



4 Sept 2020 – 2 Oct 2020

From \$AUD6599pp* twin share

Ex Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Hobart, and Darwin.

Price includes airfares and land content. Our preferred carrier is Emirates, or you can choose your own airline. All travel is organised by Axis Travel Centre. Add \$600 for single supplement.

This offer applies from 25 May 2020 and supersedes all other offers.

COVID-19 PRICE IMPACT

A deposit of \$550 will reserve your place in September. At the moment we don't know how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the cost of air travel when regular services resume so we can't be 100% sure the above price will hold firm. You will be advised of the final tour price once airlines release their schedules and prices, and the AUD vs Euro exchange rate is known. In the event that an increase in price means the September 2020 tour is no longer affordable for you, and you no longer wish to go, your deposit will be refunded in full.

This tour is for people who love the Italian language and culture

Small group, experiential travel at its best, this tour is for people who love Italy, and who want to learn Italian or improve their Italian language proficiency. Italian language beginners are very welcome.

Over four fabulous weeks, the Lecce Italian Language Experience will immerse you in the Italian language surrounded by the culture, history and culinary delights of Lecce and the Salento. Whether you have already been to Italy or whether it is your first time, Baroque Lecce, the School of Italian for Foreigners and the unexplored south are waiting. A truly memorable experience in this amazing part of Italy is guaranteed.

The package includes

- Return Economy Class airfare to Rome and a one-way connecting airfare to Brindisi.
- Arrival and departure meet/greet and transfer assistance if on group flights
- Four weeks of intensive language tuition at the School of Italian for Foreigners in Lecce
- Day trips – to the Adriatic Coast, and the historic towns of Gallatina and Otranto
- Budget self-contained apartment in the historic old walled city of Lecce (**2 October check-out**).
- Homestay accommodation option available – for a complete language immersion experience
- Cooking classes
- A maximum of 15 people in the group plus tour leader*
- Escorted in Italy by me, Raffaele Tardivo – your personal and experienced tour leader with extensive local knowledge (I have been taking groups to Lecce since 2012)
- An unforgettable experience in the Salento region of Italy
- Exclusive optional extras only available to tour participants
- 24/7 Travel Agency support via Axis Travel Centre (SA)
- The Axis Travel "[SECURITY UMBRELLA](#)"©, free to you and exclusive to Axis, means all monies paid to Axis are guaranteed in case of insolvency of the airlines, other suppliers or of the agency itself.

Additional Costs

- Quality Travel insurance is essential – this can be arranged by Axis Travel Centre
- Travel and accommodation in Italy **after** 2 October 2020
- Your own discretionary spending including food, entertainment, and other expenses
- Individual or group activities not organised by the school.

My services to you as tour leader

I will be there 24/7 to provide information, support, advice, and as your interpreter.

I will be your link to the Italian language school in Lecce.

I will share with you my knowledge, experience and passion for Lecce and the riches it has to offer.

Free time

There is actually plenty of free time with many days off, including most afternoons and weekends. Lessons are held Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm with excursions on Fridays. The program is very flexible and there is plenty to do. Take a Friday off and have a long weekend in Venice, Rome or elsewhere. Hire a car and explore the region some more. Hire a bike and ride to the beach. Or just relax and soak up the ambience of beautiful Lecce.

Cost of living

The south of Italy is still a relatively inexpensive place to visit – for example you can buy a pizza and a beer for about 10 Euro (about \$20). You can live comfortably on \$AU100 – \$AU200 per day.

Travel Itinerary

The following is an **indicative and flexible** travel itinerary departing from Australia on 6 September, arriving in Rome on 7 September and connecting to Brindisi and Lecce on the same day. The itinerary allows for four weeks in Lecce, departing from Rome on Friday 4 October, and arriving back in Australia on Sunday 6 October. Flights include a return airfare to Italy and a one way connecting flight from Rome to Brindisi.

