

Basilicata Coast to Coast

2017 Ten-Day Tour of Potenza and Southern Italy

See places that the big tour operators don't visit.

Journey across exotic Southern Italy, from the eternal city of Rome into the breathtaking Amalfi Coast, the luxury of thermal spas, the flavour of local cuisine and the delightful intrigues of the Basilicata region - Italy's 'secret garden'. On your *Basilicata Coast to Coast Tour* discover the elixir of the laid back southern Italian lifestyle which has brought happiness and longevity to its people. This boutique tour is limited to an intimate group of eighteen travelers.



Day 1 (Friday, May 5)

Arrival in Rome, relax and explore Rome independently.

Hotel Mercure Roma

Overnight city/Meals

Rome / pm cocktail

Book your flights to arrive in Rome on Friday, May 5. (If you wish to have extra pre-tour nights at the group's hotel in downtown Rome, taking advantage of the special rate, you should let the Denver Sister Cities Office know when you make your reservations, and that can be arranged. Additional days are over and above the cost of the group tour.) Time today to rest or to explore Italy's capital independently. The appointed hotel in Rome, The Mercure Roma, is just off the Via Labicana and only a stone's throw away from the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the Basilica of San Clemente. It is ideally located for exploring ancient Rome and accessing either the Metro or tram stops.

At 8 pm meet your tour director and traveling companions at your hotel for a **welcome drink and hors d'oeuvres** and an overview of your trip.



Day 2 (Saturday, May 6) Rome to Regions of Lazio, Campania

Hotel Regina

Sorrento / B & D

After breakfast, an orientation of the Eternal City, takes you past celebrated sights, as you journey south to the Region of Basilicata. Watch the landscape changing from Lazio's hilltop towns draped with olive groves and Malvasia vineyards, to Campania's rich volcanic soils. We will stop on our journey for a mid-morning tour of the ancient, world-renowned site of Pompeii.

Your home for the next two nights will be the amazing town of Sorrento. Here you will enjoy a group welcome **dinner** at the historic garden restaurant, O'Parrucchiano, founded by a seminarian in 1868, and which has been in the family for four generations.



Day 3 (Sunday, May 7)

Sorrento

Hotel Regina Relais La Fattoria

Sorrento / B

Today is a free day to walk Sorrento, take a tour to one of the nearby islands, Capri, Procida or Ischia, and drink in the splendid coastal setting of this lively resort. You may also consider taking the local bus down the Amalfitana highway.

Day 4 (Monday, May 8)

Sorrento / Amalfi Coast / Vietri / Maratea

Hotel Martino

Maratea / B & D

Road conditions permitting, the rest of the day is dedicated to the Amalfi Coast. Witness some of the most unforgettable coastal scenery on your morning departure from Sorrento. An en-route stop for coffee and the view is a must.

At the eastern end of the splendid Amalfi Drive, the town of Vietri clings to the cliff face with a view onto one of the world's most spectacular pieces of coastal scenery. Stop at the capital of ceramic manufacturing on the Amalfi Coast to visit a family-run ceramic manufacturer where you will learn the age old techniques of this local craft.

We will continue on to the coastal town of Maratea, where we will have a group **dinner** at the Marina di Maratea overlooking the beautiful Tyrrhenian Sea.



Matera – World Heritage Site

Day 5 (Tuesday, May 9)

Maratea / Policoro / Metaponto / Matera

La Locanda di San Martino

Matera / B & L

In the morning we will depart from the western coast of Basilicata and travel toward its southern sea coast at Metaponto. **Lunch** will be included on the way.

We arrive early evening at the distinctive town of Matera, A UNESCO World Heritage Site, where residents have lived in caves since the Paleolithic period. Check into your spa hotel, and wander the streets at your leisure in this amazing town. Savor the experience of staying in thousand-year old cave dwellings adapted to the comforts of modern living. Your evening is free.

Day 6 (Wednesday, May 10)

Matera

La Locanda di San Martino

Matera / B & L

Start the day with a guided visit to the Crypt of the Original Sin to see the “Sistine Chapel of Rupestrain” wall paintings. You will have **lunch** among the Sassi at Le Botteghe, a typical regional restaurant; and then enjoy a locally guided visit of the Sassi of Matera to learn how the life of the stone-dwelling population revolved around the “vicinato.” Once a symbol of extreme poverty in the Italian south, the decaying city was evacuated in the early 1950’s and then reclaimed by the state to become one of the most fascinating cities in modern-day Italy.



In the afternoon, and the rest of the day you can enjoy the spa services available at your hotel and explore the town for dinner on your own.

Day 7 (Thursday, May 11)

Matera / Potenza

Grande Albergo

Potenza / B & D

Spend the morning at your leisure to enjoy the hotel spa facilities or for some last minute photo opportunities before we depart mid-afternoon. Our next stop, Potenza, Denver’s Sister City, is the capital of Basilicata. It has a mountainous setting and is built on steep inclines. It has the longest flight of pedestrian escalators in the country. We will settle into our hotel, and then enjoy a stroll and shopping along the pedestrian area Via Pretoria, after which we will all meet for a group **dinner** at Il Duomo.

Day 8 (Friday, May 12)

Potenza / Acerenza / Oliveto Citra

Grande Albergo

Potenza / B & D

Enjoy a morning tour to see the hill top town of Acerenza, the home of the famed Romanesque Cathedral of St. Maria Assunta and St. Canio. This cathedral (833 meters absI) has been the seat of a bishop since the IV century. It is one of the region’s most important architectural monuments and brought refined French art tastes to the area from the monastery of Cluny. Enjoy the sweeping views across the Potentino province.

