

TOUR Puglia



CARAVANTOURS
GROUP TRAVEL SPECIALIST

Journey to the Heart of Puglia

8 nights

DAY 1 – Bari

Arrival in Bari and guided tour of S. Nicola, the Cathedral, the Castle, and the city. Bari has very ancient origins; the various dominations it has been subjected to, such as those of the Romans, Lombards, Arabs, and Byzantines, have left important marks. Lunch in a restaurant. Departure towards the hotel located in the Barletta/Bisceglie area for dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 2 – Castel del Monte and Trani

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer towards Castel del Monte, the castle of Frederick II. The castle stands, isolated, on a hill in the “Murge” area. It was Frederick II of Swabia who had it built, and who perhaps even designed its plans, to use it as a summer residence. It is an extraordinary octagonal construction, enlivened by eight equally octagonal towers: the whole gives an impression of measured elegance and truly innovative harmony. Lunch at a restaurant and continuation towards Trani. Walk through the streets of this ancient maritime city with pink stone buildings and stop in front of the Svevo Castle, one of the finest examples of fortification erected in the region by Frederick II. Discovery of its Romanesque cathedral, one of the most beautiful in Puglia,

dedicated to Saint Nicholas the Pilgrim, a humble Greek shepherd who is said to have arrived in Trani on the back of a dolphin. Return to the hotel: dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 3 – Matera and Altamura

Breakfast at the hotel and departure towards Matera. Guided tour of the site proclaimed a “World Heritage Site”. These are the “Sassi”, one of the most singular, ancient, and extraordinary sites in the world: the houses are carved into the tuff and the walls built with the same material. Lunch in a restaurant and continuation towards Altamura, world-renowned for the production of its bread, to be tasted in one of its panetterie (bakeries). Continuation towards the hotel located in the Polignano a Mare/Monopoli/Alberobello area for dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 4 – Alberobello and Polignano a Mare

Breakfast and departure towards Alberobello, in the heart of the “Trulli” region, suggestive whitewashed dwellings with conical roofs covered with flat stones. Guided tour and lunch. Continuation towards Polignano a Mare, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy and an unmissable destination during a trip to Puglia.

Its charm lies not only in the beauty of the sea, but also in its historic centre, with its stone houses, loggias, labyrinth of narrow streets, and panoramic terraces. Return to the hotel: dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 5 – Castellana Caves and Martina Franca or Locorotondo

Breakfast at the hotel and departure towards the Castellana Caves, carved out by underground rivers. It is the most important underground complex in Italy. Short route, about 50 minutes, to discover a part of this spectacular karst universe. Lunch in a restaurant and continuation towards:

-Option 1 – Martina Franca

Martina Franca, a pretty village that has managed to maintain its timeless charm. Its historic centre, perched on a hill 400 metres above sea level, captivates with its narrow streets, Baroque palaces, and elegant churches, forming a true open-air museum. Continuation with a visit to the Frantoio Ipogeo of Martina Franca, an ancient underground mill carved into the rock, a unique witness to ancient olive oil production techniques. Discovery of the presses, basins, and drainage channels, followed by a tasting of local olive oil with the typical aromas of the region. An experience combining history, tradition, and gastronomy. Return to the hotel: dinner and overnight stay.

-Option 2 – Locorotondo

One of the most charming “white cities” of Puglia, a kingdom of flowered balconies and houses with roofs called cummerse, in the heart of the Valle d'Itria or Terra dei Trulli. Locorotondo amazes with its circular shape and concentric streets, which explain the origin of its name. Classified among the most beautiful villages in Italy, it shares its authenticity with Ostuni, Cisternino, and Martina Franca. Return to the hotel: dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 6 – Ostuni

Morning dedicated to visiting Ostuni, a magnificent small city that rises on three hills of the Itria Valley. Nicknamed “La città bianca” (the white city), it owes its name to its historic centre houses covered with lime. Lunch in a restaurant and continuation towards the hotel located in the Lecce area, dinner, and overnight stay.

DAY 7 – Lecce

Breakfast at the hotel. Day dedicated to discovering Lecce: guided tour of the capital of the Salento peninsula, nicknamed the “Florence of the South”, a true capital of Italian Baroque. Lecce experienced a period of splendour that earned it its remarkable monuments: the Basilica of Santa Croce, the Government Palace, the Piazza del Duomo, the bell tower, the Cathedral, the Episcopal Palace, and the Seminary Palace which adorn its charming streets. Tasting break of a caffè leccese and the famous pasticciotto. Lunch at a restaurant. After lunch, free time for personal discovery or possibility of visiting a Baroque residence. Return to the hotel: dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 8 – Otranto and Salento

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer towards Otranto and guided tour: the Cathedral, the Byzantine Church, and the Aragonese Castle (exterior). Lunch at a restaurant en route. Continuation towards Galatina, a craft and wine centre of Salento. The city has a cathedral whose Baroque façade recalls the graceful style of Lecce. The Church of Santa Caterina di Alessandria (14th century) houses a marvelous cycle of frescoes by various artists. Continuation towards Gallipoli for a guided walk in the city, between its picturesque historic centre and its views of the Ionian Sea. Return to the hotel: dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 9 – Departure

Breakfast and end of our services.

The program above is provided as an indication.

Contact us to personalize and adapt it according to the clients requirements and preferences.

