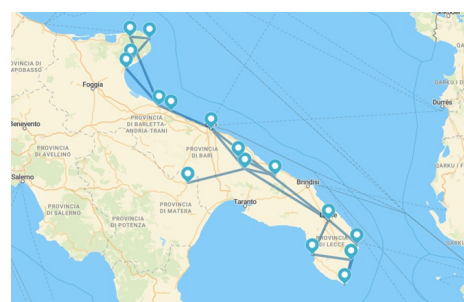




Italy, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Puglia Region

Explore the history-filled and picture-postcard region of Puglia, the heel of Italy's boot. A fascinating itinerary that will take you to UNESCO World Heritage Sites and picturesque towns that look out to sea, embracing you with their Mediterranean flavour and deep-rooted traditions. Get ready to discover centuries of history, breathtaking landscapes and stunning coastlines. And not forgetting the amazing local cuisine! Puglia is an all-round experience, with sweeping white beaches, priceless artistic treasures, stunning basilicas, imposing cathedrals, hilltop castles, elegant palaces, and much more. Explore the unexplored Italy, a laid-back yet grandiose region that stretches around the Gulf of Taranto, the Strait of Otranto and the ever-azure and hypnotic Adriatic Sea.



Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - BARI - BARLETTA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Bari.

Arrival and rental car pick-up at the airport.

Time at your leisure to explore Bari, capital of the region of Puglia and the fusion of traditional and avant-garde. The city, which has welcomed major cultures over the centuries, boasts a major tourist and commercial port on the Adriatic Sea. Take advantage of your time here to explore the city centre and discover every hidden corner, every building and every work of art. A good place to start off is at the eleventh-century Basilica di San Nicola church in the heart of the old town. The crypt houses the relics of Saint Nicholas. Another must-see is the Cathedral of San Sabino, a magnificent Romanesque building. Make sure you see its impressive pulpit and the copy of the 'Exultet', a precious Byzantine scroll that dates back to the 12th century, illuminated with letters and images typical of medieval Italy. Once you've marvelled at these Romanesque jewels, you can head to the colossal castle that Emperor Frederick II built in the thirteenth century on the foundations of an old Byzantine church. Its towers and its irregular courtyard date from the Swabian period. If you're an art lover, you can stroll along the walls of Bari and head to the Pinacoteca, where important paintings and Byzantine sculptures will be awaiting you, such as the famous Saint Peter the Martyr, attributed to Giovanni Bellini, and a fascinating collection of Neapolitan canvases from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. After this intense city tour, you can stop off to savour a typical southern Italian dish featuring raw fish accompanied by pastas such as tarallucci, orecchiette or friselle.

And then back on the road to the medieval city of Barletta. A fifty-minute drive away, this so-called City of Art was once a departure port for crusaders and military orders.

Barletta boasts a renowned architectural and artistic heritage, with numerous collections, such as the impressionist paintings by the famous local artist Giuseppe de Nittis (1846-1884). Its historic quarter houses unique enclaves such as the Romanesque Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore, which is one of the oldest buildings in the city. The statue of Colossus stands outside the Church of Santo Sepolcro, giving a somewhat epic air to the surroundings.

To round off the day, nothing better than unwinding on a terrace and savouring a delicious dinner paired with the excellent wines of the area.

Overnight stay in Barletta.

● DAY 2 · BARLETTA - GARGANO PROMONTORY - VIESTE - MONTE SANT'ANGELO - FORESTA UMBRA - MANFREDONIA - BARLETTA (OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO THE TREMITI ISLANDS)

