

On the road with Avis in Italy



***Welcome
to Italy***

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Useful phone numbers



Useful phone numbers

For specific emergencies, the main numbers to contact in Italy are as follows:

Carabinieri 112
Police 113
Fire 115
Ambulance 118

Information center of the highway department
24/7 +39 06 43632121

CCISS Travel Information 1518

Avis Rent Assistance 24/7

If you need emergency roadside assistance from anywhere in Italy call the

Avis 24-hour assistance number:

800.80.11.80 (if calling from Italy)

+39 02 66165527 (if calling from outside Italy)

For reservation information or to extend your rental call our call center at the following number:

199 100 133*

* The cost per call from a fixed telephone is € 0.26 per minute plus € 0.12 at connection VAT included. The cost from a mobile phone varies according to the service provider that is used to make the call.

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About Avis



About Avis

In Italy **Avis** has more than **200** locations and more than **10** operational centers.

Our commitment to delivering first class quality service is reflected in our company's "**We try harder**®" philosophy.

We continuously strive to provide innovative services and flexible solutions to enhance the travel experience for our customers.

At Avis we always put the customers first!

Avis fleet in Italy

With more than **21,000** vehicles, ranging from a compact to intermediate and 9-seater passenger van.

Avis has a car for every occasion!

Avis cars are rigorously checked between each rental.

Choose your vehicle

The **Avis Fleet Guide** is a guide to the vehicles generally available.

Car specifications are given as a *general guide only and are subject to change*.

Trunk capacity is only an estimate of the number of luggage pieces that will fit into a vehicle.

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Avis fleet

small

citycar **PETROL**

manual



Fiat
Nuova Panda
or similar

4 2

economy **PETROL**

manual



Nuova Lancia Y
or similar

5 2

economy **DIESEL**

manual



Fiat Grande
Punto 1.3 MJ
or similar

5 3

economy **PETROL**

automatic



Nissan
Micra Matic
or similar

4 2

medium

compact **DIESEL**

manual



Ford Focus
or similar

5 3

station wagon **DIESEL**

manual



Opel Astra SW
or similar

5 5

compact **DIESEL**

automatic



Mercedes
Classe A
or similar

5 3

cabriolet **DIESEL**

manual



Peugeot 207
Cabrio
or similar

4 2

Avis fleet

large

premium DIESEL

manual



**Alfa Giulietta
2.0 JTD**

or similar

5 3

multispace DIESEL

manual



Renault Scenic

or similar

5 4

executive DIESEL

manual



BMW Serie 3

or similar

5 4

large p.carrier DIESEL

manual



Ford Galaxy

or similar

7 5

Basic equipment:

All **Avis** cars in Italy have power steering, central locking, front electric windows, air bags, air conditioning and ABS

large

luxury DIESEL

automatic



**Mercedes
Classe E**

or similar

5 4

passenger van DIESEL

manual



Fiat Scudo

or similar

9 6

4 x 4 DIESEL

manual



Renault Koleos

or similar

5 4

(anti lock brakes). Most car groups are diesel only and some are automatic transmission only. These are clearly marked. If you want to know more about the **Avis** fleet please ask at the **Avis** counter.

Avis will confirm car group reserved, but cannot guarantee a specific make and model.

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Avis Additional Services



Avis Additional Services

Third Party Liability: All vehicles are covered by compulsory insurance (**RCA**) in accordance with existing laws and in the countries specified in the green card.

The **R.C.A. insurance** covers for civil liability towards third parties.

Optional Products for reducing and / or removing customer economic responsibility in case of damage or theft of the Avis vehicle.

Customer is economically responsible in case of damage, loss or theft of the **Avis** vehicle or part of it, up to the amount shown in the signed rental agreement.

Customer can decide to purchase the optional products **Super CDW**, **Super TP** or **Super Cover** for removing the economic responsibility in case of damage, loss or theft of the **Avis** vehicle or part of it.

Avis reserves the right to charge renters for damages to the Avis vehicle caused by negligence.

In case of damage, theft or traffic violations, **Avis** will charge the amount of **Euro 50.00** VAT included for administrative expenses.

Super PAI and PAI PLUS

Avis offers two types of optional **Personal Products** covering injury and death to the driver and the other vehicle's occupants, loss or damage to the personal belongings in the vehicle and specified additional expenses incurred following an accident in the **Avis** vehicle.

Your rate of package may include one or more of these coverages, so please check the inclusions carefully.

Other information

Under Age Surcharge

You must be *at least 21 years old to hire a vehicle.*

If you are under **25** years old a **Young Driver Surcharge** will apply.

Fuel

Vehicle is always provided with a full tank.

We advise you to refuel the vehicle before returning the car.

If you do not, you will be charged for the refueling service plus cost of fuel per liter.

Location Surcharge

Applies for rental with pick up at airports or railway stations (can be already included in your rate).

VAT: 21% in Italy.

VLF: (Vehicle License Fee)

Applies to all rentals in Italy. Calculation indicated on your rental agreement (may be included in your rates).

One Way Fee

Applicable if car is not returned to the same pickup location. The surcharge will be not applied if the returning location is in the same city of pickup location.

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Avis Rental Experience



Renting the Car

At the rental counter please provide the **Avis Representative** with your reservation number, driver's license and method of payment.

The **Avis** representative at the counter will provide instructions on where to find your vehicle.

Approved Drivers

Avis requires that each customer and additional driver meets the **Avis** minimum age requirement, presents a valid driver's license and an acceptable driving record, and presents an **Avis**-honored charge card or cash rental qualification at the time of rental.

Other information

You will receive a copy of a rental agreement and a **Vehicle Condition Report - VCR** (see examples). Please check the key areas *highlighted* below before signing for your **car rental** and **VCR**.

Returning the car

When you're ready to return the vehicle, follow these simple steps for completing your rental:

- Follow the signs for **Avis** car return when entering the airport.
- Please park it only in the **AVIS** reserved spaces;
- Take the car to the *designated car return area*.
- Enter your *mileage*, whether you purchased fuel during your rental, and the *fuel level* on the front of your **Rental Agreement**.
- The agent will then give you your copy of the return receipt.

