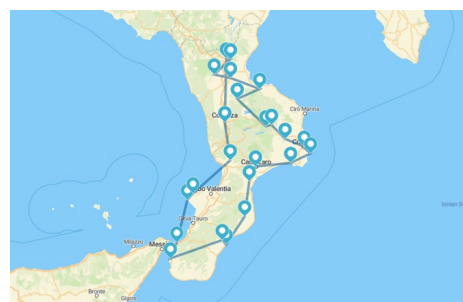




Italy, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Calabria Region

At the toe of the boot, i. e. the southernmost tip of Italy, and lapped by the splendid waters of the Ionian and Tyrrhenian Seas, Calabria has so much to offer the visitor arriving with a restless spirit and a desire to soak up oodles of history. A mild climate guarantees unforgettable days driving through stunning landscapes featuring mountains, cliffs, fine white sand and crystal-clear waters. A tour through one of Italy's most authentic regions, brimming with historical buildings from different periods, such as Roman, Norman, Byzantine or Baroque. Its dazzling Mediterranean beaches are a haven for relaxation and its surroundings are a melting pot of cultures which, together with the natural scenery and the picturesque Ionic ruins and Roman mosaics, make this area ideal both in the winter and in the summer. Crotona, one of the must-sees on this itinerary, is where the philosopher Pythagoras founded several religious communities and Hannibal was received in the Second Punic War. What's more, the most typical Italian cuisine originated in this area. Pasta lovers are in luck. Lamezia Terme is the birthplace of one of the most traditional pasta recipes, which would later make its way to the rest of Italy and across the whole world. Don't leave town without trying it!



Departure date: Departures from July 2026 till June 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - LAMEZIA TERME - COSENZA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Lamezia. Arrival and rental car pick-up. Lamezia Terme is a town with an important historical past and a wealth of architectural and archaeological heritage. It's the result of the merger, in 1968, of three medieval towns (Sambiase, Nicastro and Sant'Eufemia). Lamezia is home to numerous buildings from the Greek, Norman, Roman and Bourbon periods located in a fascinating historical quarter. For lovers of the ancient world and archaeology, the excavations carried out in the 20th century on the Greek hill of Crotona revealed a settlement from the 7th century BC with a rich heritage of incalculable historical value. And the historical attractions of this town are well complemented by its fantastic cuisine. It's the ideal place to savour a dish of 'Maccarruni i Casa'. These macaroni are cooked following a traditional recipe that later spread to the rest of the Italian peninsula. A delicacy that you simply cannot miss.

Your final destination of the day will be Cosenza.

Located an hour's drive away from Lamezia, Cosenza is a town of major cultural tradition that houses one of Italy's largest university campuses and boasts a well-preserved historic quarter with picturesque streets snaking up the side of a hill. Palaces, public buildings and churches alternate with buildings converted into museums in a city where culture floods the streets. It's also nicknamed the Athens of Calabria. The ruins of the castle and the 12th-century cathedral, home to the mausoleum containing the heart of Philip III of France's wife, are two essential visits.

Overnight stay in Cosenza.

● DAY 2 · COSENZA - POLLINO NATIONAL PARK - FRASCINETO - CIVITA - ALTOMONTE - SPEZZANO ALBANESE - ROSSANO

Today we're going to show you a series of visits, so you can choose the ones that best suit your tastes and times. We advise you to plan the day well and design your route, allowing for your chosen visits, before heading off to conquer the road. Another excursion option from Cosenza is the trip to Scalea, a small town with a characterful historic centre, where the wall that protected the former inhabitants of the city still stands. Once you know what destinations you're going to visit today, you can start your adventure.

