



VITA ITALIAN TOURS

Specialise in personally guided small group tours to Italy



Puglia

SPECTACULAR SOUTH - PUGLIA, ABRUZZO & MATERA

UP TO
16
TRAVELLERS

12 DAYS | 11 NIGHTS | 5 SEPTEMBER - 16 SEPTEMBER 2027

The tour highlights Italy's rich cultural and culinary heritage visiting the southern areas of Abruzzo, Puglia and Matera. The journey through these regions will focus on visiting unique coastal villages and experiencing specialty local cuisine and wines. The tour culminates in an unforgettable stay in the remarkable city of Matera in Basilicata.

The central Apennine Mountain range acts as a great natural border separating Italy from East and West. For this reason, the Adriatic regions of Italy are so diverse from their more famous western and northern counterparts. The authenticity of cuisine and culture as well as the diversity of the landscape make these regions so new and exciting to visit. On tour, the group will share meals 'Italian Style'; It is all about sharing food and moments together. It is a way of life and an expression of something simple, beautiful and pure.

This tour will be guided by a member of the Vita Italian Tours team along with expert local guides. We feel very excited to introduce our travellers to this area of Italy. It is where our ancestors come from and where many of our relatives still live today. Your tour leader will escort you throughout your stay and will ensure you have a wonderful experience

HIGHLIGHTS

OTRANTO

ALBEROBELLO

LECCE

POLIGNANO AL MARE

MATERA

“A wonderful comprehensive tour, the right mix for down time and tour time.”

M Agnew (SA)





"I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this trip. Every place was unique. Loved the hotel in Matera. Excellent choice." H Jameison (VIC).

DAY 1 ROME/SANTO STEFANO IN SESSANIO/ CALASCIO/PESCARA (L) Today your tour leader will meet you in Rome, at 9:00am at a designated pick-up point for the start of the tour. Introductions and a small talk on the tour will take place before the group make their way out of Rome, travelling in air-conditioned luxury small coach towards Pescara, in Abruzzo.

On the way we travel to one of the most celebrated areas of the Abruzzo Region, Grand Sasso National Park, the highest area of the central Apennines. There will be a stop at the tiny medieval village of Santo Stefano in Sessanio, famous for once being part of the powerful Medici family dynasty for over 200 years. Its characteristic original charm of small, cobbled stone streets and houses make it a fascinating trip back in time. We then travel on to the neighbouring town of Calascio to admire the imposing 13th century fortress with spectacular panoramic views of the Apennines and Campo Imperatore. Lunch is in Calascio in a traditional mountain rifugio.

We should reach Pescara by late afternoon where the group will check-into the hotel centrally located in the heart of the historical centre of the city. Free evening in Pescara.

DAY 2 PESCARA/TERMOLI (BL) It will be a leisurely morning start today before we say goodbye to Pescara and travel south along the Adriatic coast to the historical seaside fishing town of Termoli.

On the way we will make a stop for lunch in a special location. The old town of Termoli is a fortified citadel, positioned on a natural rocky promontory overlooking the Adriatic Sea. The view is breathtaking across all seasons. Over the years, the buildings of the centro storico, including the homes, have been re-furbished and painted in a range of bright pastel colours, making this town a quaint and very pretty destination to stay. Free evening in Termoli.

DAY 3 TERMOLI/VASTO (BL) Today we travel to the ancient Roman town of Vasto, on a beautiful stretch of coastline along the Adriatic. Your guide will lead the group through the historical centre and enjoy a walk along the promenade overlooking the fascinating crescent-shaped coastline. The walking tour will also include the town's medieval Castle, its many charming lanes and the Cathedral in Piazza Rossetti. Lunch will be in Vasto in a traditional restaurant. We should return to Termoli by late afternoon where there will be free time to explore the boulevards and laneways of the historical centre of the city or perhaps a walk along lungomare (beach promenade). Free evening.

DAY 4 TERMOLI/TRANI (BD) This morning we say goodbye to Abruzzo and make our way south along the Adriatic Coast to the beautiful seaside town of Trani in Puglia. After check-in at the hotel there is some free time to explore the centre of Trani before an afternoon walking tour with an expert local guide visiting the stunning Romanesque Cathedral and other iconic buildings in this beautiful town. Dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY 5 TRANI/CASTEL DEL MONTE (BL) For our first morning in Puglia, it will be a short drive through the Pugliese countryside full of olive groves and traditional farmhouses to reach the famous 13th century castle built by Frederick II of Swabia. The castle is an octagonal shape and built on a hill offering 360-degree views of the surrounding countryside. This important landmark and UNESCO recognised castle, will give an insight into the history and the legacy left by Frederick II and his descendants in this part of Italy, but also show their influence throughout medieval Europe. We return to Trani for lunch in the historical port area. Free evening in Trani.

