



# Lecce & Puglia



Puglia, on Italy's heel, has coastlines along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. The landscape varies dramatically from scenic mountains, oak and beech forests and unspoilt beaches in the north to the fertile Tavoliere plain. The centre gives way to an undulating plateau

'Le Murge' and in the south the dry Salentine peninsula.

Steeped in myths and legends, Puglia's history dates back to the civilisation of the Magna Grecia. The region has many splendid cathedrals and ancient sites including the Castel del Monte in Andria – the most extraordinary of all Puglia's castles; The Greek and Roman ruins of Egnazia; The Norman Cathedral in Trani and the Baroque buildings and Roman amphitheatre of Lecce, dubbed 'Florence of the South'.



## Alberobello

This UNESCO World Heritage site is home to a dense concentration of trulli cottages with cone-shaped roofs (dating from 15th-18th centuries) and one of the best preserved urban areas of its type in Europe.



## Castel del Monte

Located in Andria, this 13th century citadel and castle was constructed for Emperor Frederick II although no-one actually lived in it. This fascinating hexagonal-shaped castle is protected as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



## Otranto

Visit the 11th century Cathedral with its mosaic floor of the 'tree of life', intertwining Norman, Greek and Byzantine ideas of fate. The Chapel of the Dead displays skulls and bones of local martyrs.



## Molfetta, Trani and Barletta

Molfetta, the first of a trio of port towns north of Bari, has a walled medieval centre; Trani is dominated by a grand Romanesque cathedral; and Barletta has a third-century bronze colossus.

# Pugliese Cuisine

Puglia has an excellent cuisine and is an important producer of olive oil, olives and almonds. Bread comes in hundreds of varieties including taralli - a kind of Italian pretzel, softened with olive oil and sprinkled with chopped tomatoes.

## Marè Resort, Trani

This charming hotel is set in the historic centre of Trani just opposite the port with its colourful fishing boats and seaside promenade. The Marè Resort, housed within the Palazzo Telesio - a grand 18th century building, has a rooftop terrace with panoramic views where guests can dine on the local cuisine at the Terrazza restaurant. The hotel also has a fascinating collection of coaches belonging to the Telesio family since 1956. Guests can walk or cycle to the nearby beaches.

**Accommodation:** 13 rooms including classic rooms and junior suites.

- Airports: 42km Bari / 180km Brindisi
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Coastal town location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£979 per person\***



## Borgo San Marco, Fasano

Borgo San Marco, a fortified masseria set within 450 acres of cultivated land and olive groves, is the family home of Alessandro Amati, a major producer of extra virgin olive oil. The owner has retained many of the features of the original buildings, including vaulted ceilings, arches and the original, local stone 'Pietra di Lecce' flooring. This charming property offers intimate guestrooms, simply furnished and decorated with antique pieces, in quiet and refined surroundings. The sandy beaches are within a 2km drive.

**Accommodation:** 19 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, a junior suite and suites.

- Airports: 60km Bari / 50km Brindisi
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,057 per person\***

## Covo dei Saraceni Hotel, Polignano a Mare

The Covo dei Saraceni occupies a dramatic, cliff-top location on a promontory above a sandy cove across which on another rocky promontory is the whitewashed town of Polignano a Mare. The historical centre of Polignano spans the period from the Middle Ages to the Baroque. Views from terraces and the restaurant are spectacular. This is a very friendly hotel in an ideal location from which to visit the baroque town of Lecce, the trulli of Alberobello and Matera and the Castellana caves.

**Accommodation:** 32 air-conditioned rooms, in the main hotel, including classic rooms, superior rooms and suites.

- Airports: 55km Bari / 79km Brindisi
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Sea front location

Guide price from **£905 per person\***



\* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type (7 nights), flights from London Gatwick to Bari (other airports on request) and car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

# Ostuni

Ostuni is a melee of white-washed buildings perched strategically on top of a hillside with panoramic views of endless olive trees in the Valle d'Itria countryside.

## Ostuni Palace Hotel, Ostuni

The Ostuni Palace, a recently renovated building, is set in a quiet location but only a 10 minute walk from the historic centre of the town. This is a very friendly, comfortable and traditional hotel and a perfect base from which to view the many palaces, and churches within the town and to relax in the cafes and eat in the many restaurants. At 207 metres above sea level and 8km from the coast, Ostuni commands a dominant position over the surrounding countryside and sea.

**Accommodation:** 34 air-conditioned, traditionally furnished, elegant rooms including standard rooms, romantic rooms and junior suites.

- Airport: 44km Brindisi / 100km Bari
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- City location
- Restaurant (Bistro)
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,046 per person\***



## Naturalis Bio Resort & Spa, Martano

Naturalis Bio Resort & Spa is situated in the Salento peninsula between Lecce (25-minutes drive) and Otranto (20-minutes). This fabulous organic farmstead has an old Masseria that has been beautifully restored to provide a high standard of accommodation. The rooms are large and impeccably decorated with a distinct country feel. It is surrounded by several citrus orchards (oranges, clementines and lemons), olive groves, herb gardens, wheat fields and a small vineyard where they produce their own Negroamaro wine.

