



**UNTOLD
ITALY** 
Tours

ITINERARY

Highlights of Puglia with
Matera

untolditalytours.com

Highlights of Puglia



TOUR OVERVIEW

- 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS
- TRIP DEPARTURE POINT: BARI
- TRIP END POINT: BARI
- ACCOMMODATION: UNIQUE AND CHARMING 4 STAR PROPERTIES

FOOD, WINE AND LOCAL DISCOVERIES IN SOUTHERN ITALY

Join us in Puglia for a fun and immersive trip to the deep south and Adriatic coast on the heel of Italy's boot. Our adventures begin in the Valle d'Itria where fairy like trulli houses dot the horizon. We learn how to make pasta and taste olive oil, discover the cities of Lecce and Ostuni and spectacular coastal towns. After a quick detour to Matera to explore the sassi cave dwellings our tour concludes with a food tour of fabulous, vibrant Bari.

We visit Puglia in early and late summer to make the most of the gorgeous sunlight and avoid the peak summer heat. This is also the time when the region is at its most vibrant and exciting.



PRICES

Pricing is inclusive of 4 star accommodation, transport, all activities, most meals including wine, and gratuities for drivers and guides. Find a full list of inclusions on the next page.

- 2025 - Per person based on double or twin share accommodation \$US 5,690. Single private room price \$6,490
- 2026 - Per person based on double or twin share accommodation \$US 6,190. Single private room price \$6,990

To book contact: info@untolditalytours.com

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YOUR UNTOLD ITALY TOUR INCLUDES

- 5 nights accommodation in a gorgeous masseria and 1 night in Matera cave hotel
- Local transportation in luxury mini van
- Most meals including wine
- All activities outlined in the itinerary - including olive grove visit, cooking class, guided walks, artisan workshop and secret garden visit, food tour, wine tasting, dairy visit, Pugliese music and dance class
- Bilingual host and local guides
- Gratuities for local guides and driver

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance (required)
- Flights and local transportation to the tour departure point
- Incidentals such as laundry, individual transfers, snacks and drinks, spa treatments

ACCOMMODATION ON TOUR

Itria Valley: Masseria Marzalossa (or similar) is our gorgeous masseria (country house) home base for 5 nights. Nestled between the olive groves in the countryside, there is a wonderful swimming pool and incredible view to soak in. Relax with a massage or enjoy a drink at the pool bar.

Matera: Palazzo del Duca (or similar) is our luxury cave hotel in Matera built into the city's ravine. We promise this will be a once-in-a-lifetime stay

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVE IN VALLE D'ITRIA

Welcome to the fairytale countryside of Puglia's Valle d'Itria! This area of Puglia starts from Putignano in the north to Ostuni in the south, and encompasses vineyards, never-ending olive groves, and of course the iconic coned roofs of Trulli, traditional stone huts that locals once lived in.

We meet in the region's vibrant capital Bari and whisk you away to a 'locals only' countryside restaurant nestled between the olive groves. Prepare yourselves for an unforgettable long lunch Pugliese style! Dish upon glorious dish will arrive as we sit back and get to know the group over crisp white Verdecchia wine. Explore the charming property in between courses - there are beautiful flowers in bloom all through the garden and locals in the know enjoying quality time together.

Refortified and inspired after our first taste of Pugliese cuisine, we travel onwards to our gorgeous countryside masseria. Here you have time to unpack and relax. This luxurious country farm house hotel will be our home for the next few days and the perfect base to explore the wonders of land and sea close by.

Once you are settled in, we enjoy our first evening relaxing with a spritz or glass of local wine and our welcome aperitivo as you soak in the beautiful location.

- MEALS: Lunch with wine and Evening welcome aperitivo
- ACCOMMODATION: Luxury 4 Star masseria country style hotel in the Valle d'Itria

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DAY 2 -POLIGNANO AND ALBEROBELLO

This morning we are off to explore one of the most picturesque towns in all of Puglia – Polignano a Mare. Renowned for its characteristic beach nestled between the cliffs, we will have plenty of time for photos, exploring and watching daring locals leap from the cliffs into the sea. Our guide shares stories as we stroll through this pretty town.

Don't leave town without a fortifying glass of 'caffè speciale' either - it's a hyper local drink from Polignano itself.

With the sea breeze in our hair and bellies beginning to rumble, we visit a local caseificio (dairy). Here we taste the traditional cheeses of Puglia (including creamy burrata, caciocavallo, and stracchino). Relax on the outdoor terrace as we enjoy a delicious lunch together.

This evening, we hit the road to visit one of the borghi più belli d'Italia (most beautiful villages of Italy) – Alberobello. This town is most famed for its trulli houses and was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1996.

We meet our guide and enjoy a guided walking tour through this fairytale town that enchants and delights all who go there. We follow our noses down the little lanes and go underground into one of the best restaurants in town where we have the chance to watch the team of chefs in the kitchen as they prepare our traditional feast.

