



ITALY with CLASS



DISCOVER PUGLIA - AN 8-DAY ITINERARY

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN PUGLIA'S AUTHENTIC AND UNSPOILT CULTURE AS YOU JOURNEY THE LENGTH OF THE ITALIAN HEEL.

This carefully crafted eight-day itinerary takes you on a sensory adventure through the southern region of Puglia. Culture meets cuisine as you visit UNESCO world heritage sites, immerse yourself in authentic traditions, and indulge in Slow Food, fresh frutti di mare, and ruby-red wines that have been cultivated in the region for centuries.

Legend: **BB** = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner **T** = Tasting **C** = Cooking Lesson



Day 1: Bari

Puglia's regional capital attracts few visitors, keeping its atmospheric Old Town one of the true treasures of the South. The Old Town is purposefully labyrinthine, designed during the Middle Ages to divide invading forces landing from the sea. Immerse yourself in Bari's slow pace of life, meeting the town's matriarchs who sit in the streets to roll out the region's famed orecchiette pasta

Enjoy a walking tour of Puglia's historic capital, discovering two of its great Romanesque churches. Duck into the hidden bistros of Bari's medieval streets for a traditional tasting of local specialties such as panzerotti.

Accommodation: Hotel Il Melograno
Monopoli Area (or similar)

Meals: T, D





Day 2: Molfetta, Trani and Castel del Monte

Molfetta: Visit Molfetta to admire its picturesque port and explore its famous fish market. Soak in all the local atmosphere in the company of your local guide.

Market fish tasting: Sample one of the region's best-loved seafood speciality as you immerse yourself in Puglia's culinary culture.

Trani: Explore the quaint seaport of Trani, enjoying a guided tour of its whitewashed medieval streets iconic 12th-century cathedral. We will then wander the Old Town, uncovering its fascinating Jewish history.

Castel del Monte: Enjoy a trip to Castel del Monte—a magnificent 13th-century castle situated in the Puglian hinterland. Built by the emperor Frederick II, Castel del Monte boasts a unique octagonal courtyard, as stunning from above as it is from within. Your expert guide will accompany you around this castle, revealing all of its secrets and nourishing you with knowledge.

Winery: Indulge in a degustation of typical local Murge wines, including the region's famous Nero di troia. Your local sommelier will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the provenance of the grapes and the techniques behind their fermentation.

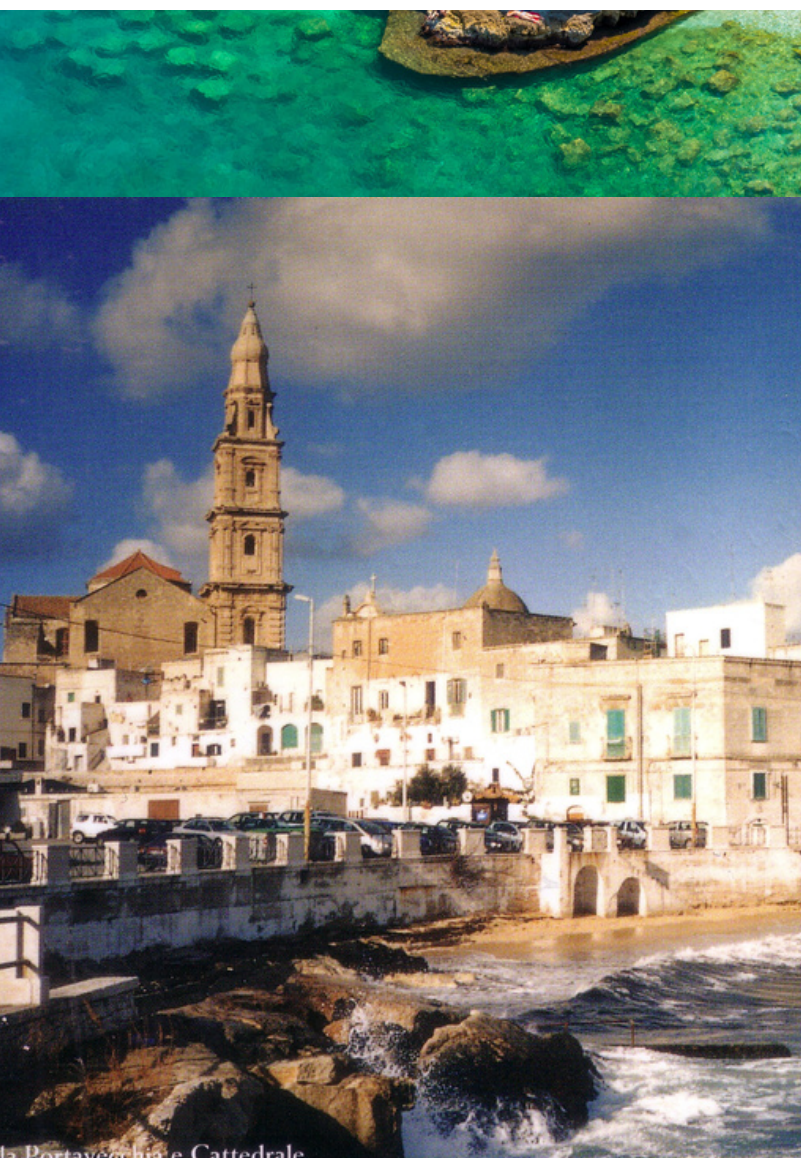
Accommodation: 5* Il Melograno (Monopoli Area (or similar)

Meals: BB, L, T,

Day 3: Polignano, Masseria, Monopoli

Polignano: Everybody knows the song "Volare," even if only for that one lyric: il blu dipinto nel blu – "blue painted in blue." Its author, Domenico Modugno, was born in Polignano a Mare, and when you explore its old town and look out from its stone bastions at the sky blending into the azure Adriatic, you can quite see where he drew his inspiration.

Masseria: Visit a typical settlement made of 16th and 17th-century noble palaces, many of which have been converted into wineries agriturismi, to enjoy the experience of touring a farm with its magnificent olive groves in the heart of the Apulian countryside.



Experience an authentic cooking class and sit down to a superb lunch tasting several types of olive oils and typical Apulian specialties.

Monopoli: Take a trip to a quaint coastal town boasting a stunning seafront and bustling local market. Here you'll get an authentic feel of Puglian life as the piazzas fill up in the evenings and locals mingle among them as they have been doing for centuries.

Accommodation: 5* Il Melograno Monopoli Area (or similar)

Meals: BB, C, L.



Locorotondo: Venture to the quaint, circular-shaped hamlet of Locorotondo for a whistle-stop tour of the settlement. Widely regarded as one of Italy's prettiest towns, Locorotondo is a feast for the eyes any time of year, from when it is lit up over Christmas to when its piazzas bustle with life over the summer.

Aperitivo at Locorotondo: For the true wine-lovers among you we have organised a traditional aperitivo at a local winery with a degustation comprising local wines and freshly sourced antipasti.

Accommodation: 5* Il Melograno Monopoli Area (or similar)

Meals: T, D.

Day 4: Alberobello and Locorotondo

Alberobello: Visit a stunning settlement famous for its quaint and curious 'trulli' houses. We'll discover the fascinating history behind these quintessentially Puglian buildings as we explore the unique heritage of this UNESCO town.

Sandwich Experience: Immerse yourself in Puglia's Slow Food ethos, sampling local delights in the company of your local guide.

Cheese-Making Experience: Learn artisanal cheese-making traditions as you learn the secrets behind crafting mozzarella cheese and burratina. After a hands-on cheese-making experience, you'll have the chance to sample what you've made to your heart's content.



Day 5: Ostuni and Lecce

Ostuni visit: Explore one of Southern Puglia's most scenic towns, discovering its treasures in the company of your local guide.

Orecchiette cooking demonstration: Choose between a traditional lunch, a cooking class where you'll learn to make traditional orecchiette-shaped pasta, or a cooking class in San Michele Salentino.



Lecce tour and artisan visit: This experience takes place in Lecce, 'the Florence of the South'. Here we've organised a three-hour walking tour, in which you'll visit the city's ancient Roman theatre and discover its magnificent Baroque architecture, before visiting a local papier mache workshop. You can also indulge in an elegant aperitivo laid on in a magnificent noble palace.

Accommodation: 5* Hotel Risorgimento (Lecce) or similar

Meals: BB, L, T.





Day 6: Castro - Santa Cesarea and Otranto

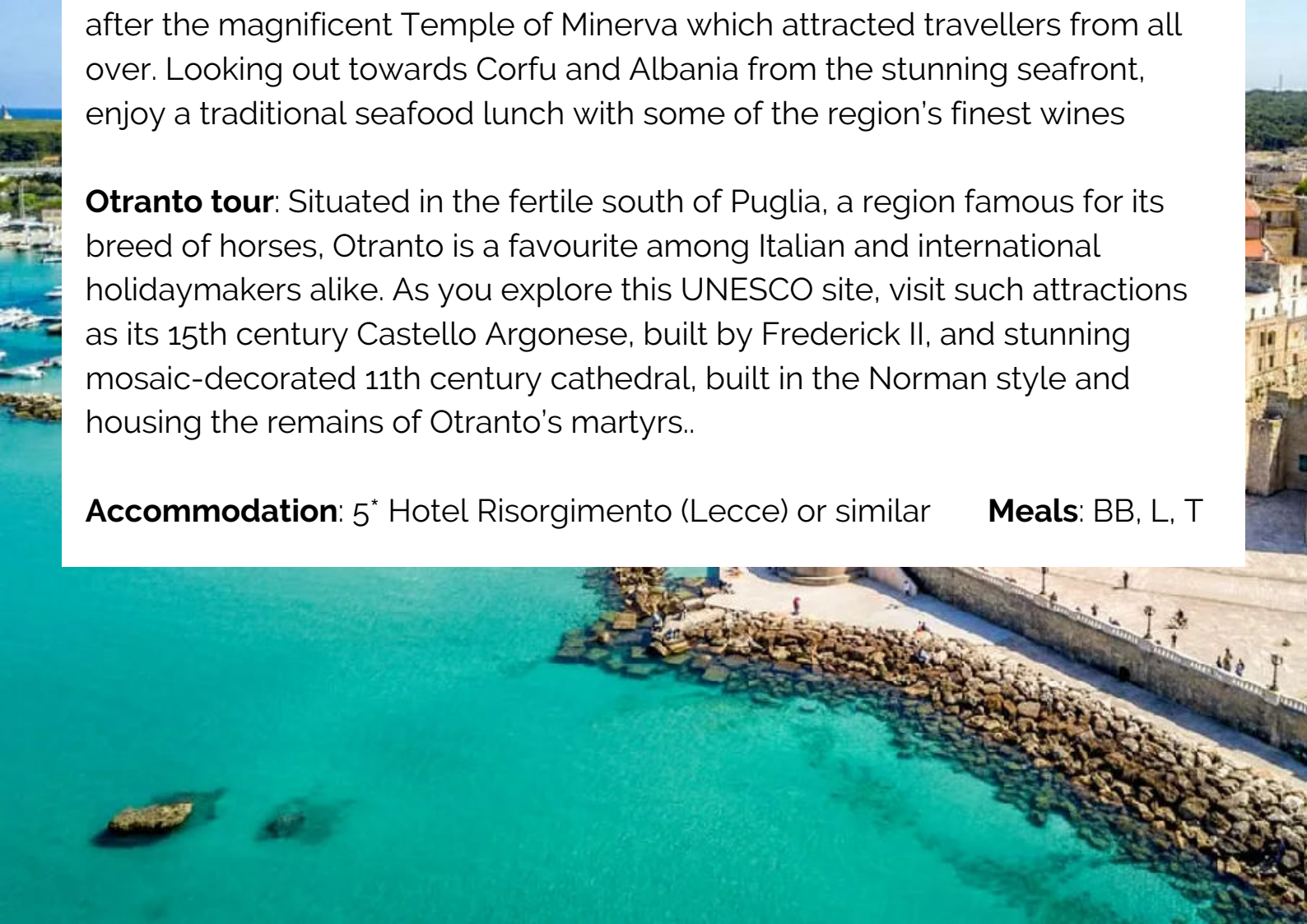
Castro - Santa Cesarea Boat Experience: Take to the waters of the Salento east coast to discover the littoral treasures of the Pugliese peninsula. Moor up for swim stops and cruise the cerulean seas on your coastal cruise along this beautiful stretch of coastline.

Castro lunch (or nearby): Dine in style in the picturesque port of Castro. According to legend, it was here that Aeneas landed before going on to found Rome. In antiquity, the settlement was known as Castrum Minervae after the magnificent Temple of Minerva which attracted travellers from all over. Looking out towards Corfu and Albania from the stunning seafront, enjoy a traditional seafood lunch with some of the region's finest wines

Otranto tour: Situated in the fertile south of Puglia, a region famous for its breed of horses, Otranto is a favourite among Italian and international holidaymakers alike. As you explore this UNESCO site, visit such attractions as its 15th century Castello Argonese, built by Frederick II, and stunning mosaic-decorated 11th century cathedral, built in the Norman style and housing the remains of Otranto's martyrs..

Accommodation: 5* Hotel Risorgimento (Lecce) or similar

Meals: BB, L, T





Day 7: Galatina, Gallipoli and Porto Selvaggio

Galatina tour and Pasticciotto

experience: Tour one of Puglia's oldest city centres before discovering the secrets of 'pasticciotto' - typical Salento pastries filled with thick, pistachio cream.

Fish Lunch: Enjoy a sit-down lunch at a family-run restaurant in the surrounding area. This restaurant specialises in a delectable selection of freshly-caught seafood, best accompanied by a glass or two of locally produced white wine.

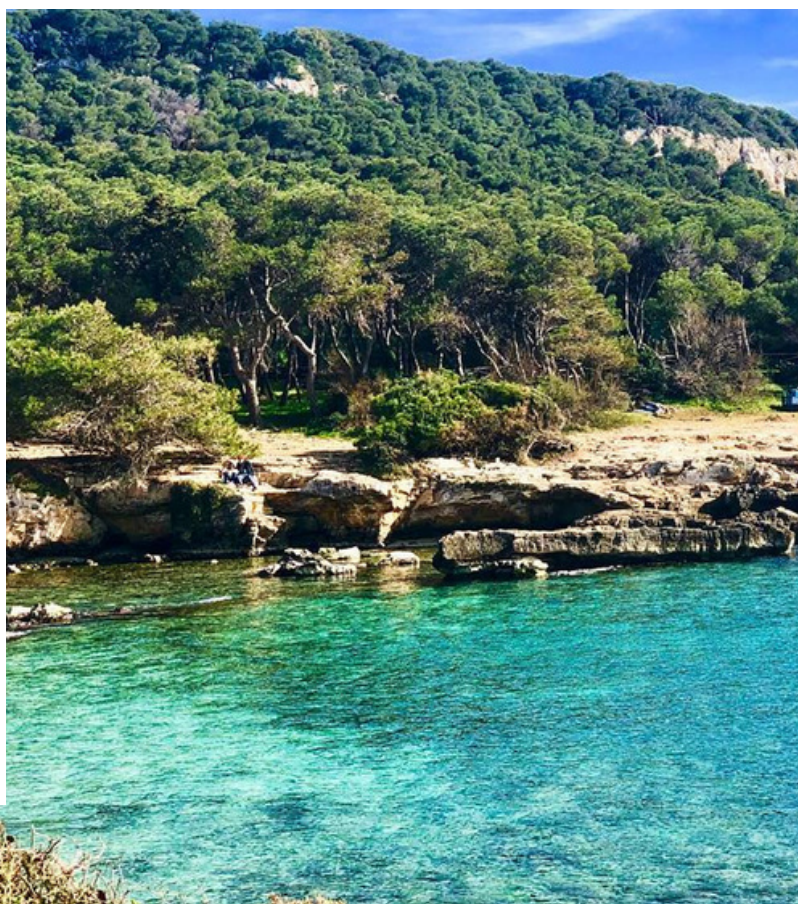
Porto Selvaggio (time permitting): Discover the wild and undiscovered Salento peninsula, where the settlers still speak an ancient Greek dialect and where myth and legend intertwine with the area's historical traditions. Ancient gnarled olive groves and sublimely beautiful rugged stretches of coastline await intrepid explorers.

Winery visit: Sample some of the region's finest local wines at a stunningly situated winery.

Accommodation: 5* Hotel Risorgimento (Lecce) or similar

Meals: T, D.

Gallipoli tour: Visit the coastal, white-washed walled city of Gallipoli, situated right at the bottom of Italy's heel. Named "beautiful city" by its ancient Greek settlers, Gallipoli boasts a wonderful range of attractions, including its Baroque cathedral, 14th-century castle, and Greek fountain - believed to date to the 3rd century BC.





Day 8: Matera

Transfer to Matera: Leaving behind the region of Puglia, we make our way inland, into the region of Basilicata, to visit one of the world's oldest and most captivating settlements - the rock-hewn city of Matera.

Bakery Experience: Visit Matera's most historic bakery, where they still implement ancient techniques in the making of their produce. Sample some of the region's specialities and enjoy a bread-making demonstration that may inspire you for your return home.

Matera: Belvedere & Sassi: Ranking among the world's oldest continuously settled settlements, the Città del Sassi (City of the Cave-dwellings) appears unchanged for millennia - an observation that carries a kernel of truth. Such permanence has earned it the attention of movie directors who have used Matera as the backdrop for films such as *Passion of the Christ* and the 2016 remake of *Ben Hur*. Our exploration of this UNESCO city takes us from the natural Park of the Rupestrian Churches overlooking the city right into the heart of Matera's historic center. We visit the 9th-century Crypt of the Original Sin, often considered the "Sistine Chapel of the South", indulge in a traditional lunch in the ancient center, and enjoy a walking tour of the Sassi district where Matera's residents lived in conditions unchanged until the 1950s.

Accommodation: 5* - Matera

Meals: BB, L, T.





Day 9: Departure

We'll transport you from your accommodation to Bari, Puglia's regional capital, for your return flight.

