

The Arts Society Essex Area presents

Puglia & the Beautiful Heel of Italy

8 days from £1,449 Departing 4th October 2018



Alberobello



FEATURES

- 4* hotel in Martina Franca & 5* hotel in Lecce
- Half board accommodation in Masseria & farewell dinner in Lecce
- Included lunch on Day 3
- All excursions, guided tours & entrance fees included
- Direct scheduled flights from London Gatwick
- Professional tour manager
- Executive coach throughout
- Audio listening headsets Days 2 to 7

WHAT WE WILL SEE

- Alberobello – guided tour & wine tasting
- Locorotondo & wine tasting
- Ostuni – guided tour
- Lunch at the Masseria Il Frantoio
- Martina Franca
- Altamura
- Matera – guided tour
- Trani – Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino
- Castel del Monte – guided tour
- Lecce – guided tour & optional light lunch
- Ortranto – guided tour

OPTIONAL

- Lunch in Lecce on Day 6

ACCOMMODATION

We stay five nights on half board basis at the 4* Hotel Masseria Chiancone Torricella (www.masseriachiancone.it) on the outskirts of Martina Franca. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant, bar and an outdoor swimming pool. All rooms are en suite and feature air conditioning and free Wi-Fi. We stay a further two nights on bed and breakfast basis at the 5* Hotel Patria Palace. Located in the heart of Lecce, next to the Basilica of Santa Croce and a few steps from the Roman amphitheatre, facilities at the hotel include a restaurant. All rooms are en suite and feature television, air conditioning and a mini-bar. We enjoy an included farewell dinner at a Masseria farmhouse on our last night.

EXTRAS TO YOUR TOUR

- Single room supplement £249
- Insurance £51
- Gratuities
- Local accommodation tax to be paid directly to the hotel (approximately €1 per person per night)

Flight details may be subject to change. Price based on twin share. Minimum numbers required. Normal booking conditions apply.

For more information on this tour contact your group organiser

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Any air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Tailored Travel's ATOL number is 5605



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Locorotondo & wine
tasting
Guided tour of Ostuni
Lunch at the Masseria Il
Frantoio
Martina Franca
Altamura
Guided tour of Matera
Trani – Cathedral of San
Nicola Pellegrino
Guided tour of Castel
del Monte
Guided tour of Lecce
Guided tour of Otranto



Ostuni



Castel del Monte



Lecce

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Day 1

We meet at London Gatwick Airport for our direct scheduled Easyjet flight to Bari. On arrival we are met by our professional tour manager and transfer in our executive coach to the 4* Hotel Masseria Chiancone Torricella on the outskirts of Martina Franca for a five night stay on half board basis.

Day 2

This morning we enjoy a guided tour of Alberobello where we see the white washed conical shaped trulli houses for which the Puglia region is famous. The town was founded in the 15th century but did not experience its real growth until after 1635 when it was ruled by Count Giangiolamo II who was known locally as the 'Squint-Eyed of Apulia'. We then enjoy an included wine tasting at a local winery. After free time for lunch we continue to Locorotondo, which is perched on a hill overlooking Valle d'Itria, a fertile and densely populated region dotted with trulli houses, where we visit the beautiful church of Santa Maria della Greco. We enjoy an included wine tasting at a local winery before returning to our hotel.

Day 3

On arrival in Ostuni this morning our guided tour introduces us to this delightful white washed town, with tiny narrow streets set below its imposing cathedral, topped by domes of green, yellow and white tiles. The town stretches over three hilltops providing extraordinary views with its white washed houses standing out against the pink tinged brown of its principal buildings. After lunch at the Masseria Il Frantoio, we visit Martina Franca, where the town's jewel is its picturesque historic centre with a memorable maze of winding alleys, and where whitewash simplicity sits side by side with Baroque extravagance.

Day 4

This morning we visit Altamura, founded by Frederick II, home to a magnificent cathedral dating from the 1300's and the Museo Archeologico housing finds from Neolithic times. This afternoon we enjoy a guided tour of Matera, a gem of a city in Italy's Basilicata region and famous for its Sassi dwellings carved out of stone. Windows, doors, terraces and churches look out from holes in the stone and the area is believed to be the best example of cave dwelling in the Mediterranean.

Day 5

This morning we visit Trani to see the magnificent Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino. Occupying a prominent position next to the clear waters of the Adriatic, the cathedral is home to one of the largest crypts in the world. We then travel on to the World Heritage site of Castel del Monte for a guided tour, with its unusual octagonal layout and eight equally octagonal towers. Built in the 13th century for Emperor Frederick II, there is no moat or defense of any kind since the castle was built as the Emperor's monument rather than a secure structure.

Day 6

We make an early start today to drive to the south east of the region to admire the wealth of Baroque architecture in Lecce. On arrival there is an included guided tour of this charming Southern Italian town known as the 'pink city'. There is then time to wander at your leisure through the piazzas, winding streets and churches. There will be an optional light buffet lunch in Lecce in an historic palazzo.

Day 7

We spend this morning in Otranto for a guided tour. Situated on the east coast of the Salento peninsula, Otranto is considered to be one of the most beautiful towns on the Italian peninsula due to its breathtaking panorama, together with its rich history of Roman and Greek influences. We spend the afternoon at leisure in Lecce. This evening we enjoy an included farewell dinner of typical Puglian cuisine in a traditional Masseria farmhouse.

Day 8

After checking out of our hotel this morning we return to Bari airport for our direct scheduled Easyjet flight to London Gatwick Airport, from where we make our own way home.

NB:- Please note we reserve the right to alter the above itinerary if required for operational reasons. Given the historic nature of the places visited, a certain degree of walking will be involved, and this holiday may not be suitable for those with mobility problems.