



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Puglia

Italy's Land of Mysteries

Saturday, November 7 - Friday, November 13, 2009

You've traveled to Italy and visited Rome, Florence and Tuscany. This spring separate yourself from the crowd and discover Puglia, one of southern Italy's most mysterious and intoxicating provinces. Located on the heel of the boot, facing the **Ionian and Adriatic seas**, Puglia is unlike many of the places you've already seen. Boasting ancient cathedrals, lively fishing villages and medieval hilltowns, Puglia also produces one-tenth of the wine drunk in Europe and its olive oil is renowned. Your accommodations are located in **Conversano**, a historical town and a "citta d'arte." You'll enjoy an excursion specially designed to introduce you to this beautiful region, including the picturesque cone-shaped houses of **Trulli of Alberobello** listed as an UNESCO site. You'll also visit **Castellana Grotte**, a fantastic underground "natural temple," **Locorotondo** (reminiscent of Jerusalem) and **Lecce**, know as the "Florence of the south" for its baroque monuments

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled Alitalia Airlines flights from Boston to Bari, via Rome
- Five nights' four-star accommodations at Grand Hotel D'Aragona, Conversano
- Ten meals: 5 buffet breakfasts, 5 dinners with beverages
- Wine tasting at a local winery with local specialties
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of professional local tour manager

Rates

\$995 per person double occupancy

\$1,235 single occupancy

Triple occupancy may be available upon request. Add \$335 taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Passport required.

Features

Full day excursion to Locorotondo and Ostuni, full-day excursion to Lecce, full day excursion to Castel del Monte with wine tasting at the Rivera winery, Castellana Grotte and the Trulli of Alberobello,

Please note

This is an exclusive SOMC group

Not escorted by a Show of the Month travel host.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Departure from Boston this evening for your overnight flight to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive Rome connect to Bari – transfer to Conversano

Upon arrival in Rome transfer to your domestic flight to Bari. Once at the Bari airport you will be met and taken by motor coach, to the Hotel D'Aragona in Conversano. In the afternoon, there will be an orientation meeting to acquaint you with the program itinerary. Dinner at the hotel this evening with beverages included. **(D)**

Day 3: Locorotondo

Depart this morning for 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 visit the town of Ostuni, resting on three hills it presents the visitor with the completely unique fairytale vision of shining whitewashed buildings standing out against the clear blue sky. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight **(B, D)**

Day 4 : Castel del Monte

After enjoying breakfast depart for your excursion to Castel del Monte, an UNESCO world heritage site. This majestic, octagonal medieval manor was built during the reign of Frederick II. Transfer to the Rivera winery for a wine tasting along with local specialties. Then proceed to Trani a picturesque town on the Adriatic Sea. Return to the hotel, view a cooking demonstration and enjoy dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 5: Castellana Grotte

In the morning after breakfast, you will leave for an excursion to Castellana Grotte. Here you will visit this fantastic underground world sculpted by the millenary flow of a subterranean river, including a natural temple, carved out of the limestone in strikingly transparent stalactites and stalagmites. In the afternoon transfer to the Trulli of Alberobello with its picturesque cone shaped houses that take you back in time to simpler country life. Alberobello is listed in the UNESCO world. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 6: Lecce

Depart this morning to Lecce, Puglia's Baroque Pearl. Due to the richness of its setting, Lecce can be 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 7: Depart for Boston

Transfer to the Bari airport for our flight back to Boston via Rome. **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid Passport for travel to Italy with at least 6 months' validity. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

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.