

# Classic Tour of Apulia and Matera



basilicata, matera, city of "sassi"

## 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – Apulia & Matera, European Capital of Culture 2019

### 1 DAY: ARRIVAL IN BARI

Arrival at Bari airport, pick up your car. Accommodation and overnight at hotel. Free time to discover the capital of Apulia Region and the prestigious Basilica of St. Nicholas of Bari where his relics are preserved and source of pilgrimage for Catholic and Orthodox Christians.

### 2 DAY: SALENTO, LECCE OTRANTO AND GALLIPOLI

After breakfast, departure to Lecce. We suggest to drive on the Coastal road. Arrival in Lecce and visit of the historic centre where you will admire the Baroque architecture of Piazza San Oronzio, the churches of San Matteo and the Rosario as well as Piazza Duomo and the church of Santa Croce. After lunch (at leisure), departure to Otranto where you'll discover the easternmost city in Italy. Visit the cathedral with its Chapel dedicated to 800 martyrs, its crypt as well as the mosaic floor (one of the largest in the world) created by the monk Pantaleone. The tour proceeds to Gallipoli, lovely town founded by the Greeks on the Ionic coast of Salento. Short visit of the

historic centre, one of the gems of Salento with its artistic, historical and cultural heritage. You will discover numerous churches, such as the Cathedral of Sant'Agata, monuments and palaces of excellent architectural value such as the Aragonese Castle (outside). Accommodation at Hotel in Lecce. Dinner at restaurant. Overnight.

### 3 DAY: ITRIA VALLEY, OSTUNI AND ALBEROBELLO

After breakfast, departure to visit the old town of Ostuni, known as "the White City". This picturesque town is nestled on a hilltop that overlooks century-old olive groves that weave their way down to the Adriatic Sea. For lovers of good food and good drink, there will be a stop to savour the local specialities at the Ostuni's olive oil cooperative, where you will have the opportunity to taste typical products. Lunch free. In the afternoon departure to Alberobello, one of the Apulia symbol and "capital" of the Trulli, traditional cone-shaped stone buildings, which are the symbol of Puglia. Visit of Rione Monti (UNESCO World Heritage Site) the Church Trullo, Trullo Siamese and

other charming places of this unique town. Accommodation at hotel, dinner in a typical Trullo and overnight.

### 4 DAY: ALTAMURA E CASTELLANA GROTTA

After breakfast, departure to Altamura famous for its prehistoric and Roman ruins and also for its bread and focaccia. Discover this fantastic town full of fascinating sights located within the National Park of the Alta Murgia. Visit of an ancient wood oven to discover the old methods to prepare the typical Altamura bread. In the afternoon departure to the Castellana Grotte, one of the most important attractions of Apulia and natural heritage of inestimable value to Italy. Visit the caves deep in an amazing scenario made of stalactites, stalagmites, concretions, incredible shapes, fossils, canyons and caves with fantastic names. Return to the hotel and overnight.

### 5 DAY – MATERA

After breakfast, departure to discover Matera, in the Basilicata Region. The magnificent city of "Sassi", whose ancient stone dwellings are dug into the soft calcareous stone of the

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 Ci è taranta lassala ballare / ci è malincunia caccia la forte"*

[U Santu Paulu, Popular song]



canyon or "gravina", is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The visit is developed through a complex and unique location within the characteristic districts of Sassi. Starting from the area called "the Piano", the last level of urban development on the top of Sassi, you will proceed along paths, alleys and stairs where, descending back over time, you can relive remote sensations. Enjoy your walking tour with a stop in a typical "Sasso" to taste wine "Primitivo di Matera", "Lucano" Oil and Matera bread. Lunch in restaurant. Return to the Hotel and overnight.

#### **6 DAY - CATHEDRALS & CASTLE: TRANI AND CASTEL DEL MONTE**

After breakfast, departure to Castel del Monte a geometric design fortress built in an octagonal shape, with each of the eight corners sporting an octagonal tower. The fortress is one of the best preserved medieval castles in Southern Italy and is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In the afternoon departure to Trani a magnificent seaside town north of Bari where you will visit the Cathedral, symbol of Apulian Romanesque style, as well

as the castle built by Emperor Frederick II of Svevia to defend the harbour. On the way stop in a wine cellar to taste red wine and Moscato wine with typical product (taralli, burrata). The tour continues to the promontory of Gargano that due to its shape, is considered to be "Italy's buttress". Arrival at the hotel in the area of Manfredonia. dinner and overnight at hotel.

#### **7 DAY - GARGANO: MANFREDONIA, MONTE SANT'ANGELO, SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO**

After breakfast, visit of Manfredonia, town of medieval origins in the southern part of the Gargano. Visit the area of Borgo Antico, transfer to Monte Sant'Angelo and visit of the ancient town and the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo, one of the symbols of Christian pilgrims. The basilica is unique in its genre, since it is almost completely built inside the natural cave where the Archangel appeared several times to the Bishop who then decided to found a church there. Lunch at leisure. In the afternoon, tour of San Giovanni Rotondo. Free time at leisure to visit the site of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. Visit the new sanctuary designed by Renzo Piano and the ancient Church of the

Convent where the saint was used to pray. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

#### **8 DAY - END OF THE TOUR**

After breakfast, transfer to airport in Bari. Arrivederci!

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apulia, alberobello, "trulli"

## HIGHLIGHTS DAY BY DAY

DAY	Accommodation
1° -2°	Hotel Bairon, 4 stars in Bari or similar
2°-3°	President Hotel 4 stars in Lecce or similar
3°-6°	Masseria Chiancone Torricella, 4 star in Alberobello or similar
6° -8°	Regiohotel Manfredi, 4 star in Manfredonia or similar
DAY	Services/Excursions/Experiences/Meals as follow
2° LECCE	Guided visit of Lecce; dinner at restaurant or hotel.
3° OSTUNI AND ALBEROBELLO	Visit of Olive Oil Cooperative in Ostuni with olive oil tasting; Guided tour of Alberobello and dinner in a typical trullo
4° ALTAMURA AND CASTELLANA CAVES	Guided Visit of an ancient wood oven in Altamura with tasting; Ticket entrance and guided visit of Castellana Caves
5° MATERA	Guided visit of Matera with tasting; lunch at restaurant in Matera
6° TRANI	Wine tasting in Trani; dinner at hotel
7° GARGANO	Dinner at hotel or restaurant
1° - 8°	Car rental (Cat E) – Pick up and drop-off at Bari airport, Unlimited mileage, CDW, THW & Taxes

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apulia, lecce, st. maria assunta cathedral



apulia, typical products



apulia, andria, castel di monte