



Matera to Lecce

Puglia

Cultural Walking Adventure

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



“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 know Italy on a walking tour 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

SAVELLETRI (BRINDISI)

- Follow Roman footsteps on a walk through olive groves to prehistoric cave dwellings
- Toast your explorations with an *aperitivo* in a memorable setting

The Baroque city of Lecce is justifiably known as 'the Florence of the South'. You'll begin here, saving your in-depth exploration of the city as a punctuation for the end of the week. Today, you're headed into Puglia's picturesque countryside as you wind through olive groves along the heel of Italy's boot. Your destination has been in demand for more than 2,000 years. Between green farm fields and the rocky coast of the Adriatic Sea lies the perfectly-sited location the ancient Romans chose to build their small but strategically important city of Egnazia.

On foot at eye level, see for yourself why the Romans and others found this area so desirable. Stretch your legs on a scenic walk through the countryside, passing 800-year-old olive groves, stacked dry stone country walls, and cultivated farmland bursting with seasonal vegetables that include broccoli, pumpkin, and Swiss chard. Your walk leads to prehistoric cave dwellings where you'll enjoy an *aperitivo* in a truly unique and authentic setting.

Overnight: Savalletri

Meals: D

DAY 2

MATERA

- Walk along scenic footpaths in Parco delle Murgia for your first views of Matera
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site on a guided walk

Today you'll head to Matera, passing through the Valle d'Itria countryside, known for its rolling hills, olive groves, quaint villages and iconic trulli architecture. The best way to approach Matera is on foot in order to allow it to reveal itself to you little by little. First a glimpse over a ridge here and then a peak along a canyon there. Your guide follows scenic footpaths along Parco delle Murgia's plateau before making a gradual descent into its canyon, past ancient cave dwellings no longer inhabited but with jaw-dropping views of Matera from across the river at its base. There you cross a scenic suspension bridge and walk up and into the town for your first in person views of the town so beautiful it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After time to relax, eat lunch in any of the quaint trattorias and take in some shopping, join your guide for an eye level exploration of this unique and historic city. Thousands of houses and some churches have been excavated in the soft tufa sandstone where people have lived in caves since prehistoric times. Learn how 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.

Overnight: Matera

Meals: B, D

DAY 3

MATERA / ALTAMURA

- Savor a cooking instruction lunch at a private farm
- Take in the shimmering scenes of Matera at night

In the land around Altamura 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. Known as Pane di Altamura, it's the only bread in Italy with a Denominazione d'Origine Protetta (DOP), an E.U. designation to protect it from being co-opted by inferior ingredients. For thousands of years travelers have been marveling at its deliciousness and the Roman poet Horace even described it as the "best bread in the world." You'll walk through this tapestry of life yourself this morning on the way to the farm of our friend, Maria.

Arriving at the farm, you'll be greeted by Maria and her family. Together, they tend 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 you. They also have dozens of pigs, from eight to 400 pounds, from which they create special delicacies. After an exploration of the farm, you'll get the 'Only with Classic Journeys' opportunity to visit their large country kitchen, drink their homemade wine and prepare lunch with your hosts. The hands-on and informal cooking instruction includes local specialties like free range organic lamb, festively stuffed peppers, and mouthwatering cheese cake. *Buon appetito!* Good news, your deliciously authentic lunch comes with no guilt as you can walk off the calories on a scenic footpath.

Make sure to venture out at night in Matera. The Sassi (the ancient part of the city) are already beautiful in the daytime, but seeing the troglodyte dwellings and their light tufa stone illuminated by candles and lanterns is something else entirely and really otherworldly.

Overnight: Matera

Meals: B, L

DAY 4

ALBEROBELLO / LECCE

- Visit the village of Alberobello with its famously conical-shaped homes called *trulli*
- Savor an alfresco lunch in the gardens of a picturesque country estate
- Stretch your legs on an afternoon walk through an olive tree plantation

As they say, necessity is the mother of invention. And so it is in nearby Alberobello, an incredibly picturesque village where the houses have special roofs. These *trulli* were built with thousands of pieces of limestone placed together one by one in a conical shape, without using concrete. As you walk the cobblestone streets, your guide shares stories and anecdotes of how in the 15th century the Kingdom of Naples imposed tributes on each new urban settlement. This led to an ingenious idea by the locals; to build their homes in such a way that they could be demolished with ease whenever the king's delegate was about to collect taxes. The look of the village is unique and fantastic, as if from a fairy tale book. Take in the views as you walk through the village with the opportunity to explore on your own the charming little shops built right inside these unique stone huts.

