

Day 1: Friday, May 17th ~ Depart late evening from Logan International Airport for your overnight flight to Bari, Italy (via Rome) to arrive mid-afternoon on May 18th.

Day 2: Saturday, May 18th ~ Bari - Martina Franca

Upon arrival in Bari Airport, we will meet our local tour escort who will help us with our hotel transfer to Martina Franca, for check-in at our hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to freshen-up and familiarize ourselves with our surroundings. Orientation and dinner this evening will be at our hotel. (Dinner)

Your hotel accommodations from 5/18 to 5/27:

Hotel San Michele

Via Domenico Carella 9

Martina Franca, Puglia 74015

+39 080 4807053

<http://www.parkhotelsanmichele.it/en/>

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

Tourist/City Tax of approximately 2 Euros per person per day payable directly to the hotel.

Day 3: Sunday, May 19th ~ Castellana Grotte -Alberobello

After breakfast, we will depart on an excursion to Castellana Grotte, a fantastic, underground world, sort of a natural temple, carved out of the limestone in strikingly transparent stalactites and stalagmites. Return to our hotel for lunch (on our own). In the afternoon, we are off on a visit to the Trulli of Alberobello, picturesque cone-shaped houses which take us back to a time of simpler country life. Alberobello is a UNESCO World Heritage Organization (WHO) site. Return to our hotel for the rest of the day and night at leisure. Dinner is on our own tonight. (Breakfast)

Day 4: Monday, May 20th ~ Bari - Polignano a Mare

Following breakfast at our hotel, we will take the short trip to Bari for a guided tour of the historical center and the Cathedral of St. Nicola. Bari is a compact city, divided into a gridded "new city" and a labyrinthine "old city", each with their own charms. 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, breathtakingly cut out of the waterside cliffs. Lunch will be at the Grotta Palazzese. We will return to Martina Franca for a relaxing afternoon at leisure, and dinner is on our own. (Breakfast and lunch)

Day 5: Tuesday, May 21st ~ Trani - Castel Del Monte

Today, after breakfast at our hotel, we will head east along the Adriatic coastline to the prosperous and elegant city of Trani, which was an important medieval Italian seaport and Jewish cultural center. We will then pause for lunch (on our own). This afternoon, we will visit the medieval village of Castel del Monte, heavily fortified and crowned with the ruins of a castle and monastery. Return to Martina Franca for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 6: Wednesday, May 22nd ~ Martina Franca

Following breakfast at the hotel, today is free to relax, explore, or shop as you wish. Return to the hotel for overnight. (Breakfast)

Day 7: Thursday, May 23rd ~ 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 with drinks included. Return to our hotel. (Breakfast and lunch)

Day 8: Friday, May 24th ~ Lecce - Otranto

After our hotel breakfast we are off to Lecce, known as the "Florence of the South" for its beautiful baroque monuments. Lunch (on our own) at a local restaurant. Then, we are off to the beautiful harbor town of Otranto, whose most prominent feature is the Aragonese Castello which juts out into the bay. We then return to Martina Franca for the night at leisure. (Breakfast)

Day 9: Saturday, May 25th ~ Locorotondo - Ostuni

Today, we will visit the wonderful town of Locorotondo, including wine tasting at a local winery. Following a stop for lunch (on our own), we will continue on to Ostuni. Lying on three hills, Ostuni presents the visitor with a completely unique, fairy-tale vision of shining whitewashed buildings standing out against the clear blue sky. We will visit the historic town center and an establishment that produces olive oil. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 10: Sunday, May 26th ~ Táranto - Grottaglie

After breakfast, we are off to Táranto, an ancient town originally founded by the Greeks. The Old Town is perched on an island between the Grande Sea and the Piccolo Sea and connected to the mainland by a narrow causeway. A major attraction of Táranto is the famous Museo Nazionale with a fantastic collection dedicated to the local Greek heritage. We will have lunch (not included) at a local restaurant, before heading on to Grottaglie, honeycombed with caves and famous for being covered with earthenware. After returning to the hotel, we'll have a special farewell dinner with folkloric entertainment. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 11: Monday, May 27th ~ Bari - Boston

This morning, after breakfast and hotel checkout, we return to the airport in Bari to board our return Alitalia flight to Boston (via Rome). (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE