



## CAGLIARI

PORT

CAGLIARI

TOUR NAME

### *The Devil's Saddle & St Joseph's Convent*



Drive along Cagliari's southeast coast to the rocky formation known the Devil's Saddle. The small harbor here shelters pleasure craft and the beach stretches between the sea and the great salt works. The salt ponds take on an extraordinary scarlet color when water evaporation is at its peak, and in winter they attract a large number of migratory birds, especially the pink flamingo. Your coach will continue to Poetto Beach, known for its very fine sand—a favorite among the locals. Snap a few photos; then continue to Mount Urpino for an overview of the entire city from the port of Cagliari to the Molentargius Pond. You will also stop at the striking Saint Joseph's Convent to enjoy a refreshment of typical snacks and wines—a small sample of the great gastronomic variety of Sardinia. Saint Joseph's Convent dates back to the 14th century and is of enormous historic and architectural interest. Its walls exemplify the use of ladiri (traditional Sardinian mud bricks). Two noble Sardinian families, the Vittorini of Marsiglia and the Scolopi, have been Patrons of the convent, which was founded San Giuseppe Calasanzio. It is believed the Vittorini family built the two oldest rooms—the Olive and Wine Rooms—between AD 1100 and 1300. Historians believe the Horses Room may once have been the Church of the Vineyard Madonna; others think it was the Byzantine Church of Saint Nicholas. Either way, there is a beautiful Byzantine artifact here, whose twin now resides in the Archeological Museum in Sant'Antioco. The Scolopi family has owned the convent since 1870 and they go to great lengths to ensure authenticity in the ongoing use of many ancient items and traditions—a true treasure of Sardinia's heritage. As you leave the monastery, you'll enjoy a brief drive through city center, stopping at the viewpoint just outside the Old Town

SPECIAL NOTES

TOUR INCLUDES

**DRIVER & GUIDE**

**HALF DAY TOUR**