

# Discovering Italy's Sangro Valley

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

14 nights/15 days (8-22 July 2006)

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, Oberlin College, and Oxford University, Heritage Excursion participants work side by side with the undergraduate students and professional staff of the project's archaeological field school, as well as USDA Forest Service archaeologists on a series of projects, including excavation, survey, geoprospection, and GPS mapping. Heritage Excursions is based in part on the USDA Forest Service's successful Passport in Time domestic program.

### Introduction to the Sangro Valley Project

The Sangro Valley Project was established in 1994 by John Lloyd (Oxford University), Neil Christie (Leicester University), and Amalia Faustoferri (Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo). Since the untimely death of Lloyd in 1999, the Sangro Valley Project has been co-directed by Susan Kane (Oberlin College) and Ed Bispham (Oxford University) <[www.sangro.org](http://www.sangro.org)>. The Project's aim has 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.

The Sangro Valley Project is currently focusing its work in the environs of Monte Pallano. A dominating feature in the Sangro River middle valley's landscape, Monte Pallano was an important



Overview of the excavation area on Monte Pallano



Overview of the excavation site at Acquachiarra

feature in the ritual and territorial landscape of the ancient Samnites. Over the two past decades, the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Abruzzo has excavated a substantial complex of public buildings on Monte Pallano and completed a restoration of its imposing megalithic walls. Since 1999, the Sangro Valley Project has uncovered evidence for the precinct of a sanctuary of unexpected wealth and sophistication nearby. Monte Pallano is the site of a new archaeological park designed to promote community-based tourism as part of a larger effort to support sustainable regional economic development. The Sangro Valley Project is also focusing attention on two Iron Age and Roman domestic sites at the nearby site of Acquachiarra.

## 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 people 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 traditionally made local ingredients.

# Itinerary: Archaeological Work Program and Touring

## 8 July (Saturday)– day 1

Arrive in Rome. Transfer from Fiumicino Airport to the Satellite Palace Hotel in Roma Lido. Afternoon at leisure. Evening introductory lecture.

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

## 9 July (Sunday) – day 2

You will be driven by coach from the hotel in Roma Lido to your bungalow at the Isola Verde resort on the edge of the Lago di Bomba (Bomba Lake) in the middle Sangro Valley. 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 Isola Verde and leisure  
20:00 - dinner at resaturant

## 10 July (Monday) – day 3

In the morning, there will be a visit to the Monte Pallano and Acquachiarra sites and in the afternoon an introductory lecture on the Sangro Valley Project.

08:00 - breakfast  
09:00 - visit to Monte Pallano and Acquachiarra  
12:30 - lunch  
15:00 - introductory lecture  
20:00 - dinner at resaturant

## 11 July (Tuesday) – day 4

In the morning, begin archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiarra.

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

## 12 July (Wednesday)– day 5

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiarra.

## 13 July (Thursday) – day 6

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiarra.

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

## 14 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. A special dinner at one of Pescara’s fine seafood restaurants will complete the day.

08:30 - breakfast  
09:30 - depart for Pescara & visit Museum  
13:00 - sack lunch  
14:00 - afternoon in Pescara  
20:00 - dinner at seaside restaurant

## 15 July (Saturday) – day 8

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiarra and trip to the nearby town of Atessa with its lovely churches and quaint piazzas.

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

## 16 July (Sunday)– day 9

Visit to the archaeological site of Pompeii on the Bay of Naples. This Roman city was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, and remained undisturbed until its rediscovery in the 18th century. The site provides a unique snapshot of Roman life “frozen in time” in the first century.

07:30 - breakfast  
08:00 - departure for Pompeii  
13:00 - picnic lunch in Pompeii  
20:00 - dinner at resaturant

### 17 July (Monday) – day 10

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiara.

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

### 18 July (Tuesday) – day 11

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiara.

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

### 19 July (Wednesday) – day 12

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiara.

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

### 20 July (Thursday) – day 13

Archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiara.

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

### 21 July (Friday) – day 14

Visit to the Parco Nazionale della Majella (the Majella National park). This national park, established in 1991, is located in the Majella mountains, the most imposing and extensive range of the Apennines, with 60 peaks over 2000 meters high. The Parco Nazionale della Majella is noted for its remarkable biodiversity. You will visit the Visitors Center and take a nature hike on one of the park's extensive system of trails.

08:00 - breakfast and departure for the Parco Nazionale della Majella  
13:00 - picnic lunch at the park  
20:00 - return to dinner at resaturant

### 22 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 rustic Isola Verde Resort in Bomba. The resort provides two and three bedroom bungalows with a common sitting room, small kitchen, and shared bath. It facilities include a swimming pool, snack bar, and its own restaurant on the premises. Most breakfasts and dinners will be taken at the resort's Airone restaurant, renowned for its local Abruzzese specialties. Lunch will be normally be taken with the Field School students in Tornareccio.

The program fee is \$2,250—which includes a tax-deductible contribution of \$500 to Oberlin College for the benefit of the Sangro Valley Project. 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 campgrounds of Isola Verde (Bomba)
- Pulman Coach transfer from Rome to Isolva Verde resort and return

- Professionally supervised archaeological work on Monte Pallano and Acquachiara for 8 full days
- Transportation to and from Monte Pallano and Acquachiara
- Pulman coach transportation for 3 days of excursions in the area
- Accompanying specialist guides
- Entrance to the Museo Archeologico e il complesso archeologico della Civitella at Chieti
- Entrance to the Museo delle Genti d'Abruzzo in Pescara
- Entrance to the Parco Nazionale della Majella
- Entrance to the sites of Pompeii
- Supplemental dinner at Pescara

A deposit of \$250—due by 31 January 2006—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 2006. The program requires a minimum of fifteen participants, and will have no more than twenty-two participants.



# Sangro Valley Project Field School

In your archaeological work on Monte Pallano you will interact with undergraduate students from Oberlin College and other institutions of higher education, as well as members of the Sangro Valley Project's professional staff.

Since its inception the Sangro Valley Project has included a Field School and considers the training of students in the latest archeological and technological methodologies to be part of its essential mission. The Field School strives to inculcate in undergraduates the old maxim that archeology is basically about three things: objects; landscapes; and what we make of them, now and for the future.

The Project's use of archeological, geological, geographic, environmental, and cultural resource management approaches, coupled with the latest technology, provides students with a rich "hands-on" learning experience that helps them to prepare for graduate study and other post-graduate work. This "hands on" training is supplemented by field trips to other sites and nearby museums, and with lectures on the history of the region, the principles of archaeological documentation, and discussions of the current problems facing professionals in the field of heritage resource management and in the stewardship and assessment of cultural and environmental resources.



2005 Heritage Excursion participants and Field School students

## 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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Oberlin College  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

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fax: (440) 775-8969

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 previously led Passport in Time projects in Texas. John will accompany participants throughout the project and will supervise their archaeological work on Monte Pallano.

### Velicia Bergstrom

Velicia is the Forest Heritage Program Manager for the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. She has been actively involved in field school projects since 1988 and has excavated sites from a wide variety of time periods. In addition to excavation, she employs Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) in her work. She will travel with the group and oversee geophysics on Pallano.

# Discovering Italy's Sangro Valley

an exploration of the region's archaeology, nature, and culture  
8 to 22 July 2006

## Application Form

Yes, please sign me (us) up—pending space availability—for the Discovering Italy's Sangro Valley 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 and triple rooms. If you are a single, you will be assigned a roommate(s) of the same sex.

The total program fee of \$2,250 per participant includes a tax-deductible contribution of \$500 to Oberlin College for the benefit of the Sangro Valley Project. A deposit of \$250 (check payable to "Oberlin College-Sangro Valley Excursion") is due by 31 January 2006 and should be enclosed with this form; the balance of \$2,000 is due no later than 1 May 2006. 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  
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Oberlin, Ohio 44074  
Voice: (440) 774-3681  
E-mail: susan.kane@oberlin.edu

Other contact information:

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## Heritage Excursion Terms & Conditions

**Reservations and Payment:** A deposit of \$250 per person by 31 January 2006 reserves space on the excursion. The balance of \$2,000 is due by 1 May 2006. (Late reservations will be taken if space is available.) The excursion price is based on double or triple 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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