

Calabria: Italy's Untamed Soul

8 Days Itinerary

Day 1 – Welcome to Calabria: The Journey Begins

Arrival at **Lamezia Terme Airport** and transfer by coach to the hotel. Check-in and room allocation.

After your journey, enjoy some time to relax before your first **dinner featuring authentic Calabrian flavours**. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 – Capo Vaticano & Tropea: Paradise in the Waves

After breakfast, departure to **Capo Vaticano**, a breathtaking cape overlooking the crystal-clear Tyrrhenian Sea. On clear days, **the Aeolian Islands** can be seen in the distance.

Continue to **Tropea, the "Pearl of Calabria"**, spectacularly perched on a cliff above the sea. A stroll through the charming old town reveals historic palaces, hidden courtyards, and artisan workshops. Highlights include the **Norman Cathedral** and the famous **Church of Santa Maria dell'Isola**, scenically located on a rock above the sea.

Optional: visit to an olive oil mill with tastings of local olive oil, cheese, and regional products. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 – Locri & Gerace: Into the Heart of Magna Graecia

Breakfast and departure to **Locri**, one of the most important archaeological sites of Magna Graecia. Discover ancient walls, theatres and temples from the 7th century BC. Visit to the Antiquarium, home to precious artefacts.

In the afternoon, journey on to **Gerace**, one of Italy's most beautiful villages. Amid picturesque cobbled alleys and panoramic views, you'll visit the grand **11th-century cathedral** – the largest in Calabria – and the **Norman castle** built by Robert Guiscard. Final stop: the **Gothic church of San Francesco**, which houses the damaged tomb of the noble Ruffo family. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 4 – Zungri & Vibo Valentia: Rock Settlements & Ancient Cities

After breakfast, departure to **Zungri**, a hidden gem in Calabria's hinterland. Explore the extraordinary **Byzantine rock settlement** – inhabited until the 14th century – with around 80 cave dwellings and chapels carved into sandstone. A mystical, timeless place.

Tasting break with homemade bread, cheeses and spicy salami.

In the afternoon, continue to **Vibo Valentia**, a town with Greek-Roman origins (ancient Hipponion). Walking tour past its highlights, including the impressive **Norman-Swabian castle**, now home to the Archaeological Museum. From the ramparts, take in sweeping views of the **Aeolian Islands**. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

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Day 5 – Serra San Bruno & Pizzo Calabro: Monks, Castles & Ice Cream Legends

Breakfast and departure to **Serra San Bruno** for a visit to the famous **Carthusian Monastery**, founded in 1091 – one of only three in Italy – immersed in peace and spirituality.

In the afternoon, on to **Pizzo Calabro**, a charming coastal town. Visit the **Aragonese Castle**, known for the execution of Joachim Murat, Napoleon's brother-in-law and former King of Naples. Then admire the unique **Piedigrotta Church**, carved directly into a sea grotto.

Optional: tasting of the legendary **Tartufo di Pizzo**, one of Italy's most famous ice cream desserts (supplement applies). Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6 – Day at Leisure or Optional Excursion to the Aeolian Islands

Enjoy a free day to relax or take part in an optional excursion by bus and boat to the **Aeolian Islands**.

Day 7 – Reggio Calabria & Scilla: History, Sea & Greek Legends

After breakfast, travel south to **Reggio Calabria**, the largest city in the region. Visit the **National Archaeological Museum**, home to the world-famous **Riace Bronzes**, masterpieces of ancient Greek sculpture.

Enjoy a walk along the seafront promenade, once described by Gabriele D'Annunzio as "the most beautiful kilometre in Italy".

In the afternoon, continue to **Scilla**, one of Italy's most scenic villages, linked to Homer's Odyssey. Explore the romantic **Chianalea district**, a fishing village where houses rise directly above the sea. End with a visit to the **Ruffo Castle**, towering majestically above the Strait of Messina. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 8 – Arrivederci Calabria!

After breakfast, check-out and transfer to the airport. Departure with unforgettable memories, scents and images from this authentic and captivating region.

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