Time to explore the many attractions in this stunning corner of Italy within easy reach of Barletta. Below are some of our suggestions in the area, so you can choose what suits you the best. You could start today off in the direction of the Promontorio del Gargano, crossing streams and passing through cute villages with views over the white cliffs. This is an impressive limestone massif located 120 kilometres away, which is the most mountainous area of Puglia and the true spur of Italy's boot. Declared a National Park in 1995, it was originally a small island that over the years has merged closer to the mainland. The highest point of this spectacular landscape is Monte Calvo, standing at 1,056 metres above sea level. The Promontorio del Gargano offers visitors outstanding views, hidden coves lapped by crystal-clear waters, lush forests and rugged Mediterranean coastlines. You decide whether to stretch out your towel on one of the local beaches or enjoy nature in the Foresta Umbra, the so-called 'lung' of the National Park, where you can discover a huge diversity of fauna and flora. Beech trees abound here, while the local fauna includes deer, badgers and owls, all perfectly visible if you decide to have a picnic here. After admiring Italy's spur, the next stop is the resort of Vieste and its outstanding sandy beaches. Take a leisurely stroll through its old town typical of southern Italy, enjoying its enchanting streets dotted with winding steps, whitewashed houses and innumerable arches. Must-sees include its Cathedral, which dates back to the 13th century and houses an interesting archaeological museum, the castles restored by Frederick II of Swabia, and the gigantic Pizzomunno monolith, one of the iconic landmarks of the town. Back on the road, head towards Monte Sant'Angelo, the oldest and most important religious centre of Gargano. This was the starting point of the Sacred Road of the Lombards from Spain to Jerusalem, which linked up many sanctuaries. Legend has it that the Archangel Michael appeared to the Bishop of Siponto here. A fact that proves why its venerated sanctuary was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This building stands on an impressive spur located 803 metres above sea level. From here you can admire an amazing view of the Gargano and the infinite sea. Onward journey to Manfredonia, the perfect place for relaxing and unwinding. (Note: If you want to visit the beautiful Tremiti Islands, you can take a boat from the ports of Vieste or Manfredonia).

Overnight stay in Barletta.

● DAY 3 · BARLETTA - ALBEROBELLO

Departure from Barletta to the historic city of Trani, just over 20 minutes' drive away. Upon arrival, we recommend visiting the Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino. Considered the 'Queen of Puglia's Cathedrals', it stands right by the harbour. Admire its impressive 59-metre bell tower that defiantly looks out to the sea. Strolling through Trani's narrow and undulating streets until you reach the historic quarter is the best way to discover its imposing palaces and churches built in the fifteenth century. At lunchtime, make sure you head to one of the many restaurants in the old town or the harbour and savour some delicious fish dishes. After a wonderful lunch, you can wander through the streets of the old Jewish quarter and head to the Castel del Monte, declared a World Heritage Site and built in the 13th century on one of the Murge hills. Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II ordered the construction of this octagonal structure where the number eight served as a guide for each of the building's components: eight sides to the floor plan, eight rooms on each floor and eight towers around the castle. This construction is a clear example of the fusion between cultures, eras and places.

Then back to the car to head to Alberobello, the final destination of today's journey. (Note: Barletta and Alberobello are 117 kilometres apart. The city of Bari is en route, which you can visit if you didn't have much time to do so on day one)

Overnight stay in Alberobello.

DAY 4 · ALBEROBELLO - GROTTA DI CASTELLANA - OSTUNI - ALBEROBELLO

Alberobello is synonymous with charm, tradition and culture. It's an amazingly picturesque town and is one of the must-sees on this tour. Strolling through its streets is like stepping into a fairy tale. It's famous for the mythical 'trulli' that you'll find scattered around the town, which are whitewashed stone huts with conical roofs. The best known is the 'Sovrano trullo', declared a National Monument in 1923. Built 200 years ago, it's the only two-storey one. You can also visit the Church of Sant'Antonio, another trullo of outstanding beauty, or the Casa Pezzolla Territory Museum, built around a magnificent trullo dating from the eighteenth century. Make sure you take a walk through the narrow streets of the Rione Monti, browse around the craft stores and have a bite to eat at one of its many restaurants. Start off by savouring the local cheeses, sausages and olives!

Afterwards, drive over to the Grotte di Castellana, natural underground caves with astonishingly coloured stalactites and stalagmites.

One particular head-turner is the Grotta Bianca, with transparent quartzite crystals. Its sheer size and its numerous interior galleries make this visit a truly unique experience. Take a tour through its three kilometres of tunnels and immerse yourself in an underground world full of surprises. (Note: Admission to the caves not included. Please check schedules).

Onward journey to the town of Ostuni, around forty-five minutes away.

