

# Discovering Italy's Abruzzo Region

## an exploration of the region's archaeology, nature, and culture

14 nights/15 days (7-21 July 2007)

Heritage Excursions is a unique opportunity to experience intensive work on an archaeological excavation in the Abruzzo province of eastern Italy along with visits to some of the area's most beautiful cultural and natural attractions.

The Abruzzo region is located to the east of Rome and extends from the Apennines to the Adriatic Sea; it encompasses nearly 11,000 square kilometers (three-quarters the size of Connecticut) of coastal areas, hilly uplands and mountains. Known as the "green province," the Abruzzo is home to some of Italy's oldest National Forests and Parks. It has a long history of human habitation, dating from the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods through today.

Through an innovative agreement between the Sangro Valley Project, the USDA Forest Service, Division of Heritage Management, the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo, and Oberlin College, Heritage Excursion participants as well as USDA Forest Service archaeologists participate with the Sangro Valley Project in a series of archaeological projects, including excavation, survey, geoprospection, and GPS mapping. Heritage Excursions is modeled on the USDA Forest Service's successful Passport in Time domestic program.

### Introduction to the Sangro Valley Project

Established in 1994 by John Lloyd (Oxford University), Neil Christie (Leicester University), and Amalia Faustoferri (Soprint-

endenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo), the Sangro Valley Project is currently co-directed by Susan Kane (Oberlin College) and Ed Bispham (Oxford University) <[www.sangro.org](http://www.sangro.org)>. The Project's aim is to study society, economy, and settlement change within the context of a Mediterranean river valley system—the Sangro River valley (Val di Sangro)—in the territory of the ancient Samnites. Surprisingly, large parts of ancient Samnium remain relatively unknown. Portrayed in the Roman historical record as a culturally isolated area, the region's reputation as the epitome of 'backwoods' Italy has persisted into modern times. Discoveries by the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo and two phases of work by the Sangro Valley Project (1994–1998; 1999–ongoing) have convincingly demonstrated that this area of Samnium, particularly from the Iron Age through the Roman periods, was a greater participant in the broader processes that shaped ancient Italy than had been previously thought.

In the summer of 2007, Heritage Excursions participants will collaborate with Dr. Amalia Faustoferri of the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo to reopen a Roman villa site that was partially excavated in 1997. The villa is located in San Rocco, an area now part of the city of San Salvo. In antiquity, the site had a commanding view of both the Adriatic coast and the lower Trigno River valley. Built in the Roman Republican period (2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries B.C.), the villa contained both residential and industrial areas and continued in use well into the



San Salvo



Adriatic coast

Medieval period. Heritage Excursions participants will initiate the new excavations planned for the site. In addition, geophysical prospection work will be conducted at the Medieval site of S. Vito del Trinco, which was founded by Cistercian monks and is located in the lower Trigno River valley.

**San Salvo** <[www.comune.sansalvo.ch.it](http://www.comune.sansalvo.ch.it)>

The Heritage Excursions group will be based in San Salvo (101 meters in altitude, population 17,914) a lively and picturesque tourist and industrial town, that is located at the southern border of the Abruzzo and Molise provinces and the mouth of the Trigno River valley. The city is just three kilometers from the Adriatic—one of the most beautiful coastlines in Italy. Since 1994, the area has been awarded the Europe Blue Flag Prize of the Foundation for Environmental Education for the quality of its waters, beach, and touristic amenities. It is also an important industrial center, partly thanks to the rich methane reserves that surround it. San Salvo has a long history that stretches from its Italic past in the Iron Age through its prosperous existence as a Roman and Medieval town.

## Itinerary: Archaeological Work Program and Touring

### 7 July (Saturday) – day 1

Arrive in Rome. Transfer from Fiumicino Airport to the Satellite Palace Hotel in Roma Lido. Late afternoon introductory meeting. Evening at leisure.

### 8 July (Sunday) – day 2

You will be driven by coach from the hotel in Roma Lido to San Salvo and the Hotel Gabri where you will be lodged. Along the way you will visit the city of Chieti, the capital of the province, perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Adriatic. Some of the Roman town is still visible, including two temples and a well preserved theatre, into whose side has been built a state-of-the-art interactive museum on the history of Chieti—the Museo di Civitella. We will also visit the Museo Archeologico to see the “Warrior of Capestrano” statue and other important archaeological finds from the region.

08:30 - depart Rome  
11:30 - visit Chieti museums  
14:00 - lunch on Autostrada (at Autogrille)  
16:00 - check-in at the Hotel Gabri and leisure  
20:00 - dinner at restaurant

### 09 July (Monday) – day 3

In the morning, there will be a visit to the sites of San Rocco and of S. Vito del Trinco as well as the Museo Civico “Porta della Terra”. In the afternoon there will be an introductory lecture on the Sangro Valley Project.

08:00 - breakfast  
09:00 - visit to S. Rocco, S. Vito del Trinco, and the Museo Civico  
12:30 - lunch  
15:00 - introductory lecture  
20:00 - dinner at hotel

### Introduction to the Val di Sangro

The planned touring itinerary will introduce you to the three areas of the Val di Sangro: the mountainous upland region of the Majella massif and the National Parks, the middle valley where the Monte Pallano excavations are located, and the coastal plain, famous for its traditions of fishing and sea-trade. Because of the richness of its natural and cultural heritage, the Abruzzo is considered an “open air” museum. The region is noted for its low population density, geographical isolation, its long history of human habitation, and its remarkably unspoiled environment.

The countryside is dotted with small towns—on mountain tops or nestled in valleys—that are a testament to the strong and enduring character of the local people. “Forza ma gentile” or “Strong but kindly” is how the Abruzzese describe themselves. The province is noted for its animal husbandry (good meat and cheese products) and agriculture (excellent wines and grain to make the famous Abruzzese pasta). Abruzzese cooking is one of the most famous regional cuisines in Italy, noted for the simple but hearty character of its dishes and the use of local ingredients.

### 10 July (Tuesday) – day 4

In the morning, begin archaeological work at S. Rocco and S. Vito del Trinco.

08:00 - breakfast  
09:00 - archaeological work  
12:30 - lunch  
15:00 - archaeological work  
20:00 - dinner at hotel

### 11 July (Wednesday) – day 5

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S. Vito del Trinco.

08:00 - breakfast  
09:00 - archaeological work  
12:30 - lunch  
15:00 - archaeological work  
20:00 - dinner at hotel

### 12 July (Thursday) – day 6

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S. Vito del Trinco.

08:00 - breakfast  
09:00 - archaeological work  
12:30 - lunch  
15:00 - archaeological work  
20:00 - dinner at hotel

### 13 July (Friday) – day 7

Excursion to the seaside city of Pescara to visit the Museo delle Genti d’Abruzzo (Museum of the People of the Abruzzo). This lovely new museum has a range of exhibits that explore daily life in the Abruzzo from prehistory up to today. There will also be a visit to the Abbey of S. Giovanni in Venere and the Documentation Center on the “trabocco” fishing platform.

08:30 - breakfast  
09:30 - depart for Pescara & visit Museum



13:00 - sack lunch  
 14:00 - afternoon in Pescara  
 20:00 - dinner at hotel

#### 14 July (Saturday) – day 8

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S.Vito del Trinco and afternoon excursion to Montediorisio, a fortified Medieval city with a castle and museum.

08:00 - breakfast  
 09:00 - archaeological work  
 12:30 - lunch  
 15:00 - visit to Montediorisio  
 20:00 - dinner at hotel

#### 15 July (Sunday) – day 9

08:30 – breakfast  
 morning at leisure (beach?)  
 13:00 - lunch  
 15:00 - visit to Vasto and its Musei Civici, one of the oldest museums in the Abruzzo  
 20:00 – dinner at hotel

#### 16 July (Monday) – day 10

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S.Vito del Trinco.

08:00 - breakfast  
 09:00 - archaeological work  
 12:30 - lunch  
 15:00 - archaeological work  
 20:00 - dinner at hotel

#### 17 July (Tuesday) – day 11

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S.Vito del Trinco.