Day two kicks off with a tour of Scalea, a pocket-sized town with a characterful historic quarter, including the well-preserved wall that once protected it from invaders. Strolling through the old town down to the seafront promenade is the best way to kick-start your day. Nature lovers should head over to the open spaces of the Pollino National Park, an hour away from Scalea. This unspoilt nature reserve is home to countless birds and animals: wolves, wild cats and squirrels are just some of the mammals you'll see while hiking along the signposted trails. The Heldreich's pine is one of the rare species found in this magnificent park that straddles Calabria and Basilicata. You can take bike, horse and even canoe tours to explore this amazing place, thanks to the magnificent services laid on to reach the Piani di Pollino, the summit of Dolcedorme or the Sierra de Crispo. Nature and tradition fuse in this park where local customs and the exquisite cuisine of its villages are preserved intact. In fact, there are over fifty villages in this monument to nature, such as San Paolo Albanese, a picturesque settlement which welcomed the Orthodox Albanians who were expelled from their cities by the Turks in the sixteenth century. You can learn about history, costumes and local crafts at the Museum of Arbëreshë Civilisation. (Note: Admission to the museum is free. Opening hours are from 5.00 pm to 7.45 pm every day). Pollino has several other towns founded or populated by this ethnic group. Frascineto, Civita and Spezzano Albanese are Arbëreshë villages easily accessible from the itinerary. Onward to Altomonte, a town perched on a hill with vertiginous slopes. Surrounded by olive trees and vineyards, it's dominated by the Our Lady of Consolation Church. After strolling up and down the steep streets around Piazza Tommaso Campanella, you can have a bite to eat and head over to Rossano, today's final destination and around 65 kilometres away.

Overnight stay in Rossano.

● DAY 3 · ROSSANO - ACRI - LA SILA NATIONAL PARK - CECITA LAKE - SAN GIOVANNI IN FIORE - CASTELSILANO - SANTA SEVERINA - CROTONE

The town of Rossano tempts the visitor with its fantastic olive oil and its famed craft products. To discover its fascinating history as a fortified port in Roman and Byzantine times, take a walk through its streets until reaching the numerous monasteries and the Church of San Marco, with its three elegant semicircular apses. Other must-visits are the Church of Santa Maria Panaghia and the Cathedral, home to the Rossano Gospels and the image of the Madonna Acheropita. Nicknamed the Gospel City, the birthplace of two Popes and Saint Nilus the Younger is also famous for its liquorice, a 'black gold' that's a great idea for a souvenir to take home. The surroundings of Rossano are outstanding: torrents and Mediterranean vegetation with undulating hillsides cloaked in olive trees. Next stop is the Sila National Park, located forty-four kilometres from Rossano and home to more than 150,000 hectares of natural heritage. The park straddles three different provinces: Cosenza, Crotone and Catanzaro. The landscape is wild, natural and unspoilt. The villages nestled in the park command enviable views and are the perfect setting for outdoor sports. "The gateway to Sila" is in the small village of Aciri, which cherishes a feudal castle in ruins, several beautiful palazzos, and the Basilica del Beato Angelo. All of this surrounded by a simply jaw-dropping nature. Then hit the road again for an hour and a half to San Giovanni in Fiore, a cute town with a historic quarter full of majestic churches. But if you'd rather enjoy nature in its maximum splendour, head straight to Castelsilano, a town rich in natural springs, some of which are sulphurous, and underground caves that will transport you to another dimension. The Cave of Samourì and Grave Grubbo are two sure bets that will blow your mind away. What's more, its picturesque lakes, such as Ampollino, Cecita and Arvo, are perfect for water sports such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing or even boating. Before reaching today's final destination, make sure you stop off in Santa Severina, some thirty kilometres away. This pocket-sized town, also the birthplace of a Pope, commands one of the country's most amazing views, thanks to its location on a cliff known as the 'stone ship'. You can also visit a Norman castle, the 13th-century cathedral and one of the few Byzantine baptisteries of the tenth century that still retains its original appearance. Afterwards, drive the thirty kilometres to Crotone. Overnight stay in Crotone.