The so-called 'White City' will evoke memories of a typical Greek village with a wealth of whitewashed houses. What's more, the Blue Flag that proudly waves on its beaches is proof of the cleanliness and quality the coastline here. Ostuni is an ideal place to enjoy in summer, not just for its beaches, but also for the numerous cultural events such as the popular Ghironda festival, where aromas, colours and flavours merge together with an intense Mediterranean feel. Must-sees in Ostuni include the Cathedral and the Church of San Vito Martire, which houses an archaeological museum.

Overnight stay in Alberobello.

DAY 5 · ALBEROBELLO - MATERA - ALBEROBELLO

Departure from Alberobello towards the town of Matera.

Located about seventy kilometres away, this historic town burst onto the international scene thanks to Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ". Matera, which will be the European Capital of Culture in 2019, will captivate you with its wonderful cave dwellings. These mythical homes are known as 'sassi' and have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Other sights include the Strada dei Sassi, to admire the fusion between nature and civilisation, and the stunning 13th-century cathedral, which is one of the most outstanding examples of Puglia's beautiful Romanesque style. More recommendations? The Church of San Pietro Caveoso and the Domenico Ridola National Museum, located in a former monastery, are also well worth seeing. After a fleeting trip back in time for a day, you can return to Alberobello to unwind.

Overnight stay in Alberobello.

DAY 6 · ALBEROBELLO - BRINDISI - LECCE

Departure to Brindisi, the so-called 'Gate to the East', on a journey that will take roughly an hour.

This nickname is due to it having been a strategic Roman port and a gateway to the Holy Land at the time of the Crusades. Today, there are many tourist boats that connect the city to Greece. Brindisi is lapped by the Adriatic Sea and has thermal spas where you can unwind for a few hours. Must-visit attractions include the Svevo Castle, built by Federico II; the Piazza Duomo, home to the fourteenth-century Loggia Balsamo palace; the Portico of the Templar Knights; and the Romanesque-style cathedral.

And then off to today's final destination, Lecce, an authentic Baroque masterpiece with some pre-Roman remains. Discover its vast array of restaurants and its buzzing nightlife.

Overnight stay in Lecce.

DAY 7 · LECCE AND SURROUNDINGS

You can spend today exploring Lecce or its surroundings.

Lecce is a city that has definitely been blessed by history. Known in Roman times as Lupiae, it was particularly favoured by the Normans and reached its maximum artistic splendour between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. A short stroll will be enough to let you admire the Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo buildings that date from this golden age. Lecce is famous for its ornately decorated buildings and for being the birthplace of major artists, such as the Zimbalos, who created works across the whole Salento region. Take a stroll around the lively Piazza Sant'Oronzo and discover the remains of an ancient Roman amphitheatre that dates back to the second century. The Basilica of the Holy Cross, an example of quintessential Baroque, is also a must, as is the Government Palace, built on top of a former monastery. The Piazza del Duomo has a special charm, which is why it's considered one of the most amazing squares in Italy. From here, you can admire magnificent buildings such as the Cathedral and bell tower, both built by Giuseppe Zimbalo, the Palazzo Vescovile and the Seminary. Strolling along Via Palmeiri and visiting the churches of Sant'Angelo or San Matteo are also highly recommended options. And very close to the centre are some fantastic sun-kissed beaches. Meanwhile, nature lovers will find their utopia at the San Cataldo Nature Reserve and the area of the Alimini Lakes.

(Note: If you prefer to extend your stay in Lecce by an extra night, you can set off on a beautiful drive that will take in stunning places such as Gallipoli, Leuca and Otranto. Don't miss out on unique experiences such as sailing through the prehistoric cave of Zinzulusa (near Castro) or strolling through the winding streets of the island city of Gallipoli).

Return and overnight stay in Lecce.

DAY 8 · LECCE - BARI - CITY OF ORIGIN

Departure to Bari.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Barletta BarlettaAndriaTrani.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Barletta BarlettaAndriaTrani.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Alberobello Bari.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Alberobello Bari.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lecce.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lecce.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Bari



Barletta BarlettaAndriaTrani



Vico del Gargano



Vieste



Monte Sant'Angelo



Manfredonia Foggia



Trani BarlettaAndriaTrani



Alberobello Bari



Castellana Grotte



Ostuni



Matera



Lecce



Otranto



Santa Maria di Leuca



Castro



Gallipoli



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.