**Accommodation:** 8 air-conditioned rooms including deluxe rooms, junior suites and a junior suite superior.

- Airports: 75km Brindisi / 195km Bari
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,063 per person\***

## Tenuta Monacelli & Masseria Giampaolo, Cerrate

Set within 835 acres of ancient, timeless olive groves, bordering the Natural Park of Bosco e Paludi di Rauccio and 2.5km from the white sand beaches of Casalabate and Torre Rinalda (8km), are the twin, 15th century, fortified farmhouses of Monacelli and Giampaolo. Separated by a three minute walk and set in pretty gardens, the farmhouses feature high vaulted ceilings, ancient artefacts, comfortable rooms and an excellent restaurant. Personally and passionately run by its owners, this is a wonderful setting and perfect

for relaxing, hiking, walking and horseback riding along sandy beaches.

**Accommodation:** 24 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airports: 29km Brindisi / 145km Bari
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£1,142 per person\***



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# Glorious Beaches

Some of the finest stretches of beach curl around the southernmost tip of Puglia between the charming towns of Otranto and Gallipoli.

## Il Palmento Hotel, Locorotondo

Located in the heart of Valle d'Itria, Il Palmento is surrounded by a picturesque, rural landscape brimming with colourful wild flowers, weathered olive trees and rolling hills covered with impressive vineyards. The property is made up of traditional trulli houses with thick, white stone walls and characteristic conical roofs. Each unit is tastefully furnished with modern facilities and offers a high standard of accommodation. Guests can explore the area with its many interesting historic towns or sunbathe on golden sandy beaches.

**Accommodation:** 26 rooms including a standard room (in the Masseria), trullo classico suites and trullo storico suites.

- Airport: 75km Brindisi / 80km Bari
- 5-star superior hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,156 per person\***



## Patria Palace Hotel, Lecce

The Patria Palace is a prestigious hotel housed in a fabulous 17th century palazzo in the heart of Lecce. This historical building, overlooking the fabulously ornate Baroque façade of the Basilica of Santa Croce, is located in a small square close to all the important monuments of the city. The hotel still retains some of its original features including vaulted ceilings and carved balconies. The bedrooms, each with original decorative paintings, offer comfortable lodgings with modern facilities.

**Accommodation:** 67 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, deluxe rooms, a superior room and junior suites.

- Airports: 45km Brindisi / 163km Bari
- 5-star deluxe hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£1,196 per person\***

## Tenuta Centoporte Resort, Giurdignano (Otranto)

Tenuta Centoporte is an attractive resort, surrounded by century-old olive groves typical of the Salento countryside, and located between the coastal town of Otranto and Giurdignano, an attractive town known for its dolmens and menhirs. This modern and elegantly styled hotel offers spacious guestrooms, fine dining amongst the olive trees and provides a glorious base from which to explore the bucolic south with its pristine sea hugging the nearby coastline.

**Accommodation:** 37 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, classic rooms, superior rooms, superior deluxe rooms and a suite.

- Airports: 93.7km Brindisi / 209km Bari
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,249 per person\***



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Alberobello

### \*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Bari (other airports on request)
- 10-days car hire
- 3-nights Marè Resort, Trani BB
- 3-nights Borgo San Marco, Fasano BB
- 3-nights Patria Palace, Lecce BB

**Departures**  
Daily

**Duration**  
9 nights

**Guide price from**  
£1,301 per person\*

Otranto



# Alluring Puglia

Itinerary: 10 days / 9 nights

**Puglia, which forms the heel of Italy's boot, is the long, narrow region of southern Italy bordering the Adriatic Sea and the regions of Basilicata, Campania and Molise. Beautiful beaches, secluded coves, fields of olive and citrus groves, Baroque towns, whitewashed villages and fascinating conical-shaped trulli houses are just some of the many attractions to be discovered in the region.**

**Day One:** Arrive at Bari airport, collect your hire car and drive to your hotel in Trani (41km).

**Day Two:** Day at leisure. Explore the historic city of Trani. Formerly a prosperous trading centre with a large mercantile and Jewish community, Trani was important enough to compete with the domineering Venetians in the 14th century.

**Day Three:** Day at leisure – Head north to the Gargano National Park (207km / 2 hours 20-minutes) which contains several protected areas such as the Marine Reserve of the Tremiti Islands. The Gargano promontory consists of a wide mountain massif made up of highlands and several peaks, projecting into

the Adriatic Sea. The park offers good walking trails and cycle routes; a glimpse of hundreds of species of animals including deer, foxes and birds; and the majestic beaches at Peschici and Vieste.

