



HISTORICAL TOUR



the lombards and the normans

Our guided tour begins at the complex of Saint Peter at Court, once part of the Palace owned by the Duke of Benevento, Arechi II. Here, in the heart of the ancient Lombard quarter of Salerno, you will be transported back in time with the help of your insightful local guide.

The Lombards and the Normans came from Northern Europe to conquer and dominate Italy, a country that at this time had been civilized by the Greeks and Romans for a thousand years. This invasion became a catalyst for a wave of development in Italy, moving from North to South, and pushing ahead development in the south of Italy. In fact, under Lombard rule, Salerno became a flourishing commercial town and was designated as the capital of Benevento, with its territory extending out towards Apulia and Basilicata.

The Cathedral of Salerno is dedicated to the town's patron Saint Matthew, whose relics are preserved in the crypt. The cathedral was built by the Norman prince Roberto il Guiscardo in the 11th century, and is a wonderful demonstration of Norman architecture in Campania.

Stop for a visit to the ancient Church of St. Benedict, one of the oldest places of worship in Salerno, and then on to the antique Lombard aqueduct, restored later in the Norman period.

Along Via Mercanti you can visit **The Museum of the Schola Medica Salernitana**, which was the world's first medical school. The school was founded upon a fusion of Greek & Latin influences and merged with Arab and Jewish medical traditions. In the 12th century, the Normans helped this ancient medical school receive recognition on a global level.

A short drive from the center of town takes you up to **Castello Arechi**, the Medieval castle located on top of Mount Bonadies, 350 meters above sea level. The Lombard Prince Arechi II built this castle in the 8th century, on pre-existing fortifications dating back to the Romans, when he moved the capital of Benevento to Salerno. Due to its strategic location, the castle became the fortress of the Lombards. Be sure to bring your camera, as you will be able to capture breath-taking views over the Bay of Salerno from this privileged vantage point!



This Experience Includes:

- Private English speaking guide
- Visit to the Medical School Museum and to Castle Arechi

Optional / Extras (Not Included):

- Round-trip transportation