08:00 - breakfast  
 09:00 - archaeological work  
 12:30 - lunch  
 15:00 - archaeological work  
 20:00 - dinner at hotel

#### 18 July (Wednesday) – day 12

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S.Vito del Trinco and after-



noon excursion to Monte Pallano and the Sangro Valley Project excavations.

08:00 - breakfast  
 09:00 - archaeological work  
 12:30 - lunch  
 15:00 – visit to Monte Pallano  
 20:00 - dinner at hotel

#### 19 July (Thursday) – day 13

Archaeological work at S. Rocco and S.Vito del Trinco.

08:00 - breakfast  
 09:00 - archaeological work  
 12:30 - lunch  
 15:00 - archaeological work  
 20:00 - dinner at hotel

#### 20 July (Friday) – day 14

Visit to the Parco Nazionale d’Abruzzo and Pescocostanzo. The National Park of the Abruzzo was created in 1872 and made a State Park in 1923, thus making it one of the oldest Parks in Italy. It is a national treasure and one of the most important wildlife preserves in Europe (home to the native wolf and bear). On the way home, we will stop in Pescocostanzo, a very typical Abruzzese mountain town well-known for its lovely Renaissance architecture and artisanal working in gold, wood, wrought iron, and lace.

07:30 – breakfast and departure for the Parco Nazionale d’Abruzzo  
 13:00 – lunch in park  
 15:00 – depart for Pescocostanzo  
 20:00 – return to dinner at hotel

#### 21 July (Saturday) – day 15

Breakfast and departure by coach for Rome.

08:30 - breakfast and departure for Rome  
 12:00 - arrive in Rome; excursion concludes (we can assist with hotel reservations)

## Accommodations and Program Costs

Participants will stay in the three-star Hotel Gabri in San Salvo. The hotel provides air-conditioned double rooms with bath. All meals will be taken at the hotel which features local Abruzzese specialties. The program fee is \$2,500. International travel is in addition to the program fee, and is to be covered by individual participants.

The fee covers the following:

- 1 night at the Satellite Palace Hotel in Roma Lido (dinner not included)
- 13 days of complete pension, including wine with dinner, at the Hotel Gabri (San Salvo)
- Pulman Coach transfer from Rome to the Hotel Gabri (San Salvo) and return
- Professionally supervised archaeological work for 8 full days

## Personnel

### Susan Kane

Professor Kane holds an undergraduate degree from Barnard College and a doctorate from Bryn Mawr College. A member of the faculty at Oberlin College since 1977, she has excavated in the US, UK, Greece, Yugoslavia, Libya, and Italy and currently serves as co-director of the Sangro Valley Project (Abruzzo, Italy) and as director of the Cyrenaica Archaeological Project (Cyrene, Libya). She is Vice President for Publications for the Archaeological Institute of America and has published extensively in classical archaeology and archeometry.

#### Contact information

Susan Kane  
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e-mail: <susan.kane@oberlin.edu>

### John Ippolito

Currently John is Forest Heritage Program Manager for the USDA National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. He has led numerous Passport in Time projects in Texas, and has co-led the four previous Heritage Excursions to the Sangro Valley.

#### Contact information

John Ippolito  
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fax: (936) 639-8588  
e-mail: <jippolito@fs.fed.us>

- Transportation to and from the archaeological sites
- Transportation for all excursions
- Entrance to the Museo Archeologico and the Museo Archeologico della Civitella in Chieti
- Entrance to the Museo delle Genti d'Abruzzo in Pescara
- Entrance to the Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo

A deposit of \$250—due by 28 February 2007—will reserve a place in the program. Checks should be made payable to: "Oberlin College-Sangro Valley Excursion" and sent to Susan Kane, along with an application form. The balance is due no later than 1 May 2007. The program requires a minimum of fifteen participants, and will have no more than twenty participants.

### Velicia Bergstrom

Velicia is the Forest Heritage Program Manager for the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. She has been actively involved in field projects for 15+ years that span many time periods. She is an enthusiastic user and assists others in using Global Positioning Systems and Ground Penetrating Radar. She has co-led Heritage Excursions to the Sangro Valley and has overseen geophysical work there since 2002.

