

MONOPOLI & SURROUNDINGS



ITINERARY



DAY 1 - Guests arrive at Bari airport.



DAY 3 - Bari & Street Food Tour



DAY 2 - Monopoli and Sea Caves of Polignano a Mare



DAY 4 - Matera and Altamura



DAY 5 - Tour of Alberobello, Cooking Class and Lunch in a Traditional Trullo



DAY 6 - Apulia's Olive Oil and Ostuni, the White City



**DAY 1 - GUESTS ARRIVE
AT BARI AIRPORT.**

Pick up by dedicated vehicle at the plane, fast track and porter service Mercedes vehicle transfer to the accommodation.

DAY 2

MONOPOLI AND SEA CAVES OF POLIGNANO A MARE

An enthralling day spent skirting over the waves along the ragged coast of Polignano a Mare, one of the most striking clifftop towns in Italy! Known as the Amalfi of Puglia this picturesque town offers stunning panoramas and a superbly unique feature: a myriad of caves hidden “under” the cliffs! Board your private boat, a state-of-the-art modern skiff, and sail off to explore. As the boat ducks in and out of the caves, imagine the many centuries of smugglers who used the caves. Enjoy a dive and some sun-bathing while exploring the coastline and at the end of the tour savor some local flavor strolling around the charming town. Polignano itself is a real must-see and also houses some of the very best seafood restaurants in the area. Indulge your taste buds in a delicious typical lunch and taste some of the delicious artisan gelato for which the town is famous.

Then move to Monopoli, a charming coastal town. Our guided walking tour will take you through the cobblestone streets, historic architecture, and picturesque waterfront of Monopoli. Discover the rich history, culture, and local gems that make this town a hidden gem of Southern Italy.

We'll begin our journey in the heart of Monopoli, the vibrant Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II. Admire the grandeur of the 18th-century Palazzo Palmieri and the stunning Baroque architecture of the Church of San Domenico. As we meander through the narrow winding streets of Monopoli's historic center, you'll witness a beautiful maze of white-washed buildings adorned with colorful flowers. Learn about the town's history and its importance as a trading port. Discover the charming Porta Vecchia, the town's ancient entrance to the sea. Stroll along the waterfront promenade and take in the views of fishing boats and the crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic. Explore the stunning Cathedral of Monopoli, dedicated to the town's patron saint. Admire its intricate architecture, elegant interior, and the revered statue of the Madonna della Madia.

TIPS FROM OUR TRAVEL DESIGNER

Xhoana's to do list

- ✓ Try the orecchiette with cime di rapa, you won't regret it!
- ✓ Admire the sunset over the white panorama of Matera
- ✓ Learn more about extra vergin olive oil





DAY 3

BARI & STREET FOOD TOUR

Experience the vibrant flavors and bustling atmosphere of Bari through our guided street food tour. Delve into the heart of this charming city in southern Italy as we navigate its winding alleys and lively markets. Indulge in a culinary adventure, sampling a diverse array of local delicacies that reflect the rich gastronomic heritage of the region.

Discover traditional Apulian dishes, from savory focaccia and crunchy panzerotti to the iconic orecchiette pasta prepared with authentic local ingredients. Our knowledgeable guides will lead you to hidden gems, where you'll taste the freshest seafood, aromatic cheeses, and the beloved street food specialties that make Bari a food lover's paradise.

Immerse yourself in the culture and history of Bari while savoring each bite, learning about the stories behind these culinary treasures. From the bustling street vendors to the warmth of the locals, our Bari & Street Food Tour promises an unforgettable gastronomic journey that captures the essence of this enchanting city.



DAY 4

MATERA & ALTAMURA

Whitewashed villages where time seems to have stopped, an alluring coastline, legends of pirates, untracked forests and mountains. Authentic and largely unexplored Puglia and Basilicata seem to blend into a vivid kaleidoscopic land where ancient traditions are alive and honored, the cultural richness is amazing and the rustic home-made cuisine scrumptious. Enjoy the privilege of exploring Matera and Altamura, two of Italy's peerless jewels, led by a local private guide. Start your day in evocative Matera, world-renowned for its extensive ancient cave-dwellings district, the sassi, (also the setting for Mel Gibson's "Passion of Christ"). Follow your guide through the stunning streets and get ready to be surprised! The first natural caves in the tufa limestone were first inhabited 7000 years ago, more elaborate ones were added on top and today one feels transported back in time into a mythical, biblical scene. Then set off to discover Altamura, an important historical town renowned for its striking tower-crowned cathedral and picturesque medieval streets and beloved throughout all of Italy for its extraordinary signature bread, called "the best bread in the world" by the Latin poet Horace back in 37 BC! Get to know the town's characteristic lifestyle, admire the main landmarks and stroll down the tiny alleyways to discover the typical bakeries. Each with its own wood-fired oven and one-of-a-kind rustic atmosphere these are the birthplaces of the famous pane di Altamura, anciently kneaded by each family at home, and then baked in public ovens where the baker marked the loaves with the family's initials of the head of the family. Join the locals in one of the bakeries for a memorable taste of this precious fragrant specialty, with its dark crisp crust and yellow-hued soft and fluffy inside.



Did you know that
Matera is one of
the world's oldest
continuously inhabited
cities?





DAY 5

TOUR OF ALBEROBELLO, COOKING CLASS AND LUNCH IN A TRADITIONAL TRULLO

Embark on an exclusive, personalized tour to delve into the enchanting depths of Alberobello and its rich culture and traditions. Your passionate guide, deeply rooted in the city's essence, will illuminate its hidden gems and share anecdotes that only a local could possess. The experience extends over 1.5 to 2 hours, culminating in a visit to a private museum—a trullo frozen in time for over a century, adorned with authentic furnishings that whisper tales of the past. In the immersive Cooking Class, led by a seasoned Alberobello native, guests will master the art of crafting traditional delicacies. From the crispy allure of focaccia embellished with oven-cooked tomatoes to the tender folds of handmade pasta (orecchiette), every dish beckons with the flavors of authenticity. Delight in bread balls and savor a sumptuous meat-based main course, all expertly prepared under the guidance of our culinary maestro. Following the hands-on experience, guests will gather in an exclusive trullo, exquisitely arranged for their indulgence, to savor the fruits of their labor amidst the ambiance of true Italian hospitality.





DAY 6

APULIA'S OLIVE OIL AND OSTUNI, THE WHITE CITY

Explore central Apulia, visit the gorgeous town of Ostuni and enjoy a memorable firsthand experience of one of the region's most sensational treasures: olive oil! Meet your private driver and dedicated guide at your hotel and travel through the splendid countryside to reach an ancient Masseria. Meet the owner and enjoy a walk through the estate grounds and discover the ancient olive mill which has been in use since the bronze age for a fascinating insider's view of local olive oil production. Crown your experience tasting the superb estate olive oil and set off across the rolling fields, dotted by mammoth olive trees, to visit the magical "white city": Ostuni. This imposing citadel overlooks the olive plains all the way to the Adriatic! Stroll through the maze of tiny winding streets which make up the town's most ancient and evocative neighborhood, still today known as "the Casbah". Follow your guide and marvel at the town's hidden treasures, beautiful streets and stunning views of the countryside and out to the shimmering sea.



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A journey where history meets charm. The allure of Puglia's Monopoli, with its stunning coastline and picturesque old town, blends seamlessly with the ancient beauty of Altamura and Matera. Italy's Finest curates a personalized experience that brings you closer to the heart of these captivating destinations, from the timeless streets of Matera's Sassi to the rich flavors of Puglia, making your travel dreams come alive.

