



**4 Sept 2020 – 1 Oct 2020**

From \$AUD4900pp\* twin share, land only  
Price covers land content and tour escort. Accommodation is twin share.

Single supplement add \$600. Airfares are not included.

**\*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 are unsure how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the final cost of this package. Payment in full will guarantee this price. If you opt to pay a deposit and the rest later, you'll be advised of the final land only tour price when it falls due. Variables that may change include the exchange rate, changes in accommodation and tuition fees.

## **Baroque Lecce and Italy's unexplored south are waiting**

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.

At the heart of the Lecce Italian Language Experience is a four week program that will immerse you in the Italian language surrounded by the culture, history and food of Lecce and the Salento region of Puglia.

Whether you have already been to Italy or whether you are going for the 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**

- Arrival and departure meet/greet and transfer assistance if part of group travel
- 24 days in Lecce and at the School of Italian for Foreigners
- Day trips – to the Adriatic Coast, and the historic towns of Galatina, and Otranto.
- Budget self-contained apartment in the historic old walled city of Lecce (2 Oct checkout)
- Choose Homestay for complete language immersion
- Cooking classes
- A maximum of 15 people in the group
- 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)
- Exclusive optional extras only available to tour participants
- An unforgettable experience in the Salento region of Italy.

### **Additional Costs**

- Quality travel insurance is essential
- International airfares; and travel and accommodation in Italy away from Lecce
- 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 and participant**

- I will be there 24/7 to provide assistance, support, advice, information 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

The program is very flexible. There is plenty of free time and days off including most afternoons and weekends. Lessons are held Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm with day trips on Fridays. You could 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 in beautiful Lecce.

## Cost of living

The cost of living in southern Italy is very reasonable – for example you can buy a pizza and beer for about €10. You can comfortably on \$AU60 – \$AU100 per day.

## Itinerary

The following is an indicative 24 day program. The core dates are those of the Italian language course which runs from 7 Sept – 1 Oct. A detailed itinerary will be sent to you once you commit to coming.

Date	Description
Sat 5 Sept	The Lecce Italian Language Experience begins
7 Sept – 1 Oct	24 days of language, culture, food, fun, and great company
Thu 1 Oct	Italian language course finishes
Fri 2 Oct	Depart Lecce – depart Italy

**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.**

## Conditions (please read carefully):

**A non-refundable deposit of \$550 is required per person with balance payable in full within 30 days. The deposit will be deducted from the final balance.**

Payment of a deposit will hold your place on the tour but costs may vary until your final payment is made. We strongly recommend paying the total package price as soon as practical to avoid increases that may occur for example as a result of exchange rate changes. Once the balance is paid, the package price is locked in and guaranteed. The group will be closed off once there are 15 participants.

You are responsible for organising your own travel arrangements including international flights and internal travel in Italy to and from Lecce. Our travel partners, Axis Travel Centre, can help with all your travel needs.

## Bookings

To book contact our travel partners, Axis Travel Centre, and ask for Max Najjar (see below). Axis can also organise flights, insurance, and attend to any other travel needs you may have. Axis Travel clients have additional peace of mind through “[SECURITY UMBRELLA](#)”©. Exclusive to Axis and provided free to its customers, it means all monies paid to Axis are guaranteed in case of insolvency of the airlines, other tour suppliers or of the agency itself.

## Raffaele Tardivo - Tour Leader

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	<b>MAX NAJAR</b> "Masterclass" Travel and Lifestyle Specialist <i>Professionally accredited since 1978</i> 220 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton, South Australia, 5063. Direct TEL: 08 8433 1133 Direct FAX: 08 8433 1122 Direct EMAIL: <a href="mailto:max@axistravel.com.au">max@axistravel.com.au</a> WEB : <a href="http://www.axistravel.com.au">www.axistravel.com.au</a>	 MEMBER	 ACCREDITED	 Your booking is safe with us
		 AUSTRALASIA Travel Agent Member	 The Cruise Specialists	 Accredited Agent

**\* The quoted cost is an estimate only. The variables include the exchange rate, changes in accommodation and tuition fees. The final cost will be locked in once the total amount is paid. The minimum tour group size 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 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.

### **Raffaele Tardivo - Tour Leader**

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