- **ACTIVITIES:** Guided walking tours of Polignano and Alberobello, and cheese farm visit
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch with wine, Dinner with matching wines
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Luxury 4 Star masseria country style hotel in the Valle d'Itria

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DAY 3 - MONOPOLI & LIQUID GOLD

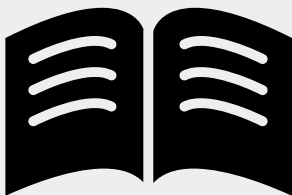
Did you know Puglia is famous for their olive oil? This morning, we head to an olive grove for a tour before sitting back to enjoy an extra virgin olive oil tasting.

Then it's off to a favorite local restaurant where we sit down to feast on tasty local vegetables, orecchiette pasta and more.

In the evening, we head off for a seaside adventure in pretty Monopoli, where colorful fishing boats bob up and down in the turquoise Adriatic waters. Here we enjoy a short guided tour before you have time to wander on your own, popping into one of the many beautiful boutiques in town with gelato in hand.

We meet at a gorgeous local spot with sea views for a fun apericena. Of course, it's not complete without a cocktail and glass of wine or beer. Salute.

- **ACTIVITIES:** Olive oil farm visit, and guided walking tour of Monopoli
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with a cocktail, wine or beer
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Luxury 4 Star masseria country style hotel in the Valle d'Itria



PUGLIA TRAVEL GUIDE

Discover the contrasts and beauty of southern Italy's up and coming Puglia region in our travel guide

untolditaly.com/puglia-travel-guide

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DAY 4 - LECCE, WINE TASTING AND OSTUNI

Sometimes called – the ‘Florence of the South’, today we visit the truly beautiful Lecce. This baroque town is famous for its many churches, but perhaps above all else its stunning golden sandstone buildings. We meet our local guide for a walk through the historical centre of Lecce which includes a stop at the Roman amphitheater and hidden sights down the city’s many picturesque laneways.

Afterwards, enjoy some free time wandering the Baroque streets and shopping in the many excellent artisan workshops. Don’t miss a ‘rustico’ and *caffè leccese*. This local pastry is filled with piping hot *passata* (tomato sauce) and oozing mozzarella, and is even more delicious than it sounds. The famed *caffè leccese* – a cold coffee drink with almond flavouring that is very refreshing on a warm day is sure to be a hit too.

This afternoon, we head inland towards a beautiful winery in the Salento area. This family-run winery produce wines from ancient native vines including Verdeca, Susumaniello and Primitivo.

Our next stop is Ostuni - an incredibly beautiful whitewashed jewel of a town in Puglia. Enjoy some free time to explore its nooks and crannies or indulge in an aperitivo. We meet again a little later to enjoy a delicious dinner together at a special location.

- **ACTIVITIES:** Wine tasting, Guided tour of Lecce
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with wine
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Luxury 4 Star masseria country style hotel in the Valle d’Itria

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DAY 5 - CERAMICS AND A COOKING CLASS

Pugliese ceramics are famous throughout Italy and we're about to find out why. This morning, we visit a 'secret garden' - our lips are sealed as to what makes this just so special...Afterwards, we continue onto our guide's workshop and watch artisans at work before having some time to wander through the array of fantastic ceramic shops in Grottaglie.

Stop for a caffè where you will drink out of quite possibly the country's most beautiful tazze (cups) and observe even the local dogs drinking out of beautifully crafted water bowls. There is plenty of time for shopping too.

After a truly off-the-beaten-track experience, we sit down to a wonderful lunch together paired with local wine as we reflect upon our secret garden (and more) experience.

In the afternoon, we return to our masseria where you have time to freshen up, go for a swim, or relax. We have a very fun local cultural experience in the afternoon at our masseria that involves music and dance!

Tonight, we will be rolling up our sleeves and learning how to make the traditional pasta of Puglia (orecchiette), as well as some other local dishes. Relax with a delicious dinner and local wine - we've earned it.

- **ACTIVITIES:** Ceramics workshop visit and secret garden, Pizzica class and Cooking class
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with wine
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Luxury 4 Star masseria country style hotel in the Valle d'Itria

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DAY 6 - THE HEART OF BARI AND A CAVE HOTEL

We say farewell to our beautiful masseria today, and travel outside of Puglia to the region of Basilicata. On our way, we make a stop to get to know the capital of Puglia a little better.

A lively and exhilarating port city, Bari has fascinating sights, sounds and food waiting for us to discover. We spend our time in Bari enjoying a fantastic historic walking tour with a focus on local food traditions including a wander around the fish market, and watching local women roll orecchiette (local pasta) in the street.

Barese focaccia is made with semolina flour and potato and is studded with tomatoes and olives. It's delicious and the perfect snack to munch on as we stroll along the beautiful lungomare (promenade) soaking up the atmosphere.