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Avis rental Agreement

Renter's data

Renting details

Vehicle make and model

Vehicle Group

Km of vehicle at time of rental

Rental Agreement number

Name, address and telephone number of renting location

Date and time vehicle is rented

Date and time vehicle is scheduled to be returned

Booking Number

Renting terms and services

Renter's signature

AVIS Contratto di noleggio del veicolo

INFORMATICA PUBBLICITÀ SERVIZIO CLIENTI - Via E. Mattei, 101 - 00144 Roma - Tel. 06 47811111

XRF 4521502 2011

Contratto di noleggio n° 6715029214 La sua vettura si trova al

Dati personali	Dettagli sui contatti	Dettagli della stazione
Nome Smith, John Indirizzo 7040 Ontario BLVD San Bernardino, CA, 20311 US Società Humana Res. Corp. Numero di telefono 0025 597154275 Note Web-no Cid Reqd Data di nascita 23 oct 1974 Luogo di nascita Pasadena N° Patente BEXX02286831352KMM	Avis Autonoleggio SpA - Società con Unico Socio Soggetta all'attività di Direzione e Coordinamento da parte della Società Capogruppo Avis Europe Plc Sede legale in Via Tiburtina, 1231 - 00131 Roma IT00886961009 Capitale Sociale € 480.000,00 i.v. Registro delle Imprese di Roma P.I. 00886961009 C.F. 00421940588	Stazione d'inizio Roma Fiumicino Aeroporto 0039 06 85011531 Stazione di rientro concordata Roma Fiumicino Aeroporto Roma Fiumicino Aeroporto Roma Fiumicino 00050, IT 0039 06 85011531 Orario di apertura giornate 0700-2400

Informazioni sul noleggio	Informazioni supplementari
Data di inizio noleggio 15 aug 2011 Data di fine noleggio 20 aug 2011 Durata concordata/Addebitata 5 giorni, 21.1 ore / 5 giorni	N° prenotazione 50133353US3
Costo noleggio gruppo F (€) 435,55 Prodotto 5 giorni noleggio gruppo F incluse responsabilità furto, Assicurazione Infortuni Personali e chilometraggio illimitato	Limitazioni di guida Il cliente prende atto che la vettura noleggiata potrà circolare esclusivamente nei seguenti paesi: Austria, Belgio, Danimarca, Francia, Germania, Italia, Lussemburgo, Norvegia, Olanda, Portogallo, Regno Unito, Slovenia, Spagna, Svezia e Svizzera.
Oneri e costi addizionali Oneri aeroportuali/ferrovitari (€) 100,88 Oneri automobilistici 8,85	Sito Internet www.avisautonoleggio.it Posta elettronica customer.service@avis-autonoleggio.it Prenotazioni 199100133 Assicurazione Tecnica d'Italia / Estero 800801180 / 800056185527
Servizi facoltativi Riduzione responsabilità danni e furto 5 giorni @ 28,82 Super assicurazione infortuni personali 5 giorni @ 10,17	Barra 01577085
Stime costo totale 740,03	
Note Giorno supplementare €177,81 Tasse Incluse Prezzo del carburante per €1,47 Escluse le tasse litro Addebito servizio rabbocco carburante €13,00 Escluse le tasse Responsabilità danni Ridotta a €0,00 * Responsabilità furto Ridotta a €0,00 * Costo Amministrativo: €43,00 Tasse Incluse	Condizioni Noleggio minimo di 1 giorno Se il veicolo viene riconsegnato in ritardo o in una stazione che non era stata concordata possono essere addebitati costi aggiuntivi Prezzo attuale del carburante, soggetto a variazione, ed addebito se il veicolo sarà riconsegnato con meno carburante di quanto ne avesse all'inizio del noleggio

Dettagli Del Veicolo	Condizioni del veicolo
Marca/Modello/Vettura Lancia Delta 1.3 MJT DPF Targa IT E3842DR Colore Bianco Gruppo Veicolo F Trasmissione Manuale Carburante in uscita Piano Tipologia carburante Gasolio Km scatta/inserito 2249	Nome della parte danneggiata Descrizione Quantità

Dettagli del pagamento *John Smith*

Conto AV XXXX XXXX 9989

Slitta Importo dovuto: €888,04

Spett.le Avis Autonoleggio SpA - Roma. Accetto di noleggiare il veicolo su citato ai termini e alle condizioni concordate, usufruendo dei prodotti di limitazione delle responsabilità economiche in caso di furto e danni da me accettati. In caso di furto o danni al veicolo, sarò tenuto a pagare la prevista responsabilità economica. L'ammontare della responsabilità economica potrà essere ridotta se verserò il supplemento all'uso richiesto e sempre che il veicolo sarà usato secondo le Vostre condizioni che mi obbligo a rispettare. Pagando con questa carta di credito, sul cui ordine autorizzo tutti gli addebiti relativi al noleggio, la firma qui apposta vale come obbligo di pagamento secondo il regolamento dell'istituto emittente.

Firma *John Smith*

Dopo aver preso visione delle Condizioni Generali del contratto di noleggio, di cui, ai sensi degli artt. 1341 e 1342 c.c., di accettare espressamente i seguenti articoli del contratto di noleggio: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 e 17.

Firma

Nome del cliente: Smith, John

John Smith

890237261

Data 10 lug 2011 22:10

Grazie per aver scelto AVIS

1 di 3

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Vehicle Condition Report (VCR)

Condizioni del veicolo - Vehicle Condition Report

Vehicle Group

Vehicle make and model

Vehicle number plate

Km of vehicle at time of rental

Vehicle's damage report

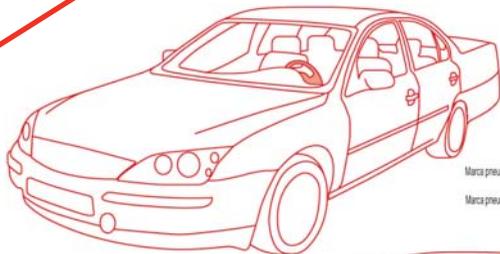
GRUPPO / SIZE: F
 MARCA E MODELLO / MAKE MODEL: LANCIA NUOVA Y
 TARGA / REGISTRATION PLATE: ET842DR
 NUMERO INTERNO / MVA: 02566095
 CONTRATTO DI NOLLEGGIO / RENTAL AGREEMENT: 6715028214
 KM: 2249
 DATA / DATE: 15 aug 2011
 PARCHEGGIO / PARKING:
 CARBURANTE / FUEL: 0 1/B 2/B 3/B 4/B 5/B 6/B 7/B 8/B

