



ITALY

DISCOVER PUGLIA (TOUR CODE: 12366)

STARTS AND ENDS

Bari to
Lecce

TRAVEL PERIODS

04 Oct 24 - 07 Nov 25

EXPERIENCE

Escorted
Food & Wine

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Explore the delights of Apulia with its splendid Trulli and Matera, an incredible UNESCO World Heritage Site on this 6-day small group tour.

Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures**
- Small group of maximum **20 People**
- Transportation by **deluxe motorcoach with Free-Wi-Fi** connection on board and monolingual tour-escort in English.
- Guided visits in **Bari, Matera & Lecce**
- Specialty dining experiences.

Puglia, known as the heel of Italy's boot, is replete with idyllic coastal towns, whitewashed houses, historic villages, gorgeous beaches, Baroque architecture and delicious cuisine. This jam-packed itinerary takes you to the famous cave dwellings of Sassi di Matera to the trulli houses in Alberobello and gorgeous beaches of Otranto.

Your journey starts in Bari, a charming port city and the capital of Puglia. Explore its old town including the Basilica of San Nicola. From Bari, travel to another seaport town, Trani. Continue to Castel del Monte, a 13th century citadel and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, head to Alberobello, a town known for its unique whitewashed stone huts with conical roofs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue to the intriguing town of Matera, a city in the Basilicata region known for its historical centre, Sassi di Matera, which contains ancient cave dwellings for the Palaeolithic period. Explore the "white towns" of the region including Locorotondo and Ostuni. Discover the gorgeous Baroque buildings and cathedrals in Lecce, known as the Florence of the South. Continue to the picturesque seaside town of Otranto. Explore the town's magnificent cathedral and the Aragonese Castle.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 5-night accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Transportation by coach
- Daily breakfast
- Dinners as per itinerary
- Enjoy a typical meals and products at Masseria le Stanzie on day 5

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Bari

Arrival in Bari on your own. Meet our Tour Leader in your hotel in Bari, the main city of Puglia, and from here start our tour to discover this wonderful region.

Walking tour in the afternoon to learn about the city's history and its most relevant monuments. Walk through the charming narrow alleys of the old city center, admire the Basilica of San Nicola where the remains of Saint Nicholas of Myra are preserved and the Norman-Swabian Castle, a 12th century fortress built by Roger the Norman and rebuilt by Frederick II of Swabia. Be amazed by the astonishing view that you can enjoy from the fortress (admission fee for the Castle at own expense). After the visit, reach Piazza Mercantile where you will see the ancient Column of Justice.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Bari at **The Nicolaus** or Similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Bari Trani Castel Del Monte Alberobello

Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel before leaving Bari by coach to reach **Trani**. Known as the 'Pearl of Puglia', the medieval town of Trani is one of the most remarkable cities of Southern Italy. Discover its art and monuments, visit the Jewish quarter and the wonderful white stone Cathedral.

In the afternoon, reach **Castel Del Monte**, one of Puglia's most acclaimed landmarks. Visit this UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 13th century under Roger the Norman, one of the most enlightened kings in history. The building is a harmonious geometrical complex, shaped as an octagon and surrounded by a still unsolved mystery.

Your journey will continue towards **Alberobello**: a world-known UNESCO World Heritage Site made famous by the "Trulli". These drystone cone-shaped houses were built in the 14th century from local limestone and this village is really unique, with a fairytale-like atmosphere. The town of Alberobello gets its name from the ancient oak forest of "Arboris Belli" (beautiful trees) that once covered the area. It is possible to see these typical buildings all over the Itria Valley.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Alberobello at **Grand Hotel Olimpo** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **3**

Alberobello Matera Alberobello

After breakfast, the coach will take you to this incredible **UNESCO World Heritage Site: Matera**.

Visit and learn the history of the "Sassi di Matera" (Stones of Matera), caves that have been used as houses for over 9.000 years! that are part of the historic center of the city. Admire the Romanesque Cathedral that overlooks the city, its beautiful "Campanile" (Bell Tower) and enjoy the amazing view of the "Sassi". Transfer back to Alberobello in the late afternoon.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Alberobello at **Grand Hotel Olimpo** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **4**

Alberobello Locorotondo Ostuni Lecce

Breakfast in the "square" of the hotel (consider 200 mts from the Trulli).

Leave Alberobello by coach and reach **Locorotondo**. Enjoy some free time to visit this small town that is part of the “white towns” of Puglia. Board on the coach again and travel to **Ostuni**: located between the “Trulli” region and Salento, overlooks the coastal plain rich of ancient olive trees. Free time at your disposal to explore another “white town” with free time for lunch, shopping and tasting of several local products like the world’s famous Ostuni olive oil (all at your own expenses).

In the late afternoon, get again on board of the coach and reach **Lecce** in the heart of the Salento region. Later, enjoy a dinner in Lecce.

Overnight stay in Lecce at **Hotel Delle Palme** or Similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **5**

Lecce Otranto Lecce

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a **3 hour guided visit of the city**, learn the history of **Lecce**, visit the old town center, the 12th century Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce and Piazza del Duomo.

After the visit, board on the coach and leave Lecce. You will reach **Otranto** where you will have some free time at your disposal for lunch. Spend the afternoon visiting the wonderful city of Otranto at your pace. Over the centuries, the city has been invaded by an impressive number of populations, amongst the others we can find traces of Greek, Roman and Turkish cultures. Wander around the old quarters to see how these cultures have blended together. Don't forget to visit the iconic Cathedral where the bones of 813 martyrs are displayed in a glass case behind the altar. See its marvelous mosaic floor which rivals the well-known mosaics of Ravenna in its richness and significance.

In the early evening, reach **Supersano** where you will have **dinner at the “Masseria le Stanzie”**. Visit this ancient farm, learn about the history and culture of Puglia. See how homemade pasta is made and visit the medieval tombs that are part of the farm. Dinner with typical meals and products from the region. In the night, travel back to Lecce.

Overnight stay in Lecce at **Hotel Delle Palme** or Similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **6**

Lecce

Enjoy one final breakfast at the hotel. End of our services.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

- No age limit
- All passengers must be able to independently board and alight the coach.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.
- A minivan with driver/guide, normally not equipped with wifi, will be provided if the number of participants is equal to or less than eight.
- For organizational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice. In this case, our supplier ensures similar visits and excursions in accordance with the spirit of the tour program.
- Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package