

CULTURE + WALKING

PUGLIA

Matera to Lecce



31



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

The Rustic 'Heel' of Italy's Boot

When we ask our Italian guides where they'd most like to take our friends who *think* they already know Italy, we get one response: Puglia. And then they use their hands. To paint a vista of gnarled olive trees silhouetted against a lapis lazuli sea. To express the amazing sunlight. To sketch the saw-toothed skyline of a village comprised entirely of *trulli*—the conical stone roofs unique to the region. You should see a good Italian describe the food you'll find—pasta from the locally grown wheat, sea-fresh fish, peppery olive oil. The Italians love the heel of their boot and it's easy to see why. Especially since it's also a land where you're as likely to find a Baroque city as a family of shepherds tending 500 sheep. Best of all, Puglia passes the most important Classic Journeys test—it offers fine leisurely walking...elegant accommodations ...and a glimpse into a region and culture that's not quite like any you've encountered before.

DAY 1

BORGO EGNAZIA (BRINDISI)

- Explore your 5-star home by the sea and the nearby ancient Roman ruins
- Stroll along prehistoric cave dwellings
- Linger over a festive welcome dinner

We meet in the lobby of our luxurious hotel, one of The Leading Hotels of the World. Constructed in the style of an ancient village, the property lends itself to a little exploring. Less than one mile away from our Borgo (Borgo means "village"), lie the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Egnazia, between green farmed fields and the rocky coast of the Adriatic Sea. The location chosen by the ancient Romans for this town is charming and offers a lovely walk on our first day together. Along the way, you will see the archaeological park including a section of the Traian Way, which is still paved to this day.

After the visit, we stroll along prehistoric and medieval cave dwellings, which culminates with a special aperitif before returning to our Borgo in time for a festive welcome dinner.

OVERNIGHT: BORGO EGNAZIA (BRINDISI)
MEALS: D

DAY 2

MATERA

- Enjoy the ride through the "Itria Valley"
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Matera

We leave Borgo Egnazia behind, for Matera, passing through the famed countryside known as Valle d'Itria. Matera offers us the chance to visit this very unique and historic city, which has been designated by UNESCO as a world heritage site. The town is built in a small canyon with a dry river bed running through it. One side of the canyon is completely wild; on the other side sits the old city. Thousands of houses and some churches have been excavated in the soft tufa sandstone where people have lived in caves since prehistoric times.

After a walk along the wild side of the canyon, we reach our hotel, a 300-year-old former noble family residence, located in the historic center of town in front of the cathedral. After lunch, we explore the ancient city where some of the homes have been restored and converted into little museums where many of the tools, furniture and kitchen have been kept as they were over 200 years ago. We continue exploring the fascinating site, including a church entirely built right into the rocks.

Relax at the hotel before an unforgettable dinner this evening.

OVERNIGHT: MATERA
MEALS: B, D

DAY 3

ALTAMURA

- Savor a cooking instruction lunch at a private farm
- Enjoy a scenic afternoon walk through the countryside
- Marvel at shimmering Matera at night

We drive to Altamura this morning, passing through the farmed countryside to reach a working farm. In this land, the

farmers live a very simple life. Their houses are draped with tomato vines that are hung out to dry and then covered in olive oil infused with oregano. Many of them still carry their bread to the communal oven to bake.

Arriving at the farm, we meet our hosts: mother and five children. The family tends to a flock of over 500 sheep, and every afternoon they return from the fields to make cheese-fresh and seasoned-that they keep in the cellar and share with us. They also have dozens of pigs, from 8 to 400 pounds, from which they create special delicacies. After an exploration of the farm, we visit their large country kitchen, drinking homemade wine and preparing our lunch with the owners during a wonderful informal cooking instruction that might include local specialties like homemade orecchiette pasta, stuffed peppers, and pecorino cheese.

We enjoy an energetic walk through the lovely countryside, before returning to Matera to relax at the hotel. Dinnertime is free to spend as you'd like. Nearby the hotel there are some fine restaurants for a light bite.