**Day Four:** After breakfast, drive south to Fasano (106km) and the Borgo San Marco. This fortified masseria is set within 450 acres of cultivated land and olive groves – the owners are major producers of extra virgin olive oil.

**Day Five:** Day at leisure – visit Alberobello (17km), inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Home to more than a thousand trulli houses – whitewashed, conical shaped buildings built centuries ago as homes and tool stores, and typical to this region.

**Day Six:** Day at leisure – spend time bathing on the Adriatic coast (2km). Mile upon mile of wide sandy beaches are within easy striking distance.

**Days Seven & Eight:** Days at leisure. Spend a day exploring Lecce. Affectionately known as the 'Florence of the South' due to its many Baroque buildings, Lecce has a Roman amphitheatre, more than a hundred churches and palaces and several designer boutiques. Spend the next day at Porto Cesareo (65km), located

on the southwest coast of Puglia. This seaside resort is famous for its 17km of golden sand beaches.

**Day Nine:** Day at leisure. Drive to Otranto (48km) on the east coast of the Salento peninsula. It has a bustling seafront and many architectural gems including the 15th century Castello Aragonese and the Cathedral.

**Day Ten:** Drive to Bari airport (163km) for your flight home.



Lecce

# A Taste of Apulia (Guided Tour)

Itinerary: 5 days / 4 nights

Take a chauffeur driven tour of Puglia and Basilicata, steeped in Etruscan and Greek sites. You will have the expert guidance of official guides in Lecce and Matera (nominated as the European Capital of Culture for 2019) and experience some of the most interesting historic towns and villages in Puglia including Alberobello Locorotondo, Cisternino, Ostuni and Lecce.

**Day One - Alberobello:** Arrive at Bari airport, meet and greet by your personal driver and transfer to your hotel in Alberobello.

Alberobello is a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to a dense concentration of Trulli limestone cottages with cone-shaped roofs built between the mid 15th and late 18th centuries. It is one of the best preserved urban areas of its type in Europe. Overnight stay at Grand Hotel Olimpo, Alberobello.

**Day Two - Matera (Half Day):** After breakfast, pick up from your hotel and depart for Matera (c.70 minutes' drive / 70.3km), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town centre, the oldest part of town, was built on the edge of a bare plateau where a high rocky mount looms over the spot where a valley descends to the long deep river-ravine. This is where you will find the cathedral and the typical Italian town centre. As time passed, the rocky valley slopes

below the town were dug out to create caves, used for housing, storage and stabling. These cave areas, where the poorest local peasants lived, fill a narrow valley and run along the side of the gorge itself. Matera was used as a film location for Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of Christ'. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight stay at Grand Hotel Olimpo, Alberobello.

**Day Three - Itria Valley (Full Day):** After breakfast, you will be chauffeur driven through the Itria Valley, to the picturesque Locorotondo – known as one of the most beautiful villages in Italy; Cisternino, a medieval walled city where you can stroll back through time on worn, stone-paved lanes between ancient palaces, towers, shops and homes that are mostly still in use today; Ostuni, the old citadel is built on top of a hill surrounded by ancient walls and is commonly referred to as the White Town (Città Bianca) for its white walls and white-painted architecture; and the baroque Martina Franca, the pearl of Valle d'Itria, a hilltop town whose historical centre is surrounded by stone walls, with prominent baroque gates that lead to piazzas and narrow medieval streets. Lunch (included) will be at a farmhouse where the region's celebrated olive oil and wine will accompany your meal. Overnight stay at Patria Palace Hotel, Lecce.

**Day Four - Lecce (Half Day):** Today you will have a half day guided walking tour of Lecce. Affectionately known as the 'Florence of the South' due to its

many Baroque buildings, Lecce has a Roman amphitheatre, more than a hundred churches and palaces and several designer boutiques. The city's heyday was when it was part of Spain in the 17th century and the noblemen, merchants and religious orders of the city competed with each other as to who could build the most palaces. Carved from the local golden sandstone, the exuberant architecture looks like a sumptuous theatrical set. Lunch included. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight stay at Patria Palace Hotel, Lecce.

**Day Five:** Transfer to Bari airport for your flight back to the UK.



\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Bari (other airports on request)
- 2-nights Grand Hotel Olimpo, Alberobello BB
- 2-nights Patria Palace Hotel, Lecce BB
- Private transfer on arrival (Day 1)
- Matera half day (3 hours) guided tour (Day 2)
- Valley d'Itria full day (8 hours) guided tour (Day 3)
- Lunch in a Masseria – excluding drinks (Day 3)
- Lecce half day (3 hours) guided walking tour including a light lunch (Day 4)
- Private transfer on departure (Day 5)
- Note: Entrance fees to local sites are not included
- Prices for larger groups on request

**Departures**  
Daily (Mar-Oct)

**Duration**  
4 nights

**Guide price from**  
£1,376 per person\*



Itria Valley