Midday, continue to a masseria, an old country estate that has been carefully restored by the modern-day members of an ancient family. The scenic courtyards and manicured gardens are the perfect setting for a memorable alfresco lunch of local country specialties. The zero kilometer and farm to table food movement started in Italy in the mid-1990's about the same time as we began exploring at Classic Journeys. And today's feast is a mouth-watering parade of dishes that reflect that, including homemade tagliatelle pasta with the freshest pesto basil and other herbs picked right from the garden. This afternoon, enjoy a guided walk through the estate's private olive tree plantation with trees that are more than 1,000 years old.

Overnight: Lecce

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

OTRANTO / LECCE

- Embark on a cinematic coastal walk to Otranto
- Follow a scenic coastal path to an *agriturismo* lunch
- Explore Lecce's charming historical center

Channel your inner Ottoman on a cinematic coastal walk. With the brilliant blue sea at your right, your footpath leads from Porto Grande and traces the coast around Punta Faci, the eastern most point in Italy, past the Torre del Serpe lighthouse that dates to Roman times, to Punta Ora and ultimately into the walled town of Otranto. The walk is not just beautiful, its historically fascinating too, as your guide shares the story of its Ottoman invasion in 1480.

Midday, walk through the rocky and wild landscape, halfway between the green hills and blue sea, with no other people around for miles. Your walk passes ancient watch towers overlooking the sea, often intersects shepherds watching over their cows, sheep and goats that graze freely in the wild Mediterranean scrub and culminates at an ancient *agriturismo*. Here, your hosts are waiting for you with an 'Only with Classic Journeys' experience, a specially prepared multi-course lunch with wine pairings from the estate.

Later in the day, there's ample time in Lecce for an afternoon visit. The entire historical center is packed with palaces and churches built in Baroque style, rich with decorations and sculptures carved from the famous stone that is soft and light and gives an incredible look to the facades, especially when illuminated at night. As part of your walk, you'll also be able to see the almost completely intact Roman amphitheater.

Overnight: Lecce

Meals: B, L

DAY 6

GALLIPOLI / LECCE

- Visit a fish market and ancient olive oil press in the charming town of Gallipoli
- Enjoy the 'Only with Classic Journeys' experience of a privately hosted lunch with a landscape architect-friend

DAILY ITINERARY

Puglia: Matera to Lecce | Cultural Walking Adventure

• Walk a countryside footpath to explore a restored farmhouse, with its manicured grounds and architecturally significant greenhouses

Gallipoli is known for its gracious old center and lively fish market. On foot you can get eye to eye with the fishermen and their catch as it comes in daily. While here, you'll also 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.

The setting for lunch is at the beautiful farmhouse of a landscape architect and his wife who have restored it with care. The same wealthy family owns many acres surrounding the house so you'll also enjoy a countryside walk along the little 'white roads', the gravel lanes that wind through the olive groves to another family member's home.

Our friend is a noted collector of plants, flowers, medicinal herbs and small trees for the last 40 years. They're all on display in the beautiful greenhouse which is usually only seen in architecture and gardening magazines. With your gracious host, wander through the property listening to fascinating stories about its history and the varieties of plants grown there.

Overnight: Lecce

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

LECCE / BRINDISI

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

Enjoy a leisurely morning lingering over your *colazione* (breakfast) or wander around town to explore on your own. Perhaps you'd like to stroll through the old center to indulge in another espresso or gelato.

Late morning, you'll head to Brindisi airport to part company as you travel onward or extend your time in southern Italy.

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



Aquatio Cave Luxury Hotel & Spa

Aquatio Suite Hotel is a charming 5-star hotel that brings the unique experience of a relaxing break in one of the world's oldest cities to life: Matera.

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

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH 7 Days, 6 Nights

START Lobby of Lecce hotel, Lecce, Italy

END Brindisi airport, Brindisi, Italy

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

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- 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
- Privileged Access Events
- Wine on Us
- Invisible Check-In

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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 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 accommodations like a seaside hotel which is 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

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT