



# HIGHLIGHTS OF PUGLIA TOUR

2 - 9 MAY 2024

4 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2024





## OVERVIEW

AUD 5,230 (P.P. TWIN SHARE)

AUD 5,830 (P.P. SOLO TRAVELLER)

Since 2007, we've been designing itineraries for people who are fascinated by Italy and believe that a holiday is best experienced in good company. Our small groups (maximum of 12 people) and carefully chosen itineraries ensure you will have a delightful and authentic Italian holiday.

We travel at a relaxed pace so you can make the most of your time in Italy without racing from one city to another and there is plenty of free time.

Our shorter Puglia itinerary includes the highlights of this wonderful region: the Baroque splendour of Lecce, time spent exploring the pretty towns clinging to the coast, and the rural tranquillity of the Valle d'Itria. We crossover into neighbouring Basilicata to visit the *sassi* of Matera.

The tour begins in the Valle d'Itria, famous for its distinctive stone trulli dwellings. You will visit Alberobello, the town with the largest concentration of these conical constructions as well as the pretty towns of Locorotondo and Martina Franca.

Our next base is in Polignano a Mare, where we spend four nights in stunning rooms overlooking the wonderful cliffs and sea. From Polignano, you will visit the towns of Bari and Trani, as well as the enigmatic Castel del Monte.

Throughout the tour, you will get the chance to meet local artisans and farmers with private visits to an ancient olive oil estate and one of the top wineries in Puglia for a special degustation and lunch.

Treat yourself to a wonderful holiday in Puglia and let us take care of everything!

"For anyone looking for an alternative to the well-known tourist beats of Italy, I can thoroughly recommend The Road Less Travelled tour of Puglia. Luca's vast knowledge of Italian history and culture added to the experience as did all the other things important for an enjoyable visit - staying in high standard accommodation, eating at restaurants specialising in the local food and wine, and travelling on comfortable transport."

Marie (2016)

[Italiantours.com.au](http://Italiantours.com.au)





## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN PUGLIA

Our tour begins with three nights based in the Valle d'Itria, immersed in the countryside. At the start of the tour, we pick clients up from Bari airport and Bari Centrale train station in the mid-afternoon and travel together to our hotel. There is time to unpack before we have *aperitivi* and a welcome dinner at our hotel.

Overnight: Valle d'Itria

### DAY 2 - THE TOWNS OF THE VALLE D'ITRIA: ALBEROBELLO, LOCOROTONDO AND MARTINA FRANCA

This morning we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Alberobello. This town has been listed because of its high concentration of over 400 trulli. Make sure your cameras are fully charged for this ridiculously pretty town!

We visit Locorotondo, one of the prettiest towns of the Valle d'Itria and there is free time for lunch before we return to our hotel for a little time to relax.

In the late afternoon, we head into Martina Franca, the main town of the Valle d'Itria where we will have *aperitivi* and dinner.

Overnight: Valle d'Itria





### DAY 3 - A TOP PUGLIESE WINERY AND LECCE

We drive to a very picturesque winery this morning, where we have a private tour of the vineyard and winery, before sitting down to a delicious lunch with matching wines.

In the afternoon we have a guided walking tour with a local guide in Lecce. Lecce is known as the "Florence of the South" and its pretty stone streets and splendid Baroque architecture will delight visitors.

We drive back to our hotel in the late afternoon.  
Overnight: Valle d'Itria

### DAY 4 - OLIVES, OSTUNI AND POLIGNANO A MARE

We start the day with a visit to an olive oil producer where you can admire some olive trees that are more than 2,500 years old, see the ancient olive presses and taste their olive oil.

Our next stop is Ostuni, the white city, where we will spend some time wandering the pretty streets and there will be free time for lunch.

In the afternoon we drive on to our lovely hotel in Polignano a Mare where you'll enjoy a room with either sea or cliff views.

Overnight: Polignano a Mare

### DAY 5 - A FREE MORNING AND THEN BARI

This morning is a completely free morning to spend wandering around the pretty town of Polignano. You may choose to swim at the beach (a short 5-minute walk from our hotel) or take a walk along the coastline.

After lunch, we travel north to Bari, the capital of Puglia and home to a fascinating old medieval centre. We spend the afternoon exploring Bari with a local guide.

Return to Polignano a Mare in the late afternoon.

Overnight: Polignano a Mare





## DAY 6 - TRANI AND CASTEL DEL MONTE

We drive first to the coastal city of Trani, where we'll have a wander along the bustling port where the fishermen sell their catch. There will be time to visit the cathedral of Trani, the most important Romanesque building in Puglia.

We'll take a short drive to a special restaurant to enjoy the typical cuisine of Puglia.

After lunch, we'll travel on to Castel del Monte the enigmatic castle built by Emperor Frederick II in the 13th Century.

Overnight: Polignano a Mare

## DAY 7 - MATERA

We visit another UNESCO World Heritage site today: the ancient city of Matera and the location for Mel Gibson's film 'The Passion'! Matera is internationally famous for its ancient town, known as the *sassi*, which translates as 'stones'. The *sassi*

began life as a prehistoric troglodyte settlement mined into the rocky face of a ravine, but over the centuries, many groups of people lived in these cave dwellings. The inhabitants were forcibly removed in the 1950s, but today much of the area has been regenerated.

We meet a local guide who will explain the fascinating history of this wonderful spot.

Return to Polignano in the late afternoon where it's time to pack and enjoy a farewell meal.

Overnight: Polignano a Mare

## DAY 8 - FAREWELL PUGLIA

On the last day of the tour, we provide a transfer back to Bari for your departure by air or train. The transfer arrives at Bari Airport by 10am and at the train station by 10.30am.





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## STAY

- ❖ 3 nights in Valle D'Itria in a luxury boutique resort, with its own *trulli*
- ❖ 4 nights in Polignano a Mare, at a fabulous four-star hotel set on the cliffs. Accommodation in sea-view rooms

## INCLUSIONS

- ❖ Group transfer from Bari airport or train station at the start of the tour
- ❖ At the end of the tour, there is a group transfer back to Bari airport or the train station
- ❖ A dedicated tour leader will be on hand for the duration of the tour
- ❖ Breakfast daily and 2 lunches and 4 dinners. For each meal, wine, or something softer is included.
- ❖ All land travel in Italy in private, air-conditioned mini-coach
- ❖ Entry fees to all attractions listed in the itinerary
- ❖ Expert, local guides at many of the attractions
- ❖ All gratuities and local taxes

## WEATHER

Spring and Autumn are great times to visit Puglia - the days should still be warm without the heat of high summer. Most days should be in the mid-20s, so very comfortable weather for travelling.

## PHYSICAL FITNESS

We don't place any age limits on clients and welcome anyone with good physical fitness. Specifically, you should be comfortable on your feet for up to 3 hours with short breaks and confident on the cobblestones and uneven surfaces.

## BOOKING

If you would like to book a place on this or any other tour or have questions about the itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact Luca or Philippa at Italian Tours.

P 02 9358 4923

E [ciao@italiantours.com.au](mailto:ciao@italiantours.com.au)

[Italiantours.com.au](http://Italiantours.com.au)

