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# PUGLIA

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DISCOVER LEUCA'S SEA CAVES AND SAIL ALONG THE ADRIATIC & IONIAN COAST

# A SAILING ADVENTURE

Leave all worries behind, feel the fresh breeze! Ships ahoy, spend a memorable day sailing along the Adriatic and Ionian coast of Puglia, enjoying the privilege of your own private sailboat conducted by a pro skipper. Cruising on the waves that brought to life ancient myths and evocative legends marvel at the beautiful coast of Leuca characterized by limestone reefs and discover the gorgeous Salento coastline. Step on board at Santa Maria di Leuca, located on the extreme southern tip of Italy, where the two seas meet. Leuca's coastline is one of the most remarkable in Italy due to the presence of rare Karstic sea caves. Sailing along both the east side, where the coast is high and jagged, and the west side where the coast is low and has small sandy coves you will have the chance to admire singular views and see firsthand how the strength of the sea has shaped the landscapes for centuries. During the day you will be able to spot the different caves and realize how each has its own peculiar atmosphere due to the narrow deep inlets, the colors and shape of the rock, the amazing lighting effects and the presence of stalactites and stalagmites. Crown your experience with a refreshing local aperitif on board.

**DURATION:** 4 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Boat rental
- Local aperitif on board



TRADITIONAL FLAVORS AND STUNNING VIEWS

# PUGLIA'S OLIVE OIL AND OSTUNI, THE WHITE CITY

Explore central Puglia, 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. Crown your experience savoring the best of the traditional local fare in our favorite local restaurant.

**DURATION:** approximately 6 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Professional licensed English-speaking guide
- Private Visit to an ancient "Masseria"
- Olive Oil Tasting
- Visit to the "White City" of Ostuni
- Lunch in Ostuni (not inclusive of wines)





FLOATING OVER THE CAVES

# BALLOONING OVER MATERA

Fly up above the beaten path and admire Matera, world-renowned for its extensive ancient cave-dwellings district, the sassi, from the unique viewpoint offered by a hot-air balloon! Enjoy a memorable adventure and catch sensational views floating over this unique town. Used as a background for Mel Gibson's "Passion of Christ" the village is entirely made of dwellings built inside natural tufa limestone caves, inhabited as early as 7000 years ago! Marvel at the landscape, feel the thrill of the breezes around you, and lose yourself in the peaceful atmosphere and mythical scene below. Once on ground again celebrate your adventure with a toast and typical product tasting... a crescendo finale for a postcardperfect day!

**DURATION:** 3 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Hot-air balloon flight over Matera
- Toast and typical product tasting after the flight

Transportation from/to your hotel is not included. We will be glad to provide transport as needed upon request.





BIKES, BITES AND WONDERFUL VIEWS!

## BIKING & TASTING IN PUGLIA

Explore the heart of gorgeous Puglia, discover spectacular landscapes and sensational typical flavors in the most entertaining and active way: an enjoyable enticing bike tour. Meet your guide, a specialized local escort, and helmet on! Set off on an enticing journey aboard your state-of-the-art bike enjoy the fresh breeze and lose yourself in the stunning scenery: miles and miles of verdant fields framed by age-old dry-stone walls, rich terracotta red soil dotted by giant centuries-old olive trees, and evocative whitewashed villages in the distance. Stop along the way for a memorable firsthand view, and exquisite bite, of genuine local tradition: a visit to a fascinating typical cheese factory. Meet the friendly staff and explore the grounds and workshop, learning where one of Italy's most beloved cheeses, creamy delicious mozzarella, comes to life! Crown your visit savoring the fresh, genuine flavor of the estate mozzarella and cycle on through the countryside, gazing at the sky.

**DURATION:** 3 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Private bike tour led by a professional escort
- Bicycles, helmets
- Visit to a local cheese factory and mozzarella cheese tasting





LEARN TO MAKE BURRATA AND DISCOVER THE "TRULLI"!

# BURRATA CHEESE & ALBEROBELLO

Spend an unforgettable day exploring Puglia's heritage and savoring its authentic flavor! Meet your dedicated private English-speaking guide and driver and travel to a fascinating local farm to discover the secrets which lie behind marvelous, creamy delicate burrata, one of the world's most extraordinary cheeses! Once at the farm meet the local cheese artisan and follow him to the workshop. Learn all about Puglia's centuries-old traditions, witness the farmer's ability in the traditional art of making fresh burrata, and try your hand at it learning to twist a knot of mozzarella or two! Explore the dairy production area and admire the room where mozzarella ages to become richly flavored scamorza and crown your experience tasting a selection of the best cheeses. After this flavorful tour head to the center of Alberobello to seek Puglia's famous "trulli" houses. These cone shaped dwellings, unique to the region and UNESCO World Heritage Site, fill the town of Alberobello (over 1,000 trulli houses!) and recall to memory the ancient lives of so many locals. Follow your expert guide, enjoying an enlightening insider's view of the history and heritage of this picturesque town.