Inventario / Inventory - Se presente / If present

- Tagliando assicurativo valido / Valid insurance
- Posacenere / Ashtray
- Accendisigari / Lighter
- Cappelliera / Rear shelf
- Kit gonfiaggio / Tyre inflator kit
- Triangolo / Triangle
- Giubbino alta visibilità / Highlight gilet
- Ruotino-ruota di scorta / Spare wheel
- Documenti vettura / Car documents
- Portachiavi / Keytag
- Seggiolino / Baby seat
- Navigatore / GPS device
- Porta sci / Sky rack
- Catene da neve / Snow chains

Rental Agreement number

Rental Equipment



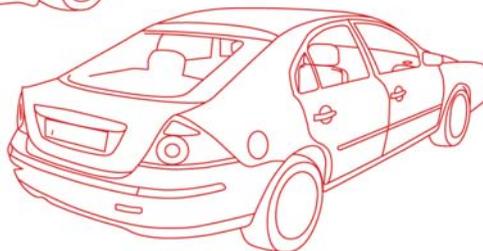
NOTE / REMARKS
45

Date and time vehicle is rented

Marca pneumatici ant. / Front tyres make

Marca pneumatici post. / Rear tyres make

NOTE / REMARKS



Renter's signature

ESTERNO / EXTERIOR

Graffio / Scratch	Ammaccatura / Dent	Scheggiatura / Chip	Mancante / Missing

INTERNO / INTERIOR

Interno / Interior	Taglio / Cut	Bucatura / Burn	Macchia / Stain
Sedile / Seat			
Cruscotto / Instrument panel			
Rivestimenti interni / Other aerial			
Cielo imperiale / Sky cover			
Portabagaglio / Boot			

Abbiamo controllato il veicolo e abbiamo riscontrato / We checked the vehicle and found

- Nessun danno esistente o danni piccoli / No existing damage other than minor defects
- Danni esistenti come mostrato sopra / Existing damage as shown above

Firma / Signature: *John Smith*
 Concordo che le condizioni del veicolo sono le stesse riportate nella descrizione / I agree with stated vehicle conditions above.

Se riscontrate ulteriori danni è invitato a notificarsi all'ufficio Avis prima di mettersi alla guida.
 If you find additional damages please notify your Avis rental location before driving the vehicle.

- Danni piccoli che non vengono addebitati / Minor defects we don't charge for
- Graffi:** meno di 25mm non penetranti la superficie / Scratches less than one inch not penetrating surface
 - Ammaccature:** meno di 25mm senza spaccatura o screpolatura della vernice / Dents less than one inch without paint cracking or flaking
 - Scheggiature:** meno di 5mm senza presenza di ammaccature / Stone chips less than 5mm without denting
 - Segni:** alle ruote/cerchi senza incrinature od incavature / Wheel-trim - wheel scuffs without cracking or gouging
 - Interno:** macchie o segni che possono essere puliti o rimossi con un lucidante / Stains and spots that can be easily removed

In caso di incidente con controparte è invitato a compilare il modulo CAI
 In case of accident if a third party is involved you are kindly requested to fill the Incident Report



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What to do in case of accident



In case of accident if a third party is involved you are required to complete the incident report (**CAI** form, *jointly-agreed accident statement*), which will help facilitate insurance procedures (see example below).

It is important that each party completes the **CAI** form (*name, vehicle license plates, insurance policy number and name of the insurance company*).

Do not forget to state the location of the accident and the weather conditions upon completion and deliver the **CAI** form to the **Avis** rental office. The form must be completed and signed by both parties.

If the driver of the other vehicle does not agree to sign the form, it is still important to fill in the information for which you are responsible, stating the other party's license plate number and the make and model of their car.

If there are any witnesses to the accident, with their consent, fill in their basic information on the **CAI** form. If your car has substantial damage, return the vehicle to Avis and exchange for another vehicle.

An image of the CAI (Certificato di Accordo Incidentale) form, which is a standardized document used for reporting accidents between rental car companies. The form is divided into several sections, including 'Dati dell'incidente', 'Dati della vettura danneggiata', and 'Dati della vettura danneggiata'. It contains various fields for recording details such as the date and time of the accident, the location, the weather conditions, the names and contact information of the involved parties, and the details of the damaged vehicles. The form is presented in a slightly overlapping, angled view.

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Understanding road signs

Below is a table of International road signs.
Please pay careful attention to the signs.

- Highway tolls are required and you should remember that lanes differ according to payment methods;
- remember to pay attention to paid parking spaces, these are recognizable by the **blue stripes**. Parking can be paid for at the small machines nearby;
- do not park in areas reserved for disabled persons, which are clearly marked by **yellow stripes**;
- access is prohibited in restricted traffic zones, these are also clearly marked (ZTL);

Speed limits in Italy (Km/h):



Motorway



Dual carriageway



Open Road



Town



Stop and yield



Yield



Danger



No overtaking



Crossroads



No parking



No entry



Max speed 50 km/h



Traffic lights



Pedestrian crossing



Motorway



Dual carriageway



Motorway direction



Open road direction

Travel Safety Tips

Before driving off, **fasten your seat belts**. In **Italy**, seat belts are required for all passengers, even for those sitting in the back seats!

Children should always travel in the **back seat** with their seat belt securely fastened. For children up to twelve, you will need a car seat, **Avis** can supply you with one.

Remember that **lights** must be **always** turned on out of urban city centers even during the day.

Always respect the **safety distance**. It is the only way to prevent collisions. Keep in mind the space between you and the car in front should be greater than the space needed to brake and the stopping distances vary according to speed.

Never drive if you have had **alcohol** or taken medication. Be aware that police can stop you at any time for measuring your alcohol level.

A driver measured to be over the accepted limits of **0,5 ng per litre** has automatic **penalties** whose severity depends on the concentration of ethanol level found.

If your **mobile phone** rings and you do not have a speaker phone or an earpiece, you must wait until you have reached a stopping place before you answer it.

Travelling when you are **tired** is very dangerous. Sudden drowsiness while driving is one of the most frequent causes of accidents. **Take time to rest**: you might get there a little later, but you'll get there safer.

It is forbidden to stop on **emergency routes**, as this blocks emergency vehicles; you will run the risk of being charged a fine or having your driving license suspended.

