

TRAVEL WITH MARIO

PUGLIA ITINERARY

SEPTEMBER 9 - 17, 2018

Day 1: Sunday, Sept 9th ~ Depart late evening (9:50 PM), from Logan International Airport for your overnight flight to Bari, Italy (via Rome) to arrive at 2:25 PM on Sept 10th.

Day 2: Monday, Sept 10th ~ Bari ~ Martina Franca

After arrival in Rome, we will transfer to our local flight to Bari. Upon arrival in Bari, we will transfer with the assistance from our guide who will be waiting to assist you in boarding our private motor-coach. Check in at our hotel, the Hotel San Michele in Martina Franca. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to freshen up and familiarize ourselves with our surroundings before a welcome drink and dinner at the hotel. (Dinner)

Your accommodations from 9/10 to 9/17:

Hotel San Michele

Via Domenico Carella 9

Martina Franca, Puglia 74015

+39 080 4807053

Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, swimming pool

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 2.00Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 3: Tuesday, Sept 11th ~ Alberobello ~ Ostuni

Following breakfast at our hotel, we will depart on an excursion to Alberobello to discover the charm of the TRULLI and the historic districts where we will see the "Trullo Sovrano" and the monumental zone of the Trulli of Alberobello, where there are more than 1000 trulli along the side of the road that cuts across the hill lengthwise. This is a spectacular vision for visitors, who will hear tales of the infamous Count of Conversano also known as the "Guercio di Puglia" - or the "One-eyed". Then we will have a brief time for shopping along the alleys of the historic district. We will enjoy lunch at **Masseria Priore**. In the afternoon we will continue to Ostuni, the tour will start at Piazza della Liberta` (the main civil square) with the column of St Oronzio; then we will climb up to the beautiful cathedral, then we will walk in the white streets of Ostuni, and a stop to admire the breath-taking panorama overlooking the countryside and the seaside. We will also see the ancient doors and walls of the city. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 4: Wednesday Sept 12th ~ Castellana Grotte ~ Polignano A Mare

After breakfast, we'll take a morning excursion to the Castellana Grotto and Caverns, a fantastic underground world carved out of limestone, with strikingly transparent stalactites and stalagmites. This afternoon, we'll visit the town of Polignano a Mare; a fishing town perched on cliffs overlooking the Adriatic Sea. The town is home to the Grotta Palazzese Hotel Restaurant, cut out of the cliffs and featuring some of the most amazing views in the world. You don't have to eat there, but you DO have to see it! We will return to Martina Franca for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 5 : Thursday, Sept 13th ~ Lecce ~Otranto

After breakfast this morning join our included full-day excursion to Lecce and Otranto which includes a walking tour with a Local Guide. Lecce is a magnificent town known for its rich baroque architecture and the Roman ruins of the grand Amphitheatre, which dates back to 200AD. The town is often referred to as the Florence of the south, why not take a seat in one of Lecce's beautiful piazzas and watch the world go by. We will continue to **Cantine Menhir** for a lunch and wine tasting. In the afternoon we will visit Otranto you'll hear tales of Crusaders, pilgrims and traders as this was once a thriving port and the last of the Byzantine towns to fall to the Normans. Explore the cathedral and climb the turrets of the 15th century castle. Back to our Hotel, for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 6: Friday, Sept 14th ~ Matera

After breakfast we will drive to Matera, one of southern Italy's most unusual towns. We will meet our local guide and walk to Piazzetta Pascoli with a breathtaking view over the Sasso Caveoso and highland plateau of the Murgia and Palazzo Lanfranchi, home to the Museum of Modern and Medieval Art of Basilicata, with the nearby Church of the Carmine. The tour continues through the heart of the ancient dwellings and noble homes in the Sassi towards the church of Saint Peter Caveoso. Visit a typical 'cave-dwelling', partly carved out of the rock and partly built, and furnished as it used to be during the peasant civilization. Lunch at Osteria La Pignata. Back to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 7: Saturday, Sept 15th ~ Trani ~ Cisternino

After breakfast we will depart to Trani. It's named the Gubbio of Puglia. An immaculate medieval town with an attractive fishing port. Known for its lovely medieval quarters and, one of the most spectacular Cathedrals of Italy, dedicated to San Nicola Pellegrino literally perched at the edge of the water. We will enjoy a typical lunch at "Trattoria da Miana". In the afternoon we will visit Cisternino a town whose oriental atmosphere is best appreciated on foot. There is a labyrinth of alleys, stairways, immaculate homes, and squares, which during the summer are always alive with cultural and musical events. Cisternino is also famous for its characteristic **fornelli**, butcher-diners offering barbecued meat at all times of the day. Back to our Masseria, for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 8: Sunday, Sept 16th ~ Martina Franca

Today - breakfast and dinner are at the hotel. The rest of the day is a free day for individual activities, sightseeing, relaxation or shopping or maybe a possibility of a visit to Brindisi. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 9: Monday, Sept 17th ~ Bari - Boston

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will be transferred to the Bari Airport where we will board our return Alitalia flight to Boston via Rome! (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE