

# Italy – Treasures of Puglia and Basilicata

Tour Code IT

The south east corner of Italy, known as the 'heel', was part of Magna Graecia before the arrival of the Romans and later the Normans, and so has a rich and varied cultural heritage. This comprehensive and perfectly paced tour allows for a complete exploration of the two regions of Puglia and Basilicata. In addition to historic ports, Norman castles and Baroque splendour, the region is famous for its whitewashed conical 'Trulli' dwellings that dominate the landscape and UNESCO listed 'Sassi' cave houses. Highlights include Lecce, known as the 'Florence of the South', and the dramatic scenery of the Gargano Peninsula National Park, the 'spur' of the Italian 'heel'.



UNESCO town of Matera, Basilicata  
region of SE Italy

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Fly to Bari

Departure from London Gatwick direct to Bari with Easy Jet. On arrival at Bari airport we head north to Manfredonia close to the Gargano National Park. Overnight with dinner at the Regio hotel (D)

### Day 2 Visit Gargano Peninsula

We visit the famous shrine at Monte Sant'Angelo and the narrow streets of beautiful Vieste in the mountainous Gargano Peninsula. Afternoon drive south to Bari for two nights at the central 4-star Hotel Oriente, close to the old town and many restaurants. (B)

### Day 3 Visit Trani and Castel del Monte

We explore Trani this morning, rich in tradition and history, visiting the cathedral on a promontory close to the port. Later we visit Castel del Monte, famous for its 13<sup>th</sup> century castle built by Emperor Frederick. Dinner in a local trattoria (B,D)

### Day 4 Visit Altamura and Matera

Leaving the province of Bari we reach Altamura, famous for its delicious traditional bread and the charming UNESCO listed town of Matera. Here we visit the famous 'Sassi', cave settlements used as houses until the 1950's and more recently as the location for the film *The Passion*. We visit a cellar and enjoy wine tasting and a light dinner at a countryside Azienda. Overnight at the 4-star Hilton Garden Inn Matera (B,D)

### Day 5 Visit Sassi Barisano and Taranto

Today we have a visit to Sassi Barisano, the larger district of cave dwellings in Matera where many have been restored and converted into cosy houses, shops and restaurants. In the afternoon we stop in Taranto to visit the National museum with its excellent collection illustrating the history of Magna Graecia. We continue to Lecce and stay three nights at the 5-star Risogimento Hotel in the historic centre (B)

**Patrick Syder Travel**

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: [info@sydertravel.com](mailto:info@sydertravel.com) [www.sydertravel.com](http://www.sydertravel.com)

### **Day 6 Visit Lecce, the 'Florence of the South'**

We have a full day visit to Lecce, known as Florence of the South as its famous for its 17<sup>th</sup> century baroque churches and buildings carved from the beautiful honey coloured local stone. We also have a visit to the Palazzo Tamborino, one of the most beautiful mansions of the city, with an exquisite museum. Dinner in a local trattoria. (B,D)

### **Day 7 Visit Otranto and Gallipoli**

Otranto is a picturesque town located on the east coast of the Salento peninsula where on a clear day one can see the Albanian coast only 80 km away. We visit the cathedral which houses beautiful 12<sup>th</sup> century mosaics that relate many stories about Otranto including King Arthur seeking the Holy Grail! We also pause at Gallipoli to visit its 17<sup>th</sup> century bridge connecting the historic centre with the modern town (B)

### **Day 8 Visit Ostuni**

We start the day with a visit to the 'white city of Ostuni', due to the perfect setting of whitewashed houses with lime which fit into the landscaped hills of the town. Ostuni has a special charm and we will be able to enjoy a lunch at a *Masseria*; a fortified country house, to protect against attacks by Turks or pirates, and dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the afternoon we will have a walking tour through the town and visit the charming cathedral. We pause at Cisternino to visit the Oil Mill and taste some of the locally produced olive oil before arriving at Martrina Franca. Two nights at the Villa Rosa hotel (B,L)

### **Day 9 Visit Martina Franca and Alberobello**

The site of Martina Franca has been settled since ancient times as testified by archaeological finds dating since the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. It is now an elegant Baroque town with a pretty historic centre dominated by many grand civic buildings. Alberobello is known for its whitewashed conical '*Trulli*' houses and has UNESCO heritage listing and is a pleasure to wander and explore on one's own. A farewell dinner has been arranged at a local trattoria (B,D)

### **Day 10 Visit Bari. Fly to London**

We visit the capital of Puglia this morning with a walking tour through the old city centre before transferring to the nearby airport for our afternoon return flight direct to London Gatwick with Easy jet (B)

**Cost £1595.00** per person in a twin room (single supplement additional £265.00)

#### **Price includes –**

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder
- ▶ Specialist Italian guide for the duration of the tour
- ▶ Local guides in Matera
- ▶ Private coach with driver
- ▶ Quality 4\* & 5\* hotels with private facilities
- ▶ Five included dinners at local trattorias
- ▶ Olive oil and wine tasting
- ▶ A traditional lunch in a *Masseria* with wine
- ▶ All entrance fees plus visit to a private Palazzo
- ▶ City taxes

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, drinks, gratuities, some meals and international flights are not included in the land tour cost



Picturesque Otranto on the Salento Peninsula

(Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)