**DURATION:** 3 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Private English-speaking guide for the tour and experience
- Hands-on burrata cheese-making at a local producer's farm
- 2 hour guided tour of Alberobello





LIVELY AND SURPRISING

# DISCOVERING BARI

Vivacious, colorful, dynamic. Step off the beaten path, discover vibrant Bari, a bubbling metropolis with thriving centuriesold traditions and treasure trove of many an attraction! Capital of Puglia and major transport hub for ferries and cruise ships leaving the port for other destinations in the Mediterranean, this little-known city boasts an important university, renowned opera house, grand tree-lined promenades and an extraordinary Archaeological Museum. Meet your private dedicated guide, a charismatic local, and set off to explore fascinating “Bari Vecchia”, the ancient town center. Unveil the local history and heritage, admire the main landmarks, such as the Cathedral of San Sabino and Church of St Nicholas, and roam the narrow, winding alleyways where local signore hand-roll fresh orecchiette pasta right on the street. Crown your tour with a visit to the Archaeological Museum. Housed inside an imposing ex-convent complex it hosts a variety of the most remarkable findings of Puglia and offers a veritable journey back in time. Splendidly displayed, and enriched by a carefully planned architectural itinerary which allows visitors to admire the site’s diversified stratification, ranging from the Bronze Age to the Greek and Roman periods and up to the Byzantine and Medieval eras, the museum comprises an extraordinary array of striking historical relics, ancient ceramics, bronzes and sculptures.

**DURATION:** 3 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide for 3 hours
- Entrance fees to the Archaeological Museum





A CAPTIVATING SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

# DISCOVERING SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Striking ancient and contemporary religious architecture, spellbinding medieval vestiges and a rapturous mystical atmosphere. Discover San Giovanni Rotondo, an entrancing ancient town world-renowned for priest Padre Pio from Pietralcina, sanctified in 2002, and unveil its rich centuries-old legacy during an enlightening visit led by a knowledgeable local guide. Rising on the slopes of the Calvo mountain in the heart of Puglia's splendid Gargano National Park, this ancient medieval village is one of the most important destination for international religious tourism, and a treasure chest of mesmerizing religious buildings. Enjoy the scenery traveling in full comfort by private transportation, meet your private guide and set off to explore. Discover the area's fascinating heritage, eventful history and amazing diverseness: ranging from ancient Roman buildings to the modernist design of architect Renzo Piano the town's religious architecture covers a span of over 700 years! Admire the tower-crowned city walls built at the time of Federico II and town center churches, such as the Church of Sant'Orsola, Sant'Onofrio and San Giovanni Battista, and explore the depths of local devotion visiting the main Padre Pio pilgrimage sites, including the crypt of the Convent Santa Maria delle Grazie which contains his relics. Crown your day tasting the scrumptious local fare in a restaurant of your choice.

**DURATION:** 8 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation to/from your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide for visit of the town and Padre Pio pilgrimage sites
- Entrance Fees to pilgrimage sites as needed
- Time at leisure to enjoy lunch

Lunch is not included. The town, and surroundings, offer a variety of delightful and delicious restaurants, your guide and/ or driver will be pleased to suggest and, if needed, book on your behalf.





DAZZLING AND DELICIOUS

# EXPLORING LECCE

A labyrinth of streets lined by gorgeous golden limestone palaces and light-filled piazzas enhanced by elaborately carved church facades. Discover sumptuous Lecce, one of Italy's most alluring cities and an icon of Baroque architecture! Renowned to be "the Florence of Southern Italy" and beloved by travelers ever since the 18th century Grand Tour, Lecce boasts an impressive display of expressive Baroque masterpieces, a graceful relaxed atmosphere and beckoning shops. Not to mention the scrumptious local specialties: ranging from cream-filled pasticciotti, ice coffee jazzed up with almond milk to savory puff pastry rustici and taralli the city offers a memorable gourmet experience. Meet your private dedicated guide, a charismatic local, and set off to explore, and enjoy a bite of the very best in town! Follow your guide's lead through the city center's winding streets, marvel at the sight of the gargoyles and gremlin-like sculptures hidden in the intricate décor of the balconies and the explosion of color and life in the squares. Unveil the local history and heritage, admire the main landmarks, such as the Basilica of Santa Croce, the Cathedral with its 72 mt bell tower and the Church of Santa Chiara, and stop at typical joints along the way to taste the most authentic local street food delights. Crown your leccese experience with a glass of delicious wine and a selection of premium local products.