All **Avis** vehicles are delivered in **excellent condition**. However, if you have to take a long trip:

Check the **oil** every **1000 kilometers**; check the **tyre pressure** and the condition of the treads. Immediately **replace the tyre** if there is a flat to avoid damaging the vehicle.

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Italian distances (km)



Bari	667	116	693	532	701	880	261	662	800	439	455	998	820	810
Bologna	779	824	1157	117	221	587	1316	188	1063	397	339	159	150	
Brindisi	1059	543	817	996	380	673	917	449	572	1115	937	926		
Cagliari	673	692	910	713	427	637	672	500	848	967	937			
Catania	1042	1343	588	210	1142	112	796	1461	1302	1273				
Firenze	317	473	1173	102	950	283	436	277	247					
Milano	774	1528	286	1250	584	142	280	165						
Napoli	345	573	496	228	893	734	704							
Palermo	915	246	931	1234	1474	1464								
Pisa	1048	381	333	336	306									
R. Calabria	704	1369	1210	1181										
ROMA	702	543	514											
Torino	407	292												
Venezia		126												
Verona														

KEY TO SYMBOLS USED:

● key *airport* cities

○ other cities

— motorway network

— other roads

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Travelling with Avis



Avis itineraries

Wherever you happen to be in Northern, Central or Southern Italy, there are places to visit and a route to follow. Getting into a car and adventuring out on the streets is definitely the best way of getting to know this country. Cities of art, archaeological sites, seaside or mountain villages, lakes, islands, volcanoes and medieval towns scattered across the countryside all provide the visitor with ever-changing views and panoramas.

*This small guide covers 4 itineraries not to be missed, which will help you discover some of Italy's most beautiful areas, all of which are within easy reach using your **Avis** car.*

Key to symbols:

SP 359 Provincial road

A 14 Motorway

SS 611 National road

SR 611 Regional road

RA 3 Slip road

18km Distances in Km

Index of itineraries:

The lakes in Lombardy page **26**

Following the route of Italy's largest lakes.

The Wine Route page **30**

From Florence to Siena crossing the hills of Chianti.

The Amalfi Coast page **34**

Travelling the coastal road from Sorrento to Amalfi.

Lecce and Salento page **38**

Lecce and the coastal road on the Salento Peninsula.

The proposed itineraries are intended as suggestions for travelling: the information contained is therefore purely indicative. **Avis** assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies in the information provided.

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The lakes in Lombardy



Following the route of Italy's most beautiful lakes

When venturing out of Milan, don't miss the opportunity of travelling to the region where Italy's largest lakes are found. Visit the small villages that are studded along the shore and reflected in the lakes. Admire the beauty of the mountains that surround and close in around the lakes. Enjoy the magnificent gardens of the historic villas and take a boat ride on the lake itself. The roads that wind through the lakes offer ever changing panoramas, and villages like *Cernobbio* and *Bellagio* sul **Lago di Como** or *Stresa* and *Arona* sul **Lago Maggiore**, which are full of charm and exude a magical

The lakes of Northern Italy at the foot of the Alps, and bordering the *Po Valley* are of glacial origin and are the largest in Italy.

atmosphere. The suggested itinerary leaves from **Milan**, and leads directly to *Cernobbio* at **Lago di Como**. Following the *ancient Via Regina* along the western bank of the lake, you come across several villages, including *Moltrasio*, *Brienno* and *Menaggio*. *Bellagio* is just a few minutes away by ferry. You can also reach **Lago Maggiore** and visit *Stresa* and the *Borromean islands*, travelling along the road until you reach *Arona*, and then head back to *Milan*. (Total **351 km**)

From the **Avis** Office at **Milano Linate** Airport, **+ 39 02 715123** you can reach *Cernobbio* by taking the **A51**, **A52**, **A4**, **A8** and **A9** following the directions for *Como-Chiasso*. Total **78 km**

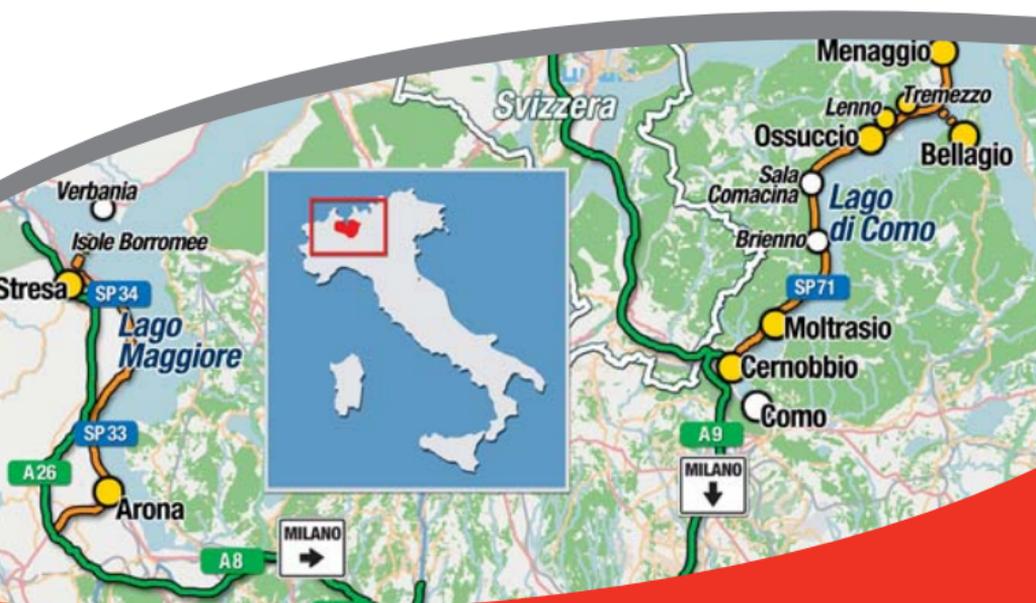
Lake Como

Known throughout the world for its villages, historic villas, magnificent gardens, mild climate and enchanting countryside, **Lake Como** has served as a holiday destination for centuries. The starting point for visiting this coastline is **Cernobbio**, an exclusive town characterised by a series of historic homes, including the famous *Villa d'Este*. The villa, which was built in **1589** and boasts a wonderful *Italian garden*, today houses a luxury hotel. A climb to the top of *Monte Bisbino* (**13 km**), that dominates the town, offers great views and a visit to the small *Sanctuary of the Assunta* (XV cent.).

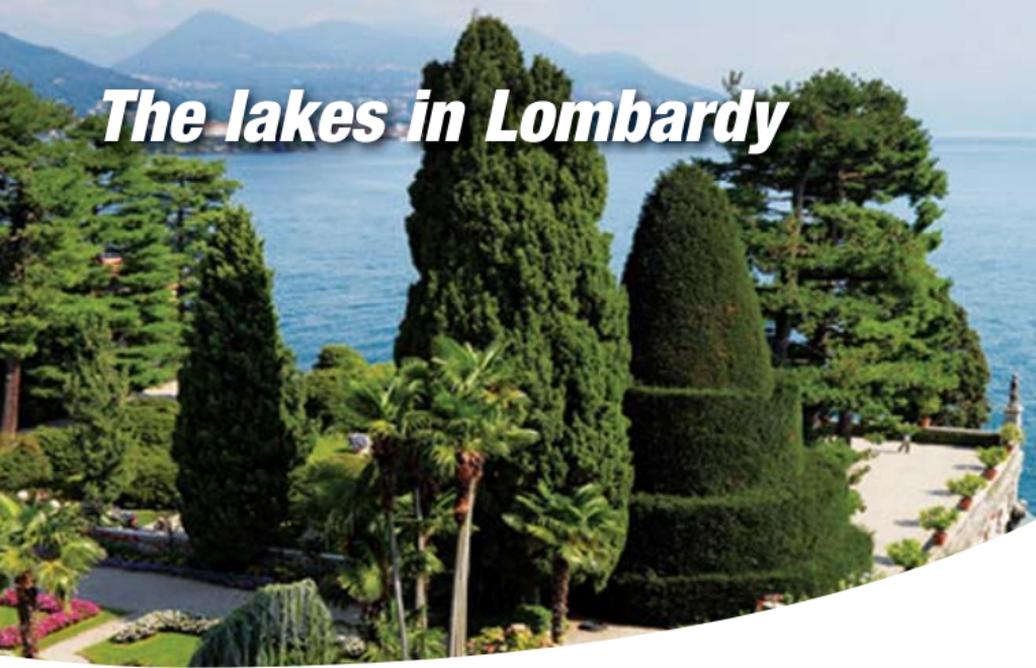
Following the ancient *Via Regina* from *Cernobbio* (**SP 71**) along the lake, a number of small towns are found perched along the water. Standing out are **Moltrasio** (**3.5 km**) with the *Romanesque Church of S. Agata* (XI cent.), and *eighteenth century Villa Passalacqua*, and then (**SP 71**, **SS 340**) **Brienno** (**11 km**) with its celebrated *Church of S. Vittore* (XI cent.).

Once you reach *Sala Comacina* (**SS 340** - **8.5 km**), a boat ride will take you to **Isola Comacina** where you can visit the *fifteenth century Church of S. Giovanni* and the remains of the small *Church of S. Eufemia*, which was originally built in the *VII century* and then rebuilt in the *XI century*. **Ossuccio** (**1.5 km**) is famous for the *Chapels of the Sacro Monte*, which have been listed by *UNESCO* as *World Heritage Sites*. They represent the *Mysteries of the Rosary* (XVII cent.) along the road leading to the *Shrine of the Beata Vergine del Soccorso* (1537).

The section of the coast called the "*Tramezzina*", is fa-



The lakes in Lombardy



amous for its natural beauty and the series of magnificent villas with parks. These include the **Villa Arconati Visconti** or **Villa Balbianello (1700)** in **Lenno (1.7 km)**. It consists of two buildings, a *loggia*, *small chapel* and *marina*. The wonderful **Villa Carlotta** can be visited at **Tremezzo (3 km)**. This was built at the beginning of the *eighteenth century*, and today houses a *museum* showcasing important art pieces, like sculptures by *Canova* and paintings of *Francesco Hayez*. The terraced gardens built according to the classic traditions of the Italian garden are not to be missed.

A few kilometres away, the town of **Menaggio (5.5 km)** awaits with its *seventeenth century Church of S. Stefano* and the *baroque Church of San Carlo*. Taking the ferry from here will bring you to **Bellagio**, the "*pearl*" of *Lake Como*. An enchanting and elegant area where the *Medieval* structures have remained almost intact. **Bellagio** boasts superb homes of the aristocracy, including **Villa Serbelloni (1705)** and the *neo-classic Villa Melzi (1810)*, with its magnificent parks. Coming back into **Cernobbio**, to reach **Lago Maggiore**, take the **A9** (direction *Milan*), take the fork onto the **A8** in the direction of *Gravellona Toce*, follow the **A26** and take the off-ramp for *Carpugnino* and then the **SP34** for **Stresa**. Tot. **103 km**

Lake Maggiore

Elegant and exclusive, **Stresa** commands a magnificent position on **Lake Maggiore**, and has been considered an ideal holiday destination since the *1700's*.

The **Villa Ducale**, built in 1770 in a *neo-classical style* is located alongside the pier, together with the **Church of S. Ambrogio (1790)**. Not to be missed is the park of **Villa Pallavicino**, with its beautiful *botanical gardens*.

Ferries leave from **Stresa** to visit the **Borromeo Islands**.

The **Isola Bella** is one of the most beautiful and fascinating places in the whole of **Lake Maggiore**. In 1632 **Count Carlo III Borromeo** built an enormous and luxurious **Palazzo**, surrounded by magnificent *gardens* with statues and fountains.

The interior showcases opulent furnishings and the *art gallery* includes works by **Tiepolo, Carracci** and **Zuccarelli**.

The **Isola Madre** is the *largest island* in the lake, and has been the traditional *residence of the Borromeo family*.

It is well-known for its impressive *English-style botanical gardens*. The inside of the **Palazzo (XVI century)** contains a rare collection of *antique marionettes*.

The **Isola dei Pescatori** has been inhabited since the **XVI century** where the old picturesque *fishing village* still exists.

From **Stresa** following the road around the lake southwards along the **SS33** you will reach **Arona**, a gracious tourist town.

The **Piazza del Popolo** has a magnificent view over the lake, and is at the heart of the *Medieval town*. The **Church of the Santi Martiri** dates back to *Romanesque times*, while the **Church of the Collegiata della Natività di S. Maria Vergine (XV cent.)** has an unpretentious *Renaissance facade*.