OVERNIGHT: MATERA
MEALS: B, L

DAY 4

ALBEROBELLO / LECCE

- Visit the village of Alberobello with its fantastical conical-shaped homes
- Accept a welcome to a farm lunch
- Stretch your legs on an afternoon walk through an olive tree plantation
- Explore Lecce at night

This morning starts with a lovely drive to Alberobello, a picturesque village where the houses have special roofs, built with thousands of pieces of limestone placed together one by one in a cone shape, without using concrete. On the top of each roof is a keystone holding the entire roof in place. The look of the village is unique and fantastic, as if from a fairy tale book. We walk through the village with a nice opportunity to explore on our own many of the charming little shops built right inside the "trulli" stone huts, and then continue on to a country estate with a small castle in the middle. The property, more than 400 years old, has been carefully restored by the last members of an ancient noble family. The courtyards and gardens, surrounded by ancient walls, are the perfect setting for a memorable lunch of local country specialties.

In the afternoon, we walk through a private olive tree plantation with trees that date from 1,000 to 2,000 years old and enjoy charming views across the countryside.

Late in the afternoon, we drive to Lecce and check into our 5 star hotel. Master artisans restored the hotel, which is located in a beautifully renovated 16th century palace in the heart of 16th-century district, close to many intriguing shops and the center square. Dinner is on your own this evening, and you can enjoy it at the hotel or in one of several fine nearby restaurants. After dinner, you may want to wander around the central square, surrounded by palaces lit at night and providing an unforgettable ambiance.

OVERNIGHT: LECCE
MEALS: B, L

DAY 5

OTRANTO / LECCE

- View the captivating mosaic floor in historic Otranto
- Follow a scenic coastal path to an agriturismo lunch
- Explore Lecce, the "Florence of the South"

A morning drive leads us to Otranto, the most eastern point in Italy. The small town is full of history and art, including the massive castle and cathedral with a huge mosaic covering the entire floor of the church, which many consider to be the largest mosaic in the world. Midmorning, we start out on a beautiful walk through the rocky and wild landscape, halfway between the green hills and blue sea, with no other people around for miles. Our walk culminates at a lovely agriturismo where our hosts are waiting for us with a special lunch.

Following lunch, we return to Lecce for an afternoon visit of the town. Lecce is the most scenic of the towns in Puglia and is called the Florence of the South. The entire historical center of the city is packed with palaces and churches built in Baroque style, rich with decorations and sculptures carved from the famous stone of Lecce that is soft and light and gives an incredible look to the facades, especially when illuminated at night. As part of our walk, we also see the almost completely intact Roman amphitheater. Dinner tonight is on your own to try any of the wonderful local eateries.

OVERNIGHT: LECCE
MEALS: B, L

DAY 6

GALATINA / GALLIPOLI

- Pause in Galatina to view the fine Renaissance paintings
- Visit the fish market and a historic olive press in Gallipoli
- Enjoy a warm welcome over a privately hosted lunch with a landscape architect-friend at his home

After breakfast, we journey to Galatina for a short visit to the church of Santa Caterina, built in the 13th century in the Florentine style and full of frescoes. We also visit Gallipoli, a small lovely town with a gracious old center and a famous

fish market full of life and with every kind of seafood imaginable. While here, we enjoy a fascinating journey underground to explore an old "frantoio," an historic press used to produce the olive oil that was of the highest demand throughout all of Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Our lunch takes place at the beautiful farmhouse of a landscape architect and his wife who have restored it in excellent taste and care. The same wealthy family owns many acres surrounding the house and we enjoy a walk through the olive groves to another family member's home. A famous collector of plants, flowers, medicinal herbs and small trees for the last 40 years, he has them all on display in his ultra-modern greenhouse. The home and greenhouse are often photographed and shown in specialty magazines. With our host, we wander through the property listening to fascinating stories about its history and the varieties of plants grown there.

