

APULIA and MATERA GRAND TOUR

8 Days to discover an unexpected and authentic ITALY



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Experience the real Apulia, among rural landscapes, the most beautiful historical villages in the world, Unesco sites, and authentic Masserie
- Enjoy some hikes in breathtaking locations
- Stay in some of the best Masseria's in the region
- Immerse yourself in the local culture with different unique experiences

Everyone knows about the beauty of Italy, the country that boasts the record number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 58 in all. History and art, traditions and contemporary design, incredible landscapes, and excellent food and wine.

There is a lesser-known but equally beautiful Italy that holds unexpected secrets and beauty. A true, authentic, ancestral Italy.

This journey will take us for ten days to discover a unique land, Puglia, and the nearby town of Matera.

A tour that will take us to numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Matera, Alberobello, Castel del Monte).

We will discover this part of Italy that leans towards the East, which has always been a center of trade and cultural exchange and which still retains its Glocal vocation, which looks to the world and the Guest but always with its feet (and roots) firmly planted in its land.

We will visit two National Parks, ancient rocky sites, traditional Masserie (farmhouses), and rural landscapes, in a journey that will take us from the Paleolithic period in Matera to the present day.

A journey through the history, art, and flavors of these wonderful places.

TRAVEL PROPOSAL

DAY 1 - BARI APT / MATERA

Arrival at Bari International Airport.

Pick-up and transfer reserved for the whole tour.

Transfer in Bari, Bari, the capital of Puglia and historic crossroads of trade with the East. If the plane is scheduled to depart in the afternoon, we can stroll through the alleyways of the Old Town overlooking the sea, with the famous Basilica of San Nicola and the characteristic alleyways in which it is easy to bump into the local women making pasta, the famous orecchiette. Free time for strolling or shopping in the centre of Bari. Lunch in a restaurant.

In the afternoon, arrival in Matera, accommodation in typical Boutique Hotel in the Sassi or in the historic centre. Stroll through the beautiful town, welcome dinner and overnight stay.



Bari (old city)

DAY 2 - MATERA

After breakfast, full-day visit to Matera, Unesco World Heritage Site and European Capital of Culture 2019. The tour guide will take us on a wonderful journey through the Sassi of Matera, one of the oldest urban agglomerations in the world, where man has been able to coexist in harmony with the surrounding nature over the millennia, carving out the stone and inhabiting it (still today), against the backdrop of the local rocky habitat.

We will admire the two Rioni Sassi, Barisano and Caveoso, with their Rupestrian Churches and the typical 'Case Grotta' (cave dwellings), and the beautiful Old Town.

Upon request, it will be possible to participate in an Experiential Visit on typical local bread Lunch in a typical restaurant in the Sassi.

In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



DAY 3 – ALTAMURA – GRAVINA IN PUGLIA

After breakfast, transfer to Altamura, In its historic centre, stands the central Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, commissioned by Frederick II of Swabia. We will visit the characteristic Claustri and an old bakery to honour the best-known local product, Pane Dop di Altamura: we will visit an ancient medieval bakery and taste its products.

In the afternoon transfer to Gravina in Puglia, Città dell'Acqua e della Pietra (City of Water and Stone), a characteristic rocky town set against a ravine produced by water erosion. We will stroll through the historic centre between the ancient Ponte Acquedotto and the scenic Piazza Cattedrale. Finally, we will experience a Ceramics Workshop where we will witness the working of clay and the creation of handicrafts.

In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 4 – CASTEL DEL MONTE - TRANI

Breakfast at the hotel and departure for Castel del Monte, a Unesco World Heritage site built in the 13th century by Frederick II of Swabia, the enlightened emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. One of the most beautiful manors in Europe, it is considered Frederick's jewel.

Lunch in a Cantina (with a visit to the wine cellar and tasting) or in a farmhouse at Castel del Monte. In the afternoon, visit to Trani, the old town by the sea with its marvellous Romanesque Cathedral and the characteristic Jewish Ghetto.

In the evening return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



DAY 5 - POLIGNANO A MARE - MONOPOLI

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out and transfer to Polignano a Mare: first stop will be the Cove housing the Benedictine Monastery of San Vito on the north coast of Polignano a Mare. We will continue with a visit to the historic centre of Polignano a Mare, a town perched on the rocks, with the well-known and scenic Lama Monachile.

In the afternoon, the tour continues to the nearby town of Monopoli, a visit to the splendid ancient white town on the sea, surrounded by walls and towers, with the Co-Cathedral Basilica of Maria Santissima della Madia, the Church of Purgatory, the Castle of Charles V, and the Palazzo Martinelli on the small port.

In the evening, accommodation in a typical Masseria in the Itria Valley.



Polignano

DAY 6 - ALBEROBELLO - LOCOROTONDO

Breakfast at the hotel, transfer and visit to Alberobello, discovering this splendid location, a Unesco World Heritage Site because of its famous Trulli, rural houses with conical roofs built from dry stone. We will stroll through its oldest districts, Rione Monti and Aia Piccola, in a kind of fairy-tale landscape. At midday, transfer to a Masseria in the area for an enthralling food and wine experience (pasta or mozzarella cooking class or wine tasting), followed by a delicious lunch at the Masseria with local zero-kilometre products.

In the afternoon, visit to Locorotondo: perched on a hill with its small white houses (the typical Cummerse) reflecting the Apulian sunlight, Locorotondo is on the list of the most beautiful villages in Italy.

In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



Alberobello

DAY 7 - MARTINA FRANCA - OSTUNI

After breakfast, depart for Martina Franca: perched on a hill with its whitewashed houses (the typical Cummerse) reflecting the Apulian sunlight, Locorotondo is on the list of Italy's Most Beautiful Villages.

In the afternoon, visit Ostuni, the White City, boasting a marvellous mediaeval town, full of narrow streets and whitewashed houses in a maze of alleys that climb up to the hill where the Cathedral dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption stands, with the curvilinear play of concave and convex shapes of the late Gothic façade overlooking the Adriatic Sea.

In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 8 – LECCE

After breakfast, departure for Lecce. Visit the beautiful city of Salento, the historical and artistic capital of southern Baroque. From the scenic Piazza Duomo to the Basilica of Santa Croce, passing through Piazza Sant'Oronzo. During the day we will learn about the Baroque art of papier-mâché in an ancient workshop. Lunch in a restaurant.

In the evening, return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.



Lecce

DAY 9 – 11 june – BARI

Breakfast, check-out and transfer to the airport of Bari for the return journey.

End of services

QUOTATION pro Person in double room

On 10 pax basis	from Euro 3.178 per person
On 12 pax basis	from Euro 3.013 per person
On 14 pax basis	from Euro 2.895 per person
On 16 pax basis	from Euro 2.806 per person
On 20 pax basis	from Euro 2.682 per person

The quote includes:

- Accommodation in 4-stars hotel
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, including drinks (8 breakfast, 7 lunches, 8 dinners)
- Sightseeing experiences as mentioned in the itinerary with an English speaking guide and transfers
- Private Transfer for all the tour
- Experiences as mentioned
- Tickets of touristic sites

The quote does not include:

- International airfare and taxes
- Meals unless otherwise specified
- Phone and internet charges
- Visa and entry taxes (if required)
- Personal expenses e.g. telephone bill & laundry, spa services
- Travel Insurance
- Everything not mentioned in "The quote includes"

Essence of Puglia

Group of about 10/15 participants



TRAVEL PROPOSAL

DAY 1 – BARI Airport / LECCE

Arrival at **Bari** International Airport .

Pick-up with 2 Mercedes Van and reserved transfer, according to time of arrival, from Bari Airport to the hotel in Lecce.

Arrival in Lecce in about 2 hours, accommodation in Boutique Hotel in the heart of the historic centre of this splendid city. Accommodation in room.

In the afternoon, a small meeting in the hotel with a welcome drink to explain the itinerary of the tour ahead.

Free walk through the lively historic centre, welcome dinner in a typical restaurant in Lecce , and overnight stay.

DAY 2 – LECCE

After breakfast, meet our Guide Eleonora at the Hotel reception and devote the whole day to visiting **Lecce**, a beautiful city in the Salento region, the historical-artistic capital of southern Baroque, called the 'Florence of Southern Italy'. From the scenic Piazza Duomo to the Basilica of Santa Croce, passing through Piazza Sant'Oronzo. In the morning during the walk, we will stop at a local café to taste the da Caffè leccese with local sweets and we visit a small, ancient papier-mâché *Bottega* to learn about this ancient Lecce art of the Baroque period. Lunch in a typical restaurant . Afterwards, free time to experience this culturally lively city with a buzzing movida between restaurants, bars and bistros.

Free dinner wherever you prefer

In the evening, return to the hotel and overnight stay.

DAY 3 - MARTANO - CARPIGNANO SALENTINO

After breakfast, 9.00 am transfer to **Martano** and **Carpignano Salentino**, two small villages 20 minutes from Lecce, off the beaten tourist track. Here, with our guide Eleonora, we will visit the village's small shops (a grocery store dating back to 1930, a bakery, a fruit and vegetable market, an underground oil mill, a craft shop), accompanied by a friend of Eleonora's, a historian who speaks the ancient Griko, an Italian dialect very similar to Greek that is only spoken in these small towns around Lecce. Lunch at a typical farmhouse restaurant, At around 2 p.m., we will return to the hotel in Lecce (20/30 mins.). Late afternoon, exclusive tour of an ancient noble residence from the 1700s and dinner in the Palace Court.

DAY 4 – MASSERIA del CASARO in Ceglie Messapica - Ostuni

In the morning, after breakfast, check-out and departure for Ostuni.

In the countryside between Ostuni and Ceglie Messapica, we will visit a typical and authentic **Masseria** dating back to the end of the 17th century, which has always been a centre for cheese production. The owner Pietro will tell us the history of the Masseria and illustrate the entire production chain, from the animals in the cowshed to those in the woods surrounding the masseria, to the dairy with the production of Mozzarella Vaccina, Burrata, Stracciatella, and other typical Apulian cheeses, with a visit to the maturing cell and Trullo full of Caciocavalli and Canestrati; lastly, a visit to the Point of Sale where you will find dairy products, cheeses, cured meats, meat from the farm, jams, EVO oil, bakery products such as bread, focaccia, taralli, biscuits, frise and more.

From the garden and orchard come, fresh every morning, vegetables, pulses and seasonal fruit. All the food on offer, with the exception of the wine, is produced on the masseria. Finally, a rich tasting with cheese, cold cuts, baked goods, fruit, etc.

In the afternoon, visit to nearby **Ostuni**, the White City, with our Guide Eleonora (60 mins tour), which boasts a marvellous mediaeval town, full of narrow streets and whitewashed houses in a maze of alleyways that climb up to the hill where the Cathedral dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption stands, with the curvilinear play of concave and convex shapes of the late Gothic façade profile, overlooking the Adriatic Sea.

Late afternoon transfer to **Itria Valley** and accommodation in a typical **Masseria Boutique Hotel**. Dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 5 – MASSERIA dell'OLIO EVO in Fasano - Monopoli

Breakfast at the Masseria and transfer to the countryside of **Fasano**, where we will visit a historic 18th-century Masseria. The owner, the friendly Rosaria, will take us on a tour of her thousand-year-old olive grove, explain the history of the Masseria and take us on a tour of the medieval underground oil mill, ending with a tasting of excellent EVO oil from their own production, to learn about the differences between an oil bought in the malls and one produced by them. From here we will move to **Monopoli**, lunch in a restaurant and visit the splendid whitewashed old town by the sea, surrounded by walls and towers, with the Co-Cathedral Basilica of Maria Santissima della Madia, the Church of Purgatory, the Castle of Charles V and Palazzo Martinelli on the small port.