**DURATION:** 4 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide for 4 hours
- Tasting of a selection of typical street food (between 5 and 7 different specialties)
- Farewell aperitivo: 1 glass of local wine with a selection of typical products





SEAFOOD AND SPLENDOR

# FISH MARKET TOUR & COOKING CLASS IN GALLIPOLI

Luscious cheeses, fragrant baked specialties, fresh seafood, well-seasoned pasta dishes and much more... boasting miles of bountiful farmland and a rich gleaming coastline Puglia is gourmet heaven! Dive into the local gastronomic tradition, discover and sample the typical products, and master the art of preparing the best Puglian dishes during a memorable hands-on culinary experience. Meet your private English-speaking driver and travel to charming Gallipoli, one of Puglia's prettiest towns. Like several others, Gallipoli is a two-part town: the modern part is on the mainland, while the period historical center, which boasts lovely baroque architecture and typical fishing port, rises on a small island in the Ionian Sea. Upon arrival in town meet your private chef and set off to discover the fascinating fish market, the biggest in Salento! Held in the shadow of the magnificent castle the market boasts a lively atmosphere filled with authentic local character. Browse the stalls and learn all about the fish and seafood from your chef. Then head straight to the kitchen and aprons on! Set off on a memorable journey through the rich culinary legacy of the area and follow your dedicated chef's skilled instructions to learn the tips and secrets which lie behind the mouth-watering typical dishes. Mince, measure, mix and knead according to tradition and have fun! Your cooking class will comprise delicious local dishes, such as pasta seasoned with the finest fresh local vegetables. Finally sit down and relax, relishing the unique flavors of the best Italian meal ever: the one you made yourself in the heart of Puglia!

**DURATION:** of the market tour and cooking class: 5 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel
- Fish market tour
- Private cooking class
- Lunch or dinner based on the menu prepared





SCRUMPTIOUS BURRATA, WINE AND OLIVE OIL

# FLAVORFUL ADVENTURES IN THE ITRIA VALLEY

A wonderful day in the Itria valley spent discovering the best of authentic local flavors and thriving ancient traditions. Meet your private dedicated guide and driver and set off through the enchanting countryside. As a first stop enjoy a visit to a fascinating local farm specialized in producing mouth-watering dairy products and especially the dazzlingly delicious burrata cheese, renowned to be one of the best (and most decadent!) cheeses in the world. Meet the local cheese artisan and follow him to the workshop. Learn all about Puglia's centuries-old traditions, witness the farmer's ability in the traditional art of making fresh burrata, and try your hand at it learning to twist a knot of mozzarella or two! Then head on through the countryside and stop at a local winery to discover all about the typical indigenous varieties of the area. Although famous especially for its reds the Itria Valley is also home to the delicate and crisp white Verdeca grapes, which produce remarkable blends. Savor the unique aromas tasting a range of the estate vintages and learn about the southern Italian style of winemaking. Drive on, admiring the views and enjoy a welcome break for lunch at a charming local trattoria specialized in traditional recipes. On your way back to your hotel stop at a beautiful "Masseria", the traditional farm, to discover the centuries-old olive oil production traditions. visit provides a fascinating insight into olive oil production and local traditions. Explore the estate grounds and crown your day tasting the premium house olive oil.

**DURATION:** approximately 8 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation to/from your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Private professional licensed English-speaking guide
- Visit to a local dairy farm and burrata cheese tasting
- Visit to a winery and wine tasting
- Lunch in a typical trattoria
- Visit to an olive oil estate and tasting





UNEXPLORED PUGLIA AND BASILICATA

# MATERA AND 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 the Italy's peerless jewels, led by a charismatic 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.

**DURATION:** 8 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel and as needed throughout the tour
- Private guided tour of Matera
- Private guided tour of Altamura
- Visit of an Altamura bakery and specialty bread tasting

Lunch is not included. Altamura offers a wide selection of typical restaurants and trattorias; we recommend you select your preference on site directly. Your guide is at your disposal for suggestions and, if needed, assist with booking.





ART, HISTORY AND AROMAS OF PUGLIA

# SALENTO'S VINEYARDS AND LECCE'S BAROQUE

Discover sumptuous Lecce, one of Italy's most alluring cities and an icon of Baroque architecture, and the luxuriant vineyards of Salento! Meet your private dedicated guide and set off to explore fascinating Lecce, renowned as "the Florence of Southern Italy" and beloved by travelers ever since the 18th century Grand Tour. Lecce boasts an impressive display of expressive Baroque masterpieces, a graceful relaxed atmosphere and beckoning shops. Follow your guide through the city center's winding streets, marvel at the sight of the gargoyles and gremlin-like sculptures hidden in the intricate décor of the balconies and the explosion of color the squares, and taste a tempting local specialty, decadent pasticciotto. Unveil the local history, admire the main landmarks and if you wish enjoy some free time for lunch and shopping before heading into the countryside to discover another aspect of Puglia's magnificent heritage: the sun-kissed blooming vineyards of Salento! Stop at a striking winery, for a unique visit led by the estate's engaging and passionate oenologist. Explore the grounds learning all about the local tradition, vines and wine making techniques. Crown your day savoring the aromas of the best estate wine.

## INCLUDES

- Private English-speaking guide for tour of Lecce
- Visit to winery and wine tasting led by a charismatic oenologist
- Time at leisure to enjoy lunch in Lecce

Lunch is not included. The town, and surroundings, offer a variety of delightful and delicious restaurants, your guide and/ or driver will be pleased to suggest and, if needed, book on your behalf





CLIFFS, COVES AND HIDDEN CAVES

# 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.

**DURATION:** full day

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private boat tour of the sea caves of Polignano a Mare
- Time at leisure to enjoy lunch

Lunch is not included. The town, and surroundings, offer a variety of delightful and delicious restaurants, your guide and/ or driver will be pleased to suggest and, if needed, book on your behalf.





ORECCHIETTE, OLIVE OIL AND MORE

# THE ULTIMATE PUGLIAN COOKING CLASS

Fragrant savoury taralli, spectacular cheeses, freshly caught seafood, hearty legumes, well-seasoned country pasta dishes and much more... boasting miles of bountiful farmland and a rich gleaming coastline Puglia is gourmet heaven! Dive into the local gastronomic tradition, savor luscious typical specialties and master the art of preparing the best Puglian dishes during a memorable hands-on culinary experience. Discover the variety of typical fresh produce and herbs, learn to make delicious dishes according to centuries-old recipes from the best teacher you can get, a talented local chef. Enjoy the journey, traveling comfortably by private transport, and savor sensational views along the way. Then aprons on, set off on a memorable journey through the rich culinary legacy of the area and follow your dedicated chef's skilled instructions to learn the tips and secrets which lie behind the mouth-watering typical dishes. Mince, measure, mix and knead according to tradition and have fun! Your cooking class will comprise delicious local dishes, such as pasta seasoned with the finest fresh local vegetables. Finally sit down and relax, relishing the unique flavors of the best Italian meal ever: the one you made yourself in the heart of Puglia!

**DURATION:** of the cooking class: 5 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel
- Private cooking class
- Lunch or dinner based on the menu prepared





DISCOVER ALBEROBELLO, MARTINA FRANCA AND LOCOROTONDO

# VILLAGES, VIEWS AND MEMORABLE FLAVORS

Unspoiled, genuine, intense... discover the quintessence of southern Italy visiting Alberobello, Locorotondo and Martina Franca, three of Puglia's most alluring towns. Relax, savor the ride and views of the melodious countryside journeying comfortably by private transport and get ready to be surprised: Unesco World Heritage Site Alberobello is... a fairytale come true! Made up of limestone cone-shaped homes called trulli, the town is as close as one can get to fantasy land. Roam the sun-bleached streets where time seems to have stopped with your guide, admire the extraordinary details of these striking rustic buildings shaped like beehives and surmounted by white-tipped roofs. Then set off to discover Locorotondo, listed among "i borghi più belli d'Italia" Italy's most beautiful small towns. Still somewhat off-the-beaten-track this charming hilltop town famous for its white sparkling wines is simply enchanting. Meet your guide and stroll through the quiet ivory streets lined by typical white cummerse townhouses enhanced by pots of vivid red geraniums and intricate ironwork. Travel through the countryside again, admiring tranquil vineyards and mammoth olive trees, and stop at a local cheese farm for a memorable firsthand view, and exquisite bite, of genuine local tradition. Visit the grounds and fascinating cheese factory where delectable typical cheeses come to life. Crown your visit with a delicious typical luncheon based on the estate products and travel to your last stop, Martina Franca, a picturesque maze of winding alleys, gleaming whitewashed houses, graceful baroque and rococo buildings. Follow your guide through the airy piazzas, admire the stunning curlicue ironwork balconies, and learn all about the town's eventful history.

**DURATION:** 8 hours

**INCLUSIONS:**

- Private transportation from/to your hotel and throughout the day as needed
- Visit, Cheese Tasting and typical lunch at a local farm
- Private guide at disposal for visit of each of the towns: Alberobello, Locorotondo and Martina Franca



