

UNDISCOVERED ITALY

APULIA

An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



Whet your appetite for this southern Italian adventure. Kissed by the Adriatic sun, Apulia has witnessed the comings and goings of numerous peoples. Settle into Polignano a Mare, a town with a decisively Greek feel. Travel along the Puglian coast and visit hilltop towns above aquamarine seas. Sample simple, but exquisite cuisine crafted from the region's seafood, meats, olive oil, pastas and wine. From the Sassi di Matera cave houses and the conical Trulli to medieval forts and an awe-inspiring Roman amphitheater, Apulia's architectural treasures will amaze and delight. It's easy to see why this sun-bleached land of olive trees and wind-swept, Adriatic coastline has been settled, and contended for, since time immemorial.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Solo traveler friendly!** Single supplement waived.
- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- **Visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites:** the Trulli, or limestone, conical houses and the Sassi and Rupestrian Churches of Matera.
- Awaken your taste buds while savoring regional specialties during a tour, tasting and lunch at a locally owned and operated **olive mill**.
- See the spectacular regional capital, **Bari**, and the remarkable Roman amphitheater of **Lecce**, the Florence of the South.
- Steep yourself in the medieval charms of **Trani** and wander narrow, whitewashed streets in **Ostuni**.
- Wander through the **sassi**, the remarkable cave-dwelling district of Matera, and learn more about this community's rich and tumultuous past.

INCLUDED FEATURES

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FOR SOLO TRAVELERS

Accommodations

- **Seven nights** in Polignano a Mare, Italy, at the first-class **Hotel Covo dei Saraceni**.

Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- **Personal VOX listening device** to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- Attend a **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception** and a **Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy seven breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your stay.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ IN TRANSIT

Depart for Bari, Italy.†

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY 2 ~ BARI/POLIGNANO A MARE

Upon arrival, transfer† to Polignano a Mare and the Hotel Covo dei Saraceni. Tonight, attend a Welcome Dinner and meet your fellow travelers.

DAY 3 ~ BARI/POLIGNANO A MARE

Educational Focus: *History, Agriculture and Beauty of Apulia.*

Excursion: *Bari and Polignano a Mare.* Bari, an ancient Greek seaport, offers postcard-perfect views from the Via Venezia. Visit the 11th-century Basilica di San Nicola and admire its Episcopal throne, Byzantine columns and colorful mosaics. The city's Murat quarter is named for Napoleon's brother-in-law who planned it according to a grid design in 1808. Continue to Polignano a Mare and wander through the Old Town via the Arco Marchesale. Browse the cobbled streets to Capella de Santo Stefano and other sites.

Local Flavor: Sample local specialties at a restaurant in Bari.

Tonight, gather with your troupe of travelers for a Welcome Reception.

DAY 4 ~ LECCE/OSTUNI

Excursion: *Lecce and Ostuni.* See Lecce's lace-like, baroque architecture. View the Basilica di Santa Croce, the Piazza Sant'Oronzo, the end of the Appian Way and the Roman amphitheatre. Continue to the "White Town" of Ostuni. Atop the highest of three hills and still fortified by ancient walls, the Old Town is visible from afar. One of only a few edifices not dazzlingly white is the cathedral, commanding the city's highest point.

DAY 5 ~ TRANI

Excursion: *Trani.* Explore the historic seaport of Trani. Known for its Moscato di Trani wine and savory figs, this fishing town is home to a 13th-century fort and a cathedral nestled in the harbor of the Adriatic. Medieval Trani also had a large Jewish population and was a Knight's Templar site.

Meet the People. Agriculture is important to the Apulian economy. Visit a family-run olive farm in Bisceglie to meet the owners and sample its savory products.

Local Flavor: Enjoy local specialties during lunch in Trani.

DAY 6 ~ ALBEROBELLO/LOCOROTONDO

Excursion: *Trulli Fascinating Alberobello and Locorotondo.* See some delightfully unusual limestone dwellings. Alberobello's Trulli houses are truly unique with their pointed, helmet-like roofs. Marvel at the elaborate esoteric and spiritual symbols decorating the roofs. Travel on through the Valle d'Itria to Locorotondo, a picturesque, tranquil village with a labyrinth of whitewashed lanes waiting to be explored. Notice the curious cummerse, Locorotondo's narrow houses brandishing pointed gable roofs.

Local Flavor: Delight in a tasty dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 7 ~ MATERA

Educational Focus: *Contemporary Italy.*

Excursion: *Sassi di Matera.* Travel to Matera and visit the Museo Nazionale Ridola to learn about Matera's fascinating history. Explore the extensive cave-dwelling districts, known as sassi, where troglodyte settlements lived until the 1950s. Now many of the abandoned caves are being refurbished into hotels, cafes and restaurants.

Local Flavor: Today, enjoy more local cuisine during lunch.

DAY 8 ~ POLIGNANO A MARE

Independent Exploration: Spend the day at leisure to continue your exploration, shop or relax. Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and Farewell Dinner.

DAY 9 ~ IN TRANSIT

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

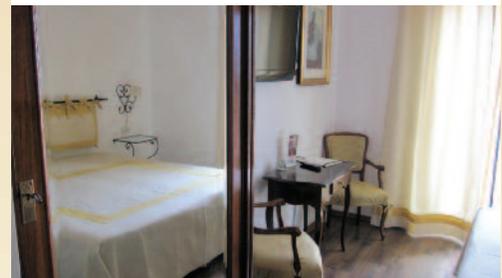
NOTE: *The information presented is preliminary. Itineraries, included features and schedules are subject to change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.*

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL COVO DEI SARACENI Polignano a Mare

With breathtaking views of Polignano a Mare's Cala Porto cove and rectangular, white structures strung along the limestone outcropping, this four-star hotel sits in one of the world's most enchanting locations. Traditional wood, wrought iron and ceramic tile touched with modern elegance and airiness are hallmarks of this hotel. The hotel's services include newspapers and bicycles for guests. The restaurant offers terrace seating and serves local and regional cuisine, particularly fish and shellfish dishes. Spacious rooms are appointed with air conditioning, minibar, safe, satellite TV, Internet connection capability and tiled bathrooms to ensure a comfortable stay.



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