This afternoon we are off to the truly unique city of Matera. Famous for its sassi or cave dwellings, built into the cliff face, many date back to the Palaeolithic era, meaning the city is one of the oldest inhabited places in the world.

We check in at our luxury cave hotel for a truly once in a lifetime stay. This afternoon, you have free time to explore or indulge in our unique dwelling for the night. After a little relax time, we meet our local guide in the city of the sassi for a guided walking tour where we hear about the city's incredible history and stories over many hundreds of years of inhabitation before our evening 'rooftop' aperitivo with an incredible view.

Matera is ethereally beautiful at nighttime, so make sure to take it all in as the sun sinks below the horizon. Afterwards, we wander over to a local restaurant. It's our final dinner together tonight and we try some local specialities of the Basilicata region (including fantastic local bread).

- **ACTIVITIES:** Bari food and walking tour, Matera walking tour
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Aperitivo, Dinner with wine
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Luxury 4 Star cave hotel in Matera

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DAY 6 - MAGICAL MATERA

After enjoying a sleep-in and perhaps the most unique breakfast spot you're ever likely to experience, we begin making our way back to Bari. But not before one final lunch together. We make a stop in bread nirvana Altamura for a wander through the Cathedral and lunch in a historic bakery from 1391. Say cheers to your new friends and our incredible adventure through Puglia together.

Alas, it's onwards and back to Bari. We say farewell in the afternoon after an incredible week of exploring and tasting some of the best that Puglia has to offer – bellies and hearts full to the brim.

- ACTIVITIES: Altamura visit
- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch
- TRANSFERS: Back to Bari



UNTOLD ITALY EPISODE #097

Learn about Matera's long and varied history before your trip on this chat with art historian Danielle Oteri.

Look for Untold Italy on your favorite podcast app

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WHAT TO EXPECT

We keep our trips to 12 guests or fewer. This enables us to visit places and enjoy experiences generally not available to independent travelers or larger groups. Your bilingual tour host is on board to answer your questions and facilitate conversations with locals we meet along the way.

Our guests are from all over the world and reflect a broad range of ages. What unites them is a genuine passion for seasonal food and wine and learning about local culture.

Each day on tour includes a deep insight into the culture and cuisine of the local towns, villages and regions we visit. You'll hear stories and legends, learn new skills and understand the seasonal rhythm of life.

We've made sure to build this trip to stimulate all your senses, but especially your tastebuds. You'll be dreaming of the wine, dishes and life changing cheeses we have in store for you for many months to come.



NOTE

Untold Italy Tours enjoy unique experiences away from the main tourist routes. We often do not publish specific destinations in order to preserve the local flavor of your trip and allow you to enjoy special surprises along the way. The boutique nature of our itineraries means that they may be subject to minor changes, updates and additions as we get closer to departure. Any changes would reflect the goal of enhancing your tour experience.

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WHERE AND WHEN TO MEET

We recommend arriving to Bari the day before the tour starts in case of any transport delays.

- Meeting point: Bari Centrale Train Station
- Meeting time: 12pm/midday/noon

HOW TO GET TO BARI

From Rome:

- 4-hour express train from Roma Termini Station to Bari Centrale. You can book here.
- Alternatively, you could get a flight from Rome Fiumicino to Bari International Airport

From Milan:

- 1.5 hour flight from Milan Malpensa to Bari International Airport

STAYING IN BARI BEFORE/AFTER THE TOUR

Recommended hotels:

- Palazzo Calo: A 16th century palazzo located in 'Bari Vecchia'- the heart of the old town
- Imago Plus Hotel: Just outside the old town, this is a modern and eco-friendly hotel

Getting around:

- Talixo (taxi app): talixo.com/taxi-bari/
- Transfer company: NCC VIP Bari

Things to do in Bari before/after our tour:

- Visit Bari castle
- Visit the Basilica of Saint Nicholas
- Walk along the Lungomare at sunset
- Cooking class with Nunzia (ph +39 393 251 8948)
- Swimming at Lido San Francesco

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HOW TO BOOK THIS TOUR

We can't wait to have you join us on tour!

Visit the [Puglia tour page](#) to check availability and pay online or reach out to us or your travel agent via email to reserve your spot. To secure your place, we require a \$US 500 deposit per person. The balance and final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

If your trip departs in less than 180 days, we'll collect full payment either 30 days from when we receive your deposit, or 120 days prior to your trip departure date, whichever is sooner.

Please visit our website for our [complete terms and conditions](#)

Once your trip deposit is received you'll have access to your personal trip board that includes important trip information and required tasks to complete prior to the tour departing.



CONTACTS

Feel free to reach out to us via your preferred method to discuss this tour. We'd be happy to make an online appointment with you also

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To book contact: info@untolditalytours.com