Date	Description
Fri 4 September	Depart Australia
Sat 5 September	Arrive in Rome then connect to Lecce
7 Sept – 2 Oct	24 days of language, culture, food, fun, and great company
Fri 2 October	Depart Lecce for Rome. Depart Italy
Sat 3 October	Return to Australia

Please note: Arrival and departure dates are flexible. This is a suggested itinerary only. It's intended for those who do not wish to extend their stay or must be back in Australia for the week beginning 5 October.

Using an exclusive "Flexi-Fare" you can decide to follow the suggested itinerary or build more travel around the "Flexi-Fare" option. Before you pay airfares in full, please advise us if you wish to amend flight dates and cities of arrival and departure, or class into or out of Europe, as we can usually do this (subject to availability) at the lowest cost possible when booking via Axis Travel Centre - as long as you meet us for the **Lecce** part! The professional staff at Axis Travel Centre will assist and guide you.

Important note: Our responsibility to you ends on Thursday 1 October which is also your last night of accommodation. Check out is Friday 2 October. Additional nights in Lecce can be purchased for \$85 pp per night single or \$65 pp per night double. It is your responsibility to organise travel and accommodation after 24 May. This is able to be done in advance through Axis Travel Centre or from Lecce while you are there. The tour leader can assist you with any travel arrangements made in Lecce. The two most commonly used travel options after Lecce are:

- Train to Rome then continue your journey back to Australia or for more travel in Italy and Europe. Book your train fare in Lecce. It should cost about €65 (about \$110).
- Fly from Brindisi to continue your journey. Use Axis Travel to book your flight. Travel to Brindisi airport from Lecce via the Airport Shuttle for €20 (about \$35) or by private taxi for €60 (about \$100).

Booking and Payment

The Lecce package is conditional on using Axis Travel Centre for flights as part of our group booking. Exact costs will be quoted to each before monies requested. A copy of your passport is required before booking.

The sooner you commit and pay the better. Airfares are subject to change as is the exchange rate. The tour will be closed off once there are 15 participants. You can join the group at any time subject to places being available, but delaying your decision may mean higher airfares.

Once tickets are paid for, strict amendment and cancellation fees apply. These will be detailed to you before you commit.

How to Pay

Axis Travel Centre accepts payment by credit card, bank transfer or in cash.

As an additional layer of security, you should strongly consider paying by credit card. If payments for travel components need to be reversed, this can only be done if you have paid by credit card. Reversal is not available for bank transfer or cash payments.

Credit card payments attract transaction fees (Visa and MasterCard 1.8%, American Express 2.2%) while bank transfers and cash do not.

Payment Options

Option 1: Pay in full – Pay the full amount up-front with no more to pay. Air and land is paid in full.

Option 2: The 50% plan – Pay 50% of the package price upfront with the remainder payable 90 days before departure. This option means you can join the tour, lock in half of the package price and have more time to pay should you need it. However changes to exchange rates, school charges and other factors may lead to an increase in the remaining 50% so the sooner you finalise your payment the better. Should the price go up, the maximum increase will be capped at 5% of the outstanding balance.

Option 3: Deposit now, balance later – Pay a deposit of \$550 to hold your place on flights and the tour. However costs may vary until your final payment is made. Changes to exchange rates, fares, fuel levies, security, and airport charges, and the availability of seats on flights can all increase the costs. Your deposit secures your and will be deducted from the final balance. Once the balance is paid the price is locked in as per the package price applicable on that day. Deposits are non-refundable as are all paid package costs.

If you can afford a little luxury, talk to Axis Travel Centre about upgrading to Business or First Class.

Travel Insurance

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, insurance companies have stopped selling travel policies. It's very likely that when sales do resume, there will be significant increases in the cost of policies, specific exclusions for COVID-19, much tighter conditions relating to other viral and bacterial illnesses and, no coverage at all in the event of an epidemic or pandemic.

Good travel insurance has never been more important and Axis Travel will guide you through all the options and alternatives available to you, explain how any changes to travel insurance will affect you, and offer you quality policies to choose from as they become available.

