

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## *Puglia Unveiled* *Discover Southern Italy's Gem with* *Unique Experiential Tours*

**8 DAYS: Thursday, April 15-Thursday, April 22, 2027**  
**Friday, November 5-Friday, November 12, 2027**

Puglia is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. With its breathtaking landscapes, rich history, and delectable cuisine, this enchanting region promises an unforgettable experience. Whether you're exploring historic towns, or indulging in local delicacies, Puglia offers a slice of Italy that is truly unique.



SINCE OUR FIRST JOURNEY TO MYSTERIOUS PUGLIA, The Travel Club has discovered there's even more to explore in this southern, sun-soaked province. Join us in "the real Italy" as we reveal the art, culture, tradition and cuisine of Puglia. Our home base during this vacation is the charming hill-top town of **Ostuni** – known as the White City for its stunning white buildings and offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and the Adriatic Sea. The historic center is a labyrinth of narrow, winding streets perfect for exploring and lined with shops and restaurants. Renowned for its olive oil, burrata cheese, fresh seafood and pasta dishes, Puglia is a food lover's paradise. Our excursions include elegant **Lecce** - an "open air exhibition" of Baroque architecture - where we'll have lunch and enjoy a Tarantola performance; and a visit to seaside **Otranto** with its massive Aragonese castle. Explore the unique character of **Alberobello**, famous for its trulli—traditional stone huts with conical roofs—and a UNESCO World Heritage site that feels like stepping into a fairytale. Visit the vibrant port city of **Bari** and the stunning coastal town of **Polignano a Mare**, known for its dramatic cliffs,

crystal-clear waters, and charming old town. Enjoy the morning at **Masseria Seppunisi** - an historic farmhouse featuring traditional architecture, characterized by stone walls, a rustic aesthetic, and surrounding agricultural land. Meet the cows of the dairy herd, view the dairy, visit the cellars and watch a demonstration on how mozzarella and burrata are made and even have an opportunity to craft your own cheese – followed by a tasting of the farm's cheeses, focaccia, cured meats and a glass of the local wine. In the afternoon we'll visit the charming farmhouse of Masseria Casina Vitale for a cooking lesson followed by dinner. We'll end this amazing trip with a visit to Matera - a unique and historic city renowned for its ancient cave dwellings known as "Sassi." It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### ***Includes***

- Six nights' four-star accommodations: Ostuni Palace Hotel, Ostuni (or similar)
- Welcome beverage on arrival
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner at hotel restaurant
- Farewell dinner at local restaurant
- Lunch and a Tarantola performance at local restaurant in Lecce
- Lunch at a local restaurant in Locorotondo
- Lunch at a local restaurant in Polignano a Mare
- Masseria Seppunisi farmhouse tasting of cheeses, breads, eat and the local wine
- Masseria Casina Vita cooking lesson followed by dinner
- Full-day excursion to Lecce and Otranto
- Excursion to Alberobello and Locorotondo
- Excursion to Bari and Polignano a Mare
- Excursion to Matera with guided visit
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### ***Rates***

**\$3199 Prices are LAND ONLY per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement APRIL \$510; single supplement NOVEMBER \$480. Triple accommodations may be available upon request. [Airfare from Boston is \\$1030 and will be added to the above price.](#) Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500. Please note – if you wish to extend your tour or request air or hotel upgrades, please advise us at the time of booking.**

### ***Accommodations***

#### **Ostuni Palace Hotel**

With its impressive façade, Ostuni Palace fits in perfectly in the White City of Ostuni. Located in the heart of the historic center, it offers a spa and a restaurant. All rooms are air-conditioned and have free WiFi. Rooms have a classic and elegant design with wood or tiled floors and fresh color schemes. Each one has a mini-bar and a TV with satellite and pay-per-view channels. A daily buffet breakfast is provided. The Ostuni Palace Bistrot restaurant serves contemporary dishes with regional ingredients. Vegetarian options are also available. Guests can unwind at the modern Ostuni Palace Spa equipped with a hot tub, a sauna, and a Turkish Bath. Sensory showers, a relaxation area, and massages are also available. The spa uses natural products. Offering panoramic views across the town's whitewashed buildings, the Ostuni Palace is 10 minutes' walk from the main square.





### **Day 1: Departure from Boston**

Evening departure from Boston on ITA Airlines, non-stop flight to Rome. There will be meal service aloft.

