



Comune di Alberobello

Provincia di Bari



United Nations
Educational, Scientific
Cultural Organization



I Trulli di Alberobello
1996 - Iscritti sulla lista
del Patrimonio Mondiale

PRESS RELEASE

ALBEROBELLO: Festival of Lights Endorsed by UN and UNESCO

From December 6th to January 6th, 2015, every day from sunset until 6 a.m.

ALBEROBELLO – Alberobello put on her party dress when it started being lit up by beams of colourful light projected onto the conic roofs of the trulli, among alleyways and small local shops. It all started on December 6th, marking 18 years since the admission of Alberobello in the Unesco World Heritage list in 1996, and also the beginning of the Festival of Lights.

The festival was inspired by the UN's General Assembly proclamation of 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based technologies, with the aim of raising civic and political awareness around light's vital role in our daily lives. Unesco and several scientific organizations, educational institutions, research centres, and technology platforms have come together to answer the challenge. Alberobello's administration also supports the Festival, which was organized by Agit, Alberobello's Young Tour Operators Association, together with Lightcones, a local social organization,

It is listed in Unesco's calendar of events for 2015, and is sponsored by the Italian Physical Society.

The UN's proclamation and Unesco's endorsement start from the fact that 2015 marks a few important anniversaries: the first studies on optics carried out by Arab Ibn Al-Haytham in 1015, Albert Einstein's discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect in 1905, and progress in light transmission through Charles K. Kao's research on fiber optics and his results in 1965.

The Festival of Lights, premiering in Apulia and among the Italian Unesco World Heritage list cities, is but the first in a series of events which continues until January 6th and is specifically planned for the Christmas holidays by the local administration. The program includes several cultural and food-and-wine-related events, and dance, theatre, music and live performances that will add on to the town's tourist programs and attractions, to reach out to travellers who have chosen to enjoy this area during this season's holidays.



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Upcoming events of this rich calendar include: the Winter session of the *Unesco in Jazz Festival* (December 18th and 19th) presenting two internationally renowned jazz ensembles: Massimo Carrieri's trio and Irio De Paula with Marco Tamburini.

From December 12th to December 29th, an exhibition of "presepi" (traditional nativity scenes) will be open at Casa Pezzolla, Museo del Territorio.

On December 26th-29th, in the magic setting of the Aia Piccola district of Alberobello, the 44th edition of the Live Nativity Scenes.

Alberobello, December 3rd, 2014

Press Office