● DAY 4 · CROTONE - CAPO COLONNA - LE CASTELLA - CATANZARO

The colours of the sea in Crotone are a visual spectacle, encompassing a palette ranging from sky blue and emerald green to soft lilac at sunset. This city was founded in the 8th century AD by Achaean Greeks and soon became a city of power and wealth, where the beauty of its women competed with the Olympic spirit of its athletes, such as Milon of Croton. Pythagoras founded several religious schools dedicated to the study of mathematics here. As a cultural visit, you can go to the archaeological museum, where the main vestiges of ancient Kroton are displayed, with objects recovered from the dig in Hera Lacinia. (Note: Admission to museum not included). Make sure you visit some of the bars along the waterfront to try some of the typical Cirò wine, accompanied by a delicious dish of soppressata (sausage). Then, drive for twenty minutes to Capo Colonna, guarded by the Castle of Carlos V that served as defence from the attacks of the Saracens. This is the first of the eight promontories of the Capo Rizzuto marine area. What's more, you can admire the imposing Doric-style column of the ancient temple built to honour the goddess Hera. To the south, some thirty minutes away, is Punta Le Castella, with a Byzantine fortress perched on an impressive islet that saw the birth of Ugurk-Ali, commander in Constantinople of the imperial fleet. And today's last visit, about an hour's drive away, is Catanzaro. Located between two seas, the Ionian and the Tyrrhenian, this city offers a spectacular picture-postcard view of the Fiumarella Valley and the Gulf of Squillace. The Cathedral is home to the Madonna and Child, a statue by Antonello Gagini da Messina and one of the city's main attractions. And make sure you pop over to Villa Trieste to explore its quirky gardens. And to round off this unforgettable day, savour the delicious local cuisine, such as the typical pasta stuffed with provolone cheese and boiled eggs. Overnight stay in Catanzaro.

● DAY 5 · CATANZARO - SCOLACIUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK - SQUILLACE - STILO - LOCRI - GERACE

Just a twenty-minute drive away is the Scolacium Archaeological Park. It was founded in 1982 and houses the remains of the ancient Greek colony of Skyllition. During Roman times, Skyllition changed its name to Scolacium. Its surroundings, full of olive groves and Greco-Roman buildings, create an atmosphere of outstanding beauty.

Numerous ceramics and headless busts put the final touch to a pleasant stroll in the park. At the entrance is the Roccelletta di Borgia, a peculiar red-brick basilica that fuses styles such as Arabic, Byzantine and Romanesque. And don't miss the ruins of the Roman theatre and forum. Our next suggestion is to spend some time at one with pure nature, just twenty minutes away from Scolacium. So, head over to Squillace, located in the gulf of the same name, where you'll be awestruck by the contrast of imposing cliffs towering over sweeping white-sand beaches. An hour away is Stilo, which stands 400 metres above sea level, a town featuring a great diversity of influences and artistic styles reflected in each of its buildings. Its 10th-century Byzantine church, La Cattolica, is a true gem with a peculiar square floor plan and cylindrical domes. And you'll take many a photo of the stunning scenery around this church, with impressive mountain forests and spectacular sea views. Before arriving at today's final destination, make a stop in Locri to admire the excavations that revealed the remains of a temple from the fifth century AD, as well as an ancient Greco-Roman theatre and other wonderful finds. And then it's just seven kilometres to tonight's destination.

Overnight stay in Gerace and surroundings.

● DAY 6 · GERACE - ASPROMONTE NATIONAL PARK - BOVA - PENTEDATTILO - REGGIO CALABRIA

Gerace, which stands on a hill 480 metres above sea level, is proud of its accolade as one of Italy's most beautiful medieval villages. Its old town is perfectly preserved, which will enrapture you as you stroll through the cobbled streets that have witnessed centuries of history. Churches, houses and workshops are all miraculously dug into the hillside. From an architectural point of view, the town cherishes numerous fortresses from different periods, such as Byzantine or Norman, but centre stage is taken by its eleventh-century Romanesque cathedral, with its imposing Greel domes and ornate pillars, declared an Architectural Asset of National Interest. The city once housed so many churches of different eras and styles that it was nicknamed the 'city of a hundred bells'. Just four churches remain standing today, though. When you finish visiting Gerace, head back to the car and drive just under fifty kilometres to the Aspromonte National Park, a massif in the south of Calabria which was immortalised by the great Homer himself. The big head-turner here is the majestic greyish mountain that towers 1,955 metres into the sky. Rivers wind through the landscape, streams follow their course, and fauna such as wolves, hawks and eagle-owls drink from their waters. Pine, walnut, fir, chestnut, oak and beech trees flank the signposted hiking trails, which are also dotted with hundreds of wild mushroom species in season. Its deep valleys and rapid torrents cherish a host of stunning villages brimming with history, culture and legends. The festival of the Madonna della Montagna is celebrated each year on 2 September, an event that pays homage to the area's past. Then drive for around two hours to Bova, considered one of the most picturesque villages in the whole of Italy. An ancient Italiot Greek dialect is still spoken here. Thirty kilometres away is Pentedattilo, a ghost town since the 1960s that houses impressive legends related to the five-fingered rock. Once in Bova, you can stroll through its picturesque streets and visit its 'micro museums' that narrate the history of the town. And today's final destination is Reggio Calabria, thirty kilometres away, perched between the azure blue sea and the rugged mountains. The artistic heritage here is unbelievable: castles, basilicas and cathedrals. Its main tourist attraction is the Architectural Museum, home to the famous Riace bronzes that every lover of sculpture should visit at least once in their lifetime. To round off the day, savour the typical regional dishes (often spiced with chilli pepper) and take a stroll along its elegant promenade that commands stunning views over to the Sicilian coast and Mount Etna. Overnight stay in Reggio Calabria.