We will return to Potenza for a meeting with the town mayor. Travelers may choose to go to the Archeological museum during their free afternoon.

Oliveto Citra - The evening destination is Oliveto Citra, where you will meet Raffaele, chef de rang and restaurant proprietor of La Masseria who has prepared a sumptuous, slow food **supper** in his country restaurant.

Day 9 (Saturday, May 13)

Potenza/Rionero in Vulture/Potenza

Grande Albergo

Potenza / B & L

This morning you will be treated to a **cooking class** that will include cuisine typical of the region – Tagliatelle & tomato sauce, fennel sausage, fave & chiccoria, chestnut cake, local wine. (Recipes subject to adaptation to fit the season). This **lunch** is included.



This afternoon drive through the VULTURE-MELFESE district for an unforgettable treat. Learn all about quality Aglianico wine. You will be the guests of the Sasso Family, local vintners of the 18th century, award-winning Eubea winery. Prof. Sasso, who has a life-long passion for wine making, will reveal the secrets of his trade. Stroll through the Aglianico vineyards and savour the rare quality of age-old wine cellars. A wine tasting at the **Eubea wine cellars** will include cheese and dessert.

Day 10 (Sunday, May 14)

Potenza/Montecassino/Ostia Antica

La Sirennetta

Lido di Ostia / B & L

Late morning departure for Rome, and the last overnight in Lido di Ostia before your return flights Monday morning. We will stop on our journey for a tour of the Abbey of Montecassino, a European stronghold during WWII. A group **lunch** will be en route at a local restaurant. Upon arrival in Ostia Antica, time permitting & on your own, you may see some of Italy’s best preserved Roman ruins just minutes away from your hotel.



Day 11 (Monday, May 15)

Transfer from your hotel to Rome airport.

Departure day / B

Departure from the hotel to Fiumicino's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport for your return home, or you may continue your trip on your own on an extended tour of Italy.

For more information, contact:

Denver Sister Cities (DSCI) office - 303-832-1336

Kathy Jackson – kathytalavera@hotmail.com

Anne Griffin – grifpotenza@hotmail.com

Or go to www.denversistercities.org

Denver Sister Cities is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by membership dues, City grants and public contributions. This trip is a fundraiser to sponsor school children wishing to study the Italian language and travel abroad.

All of this is included in your tour

- **Hotels** - 10 nights in 3 to 4 star hotels with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, service charge, state and local taxes, tips to baggage porters and hotel staff.

One of the hotels includes access to mineral baths / pools. Spa services are available at the traveler's discretion and expense. Hotels subject to change based on availability.

- **Meals** - 10 breakfasts, 4 group lunches, and 4 group dinners.
- **Excursions**
 - Amalfi Drive (*road conditions permitting*)
- **Culinary**
 - Cooking lesson in Rionero
 - Wine tasting in the Monte Vulture district.
- **Tours** – Locally guided tours with professional tour guides, entrance fees included.
 - Pompeii
 - Sassi of Matera
 - The Crypt of the Original Sin
 - The Cathedral of Acerenza
 - Walking tour of old Potenza
- Fully air-conditioned motor coach accommodating 18 passengers.
- Final transport to Rome airport.
- Services of a professional, multi-lingual Tour Director throughout the trip.

Price (based on 12 travelers)*
\$2,650 Double occupancy
\$3,055 Single occupancy

Price (based on 14 travelers)*
\$2,450 Double occupancy
\$2,855 Single occupancy



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Important Travel Information

In event that a scheduled tour item must be canceled or changed due to circumstances out of the control of the group organizers, every effort will be made to provide a comparable alternative. No refunds will be made.

Luggage per person will be limited to **two** bags, of the following sizes: one 55 linear inches (e.g. 25 x 18 x 11.5); one carry-on bag (e.g. backpack, overnight bag) no more than 45 linear inches.

Trip and prices are based on a minimum of twelve travelers.

All travelers are responsible for their own airfare and arriving at the appointed hotel on or before the published departure date of the tour bus.

Final pricing, based on number of travelers, will be locked in on February 15, 2017.

Travelers must obtain traveler's insurance.

Participants will be responsible for signing an agreement with Denver Sister Cities and returning it to the office with the initial deposit.

Deposits in the amount of \$1,000 are due to the Denver Sister Cities office by Friday, November 18, 2016, with the balance due on Friday, March 31, 2017. ***To secure your reservation in advance, you may send \$500 at any time to the Denver Sister Cities office.***

Spaces will be held based on receipt of deposits.

Any expenses incurred over and above the costs covered by the trip, outlined above, are the sole responsibility of the individual traveler.

The cost of an Italian resident Tour Director, and an Italian speaking DSCI Representative are included in the cost of the trip.

Airfare and trip extensions may be arranged directly through Anna Vann, North West Travel, 303-650-1057, email tmvenv@msn.com, or by the individual traveler.

** Prices are per person and subject to change due to fluctuation of the euro.*

*** In the event there is a financial overage from the trip, those amounts will be forfeited by travelers and deemed a donation. Appropriate tax statements will be mailed to travel participants once those amounts are established.*

Price (based on 16 travelers)*
\$2,325 Double occupancy
\$2,730 Single occupancy

Price (based on 18 travelers)*
\$2,200 Double occupancy
\$2,605 Single occupancy