



**11 May 2024 – 1 June 2024**

**From \$10450\* twin share, \$10950 single\***

**Ex Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Hobart, and Darwin.**

**Business class and Premium Economy fares are available. Apply to Axis Travel Centre. Our preferred carriers are QATAR, Emirates, Qantas and Singapore Airlines. Other airlines can be used if desired or if seats become scarce. All travel is organised by Axis Travel Centre.**

\*Price includes return economy airfares to Rome and a one-way flight to Brindisi, fuel levies, land content, tour escort, and Axis Travel Centre support.

This offer applies from 22 October 2023 and supersedes all other previous offers.

PLEASE NOTE: Payment in full is required to secure this price. Monies paid are nonrefundable nor credited.

The final package cost is not guaranteed if you are only paying the \$550 **Deposit** or on the 50% plan, (see below for details) However, payment of your deposit or the 50% Plan will secure your place on the tour. Balance payable 16 Feb 2024.

## **Back in May 2024 – Learn Italian in Lecce**

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.

Lecce, the Italian language school, and the Salento region of Puglia are waiting. Over three fabulous weeks, will be immersed in the Italian language surrounded by the history, culture and beauty of Lecce.

A deposit of \$550 will reserve your place. While the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic seems to have passed, its impact on the cost of air travel is still being felt which means we can't be 100% sure how long the above price will hold firm. Payment in full will guarantee the above price. See PAYMENT OPTIONS below for more information.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *To be included in the group you must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, and up-to-date with the most recent you booster available. A new variant of the virus is in circulation in Europe so make sure your protection is as up to date as possible.*

### **The package includes**

- Return Economy Class airfare to Rome and a one-way connecting airfare to Brindisi
- Airport meet and greet with airport to accommodation transfers if on group flights
- Three weeks of intensive Italian language tuition
- Day trips – to the Adriatic Coast, and the historic towns of Gallipoli, Gallatina and Otranto
- Accommodation in a 3-star standard, apartment or similar in Lecce (1 June checkout)
- Cooking classes
- A maximum of 14 people in the group plus tour leaders
- Escorted in Italy by Raffaele Tardivo – your personal and experienced tour leader with extensive local knowledge (Raffaele has been taking groups to Lecce since 2012)
- An unforgettable experience in the Salento region of Italy
- Exclusive optional extras only available to tour participants
- 24/7 Travel Agency support via Axis Travel Centre (SA)
- The Axis Travel "[SECURITY UMBRELLA](#)"<sup>©</sup>, free to you and exclusive to Axis, means all monies paid to Axis Travel Centre are protected by their ATIA and other credentials/accreditations held since 1978.

### My services to you as tour leader:

- I will be there 24/7 to provide assistance, support, advice, and information as required
- I will be your link to the Italian language school in Lecce
- I will be available to be your interpreter if you need one

### Additional Costs

- Quality Travel insurance is essential – this can be arranged by Axis Travel Centre
- Travel and accommodation in Italy/Europe or elsewhere before or after the package inclusions.
- Your own discretionary spending including food, entertainment, and other expenses
- Individual or group activities organised by Raffaele and not the school.
- Unless otherwise advised, an additional baggage fee per 23 kg suitcase may apply on internal ITA Airways (formerly Alitalia) flights.

### Free time

There is actually plenty of free time with a number of days off, including most afternoons and weekends. Lessons are held Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 1.00pm. The program is very flexible and there is plenty to do. Go to Venice, Rome or elsewhere for a weekend. Hire a car and explore the region some more. Hire a bike and ride to the beach. Or just relax and soak up the ambience of beautiful Lecce.

### Cost of living

The south of Italy is still a relatively inexpensive place to visit – for example you can buy a pizza and a beer for about 15 Euro (about \$25). You can live quite comfortably on \$AU100 – \$AU150 per day.

### Travel Itinerary

Date	Description
Fri 10 May	Group departure ex Australia
Sat 11 May	Arrive in Rome then connect to Lecce
12 May – 31 May	Three weeks of language, culture, food, fun, and great company
Fri 31 May	Italian language course finishes
Sat 1 June	Depart Lecce

**Important:** Our obligations to you end on Friday 31 May which is also your last night of accommodation. Check out is Saturday 1 June. It's your responsibility to organise any travel and accommodation after 31 May should you wish to vary your travel arrangements at the end of the tour.

The above is an indicative and flexible travel itinerary departing from Australia on Friday 10 May, arriving in Rome on Saturday 11 May and connecting to Brindisi and Lecce on the same day. The itinerary allows for three weeks in Lecce, departing on Saturday 1 June, and arriving back in Australia on Sunday 2 June. The basic package includes a return airfare to Italy and a one-way connecting flight from Rome to Brindisi.

### More travel after Lecce

This is a suggested itinerary only. Arrival and departure dates are flexible so long as you are in Lecce for the package dates. If you would like to vary your arrival/departure dates and destinations simply let Axis Travel know what you would like to do. The professional staff at Axis Travel Centre will assist and guide you, then build the package and give you a quote.

