



Greek-Speaking Villages of Southern Italy – Matera, Otranto & Alberobello, 6-Day Ferry Trip from Kiato

Departure: 10 October 2026, 6 days / 5 nights

There is a corner of Italy where, if you stand in the square and listen, you will hear Greek. Not schoolbook Greek — Griko, the dialect kept alive for twenty-five centuries by the villages of Grecia Salentina. This trip goes exactly there. Six days across Magna Graecia: from Matera, the "Cappadocia of Italy" whose cave dwellings are protected by UNESCO, to Taranto, founded by the Spartans; from Sternatia and Calimera, where shop signs are written in Greek, to Otranto and the largest mosaic floor in Europe; and from baroque Lecce to the fairy-tale cone-roofed houses of Alberobello. We travel by coach and ferry, departing from Kiato, with the Igoumenitsa – Brindisi crossing in four-berth cabins, a modern air-conditioned coach and an experienced Greek-speaking tour leader throughout.

Itinerary

Departure date: 10/10/2026



Day 1 | 10/10: Kiato – Igoumenitsa – At sea

Departure from Kiato at midday and, with suitable stops along the way, arrival in Igoumenitsa. Time at the duty-free shop and boarding the ferry to Brindisi. Settle into your cabins and enjoy the ship's facilities, with cafés and restaurants on board. Overnight at sea.

Day 2 | 11/10: Brindisi – Matera – Taranto

Arrival at the port of Brindisi and departure for Matera. It is called the "Cappadocia of Italy" because its rock dwellings have been inhabited since Palaeolithic times, and also the "twin sister of Bethlehem" — Zeffirelli filmed "The Passion of the Christ" here. A treasure under UNESCO protection. Guided walk and free time. We then continue to Taranto, the only Spartan colony in Magna Graecia. We visit the historic centre, spread over a small island between two seas, with time for coffee by the waterfront. Check-in at the hotel. Overnight.

Day 3 | 12/10: Sternatia – Calimera – Otranto – Corigliano – Gallipoli

After breakfast we head for Sternatia, which its inhabitants still call by its old name, "Chora". The Griko dialect is spoken by older and younger generations alike; besides the famous cisterns and the underground olive press, you will see signs in Greek, from the greengrocer's to the coffee house. We continue to Calimera, where the municipal garden holds a funerary stele, a gift from the City of Athens, reading "You are not a stranger in Calimera" — and where the streets are named Athens Street and Constantinople Street. Via Martano we reach Otranto, ancient Hydrus, founded by Greeks twenty-five centuries ago. We visit Santa Maria dei Martiri, home to the largest mosaic floor in Europe, the "Tree of Life", and the underground cistern with 68 Roman columns on Greek bases with Byzantine capitals. Time for lunch at the seaside taverns. In the afternoon we discover Corigliano, with its imposing castle, its square, the church of St Nicholas and the Lucchetti Arch of 1497. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

Day 4 | 13/10: Gallipoli – Lecce

After breakfast we explore Gallipoli — its name is Greek and means "beautiful city". It is also called the pearl of the Ionian. The old fortified town with its Byzantine monasteries recalls that it was an episcopal seat belonging to Constantinople and kept Orthodoxy until 1513; beside it stands the newer town (Borgo) with its 16th-century bridge. We will see the Greek Fountain, considered the oldest fountain in Italy, with its three reliefs. We then visit Lecce, the "Florence of the South": a historic centre of local stone in baroque and rococo style. It has been called the "Athens of Apulia" for its inhabitants' devotion to the arts. Free time for lunch. Overnight.



Day 5 | 14/10: Lecce – Alberobello – Brindisi

Breakfast and departure for the jewel of a town, Alberobello. The word trulli does not mean what it does in Greek: it comes from the Latin turrula, "little tower", and describes medieval stone buildings with a round footprint, whitewashed walls and a grey conical roof. The historic centre is a UNESCO monument and one of the most important sights in southern Italy. Time for photographs and lunch, then on to Brindisi. Boarding the ferry to Igoumenitsa. Overnight at sea.

Day 6 | 15/10: Igoumenitsa – Kiato

Arrival at the port of Igoumenitsa, boarding the coach and departure for Kiato, with the necessary stops along the way. Arrival and end of our trip.

Travel notes

- The order of visits may be adjusted for operational reasons, without any service being omitted.
- A **valid new-type national ID card or passport** is required.

Prices

Departure	Final price	Child	Single supplement
10/10/2026	600 € / person	Same	+150 €

INCLUDED

- Excursions and sightseeing by luxury air-conditioned coach
- Ferry tickets Igoumenitsa – Brindisi – Igoumenitsa in a four-berth cabin (AB4)
- 3 nights in a hotel with breakfast
- Hotel city taxes
- City entrance fees
- Experienced tour leader from our office
- Professional liability insurance

NOT INCLUDED

- Entrance fees to museums, archaeological sites and shows
- Lunches and dinners, except where explicitly stated
- Drinks, tips and portorage
- Optional travel insurance
- Anything not explicitly listed under "Included"

General Information & Booking Terms

Programme & visits The order of the visits may change, with nothing omitted. Activities and sites open to visitors may change because of the weather or force majeure.

Prices & accommodation The child rate applies to children up to 12 years old sharing a room with two adults.

Travel documents For travel within Europe you need an ID card in Latin characters, issued within the last 15 years and in good condition. For travel outside Europe you need a passport valid for at least six months from the date you leave the country.



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Payment & confirmation A booking is confirmed once the deposit is paid, after you have submitted your participation form. Please put your full name as the payment reference. Payments at our office are accepted in cash or by debit card.

Ways to pay

For your convenience you can deposit into the following accounts of Lia's Travel:

Bank	Account number	IBAN
Εθνική Τράπεζα	37500116811	GR2201103750000037500116811
Alpha Bank	551002002014373	GR9301405510551002002014373
Eurobank	00260324050201132723	GR5402603240000050201132723
Piraeus	5526114129666	GR2501725260005526114129666
Revolut	@tonypanopoulos	LT513250022239790551
IRIS	6946930151	—
PayPal	lias.travel@gmail.com	—
Automatic payment	RF78947728000000800635831	—

Account holder: ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ & ΣΙΑ ΕΕ

For bookings with a 30% deposit. Public liability insurance is included in every one of our departures.

We wish you a unique travel experience!

