

## Geführte Pilgerreise im April 2010

Geführte Pilgerreise im April 2010 Via Appia 2010 (status: january 2010)

The Roman Via Appia (Regina Viarum or Queen of all Roads) goes back to the 4th Century b.C. Apostles walked on it, emperors, and Popes, saints as S. Francis of Assisi and S. Thomas of Aquino, artists as Petrarca and Tasso and Goethe and H.C.Andersen and some music composers. Along it are running the paths of the Via Francigena or Via dell'Angelo, used by pilgrims for 10 centuries but today altogether forgotten. Since 4 years we are striving to revive it, walking from the banks of the river Garigliano to Rome (some 230 km in 12 days).

In 2010 we will start from Benevento, some 120 km further south.

The itinerary is very interesting (Roman temples, cistercian Basilicas, monasteries and hermitages, on sandy beaches along the sea, on mountains, along the shores of 4 lakes, in natural parks, in thick woods and Mediterranean vegetation, through medieval villages, 20% on original Roman roads, 40% on mountain's or country paths etc.). We make an effort to enjoy the cultural, spiritual and social values of the way, to remember the work of artists (Goethe's "Italienische Reise" describes this route), to attend concerts of local ancient music composers. Above all we appreciate the company of our fellow pilgrims, no more than 20 and generally of 4 or 5 different nationalities. etc.

Some of the participants are religiously motivated.

In each place we will meet local communities. However, you can avoid any involvement, and enjoy the time on your own. On the negative side: some 8 % of the way is on national roads with heavy traffic and 22% is on paved roads (but with limited traffic).

At the arrival we will receive the "Testimonium", a recognition document from the Vatican (29 april).

The

route: april 4 meet in Benevento, then Montesarchi, S. Angelo dei Goti, Casertavecchia, Pignataro, Teano, Sessa Aurunca, Castelforte/Suio, Minturno, Formia/Gaeta april 14. We stop 4 days. Then 19 april start from Gaeta/Formia, Fondi, Terracina, Fossanova, Sezze, Bassiano, Sermoneta, Cori, Velletri, Castelgandolfo, for the final stage to ROMA 28 april we start at 4.30 a.m. at the light of torches.

Sessa Aurunca and its surrounding are places very interesting to visit as a preparation of the pilgrimage: the most impressive liturgy in Italy in the Holy Week. Important visits: S. Angelo in Formis, S. Maria Capua Vetere, Casertavecchia, and the Royal Palace in Caserta. We will meet on April 2 in Sessa and visit as tourist these places for 3 days.

We anticipate most pilgrims will choose one only of the 2 parts of the walk, before and after the 19 april..

## COSTS PER PERSON

Insurance legally required in Italy for any group with a guide (2 &euro; /day per person).

Costs (only if desired): a vehicle to transport luggage (1 piece/participant) and for assistance (3 &euro; /day)

Hospitality  
suggested: in double room, breakfast & evening meal. Average cost: 45 &euro; day/person.

Two  
times: hostels (cheaper multibed rooms) Average cost: 32 &euro; day/person.  
Pilgrims, who prefer so, can arrange their own keep.

We are a small "non profit" association (20 members) of friends expert in pilgrimages and resident along the pilgrims' route. We are not tourist operators. Our guides pay for their own expenses. They speak English and elementary German.

Our objective is to re-establish (and sometimes reinvent) a path to go on foot from the south of Latium to Rome.

We make a special effort to develop the cultural/spiritual contents of the way. Collaboration and participation from participants is welcome.

#### Note

Participation to only a part of the walk is not encouraged, but accepted for more than 4 stages.

Sessa Aurunca, Benevento and Gaeta/Formia can be reached by train from Rome (Termini station).

The walk is physically not very demanding, but some previous training is recommended.

Foreign pilgrims of the four past initiatives are prepared to answer your queries.

Whom to contact:

Alberto Alberti, Largo Pepere 24, 00151 Roma tel. 39065370765

portable 393491648614 E-mail: ro\_albea@hotmail.com