From **Arona** drive back to **Milan** taking the **A26**, then onto the **A8**. As you draw closer to **Milan**, you can reach **Linate Airport** on the **A4**, **A52**, and **A51**. Total **98km**

Perch:

Perch is one of the main ingredients in the cuisine around the Italian lakes and is highly sought after for its delicate flavour. It is used in a number of recipes, including risottos and involtini, served as filets, cooked in the oven or pan fried.



The Wine Route



The Wine Route:

From *Florence*, travel by car through the winding roads of *Chianti* country that cross the *Tuscan hills* with their varied, colourful and evocative landscape. The bountiful soil with its forests, vines and olive groves is where *Chianti*, the excellent wine that has made this region famous, is produced.

The Chianti region extends over a broad hilly area situated in the centre of Tuscany between Florence and Siena. It is surrounded by the mountains of Chianti in the east and the valleys of the Pesa and Elsa Rivers in the west.

The forts and castles dotted along the route bear witness to the centuries old rivalry between *Florence* and *Siena*. The green hills outline small Medieval villages with their wealth of churches, abbeys and beautiful villas, witnesses to a glorious past. Many of them now converted into agritourism facilities, hotels and wine farms.

The suggested route leaves from **Florence**, and moves through the wooded *Tuscan* hills of *Chianti*, along the so-called *Wine Route*, touching off on the characteristic towns of *Castellina*, *Radda* and *Gaiole in Chianti* to reach **Siena**, passing through *Castelnuovo Berardenga*. (total about **106 km**)

From the **Avis** office at **Florence's Peretola** airport ☎ **+39 055315588** take the **A 11** *Florence-Pisa* and after just **2 km** turn on to the **A 1** in the direction of *Rome*, after about **20km**, take the *Florence South* exit, turn towards "*Ponte a Ema-Greve-Siena*" and follow the directions for the **SR 222** *Chiantigiana* towards *Greve in Chianti*.

The Chianti Route

For centuries, the *Chianti Road (Via Chiantigiana)* **SR 222**, has been an important communication link between *Florence* and *Siena*. Take the **SR 222** at *Ponte a Ema* (exit *Florence South* **A 1**) and passing through some residential areas you move out into the Florentine countryside, to enjoy the hilly and fertile countryside following a road that is lined with pine trees, cypresses and century-old olives. After **22 km** you will reach **Greve in Chianti**, where you can make your first stop by visiting the historic centre. This town is characterised by its *triangular piazza with porticoes*, which already in the *Middle Ages* was the commercial centre for the entire surrounding area (*Piazza G. Matteotti*). The *Church* of the **Santa Croce** also originates from the *Middle Ages* and has some *neo-Renaissance* features. Continuing along the *via Chiantigiana*, **SR 222** after **7 km**, you will reach **Panzano in Chianti**, -a small village among the wine and olives, characterised by its impressive *Church* of the **Santa Maria (XV cent.)**, the *Castle (XII cent.)* the *Romanesque Church* of **S. Leonino** with its beautiful *cloister (XIV cent.)*. Travelling on towards *Siena* on the **SR 222** after **13 km** you will reach **Castellina in Chianti**. Thanks to its dominant position over the surrounding valleys, it provided an *important strategic and military centre in the past*. The town still has the structure of the original *Medieval village* surrounded by walls. Worthy of mention is the **Palazzo Ugolini** built during the late *Renaissance*, and the rock fortress with its *fourteenth century tower*, which today houses the *Municipal offices*.



The Wine Route



Castellina is of *Etruscan* origins, and this can be seen in the imposing *tumulus of Montecalvario* with its *underground tombs (VII - VI cent. AD)*, located to the north of the town.

Leaving *Castellina*, **SR222** **2km** towards *Panzano* turn right onto the **SR429** about **10km**, where you reach **Radda in Chianti**, a small village that still retains its *Medieval* character. The old walls surround the town that is full of small alleys and old homes stacked one against the other, and is dominated by the *Palazzo del Podestà (2nd half of the 1400's)* and the *Romanesque Church of S. Niccolò (XIII cent.)*.

At about **7,5km** from *Radda*, travelling north, you will find **Volpaia** up on a hill. This is an old *fortified village (XI cent.)* Staying on the **SR429** after **9,5km** from *Radda* you come into **Badia a Coltibuono** where an old *Benedictine abbey* is located (*1040*). Not to be missed among the monastic buildings (now housing a wine farm) is the *Romanesque Church of S. Lorenzo* with its *octagonally based dome*.

Continuing along the **SR429**, and then on to the **SP 2** we finally turn left on to the **P408** (total **11km**) where you will reach **Gaiole in Chianti**; this old Medieval town developed as a market centre around the middle of the *XIII century*. There are a number of castles and rock fortresses around *Gaiole* that are worth visiting, including the small church of the *Pieve di Spaltenna* with its *Romanesque* construction dating back to the *XII century*. Also worth a stop is the small village of **Vertine** (**2,2km** north-east of *Gaiole*).

with its *X century castle* enclosed within the oval city walls; the **Castello di Meleto** (**SP408** towards *Siena* then left for **2,9km**) *fortified during the XII century*, all housing tourist accommodation today. Travelling towards *Siena* (about **10km** , **SP408** then **SP484**) a must see is the **Castello di Brolio** that was built on an isolated hilltop. This fortified bastion was built towards the end of the *1400's*, and is currently one of the *major Chianti producing wine estates*.

Continuing in the direction of *Siena* (from *Brolio* follow the **SP484** per **11km**) you will reach **Castelnuovo Berardenga**, in the southern section of the *Chianti* region.

The old centre of the town dates back to the *IX century* and sections of the city walls are still visible; not to be missed in the historic centre of town is the **Clock Tower**, the *neo-classical Church of Santi Giusto and Clemente*. A "*Madonna and Child*" by *Giovanni di Paolo (1426)* hangs inside the Church.

The majestic **Villa Chigi Saracini** dominates the countryside below, surrounded by an impressive *Italian garden*. The **Castello di Montalto** is close to *Castelnuovo* (**11km** **SP484** up to *Colonna di Grillo*, then the **SP540** up to the road for *Montalto*), which was the arena for the battles between the *Florentines and Sienese during the XIII century*.