In the evening, return to the Masseria, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 6 - GROTTAGLIE - CISTERNINO

After breakfast, departure for **Grottaglie** (45 mins.), where we will visit the beautiful old town, home to dozens of historic and ancient pottery workshops, an art that has been handed down from generation to generation. Among the many, we will visit one of the most beautiful and watch the production process, a visit that will not only be observational but also "hands-on".

At midday, return to the farmhouse for some relaxation time.

In the afternoon we will move to **Cisternino** (h. 5.30 pm), a typical rural village included in the list of "Italy's most beautiful villages." Here we will have dinner in an authentic local restaurant/macelleria, with the famous meat bombette.

DAY 7 – MATERA

After breakfast, transfer to **Matera**, Unesco World Heritage Site and European Capital of Culture 2019. The guide will take us on a wonderful journey through the Sassi of Matera, one of the oldest urban agglomerations in the world, where man has been able to live in harmony with the surrounding nature over the millennia, carving out the stone and inhabiting it (still today), against the backdrop of the local rocky habitat. We will admire the two Rioni Sassi, Barisano and Caveoso, with their Rupestrine Churches and typical 'Case Grotta' (cave dwellings) and the beautiful historic centre. In the end of morning, we'll participate in a workshop, in an old bakery in the Sassi, to learn about the tradition of the famous and delicious local bread and we will have lunch in a typical restaurant. After lunch, we will have the afternoon free to stroll around this beautiful city, visiting bars, craft shops, churches and museums.

In the evening, return to the Masseria, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 8 – MARTINA FRANCA – LOCOROTONDO – farewell dinner

Breakfast at the Masseria, transfer and visit to **Martina Franca**, the “Salotto” of the Itria Valley, an elegant Ducal city that shows off its rich Baroque style, with the Basilica of San Martino, Palazzo Ducale and its pretty little houses with typical wrought-iron balconies.

Transfer to close **Locorotondo**: perched on a hill with its small white houses (the typical *Cummerse*) that reflect the Apulian sunlight, Locorotondo is on the list of Italy's Most Beautiful Villages. Here we will have lunch and take a walk through this ancient village.

At 3.00 pm return to the Masseria for a moment of relaxation and to prepare for the last evening, in which we will have a truly original **farewell dinner**, in our Masseria, where we will have a pasta workshop and dinner with local products.

DAY 9 – BARI

Breakfast, check-out and transfer to **Bari airport**, capital of Puglia and historic crossroads of trade with the East.

QUOTATION pro person Period: june and October

min. 16 pax payant : from € 2876 in DBL	from € 3919 in DUS
min. 14 pax payant : from € 2949 in DBL	from € 3992 in DUS
min. 12 pax payant : from € 3046 in DBL	from € 4189 in DUS
min. 10 pax payant : from € 3182 in DBL	from € 4225 in DUS

The quote includes:

- Accommodation
 - 3 overnight stay in typical boutique B&B 4* in Lecce at
 - 5 overnight stay in typical boutique Masseria 4* in Itria Valley at
- City taxes
- All lunch and dinner as indicated in the itinerary
- 6 lunch: Lecce, Otranto, Masseria Fragnite, Monopoli, Matera, Locorotondo
- 7 dinner; Lecce day 1, Lecce Day 3, n. 3 dinner in Masseria, N. 1 dinner in Cisternino and 1 farewell dinner in Masseria
- Sightseeing experiences as mentioned in the itinerary with an English speaking guide (5 half days in Lecce, Carpignan/Otranto, Ostuni, Monopoli, Matera, Martina)
- Tickets of entrance in touristic sites Lecce: Basilica Santa Croce and Duomo
- Matera: Casa Grotta and Rupestrian Church
- Private Transfer with Bus 20-seats (2 Minivan in the first and last day)
- **Experiences as follows:**
 1. Papier-mâché workshop in Lecce
 2. Ceglie Messapica, visit to a farm producing cheese with lunch
 3. Bread workshop in Matera
 4. Fasano, visit to a farm producing extra virgin olive oil
 5. Pasta cooking class with farewell dinner

