

ARCHEOLOGICAL SALENTO TOUR 1 DAY

A tour to immerse yourself into the oldest history of the area called Salento. To understand its evolution, you will visit some of the most important archeological sites, proofs of the different historic periods.

Morning

The Museum System of Vaste – Poggiardo allows us to go back over the history of the area, from the Bronze Age to the Medieval Era (Vaste Archaeological Park of the Warriors and Rocky Church of Saints Stefani; Archeological Museum Baronial Palace in Vaste; Crypt of Santa Maria degli Angeli; Museum of Byzantine frescoes)

According to recent researches, **Castro** is that *Castrum Minervae* (Latin for "Athena's castle") in Virgil's Aeneid – where Aeneas first landed in Italy. We will stroll through the narrow streets of this town, perched atop a precipitous cliff, that still preserves signs of the Byzantine and Norman presence.



Lunch in Castro Marina

The Monuments People - APS

Strada Provinciale per Sogliano, 111 - 73022 Corigliano d' Otranto (LE)

www.themonumentspeople.it - themonumentspeople@gmail.com Tel. +39 347 1999885 / +39 328 9632397 / +39 320 7610467 / +39 329 0070282

Afternoon

Following the dramatic coastline of this area, we will reach **Santa Maria di Leuca**, famous, since the Middle Age, for its sanctuary, built on a site high above the harbour, once home to a Temple of Minerva. (the Lighthouse, the monumental man-made waterfall of the Puglia aqueduct, Art Nouveau villas).

The tour will end in Patù, visiting the Centopietre, a small rectangular structure with ashlar walls and a pitched roof, built in the IX century entirely of stone, taken from the destroyed city of Vereto. According to tradition, it was the mausoleum of the knight Geminiano, ambassador killed by the Moors before the battle of Campo Re (877). It was later transformed in a Christian *themenos* and painted with frescoes.



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