



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Amalfi Coast & Puglia

Friday, March 12 – Saturday, March 20, 2010

Trips to the Amalfi Coast are always among our favorites—and yours, too, considering how quickly departures tend to sell out! This time around, Show of the Month Club combines the beauty of this sun-drenched paradise with a trip further south, incorporating an introduction (or return!) to the delights of Italy's Puglia region. Beginning in picturesque Maiori, with its sparkling beach, your Amalfi fun includes a morning visit to the excavations at Pompeii; a wine-tasting and a full-day guided trip to the glorious isle of Capri. From there, you'll enjoy a scenic drive across the boot into Puglia to visit Bari and Matera, where you'll stroll their colorful and bustling streets. Locorotondo, reminiscent of Jerusalem, and the hillside "fairytale-like" Ostuni, are next on the agenda before finishing your journey in Lecce, known for its abundance of beautiful Baroque monuments, including the Roman amphitheatre. On your last day, you may relax or opt for an excursion to Castel del Monte—either way, you'll fall in love with bella Italia all over again.

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled Alitalia flights from Boston to Naples via Rome and Bari to Boston via Rome
- Seven nights' four-star accommodations
- Twenty meals; seven buffet breakfast, six lunches, seven dinners
- Wine tasting and snack
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local Tour Manager

Rates

\$1,629 per person double occupancy

\$1,949 single reservations

Triple accommodations may be available upon request.

Add \$335 for current air taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport required.

Trip Planner

Day 1 Overnight flight from Boston

Days 2-4 Hotel San Francesco, Maiori

Days 5-8 Grand Hotel D'Aragona, Conversano

Day 9 Return flight to Boston

Features

Half-day guided excursion to Pompeii, wine tasting, full-day guided excursion to Capri, visit of Matera, full-day excursion to Locorotondo and Ostuni, half day excursion to Lecce; OPTIONAL: Castel del Monte

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart in the evening from Boston, via Alitalia, non-stop, direct flight to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive Rome, connecting flight to Naples

You'll land in Rome early this morning and after passport control you'll transfer to your domestic flight to Naples. Upon arrival in Naples you'll retrieve your luggage and clear customs. Once you proceed into the terminal you'll be met by our local representative, who will assist you during the motorcoach transfer to Maiori and the Hotel San Francesco. Check in and receive room assignments. Lunch will be served and the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers at the hotel. (L, D)

Day 3: Amalfi Coast – Cooking demonstration – Pompeii excursion

After breakfast you are invited to watch a cooking demonstration at the hotel -- a great opportunity to learn some secrets of Mediterranean cuisine. After lunch at the hotel you depart on an excursion to Pompeii. A local professional guide will lead you on a walking tour of the ruins of this Roman town buried by a sudden eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. Thanks to the patient work of talented archaeologists, Pompeii comes to life once

again. Walking through the ancient streets of Pompeii you'll enter ancient dwellings with exciting frescoes, pause at the baths and browse through the shops that were open 2000 years. On the way back to the hotel you'll visit a local winery for a wine tasting and light snack. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

Day 4: Amalfi Coast – Capri

Today you're in for a great treat and perhaps the highlight of your holiday. Enjoy a full-day guided excursion to the magical isle of Capri. Transfer by motorcoach to the port of Amalfi and proceed by ferry across the Gulf of Salerno to Capri. Your local guide will lead you on a tour of the island by minibus, a visit of Villa San Michele, the famous "Piazzetta" and the Gardens of Augustus that overlook the famous Fraglioni rocks. There will be free time to browse around and shop before lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

Day 5: Amalfi – Puglia

After breakfast you'll depart by motorcoach for your transfer to the region of Puglia. There will be a stop en route at Matera -- one of the most extraordinary spots on earth for its outstanding example of a troglodyte settlement (cave dwellings) in the Mediterranean region. Matera has gained international fame for its ancient town, the "Sassi di Matera" (meaning "stones of Matera"). The Sassi originate from a prehistoric (troglodyte) settlement, and are suspected to be some of the first human settlements in Italy. Later, you'll proceed on to Conversano and check in to the Grand Hotel D' Aragona. Dinner, including beverages, will be served at the hotel this evening. **(B,D)**

Day 6: Locorotondo – Ostuni

Enjoy an excursion today to Locorotondo, a hill town with concentric streets lined with whitewashed buildings. Locorotondo's nickname is the Balcony of the Valle D'Itria because of its stunning valley views. Next you'll visit the town of Ostuni: resting on three hills it presents the visitor with a unique fairytale vision of shining whitewashed buildings standing out against the clear blue sky. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight **(B, D)**

Day 7: Lecce

Depart this morning to Lecce, Puglia's Baroque Pearl. Due to the richness of it's setting, Lecce is defined as an elegant, sumptuous, open-air exhibition of baroque art. It has countless monuments, one of Italy's most beautiful squares, the Piazza del Duomo and a Roman amphitheatre. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 8: Day at Leisure

Today is a day for exploring on your own and the entire day is at your leisure. An optional tour to Castel del Monte, an UNESCO World Heritage site, will be offered. At Castel del Monte you will visit a fantastic underground world sculpted by the flow of a subterranean river, that includes a natural temple carved out of the limestone in strikingly transparent stalactites and stalagmites. **(B, D)**

Day 9: Return flight to Boston

This morning you'll be transferred to the airport in Bari where you'll check in for your flight to Rome and connecting flight to Boston. **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.