The quote does not include:

- International airfare and taxes
- Meals unless otherwise specified
- Phone and internet charges
- Visa and entry taxes (if required)
- Personal expenses e.g. telephone bill & laundry, spa services
- Travel Insurance
- Everything not mentioned in “The quote includes”

PUGLIA and MATERA, between ART and TASTE



TOUR PROPOSAL

Day 1 – BARI Airport – BARI - ALTAMURA

Arrival in Puglia at **Bari International Airport**

Pick-up by driver and tour guide in a 30 Gran Turismo coach and transfer to Altamura, accommodation in 4-stars hotel - Welcome Dinner at Origini Restaurant and overnight stay.

Day 2 - MATERA

After breakfast we will take an initial stroll through the historic centre of **Altamura** and then, mid-morning, depart for nearby **Matera**, Unesco World Heritage Site, already European Capital of Culture 2019. Meeting with the guide who will accompany us on a wonderful journey through the Sassi of Matera, one of the oldest urban agglomerations in the world, where man has been able to coexist in harmony with the surrounding nature over the millennia, excavating the stone and inhabiting it (still today), in the scenario of the local Rupestrian Habitat. We will admire the two Rioni Sassi and the beautiful historic centre, visiting a typical cave house and a rock church. Lunch in a cave restaurant in the Sassi. In the evening return to the hotel in Altamura, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 – CASTEL DEL MONTE - TRANI

After breakfast, departure for **Castel del Monte**, (departure from the hotel in Altamura at 9 a.m., scheduled entrance to the Castle at 11 a.m.) a Gothic masterpiece and UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996, the stone octagon was erected in the 13th century by Emperor Frederick II of Swabia, the enlightened ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. One of the most beautiful manors in Europe, it is considered the jewel of Frederick II°, the summa of his versatile culture, including cultural elements from northern Europe, the Muslim world and classical antiquity. Transfer to **Trani**, lunch in a restaurant and visit of the old town by the sea with its marvellous Romanesque Cathedral and characteristic Jewish Ghetto. Return to Altamura, dinner in hotel and overnight stay.

Day 4 – ALBEROBELLO, VISIT OF A MASSERIA, LOCOROTONDO

After breakfast, transfer to **Alberobello**, discovering this beautiful town, a Unesco World Heritage Site because of its famous Trulli, rural houses with conical roofs built from dry stone. We will stroll through its oldest districts, Rione Monti and Aia Piccola, in a kind of fairy-tale landscape.

We visit a beautiful local **Masseria** at 11.30, where we will have a pasta cooking-class followed by a lunch with typical products. In the afternoon, visit of **Locorotondo**, perched on a hill with its small white houses (the typical *Cummerse*) reflecting the Apulian sunlight, Locorotondo is on the list of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 5 – POLIGNANO A MARE - OSTUNI - LECCE

After breakfast, check out and transfer to **Polignano a Mare**, visiting the historic centre of Polignano, a town perched on the rocks, with the well-known and scenic Lama Monachile.