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome - connecting flight to Brindisi - transfer to hotel in Ostuni**

Upon arrival at the Rome airport we'll clear immigration/passport control and transfer to our connecting flight to Brindisi. Upon arrival we claim our luggage and clear customs and are met by our Tour Manager who will direct us to the motorcoach for the transfer to the **Ostuni Palace Hotel** in Ostuni. Enjoy a welcome drink and this evening we'll have a welcome dinner with wine at the hotel restaurant. **(D)**



### **Day 3: Full-day excursion to Lecce and Otranto**

After breakfast we depart on an excursion to **Lecce** - often called the Florence of Southern Italy with its stunning baroque architecture, vibrant cultural scene, and rich history. Lecce is like an elegant, sumptuous, open-air exhibition of Baroque art. Among its countless monuments: the wonderful façade of Santa Croce, Piazza del Duomo, one of Italy's most beautiful squares, Sant'Oronzo square and the Roman amphitheatre. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and a Tarantola performance. Later, we'll visit **Otranto** - a picturesque coastal town and the easternmost town in Italy. Return to the hotel. **(B L)**



*Lecce*

*Otranto*





#### **Day 4: Alberobello & Locorotondo**

Depart on a half-day excursion to **Alberobello** to see the famous Trulli of Alberobello, picturesque cone shaped houses that take you back in time to a traditional countryside lifestyle. Needless to say, Alberobello is a UNESCO world heritage site. Afterwards we'll head to **Locorotondo** - a charming hilltop town known for its stunning whitewashed buildings, narrow, winding streets and picturesque architecture. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. **(BL)**





### **Day 5: Bari & Polignano a Mare**

After breakfast, we'll depart on an excursion to **Bari** where we'll have a guided visit of the old town, including the Cathedral. This charming area of narrow streets, restaurants and shops is the home of Orecchiette: a traditional Puglian pasta shape, often served with broccoli rabe or tomato sauce. Transfer to the stunning coastal town of **Polignano a Mare**, renowned for its dramatic cliffs, crystal-clear waters, and charming old town. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before we return to the hotel. **(B L)** **Bari**



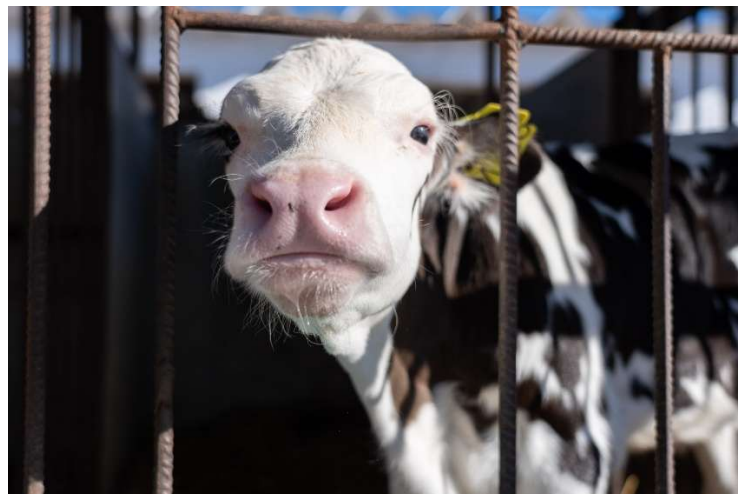


## *Polignano a Mare*



### **Day 6: Experiential visit to Masseria Seppunisi**

Today's incredible adventure takes place at an historic farmhouse - nestled in the breathtaking scenery of the Valle di Itria and the dei Trulli – and featuring traditional architecture, characterized by stone walls, a rustic aesthetic, and surrounding agricultural land. At this four-generational farm you'll be able to meet the cows of the dairy herd, view the dairy, visit the cellars and watch a demonstration on how mozzarella and burrata are made and even have an opportunity to craft your own cheese – followed by a tasting of the farm's cheeses, focaccia, cured meats and a glass of the local wine...the authentic flavors of Puglia. Later this day we'll venture to the **Masseria Casina Vitale** for a cooking lesson followed by dinner. **(B L D)**



### **Day 7: Excursion to Matera**

Today we'll journey to Matera, one of the most spectacular cities in Italy and one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. Matera is made up of rock-cut caves in which its citizens have traditionally lived. The town was named a UNESCO world heritage site in the '90s, and was named one of the European Union's two Capitals of Culture in 2019—quite the coup considering its post-World War II reputation as "the shame of Italy." We'll enjoy a guided visit of the "Sassi," followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant tonight. **(B D)**





**Matera**, Basilicata's jewel, may be the third-longest continuously inhabited human settlement in the world. Natural caves in the tufa limestone, exposed as the Gravina cut its gorge, attracted the first inhabitants perhaps 7000 years ago. More elaborate structures were built atop them. Today, looking across the gorge to Matera's huddled sassi (cave dwellings) it seems you've been transported back to the ancient Holy Land. Indeed, the 'Città Sotterranea' (Underground City') has often been used for biblical scenes in films and TV. The sassi, many little more than one-room caves, once contained such appalling poverty and unthinkable living conditions that in the 1950s Matera was denounced as the 'Shame of Italy', and the sassi-dwellers were moved on. Only in later decades has the value of this extraordinarily built environment been recognized.



### **Day 8: Return to Boston**

This morning transfer to Brindisi airport for our flight to Rome and our transatlantic flight back 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.