To reach the centre of *Siena* from *Castelnuovo* take the **SP 7** , then the **SS73** and continue on the **SS223** to then get on to the motorway (about **25km**). Alternatively, if you need a quicker route to *Florence*, take the exit on to the **RA3** from the motorway in the direction of *Florence*. **82km**)

'Chianti' wine:

The **Chianti** area has been producing wine since antiquity. From **1967**, Chianti is a wine with a registered designation of origin (DOC). Chianti is a ruby red coloured wine with a smooth velvet taste, produced from Sangiovese grapes and small percentages of Merlot and Cabernet.



The Amalfi coast



The Amalfi coast

Drive on the road along the most beautiful coastline in the *Mediterranean*, and discover the wonderful views with something new around every corner. Cliffs that tumble down to the sea, beaches, marinas, villages perched on the top of craggy hills and dense vegetation in a blaze of colours. Visiting this coastline means not only immersing yourself in the wonders of nature, but also experiencing the fascination of *Positano, Amalfi, Ravello*, with their history, art, social life, cuisine, music and crafts. The **Amalfi Coast** also referred to as the "*Nastro Azzurro*" [blue ribbon], is so extraordinary that *Unesco* has declared it a *World Heritage Site*.

The **Amalfi Coast** is the southern section of the coastline on the *Sorrento Peninsula* that looks out over the *Gulf of Salerno*, running from *Positano* to *Vietri sul Mare*.

The suggested itinerary starts from *Sorrento* and then follows the **SS163** that winds its way along the coastline of the *Sorrento Peninsula*. The narrow and winding road in some sections is a sheer drop down to the sea. You can reach *Vietri sul Mare* going through *Positano* and *Amalfi* (total **50km**).

From the **Avis** office **Naples Capodichino airport** ☎ **+39 0817805790** take the **A 1** southwards, after **5km** join the **A 3** *Naples-Salerno*, travel for **18km** and take the exit for *Castellammare di Stabia*, then continue along the **SS145** for **23,5km** until you get to *Sorrento*. (total **53km**)

The coastline takes its name from the city *Amalfi*, which in *Medieval times (IX-XII centuries)* was a formidable maritime power, challenging the other sea-faring *Republics of Pisa, Venice and Genoa* for control of the *Mediterranean Sea*. The road along the coast was commissioned by the *Borbone King Ferdinando II*. It was completed in *1853*, and stands as a feat of engineering in the way that it winds its way along the coast.

Curves, hairpin bends, tunnels and some very narrow sections are part of its charm, but also call for *careful and attentive driving*. During spring and autumn, the lower numbers of tourists make the road less crowded and the drive more pleasant.

The ideal starting point to reach the *Coast* is **Sorrento**. Located on a promontory, this town boasts an incredible panoramic position that looks out over the *Gulf of Naples and Vesuvius*. The lively historic centre with its narrow streets is full of shops, restaurants, squares and Churches. Not to be missed on your visit is the *Romanesque Cathedral (XV century)* and especially the *Cloisters at the Church of San Francesco (XIV century)*.

To reach the *Amalfi Coast* from *Sorrento*, follow the **SS145** up to *Piano di Sorrento* and then take the **SS163**, and after just **16km** you will reach *Positano*.

Exclusive and scenic, **Positano** is the *pearl* of the coastline, with its multi-coloured painted houses stacked one against the other, the steps, winding alleys, citrus groves, small squares with colourful stores, hotels and restaurants.



The Amalfi coast



The *Church of Santa Maria Assunta*, with its distinctive *Arab like dome* made of majolica tiles during the 1700's, is the symbol for *Positano* itself. The beach or *Spiaggia Grande* lapped by the crystal clear sea is a short walk from the *Church*. By hiring a boat you can enjoy the sight of *Positano* and its majestic cliffs reaching down to the sea.

In the **15km** separating *Positano* from *Amalfi* is the picturesque fishing village of *Praiano*, with its *Churches of San Luca* and *San Gennaro*, both built at beautiful view sites. The coastal road passes above the spectacular *Fiordo di Furore*, and you should definitely consider stopping at *Conca dei Marini* to see the impressive *Grotta dello Smeraldo*.

Just **1,5km**, after leaving *Conca dei Marini* on the **SS163** you arrive at *Amalfi*. Once a powerful *maritime Republic*, it fell from power following a submarine earthquake that destroyed most of the town in 1343. Today *Amalfi* is a lovely seaside town, characterised by its lime washed houses, positioned all the way down to the sea. The fascination of this old maritime power in the Mediterranean still lingers in its streets, squares and on the sea front, where you can visit the *sixteenth century Tower and Arsenal of the Republic*, the *only remaining Medieval Arsenal in southern Italy*. The *Cathedral of Sant'Andrea* (origins in the X century) with its beautiful *polychrome Arab style facade* is positioned at the top of a *staircase*. The historic centre also houses the beautiful *Cloisters*

del Paradiso (XIII century), which were the old *burial grounds* for the nobility of *Amalfi*. Continuing with the **SS163 3km**, turn left at *Atrani* onto the **SS373 5km** to reach **Ravello** (total **8km**).

The old town is built above *Amalfi*, and enjoys a spectacular *panoramic* position. Elegant, sophisticated and complemented by its *magnificent gardens*, *Ravello* has been appreciated for centuries by countless artists, the likes of whom include *D.H. Lawrence*, *Virginia Woolf* and *Richard Wagner*. At the heart of *Ravello* is the *piazza Vescovado*, with the *Castle*, *Cathedral* and the *Villa Rufolo* that served as a *residence to the Popes*, and is famous for its beautiful *gardens facing on to the sea*. *Villa Cimbrone*, south of the *piazza* has a wonderful *park* with the "*Belvedere dell'Infinito*", a *terrace* punctuated by classical statues that has a breathtaking view looking out over the sea.

Coming back to the *Coast*, after just **2km** is the enchanting village of **Minori** with the *Roman Villa Antiquarium (I A.D.)* and most beautiful *archaeological* site on the *Coast*. Continuing on the **SS163**, passing through *Maiori*, you will reach **Cetara** after **9,5km**. This characteristic *fishing village* with its beautiful *XVI century tower* has been famous for its *tuna fisherman* since antiquity.

Travelling along the last **5,5km** of the **SS163**, you arrive at **Vietri sul Mare**, where the traditional *ceramics* that date back to ancient times were already being produced on a mass scale from the *XV and XVI centuries*.

The **A 3 Naples-Salerno** will bring you back to *Naples*. **50km**

The Lemons of Amalfi:

The "*sfusato*" lemons are grown in the typical terraced "gardens" along the *Amalfi Coast*.