“Security Umbrella”© Protection

Booking with Axis Travel Centre gives you FREE protections under their unique **SECURITY UMBRELLA**© protection package. This includes the SAFI [Scheduled Airline Failure Insurance] policy that protects you in case of the financial failure of an airline, refunding you for your paid ticket cost*, plus protections with their Client Trust Account Fidelity Insurance, Professional Indemnity insurance and their adherence to legal standards required via their accreditations with AFTA, ATAS, CLIA, ETG and CRUISECO, complimented with over 42 years of expertise and experience in the Travel and Tourism industry.**

As at May 2020 no airline has offered **SAFI protections if you booked travel with them direct. Axis Travel Centre remains the only travel agent in South Australia offering this protection and notably the only travel agency offering the full benefits of the **SECURITY UMBRELLA**© protection package.*

To book for September 2020 contact Max Najar at Axis Travel now on max@axistravel.com.au or call him on 08 84331133, and reserve your place. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Raffaele Tardivo

Tour Organiser and Leader

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“Where professional advice and quality service matter most”



Member of the Independent Travel Group

Your booking is safe with us

MEMBER ACCREDITED

* Price includes airfares, fuel levies, land content and tour escort. The quoted cost is an estimate only. The final package cost will depend on the airfare chosen and time of purchase. Minimum tour group number is nine persons.

COVID-19 – What have we learned?

The COVID-19 coronavirus has caused disruption on a global scale with major problems erupting in travel, tourism and many other sectors of the world's economy.

As a result the May 2020 Lecce Italian Language Experience had to be cancelled.

The pandemic will eventually come under control and life will return to normal. Before too long planes will be flying again, cruise ships will be sailing again, and people will be travelling again. So what lessons did I learn from COVID-19 and what advice would I give to someone about to travel.

1. Use an accredited travel agent to organise your travel.

The internet has made it a breeze for anyone to book and pay for their travel online. It's great fun playing travel agent and finding that absolute bargain, be it an airfare, accommodation, insurance, or a tour. It's so easy. What could possibly go wrong? Well how about natural disasters, political and social unrest, airline bankruptcy, and of course COVID-19 just to name a few. Thankfully these events are rare but if one of these things happens while you are overseas or about to travel, then you need all the help you can get and a good travel agent is hard to beat.

Once it was clear that the May 2020 trip would have to be cancelled, Max Najar of Axis Travel Centre and I were in constant contact with the singular aim of making sure that all of our clients would be looked after and would be out of pocket as little as possible as a result of the cancellation.

All our clients who booked their travel and insurance with Axis had little or no out of pocket costs. Those who did not book their travel and/or insurance with Axis also had their out of pocket costs kept as low as possible but they were on their own to deal with whoever they booked their travel with, and with their insurance company if they had to make a claim. At all times we made sure that everyone was kept fully informed of what was happening and what they had to do to minimise any losses.

I couldn't have done this without Max Najar and the other wonderful people at Axis Travel Centre.

2. Make sure you have good travel insurance

Our experience following the cancellation of the May 2020 tour during the COVID-19 virus outbreak is very clear. Quality travel insurance is absolutely essential. You are strongly urged to purchase your insurance from Axis Travel and at the time you pay your deposit. Some policies will not protect you if taken out after you have paid for your travel.

Axis Travel Centre offers quality policies, usually with no policy excess payable on claims. If pre-existing medical conditions apply, they will also assist you with your application. In the event of you having to make a claim, they will assist you with all the paperwork.

Cheap products including those linked with some credit cards are to be avoided and in the event of having to make a claim, you will be on your own. A low price will almost certainly mean significant claim limits and exclusions including not covering pandemics and epidemics. You should carefully read the PDS Product Disclosure Statement of the policy you intend to buy so you know exactly what it covers. Axis Travel Centre will advise and assist you with any policy purchased through them.

You are spending thousands of dollars on the holiday of a lifetime. So why risk all that money by skimping on insurance? It does not make sense and if something does go wrong, it will almost certainly be a case of false economy.

Thank you

Raffaele Tardivo
19 May 2020