In late morning transfer to **Ostuni**. Lunch in a typical Restaurant in the old town. After lunch visit Ostuni, the *White City*, which boasts a marvellous medieval town, full of narrow streets and whitewashed dwellings in a maze of alleyways that climb up to the hill where the Cathedral dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption stands, with the curvilinear play of concave and convex shapes of the late Gothic façade profile, overlooking the Adriatic Sea. At the end of the visit, transfer to **Lecce** centre. Accommodation in a 4-star boutique Hotel in the city centre, welcome drink. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6 - OTRANTO - VISIT A TYPICAL MASSERIA - GALLIPOLI

After breakfast, h. 8.30 transfer to **Otranto** (40 min) to visit its ancient seaside town with its marvellous Cathedral featuring Pantaleone's medieval Tree of Life floor mosaic. At 12 noon we will arrive at a typical Masseria in Salento, tour the Masseria to discover its history and oil and wine production. Here we will have lunch with local products. In the afternoon, transfer to **Gallipoli**, to discover this famous village, whose historic centre is an island on the sea connected by a bridge. At the end of the visit, return to our Hotel in Lecce, dinner in a nearby restaurant and overnight stay.

Day 7 – LECCE

Breakfast at the hotel and a day dedicated to a visit of the historic centre of **Lecce**, one of the most beautiful cities in southern Italy, known as the "Florence of the South". From the Basilica of Santa Croce, to Piazza Sant'Oronzo and the Carlo V Castle, to the scenic Piazza Duomo, with its cathedral and crypt. During the day there will be time for an experiential workshop in an ancient workshop on the city's best-known art, papier-mâché and we'll visit Duomo and Santa Croce Basilique. Lunch in a typical restaurant.

At the end of the visit, return to Hotel for relax time.

In the late afternoon, **Palazzo xyz**, a wonderful historic residence dating back to the 18th century, will open its doors exclusively for us (IF WE BOOK IN TIME). Its owner, Nicola, will show us the wonderful halls of the palace. Afterwards, we will have a Welcome Dinner -

Day 8 – BARI – BARI APT

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Bari (2 hours). Visit of the old town of Bari, capital of Puglia and historic crossroads of trade with the East. Visit the old town of Bari, which overlooks the sea, with the Basilica of San Nicola and the characteristic narrow alleys, in which it is easy to bump into the local women working the pasta, the famous orecchiette.

Lunch in a restaurant in Bari at 1.00 pm,

At 2.30 pm transfer to Bari Airport (arrival in about 20/25 minutes), for the return flight

QUOTATION PRO PERSON

on 25 pax basis in dbl/twin from € 2150	in dus from € 2427
on 20 pax basis in dbl/twin from € 2239	in dus from € 2516
on 15 pax basis (16 pax + 1 TL) in dbl/twin from € 2386	in dus from € 2663
on 12 pax basis in dbl/twin from € 2534 + 40 eur per person for extra lunch last day in Bari	in dus from € 2811

The price includes:

- **4 nights** in a 4* Hotel with HB formula in Altamura
- **3 nights** in 4* Hotel with HB formula - Lecce
- city tax included
- Visits and wonderful **farewell Dinner** exclusively in a historic mansion from the 1700s
- **welcome dinner** in a beautiful restaurant in the centre of Bari
- n. 6 lunch in Restaurant (included the two lunches in Masseria, in Salento and in Locorotondo)
- Transfer throughout the tour by GT coach **50 seats** (in case of 15 pax, coach of 30 seats)
- everyday with local Spanish-speaking tour guide
- Experience of Cartapesta in Lecce
- Olive Oil and Wine Experience in a Masseria in Salento + lunch
- Experience cooking-class of pasta in Masseria in Locorotondo + lunch
- entrance tickets to tourist sites: Castel del Monte, Duomo and Basilica Santa Croce in Lecce, Rupestrian Church in Matera, Casa Grotta in Matera
- Welcome drink in Hotel in Lecce and in Altamura
- 1 total free for Tour Leader
- overnight stays, lunch and dinner for Driver and Guide
- drinks always included with meals (1/2 water and 1/4 wine per person)

The price does not include

- Tips and portorage
- extras of a personal nature
- lunch in Day 1 and Day 8
- flights
- travel insurance
- everything not expressly specified in "the price includes"