They are extremely juicy and have a very strong scent, and are used to produce the *limoncello* liquor that is typical of the area.



Lecce and the Salento



Lecce and the coastal road on the Salento Peninsula

Travel comfortably by car enjoying the countryside in one of the most beautiful regions of Italy: the **Salento**. From the rugged east coast with its small narrow inlets, grottos and ancient fortifications, to the expansive beaches lapped by the turquoise sea of the eastern coastline, travelling along roads that wind between century-old olive groves, and the typical "*Masserie*" (farmhouses in Puglia, that were often fortified), and the characteristic "*dry-built*" walls.

The Salento, at the south-eastern tip of Italy is the southern section of the Puglia Region, wedged between the Ionian Sea in the west and Adriatic Sea in the east.

A route that will let you experience ancient villages with their wealth of history, art and marvellous architecture from every era.

The suggested itinerary leaves from **Lecce** and winds its way along the east coast, passing through **Otranto**, to reach the southern most tip of **Puglia** at **Santa Maria di Leuca**. From here it turns upwards along the west coast to **Gallipoli** and returns to **Lecce**, passing through **Nardò**. The route (leaving from **Lecce**) is about **200 km** long.

From the **Avis** office at the **Palese** airport in **Bari** ☎ + 39 080 5316168 follow the **SS16** up to **Brindisi**; then take the **SS613** towards **Lecce**. **153Km**

From the **Avis** office at the **Papola** airport in **Brindisi** ☎ + 39 0831418826 follow the **SS613** up to **Lecce**. **38,5Km**

Lecce

The city of **Lecce** has a rich artistic heritage with prestigious and unique monuments which are well worth taking the time to visit. The historic centre of the city has a wealth of buildings built in the *Lecce baroque style*, characterised by the use of "*Lecce stone*", a type of limestone in warm colours that is soft and therefore easy to work on. The *Basilica di Santa Croce* (1549), the *seventeenth century piazza* and the *Cathedral, bell tower, the Bishopric and Seminary*, the *Churches of Sant'Irene, S. Matteo and Santa Chiara* are all excellent examples of the *Lecce Baroque style*. There are several other buildings in this style and can be identified quite easily from their balconies, façades and courtyards. The *Roman period* is represented by various monuments including the *Roman Amphitheatre* in *Piazza S. Oronzo*, and the *Column of Sant'Oronzo* (built in the 1600's with parts of the column marking the end of the *Via Appia*, originating from *Brindisi*). Also of considerable interest are the impressive *bastions at the Castello Carlo V* (1549) and the *Church of S. Niccolò e Cataldo* (1180).

The eastern coastline

Travelling from *Lecce* on the **SP364**, a short **13Km** drive along the coast will bring you to **San Cataldo**, one of the most popular seaside destinations along the *Salento*. Turning southwards on the **SP358**, you follow a section running along the coast that is very pleasant thanks to the the magnificent *panoramas* (on a clear day, *it is possible to see the coast of Albania*), until you reach *Otranto*. **40Km**



Lecce and the Salento



Referred to as the '*oriental door*', **Otranto** is a town with a rich history and a wealth of artworks. It is characterised by the impressive **Castello Aragonese (1481)** and the old town with its narrow flagstone streets. Not to be missed is the **Romanesque Cathedral (1088)** that presides over the town. Almost all the paving has been done using a *rare polychrome mosaic* representing *the tree of life (XII century)*.

Travelling southwards on the **SP358**, we firstly encounter the solitary **Torre del Serpe**, a *watch tower* built by **Federico II**, and is represented in the coat of arms of the town of **Otranto**. You then come through **Capo d'Otranto**, *the most easterly point of Italy*. The road rises steeply looking out onto the blue sea, and after passing through the picturesque port of **Tricase Porto**, the road comes to the **Sanctuary of S. Maria di Leuca**, *southern most point* of Italy and place of worship since the time of antiquity. **39 Km** From the square on the promontory, looking out over the sea, you can see the point where the *Adriatic and Ionian Seas meet*. The road slowly descends along the panoramic **SP214** toward **Marina di Leuca**, with its handful of charming white homes and port nestled between two rocky points standing guard over the blue sea.

The western coastline

From **M. di Leuca** follow the *coastal road* towards **Gallipoli**, which is dotted with a series of beautiful *towers* dating to the *1500's*, and the small towns along the coast that include **Torre Vado, Torre Pali, Torre S. Giovanni**. **52 Km**

Leaving behind the lower part of the Peninsula with the ancient **Torre del Pizzo**, the road passes a wide sweeping bay the **Baia Verde**, with its long stretch of white beach and turquoise clear sea that extends practically all the way to **Gallipoli**.

Gallipoli, or the "*beautiful city*", extends out over the sea and the *historic centre*, that is located on an island is linked to the town on the mainland by an arched bridge dating back to the **1600's**. The centre is enclosed by the old city *walls*, with the **Castello (XVI cent.)** presiding over the town. A maze of picturesque alleyways characterises the historic centre, dominated by the impressive **Cathedral of Sant'Agata (1629)** with its *Baroque façade* and layout, and the austere *eighteenth century Palazzo del Seminario*.

From **Gallipoli**, continue along the **SP359 18Km** till you reach **Nardò**, the second largest town in the province after **Lecce**. The historic centre is characterised by magnificent *Baroque architecture*, with the notable examples of the **Monastery of Santa Chiara** and the **Church of S. Domenico**. Take time to visit the impressive *Romanesque Cathedral (1080)* in **Piazza Pio XI**, with the treasure of *frescoes* in the interior (*XIII-XV century*). Don't miss the magnificent scenic **Piazza Salandra** with the *eighteenth century column "Guglia dell'Immacolata"*, the **Church of San Trifone**, the **Palazzo della Pretura** and **Sedile (1500's)**, with the *statue of Saint Gregory*, the *patron saint* of the city.

From **Nardò**, following the signs for **Lecce** and the **SS101** you come back into Lecce after **30Km** of enchanting roads through the **Salento**.

the Salento cuisine

The S. cuisine is quite humble in terms of its ingredients, but rich in the colours and flavours of the Mediterranean, with its added flavours from the sea. The **Salento** produces wheat, grapes and olives, and consequently pasta, wine and oil form the three cornerstones of the **Salento** cuisine.



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