



LECCE: the "FLORENCE OF THE SOUTH"



Lecce is a refined and aristocratic city, spiritual and intellectual rather than economical and commercial. Its class comes from centuries of civil life, from the ancient Romans up to now. Lecce in past was called "Athens of the Puglie" thanks to the beauty and richness of its monuments and its traditions. Its baroque style reserves it the appellation of "**Florence of**



In fact it is possible to appreciate the local seventeenth century style, rich of motives sculptured in the tender stone from Lecce. Here, the presence of several religious orders, gave rise to a succession of churches with magnificent façades, open air altars, real windows and so on.

The secret of the baroque style is in the stone from Lecce: a marble limestone with a compact and homogeneous grain, but so tender and easy to work. The best baroque example is the Santa Croce basilica.

OTRANTO: the "ORIENTAL DOOR"

Otranto, also called "**Oriental Door**", faces the Straits that take its name: the Otranto Canal. This canal is located on the South of the Adriatic Sea, in the most oriental place in Italy.

The two medieval sighting towers testimony the nightmare of the Turks



S. MARIA DI LEUCA: "DE FINIBUS TERRAE"

The name Santa Maria di Leuca was given by the ancient Greek sailors who came from the East lands. They saw this place always lightened by the sun and so they called it "leukos", meaning white. The rest of the name comes from the landing of S. Pietro from Palestina that started his evangelization just here and paid honour to the Virgin. The name "**De finibus terrae**" comes from the Romans. It rises in the most southern part of Salento, a magic position where the Adriatic Sea and the Ionic Sea



GALLIPOLI: the "CITTA' BELLA"

The city of Gallipoli, from the Greek "**Beautiful City**" is a pearl within the blue waters of the Ionic. It was an ancient town of fishermen and sailors and a fortress against the Turks. With its wonderful beaches, its oriental charm, the beautiful historical monuments, the perfumes of the healthy and delicious traditional cooking, it is a favourite tourist destination.



The town is divided in the old city and the new village. The historical centre rises on a calcareous island: it is full of ancient buildings and frescoes and it is linked to the land by a brick bridge. The VI century boundary walls were lowered to create the panoramic view of the small island. Here you can see all the Gulf's coast.



After crossing the bridge you can admire the Greek-Roman fountain that is considered the most ancient in Italy. Here you enter in the new village. The town has wonderful beaches along the coast and it is equipped with hotels and camp sites.

A **green** and **blue**
world ... in a
mixture of art and
traditions



Salento is the land called “the heal of Italy”.
It is rich in history and traditions. Its strong
points are the beauty of its landscapes (there
are more than 250 Km of coast sandy and low
but also high and indented with 1390
different species of flower plants), its
architectural value, its historical monuments,
its hospitality, its magic atmosphere, its
warm sun, its blue sky, its crystal sea and, of
course, its dreamlike coast.

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SALIENTO