Later in the afternoon, we drive back to Lecce for some time to relax at the hotel and enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner in the hotel's elegant restaurant featuring the delicious fresh ingredients and excellent local wines that we've enjoyed during our week together.

OVERNIGHT: LECCE
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 7

LECCE / BRINDISI

- Linger over a relaxing morning in Lecce
- Transfer to Brindisi airport

On our final day, we have time to relax at the hotel, stroll through the town and explore on your own the beautiful workshops and maybe even stop for another ice cream in the old center.

Late morning we drive to the Brindisi airport for departures to Rome or Milan.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Borgo Egnazia

A whitewashed seaside compound, this chic property is designed as a Mediterranean village. Elegant rooms decorated in shades of white amplify Puglia's sun. The property offers indoor and outdoor pools, a terrific spa and a range of dining options.

OVERNIGHT: FASANO | NIGHTS: 1



Palazzo Gattini

For more than six centuries, this impeccably restored 5-star palazzo-hotel was the home of Matera's oldest noble family. Gorgeous rooms offer views of the city. From rooftop terrace to the vaulted stone spa, it's an experience in regal hospitality.

OVERNIGHT: MATERA | NIGHTS: 2



Patria Palace Hotel

Originally a princely palace built in the 17th century, this prestigious 5-star hotel has been restored, preserving its original beauty while adding every modern comfort. Each of the hotel rooms is personalized with original fresco paintings.

OVERNIGHT: LECCE | NIGHTS: 3

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Apr 25-May 1, 2021	\$4,895	\$5,590
May 23-29, 2021	\$4,995	\$5,690
June 20-26, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,890
Sep 26-Oct 2, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,890
October 24-30, 2021	\$5,195	\$5,890
April 24-30, 2022	\$4,995	\$5,690
May 22-28, 2022	\$5,095	\$5,790
June 19-25, 2022	\$5,295	\$5,990
Sep 25-Oct 1, 2022	\$5,295	\$5,990
October 23-29, 2022	\$5,295	\$5,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 7 Days, 6 Nights

START: 2:00 PM Lobby of Borgo Egnazia, Brindisi, Italy

END: 1:30 PM Brindisi Airport, Brindisi, Italy Late morning transfer to Brindisi airport

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 3 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van usually in support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches (1 cooking instruction), 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Perfect Pairings Dinners**
- **Wine on Us**
- **Invisible Check-In**
- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Puglia...

- Exploring the remarkable caves in Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and your intimate 5-star palazzo-hotel there
- Accepting an invitation for a homemade lunch on a visit to a working farm in Altamura
- Walking amid the picturesque trulli of Alberobello
- Luxuriating in knockout hotels like the whitewashed seaside compound, Borgo Egnazia, one of The Leading Hotels of the World
- Strolling with your local guide in the countryside surrounded by the oldest olive trees in the world

"As we drove into Matera, just as the sun was setting and the lights of the sassi were twinkling, Sergio told us to imagine that we were in a time machine being transported back 2000 years. And then we rounded the corner and took in the breathtaking view."

—Penelope H., Centennial, CO

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



Amalfi Coast

Positano & the Isle of Capri

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wandering the ruins of legendary Pompeii
- Enjoying incredible hotels in Positano and Capri
- Walking seaside trails past magnificent villas

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/amalfi/>.



Croatia

Dubrovnik & Dalmatian Coast

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling atop massive medieval walls at sunset
- Enjoying lunchtime camaraderie at a local winery
- Skirting the coast on shepherds' paths with jaw-dropping views

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/croatia/>.



Montenegro

Azure Adriatic & Soaring Mountains

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling the palm-lined shores of the Adriatic
- Lunching with shepherds in their mountaintop huts
- Tasting olive oil in the mill where it was pressed

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/montenegro/>.

You might also enjoy...



Sicily

Agrigento, Taormina & Aeolian Islands

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Enjoying a rustic lunch on the slopes of a volcano
- Walking a trail of ancient temples
- Meandering through meadows and olive groves

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/sicily/>.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.