#### Contact information

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e-mail: vbergstrom@fs.fed.us

### Rodney Snedeker

Rodney is the Forest Heritage Program Manager for the USDA National Forests in North Carolina. He has directed Passport In Time projects in North Carolina and has hosted university archaeological field schools since 1991. He also participated in one Heritage Excursions project in the Sangro Valley.

#### Contact information

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# Discovering Italy's Abruzzo Region

an exploration of the region's archaeology, nature, and culture  
7 to 21 July 2007

## Application Form

Yes, please sign me (us) up—pending space availability—for the Discovering Italy's Abruzzo Region excursion. We will confirm your reservation upon receipt of this form and accompanying deposit of \$250. If there is a waiting list for the tour, we will contact you to discuss the possibilities, so please make sure to include your telephone number or e-mail address below. All information on this page will remain strictly confidential. Please be sure to read the Terms and Conditions (in an accompanying document); submission of this form constitutes your agreement to them.

### First Person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_

### Second Person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations are in double rooms. If you are a single, you will be assigned a roommate(s) of the same sex.

The total program fee of \$2,500 per participant. A deposit of \$250 (check payable to "Oberlin College–Sangro Valley Excursion") is due by 28 February 2007 and should be enclosed with this form; the balance of \$2,250 is due no later than 1 May 2007. International travel is in addition to the program fee, and is to be covered by individual participants.

Please return this form with deposit to:

Susan Kane  
Department of Art  
Oberlin College  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074  
Voice: (440) 774-3681  
E-mail: susan.kane@oberlin.edu

Other contact information:

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E-mail: jippolito@fs.fed.us

## Heritage Excursion Terms & Conditions

**Reservations and Payment:** A deposit of \$250 per person by 28 February 2007 reserves space on the excursion. The balance of \$2,250 is due by 1 May 2007. (Late reservations will be taken if space is available.) The excursion price is based on double occupancy and includes the services specified in the brochure. Prices do not include services and meals not specifically listed, passports or other travel documents, air or other transportation to and from Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome, or personal expenses such as laundry, medical insurance, and communications.

**Cancellation and Refunds:** All cancellations must be received in writing. The full deposit of \$250 per participant will be forfeited for cancellations received 90-60 days before departure. For cancellations received within 60 days of departure, Oberlin College will retain/withhold 50% of the excursion price. No refunds are possible after the tour begins. Refunds take 2-4 weeks to process from the date written cancellation is received. We reserve the right to cancel the excursion prior to departure for any reason, in which case a full refund will be made. Refunds are for excursion price only and do not include transportation, hotel or other expenses incurred on the part of participants. This includes expenses incurred by participants in instances where Oberlin College is forced to cancel the trip. Travel insurance, including trip cancellation/interruption insurance is highly recommended.

**Responsibility:** The payment of the deposit or any partial or full payment for a reservation on a tour shall constitute consent to all provisions listed under "Terms & Conditions" herein. These provisions are hereby incorporated by reference in this "Responsibility" notice, and participants are advised to take notice. Oberlin College is the principal operator for this excursion and is responsible to the participants for all arrangements and for all excursion services and accommodations offered. Oberlin College, its agents, and employees shall not be responsible for personal injuries or property damage, loss or delay, or change of itinerary incurred by any person or tour participant arising out of the act of negligence of any direct or supplemental carrier, hotel, or other person rendering any of these services, or accommodations being offered in these tours; nor shall Oberlin College be responsible for any injuries, death, damage, loss or delay in any means of transportation or by reasons of any event beyond the actual control of Oberlin College, or of any agent or suppliers, or due to *force majeure*. Participants follow the suggested itinerary at their own risk and agree not to hold Oberlin College responsible for injury or death resulting from accidents. Oberlin College reserves the right to substitute hotels, restaurants or other services listed in the itinerary with comparable services if necessary. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the trip due to circumstances beyond the control of Oberlin College. Activities involved in active excavation, geo-physical prospection, and survey are physically demanding, strenuous and potentially dangerous. By reserving space on this excursion, participants acknowledge that they are in suitable physical and mental condition to perform the activities described herein. At the discretion of employees of Oberlin College, participants failing to meet these physical and mental requirements, or participants deemed harmful or disruptive to other participants' enjoyment of the tour, may be asked to leave the tour, with no refund applicable.

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