NOTE: group flights booked with Axis Travel Centre usually include a 30 kg suitcase allowance on international flights. This differs with some airlines and more allowance allowed with higher class travel. Short connecting flights to Lecce may require an airport levied fee of about EU50 per 23kg suitcase, in economy class.

### Booking and Payment

The Lecce package is conditional on using Axis Travel for flights as part of our group booking. Exact costs will be quoted to each before monies requested. A copy of your valid passport is required before booking. The sooner you commit and pay the better. High demand, increasing airfares and fluctuating exchange rates are putting pressure on prices. See Payment Options below on how to lock in the price and avoid price prices. Once tickets are paid for, strict amendment and cancellation fees apply. These will be detailed to you before you commit.

### How to Pay

Axis Travel Centre accepts payment by credit card, bank transfer or in cash.

As an additional layer of security, you should strongly consider paying by credit card. If payments for travel components need to be reversed, this can only be done if you have paid by credit card. Reversal is not available for bank transfer or cash payments. Axis Travel Centre conditions and fees are applicable on all forms of payments. Ask Axis for details or see them on [www.axistravel.com.au](http://www.axistravel.com.au) website.

Credit card payments attract transaction fees (Visa and MasterCard 1.8%, American Express 2.2%) while bank transfers and cash do not.

## Payment Options

**Option 1: Pay in full** – Pay the full amount up-front with no more to pay. Air and land are paid in full.

**Option 2: The 50% plan** – Pay 50% of the package price upfront with the remainder payable 90 days before departure. This option means you can join the tour, lock in half of the package price and have more time to pay should you need it. However, changes to exchange rates, school charges and other factors may lead to an increase in the remaining 50% so the sooner you finalise your payment the better. Should the price go up, the maximum increase will be capped at 7% of the outstanding balance.

**Option 3: Deposit now, balance later** – Pay a deposit of \$550 to hold your place on flights and the tour. However, costs may vary until your final payment is made. Changes to exchange rates, fares, fuel levies, security, and airport charges, and the availability of seats on flights can all increase the costs. Your deposit secures your and will be deducted from the final balance. Once the balance is paid the price is locked in as per the package price applicable on that day. Deposits are non-refundable as are all paid package costs.

If you can afford a little luxury, talk to Axis Travel Centre about upgrading to Business or First Class.

## Personal Travel Insurance

Since COVID 19 there have been significant increases in the cost of policies. The policies that Axis Travel Centre distributes has many COVID 19 inclusions and protections as per the PDS (product disclosure statement), inclusions relating to other viral and bacterial illnesses, as well as coverages or exclusions if you have any pre-existing medical conditions. Axis Travel Centre will guide you through

Good quality - not the cheapest - travel insurance has never been more important. Axis Travel will explain all the options and alternatives available to you, explain how travel insurance will affect you, and offer you a relevant quotation. Policies issued by Axis Travel Centre include their renowned 24/7 service and support.

*FYI in years 2020 to 2021 all clients who were booked on the (COVID cancelled) LECCE language tours with Axis Travel Centre and had travel insurance issued by them, had their tour monies refunded to them.*

## Agency Insurance Protection

Booking with Axis Travel Centre gives you FREE protections under their unique **SECURITY UMBRELLA©** protection package. This includes their Professional Indemnity insurance and their adherence to legal standards required via their accreditations with ATIA, ATAS, CLIA, HELLOWORLD and CRUISECO, complimented by over 46 years of expertise and experience in the Travel Industry.

**To book for Lecce for May 2024 email Max Najar on [max@axistravel.com.au](mailto:max@axistravel.com.au) at Axis Travel or call on 08 84331133, to reserve your place. Please contact me if you would like more information.**



## Raffaele Tardivo

Tour Organiser and Leader

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*"Where professional advice and quality service matter most"*



Your booking is safe with us

\* Price includes airfares, fuel levies, land content and tour escort. The quoted cost is an estimate only. The final package cost will depend on the airfare chosen and time of purchase. Minimum tour group number is nine persons.

## COVID-19 – What have we learned?

The COVID-19 coronavirus caused disruption on a global scale with major problems in travel, tourism and many other sectors of the world's economy.

It seems the worst effects of the pandemic have passed and life is returning to normal. Planes are flying again, cruise ships are sailing again, and people have started 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. These things are thankfully rare but if they do happen while you are overseas or about to travel, then you'll 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 would be 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 low 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.

By all means use the internet to do your research, however using an accredited travel agent adds a very important layer of professional service, security, human contact and access to quality insurance to protect you in case of unforeseeable catastrophic events.

### 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. By all means shop around but make sure you know what you are buying.

There are many unforeseeable things that can seriously disrupt your travel plans and cause havoc. Besides COVID-19 there can be flight disruptions and cancellations, strikes, volcanoes, inclement weather, missed connections, health issues and more; all of which need to be considered when taking out travel insurance cover. When the unforeseen does happen what you need most is human support, empathy and efficiency to assist you when you need it. Axis Travel Centre is proud of the personal advice and support it provides to all its customers. For real life examples see the ["TESTIMONIALS"](#) via the Axis Travel Centre website.

Axis Travel Centre offers quality policies, usually with no or a small 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.

Thank you

### Raffaele Tardivo - Tour Leader

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