to the Aeolian islands (extra)

Early in the morning departure by motorship to the Aeolian islands. Visit to **Stromboli** and circumnavigation of the island in order to see the famous " sciara di fuoco" and enjoy the view of the active volcano. Visit to **Lipari**, the main island of the archipelago, which is a beautiful town with white little houses. Lunch in restaurant in Lipari. In the afternoon visit of **Vulcano**. In the evening return to the hotel for dinner.

4th DAY: Reggio Calabria, the Bronzes of Riace, Scilla*

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning departure by bus to visit **Reggio Calabria**, following the outline of the Violet Coast, so called because of its particular violet nuances. In **Reggio Calabria** we will visit the two world-famous bronze statues found at Riace located today at Tommaso Campanella's palace since the national museum is closed for restauration. Then we will walk along the beautiful promenade "Falcomatà" on the sea-front, an ancient botanic garden that the italian poet Gabriele D'annunzio called the most beautiful kilometer in Italy. Lunch at restaurant. On the way back, stop in Scilla and visit to the historical Ruffo's castle and the typical neighbours of "Chianalea", famous for its fisher houses, which lie straight on the sea. In the evening return to the hotel for dinner.

5th DAY: Serra San Bruno/ Pizzo Calabro

In the morning departure by bus to Serra San Bruno. long the way we will see the lake Angitola, an important area famous all over the world for its variety of waterfowl. Visit to Serra San Bruno, a small town in the mountains, which is surrounded by magnificent woods of pine trees, lakes and smalls rivers. Visit

to its church and its important Charterhouse, a monumental monastic settlement founded by Bruno of Cologne at the end of 1100, which houses an interesting museum with about 20 areas recollecting objects and habitats of the monastic life. Lunch with typical dishes. In the afternoon along the way back we may visit a firm producing thunfish. Then visit of pizzo calabro. In the evening return to the hotel for dinner.

6th DAY: Gerace-Locri-Stilo

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning departure by bus to visit **GERACE**, a splendid medieval town rich in history and culture which is located on a hilly landscape at 500 metres above the sea level. Its foundation is ascribed to the neighbour inhabitants of the ancient Locri. Typical calabrian lunch. In the afternoon visit to **LOCRI EPIZEFIRI**, the first Greek polis in Calabria dating back to the 623 B.C. and one of the most important extant archaeological locations in Calabria. Visit to the "Antiquarium", the little local museum. In the afternoon departure to visit Stilo. Then we will continue long the ionic coast where we will reach the Hotel Mirabeau**** a Gasperina. Dinner and overnight

7th DAY: Capo Colonna / Crotona / Capo Rizzuto / Gasperina

Breakfast in the hotel. Visit to Capo Rizzuto, the south of the 3 Japigi promontories, one of the most important defence for the Turkish and Arabian invasions during the empire ottoman. Visit to Capo Colonna, a very beautiful place, rich of mysteries. Visit to the Archaeological park of Capo di Colonna, that preserves the last column which was part of the Hera Lacinia temple. The Nao Tower and the Madonna's little church overlooks the sea. In the archaeological Museum, opened by a year, you can see the ruins of the Magna Graecia and the ruins of the Roman's period. In the evening return to **Gasperina**. Dinner and overnight.

8th DAY: Departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer by bus from the hotel to airport of Lamezia Terme