DAY 6 TRANI/MONOPOLI/POLIGNANO A MARE (BD)

We say goodbye to Trani and make our way to another spectacular town situated along the Adriatic, Polignano a Mare. On the way the group will have a special tasting in a traditional Frantoio specialising in local production of extra virgin olive oil. Before reaching Polignano there will also be a visit to the picturesque seaside town of Monopoli known for its whitewash houses, historic port and characteristic alleyways. After check-in at the hotel in Polignano a Mare there will be a leisurely walk through the historical centre. Dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY 7 POLIGNANO A MARE/ALBEROBELLO (BL)

Our second day in this part of Puglia will give the group an insight into the remarkable diversity this region has to offer when compared to the rest of Italy. We will visit beautiful town of Alberobello, one of the most sought-after destinations in all of Puglia. It is famous for the iconic 'Trulli'; traditional round-shaped and whitewashed stone houses with conical stone roofs. We will have lunch in Alberobello in a restaurant to enjoy the distinct local cuisine and wine. Then it is back to Polignano for a free afternoon and evening.

DAY 8 POLIGNANO A MARE/LECCE (BD) After breakfast, we say goodbye to Polignano a Mare for a day dedicated to discovering the splendid city of Lecce, famous for its Baroque buildings built in soft local honey coloured stone. Your local guide will take the group on a stroll through the elegant city centre with the Piazza del Duomo. After a break for lunch, we will proceed to the hotel for check-in. Free afternoon. Dinner in a traditional restaurant.

DAY 9 LECCE/OTRANTO (BL) An exciting day as we journey to the seaside city of Otranto, known as the 'Pearl of Salento'. There is so much to explore in this enchanting town full of charm and history. Enjoy a traditional lunch by the sea before some free time to explore the small streets and artisan boutiques or perhaps enjoy a drink at one of the many bars overlooking the Adriatic.

The afternoon is dedicated to rest and relaxation for the group to enjoy the facilities of the Hotel or further visit Lecce's landmarks.

DAY 10 LECCE/MATERA (BD) Our time in Lecce and Puglia culminates as we travel across the border into the region of Basilicata to what will surely be a highlight of the tour, the amazing city of Matera. Matera is recognised by UNESCO for its famous underground dwellings dug into the rock where the local people lived up until the 1950's. Many of these caves have become tourist attractions, hotels, restaurants and wellness centres. Our hotel is located in the heart of the Sassi District of Matera walking distance to all the major sites. Dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY 11 MATERA (BD) Today will be dedicated to exploring the famous Sassi District of Matera guided by a local expert who will narrate the history and development of this unique city situated among the labyrinth of the many narrow alleyways of the caves. The afternoon will be free for travellers to further explore the city. Farewell dinner in a local restaurant

DAY 12 MATERA/BARI (B) After breakfast the group will travel to Bari where the tour will end at Bari International Airport. Onward travel can be organised by Pronto Travel/Vita Italian Tours if required.

"What a marvellous experience we had and how apt the name, 'Spectacular South' is for your tour. I will never forget this holiday." V Taranto (NSW).





Alberobello



Polignano al Mare

“I would like to say how much we enjoyed the Spectacular South Tour. Thank you for looking after us so well.” A & S Schorer (WA).

PRICE: \$9,878.00

DEPARTURES: 5 SEPTEMBER - 16 SEPTEMBER 2027

The cost of the tour, land content only, is **AUD \$9,878.00** per person in twin share accommodation. A **deposit of AUD \$500** is required to reserve a place on the tour which is non-refundable unless the tour is cancelled with the full balance due 90 days prior to departure. **Single supplements** are available at an additional cost of **AUD \$2,156.00**. The tour is costed on a minimum of 6 and maximum of 16 people travelling on tour.

We recommend that you carefully read the Terms & Conditions applying to a Vita Italian Tour. Please refer to the Booking Page of our website vitaitaliantours.com.au/terms-conditions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INCLUSIONS:

- All land travel in air-conditioned luxury small coach
- Accommodation for 11 nights in 4 & 5-star hotels in Pescara/Termoli/Trani/Polignano a Mare/Lecce and luxurious cave dwellings in Matera
- 11 breakfasts.
- 5 dinners.
- 6 lunches (meals include special lunches and dinners in traditional local restaurants, osterie and private dining experiences as detailed in the itinerary).
- Regional wines and mineral water served with meals.
- Admission to all wineries and historical sites included in the itinerary.
- Personal guided tours to all towns mentioned in the itinerary.
- Services of the tour leaders throughout the tour.

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airfares.
- Travel insurance (it is compulsory for every traveller to have taken out a travel insurance policy in order to partake on a Vita Italian Tours). If you require, we can assist in organising a policy for you.
- Admission fees to places other than those specifically itemised in the itinerary.
- Meals on tour except when specifically mentioned in the itinerary.
- Drinks outside normal mealtimes or additional wine and other drinks in restaurants such as Tea & Coffee.
- Personal transport costs, phone calls and other personal needs.
- Accommodation Tax in all cities Pescara, Trani, Polignano A Mare, Lecce & Matera.

The weather: It is the end of Summer. It can get warm during the day however the evenings may be cool. For September in southern Italy we recommend light, comfortable clothing, a light jacket with your favourite walking shoes. We do not place age limitations on the tour and welcome anyone with a moderate level of physical fitness. It is important to note that the countryside is undulating and hilly. Many hill-towns have their historical centres closed to traffic and therefore lots of walking is required. Be expected to spend a few hours a day at a time on your feet with breaks for sightseeing, coffee and a taste of the local produce.

The program appears to be full; however, it is mixed with long restful lunches and leisure time for your enjoyment and comfort. We will always do our best to accommodate everyone including offering alternative arrangements were possible.

If you need to, you can always take time off from the organised program.