● DAY 7 · REGGIO CALABRIA - SCILLA - CAPO VATICANO - TROPEA

After breakfast, set out for Scilla, a very popular summer resort. Enjoy a pleasant morning by the beach and savour the wonderful cuisine offered by the town's countless bars and restaurants. The first week of August is when the Fish Fair is held, an ideal date to savour some freshly-caught specialities. Finish your visit in the Chianalèa neighborhood, an authentic maze of streets and houses that trickle down to the waterfront. According to Greek mythology, Scilla was the home of the sea monster Scylla, hence the town's name. Afterwards, head back on the road for around an hour and a half over to Capo Vaticano, a breathtaking coastline dotted with coves and rocky outcrops. The natural pools formed on the coast, at the foot of the greyish-white mountains, are simply sublime. And then over to today's final destination, Tropea, built atop a dramatic cliff edge. The town stands on the Costa Bella and offers incredible views over to the island of Lipari, one of the most jaw-dropping places in the whole of Calabria. Its old town boasts a Norman-Romanesque cathedral with its original façade and two undetonated WWII bombs near the door: it's believed they didn't explode due to the protection of the town's patron saint, Our Lady of Tropea. The most photographed place here is the spectacular Benedictine Sanctuary of Santa Maria dell'Isola, which rises solitarily from a cliff in the middle of the sea. And make sure you stroll along the Via Boiano and the sweeping Via Gallupi, with its majestic palaces. As an alternative, you can take a boat out to the World Heritage Site of Lipari, in the Aeolian Islands. For dinner, make sure you order a dish featuring the typical red onions of the region, whether on a pizza, in a salad, as a sauce or simply on some crusty bread. Overnight stay in Tropea.

● DAY 8 · TROPEA - PIZZO CALABRO - LAMEZIA TERME - CITY OF ORIGIN

Today it's back to Lamezia Terme, an hour and twenty minutes away. If you have time, on the way to the airport you can make a brief stop in Pizzo Calabro. Forty minutes away from Tropea, this small village has an age-old fishing tradition that bestows it a unique character. The old quarter embraces a headland offering spectacular views of the imposing Murat Castle. (Note: Admission to the castle not included). And don't leave without savouring one of the region's best desserts, the tartufo di pizzo. It's basically a hazelnut and chocolate ice cream with the double whammy of melted chocolate inside. What better way to end your trip?

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cosenza.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cosenza.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Rossano Stazione Cosenza.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Rossano Stazione Cosenza.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Crotone.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Crotone.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Catanzaro.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Catanzaro.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Gerace Reggio Calabria.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Gerace Reggio Calabria.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Calabria Tirrenica.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Calabria Tirrenica.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tropea.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tropea.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Insolvency protection.

Your trip doesn't include

✕ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Lamezia Terme Catanzaro



Cosenza



Frascineto



Civita



Altomonte



Spezzano Albanese Cosenza



Rossano Stazione Cosenza



Acri Cosenza



San Giovanni in Fiore



Castelsilano



Santa Severina



Crotone



Capo Colonna



Le Castella



Catanzaro

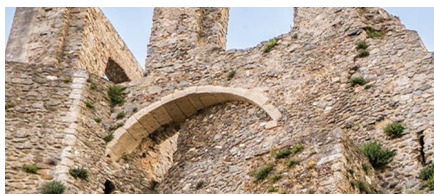


Squillace Catanzaro





Stilo



Locri Reggio Calabria



Gerace Reggio Calabria



Reggio Calabria



Scilla Reggio Calabria



Capo Vaticano



Tropea



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.

- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.