



ITALY

SELF-DRIVE APULIA & MATERA (TOUR CODE: 11621)

STARTS AND ENDS

Bari to
Martina Franca

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 25 - 23 Oct 25

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Self-Drive

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Sample several Slow Food Presidia products, explore the famous Sassi di Matera, be captivated by the stunning seaside villages like Ostuni.

Highlights

- Chance of sampling several **Slow Food Presidia products** - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" such as *The Capocollo cold cut of Martina Franca*, *the Primitivo wine of Manduria* and many more!
- Explore the famous **Sassi di Matera, UNESCO World Heritage Site**
- **Alberobello**, with the Trulli traditional rural homes, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Enjoy a wonderful boat tour in **Polignano a Mare**
- Visit the most beautiful towns of Puglia with an expert private guide

Fascinating Roman ruins, baroque architecture, charming white towns perched on top of the countryside's hills, amazing food and mesmerizing beaches along the coast... Puglia has it all. Whether you're after history, art, culture, food, wine or nature, this region will offer you all of it in abundance.

During this itinerary, participants will have the unique chance of sampling several **Slow Food Presidia** products (high-quality, traditional food and beverages at "risk of extinction") and will taste authentic regional dishes at restaurants selected among those recommended by the Slow Food association in their "**Osterie d'Italia**" guide: small "trattorie" that still use fresh, local produce for traditional recipes.

Slow Food is an organization that promotes local food and traditional cooking. It was founded by Carlo Petrini in Italy in 1986 and has since spread worldwide. Promoted as an alternative to fast food, it strives to preserve traditional and regional cuisine and encourages farming of plants, seeds, and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem. It promotes local small businesses and sustainable foods. It also focuses on food quality, rather than quantity. It was the first established part of the broader slow movement. It speaks out against overproduction and food

waste. It sees globalization as a process in which small and local farmers and food producers should be simultaneously protected from and included in the global food system.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights in Bari at the iH Hotels Bari Oriente - 4* or similar
- 5 nights in Martina Franca at Masseria San Michele - 4* or similar
- Car Hire Credit of \$800
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- 1 welcome dinner in a typical restaurant in Bari
- 1 Slow Food dinner at an "Osterie d'Italia" typical slow food restaurant
- 2 lunches at "Osterie d'Italia" Slow Food official restaurants
- 3 guided tastings of food and/or wines typical of the Apulia region
- Private full-day guided tour of Polignano a Mare, including boat tour
- Private full-day guided tour of Grotte di Castellana & Alberobello
- Private half-day guided tour of Lecce
- Private half-day guided tour of Matera
- Entrance fees in Grotte di Castellana and Basilica di Santa Croce in Lecce

ITINERARY

Day 1 Bari

Arrival in Bari Airport and pick up of your car rental. Proceed to your hotel in Bari for check-in and relax. Enjoy your **Welcome dinner** with typical dishes of the area and then return to your hotel in the evening.

Overnight stay in Bari at the **iH Hotels Bari Oriente** or similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Bari Matera Bari

Morning departure with your car on today's excursion to Matera, known as the "City of Stones". At your arrival take your half day guided visit. This city is one of the most extraordinary and intact examples of a Troglodyte settlement in the Mediterranean region. The oldest "Sassi" (ancient homes carved into the rocks) are about 7000 years old. Free time for lunch. Return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Bari at the **iH Hotels Bari Oriente** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **3**

Martina Franca Polignano a Mare Martina Franca

After breakfast, go south towards **Polignano al Mare**, one of the most famous seaside resorts of Apulia. Meet your personal tour guide for a visit of the city and then enjoy a **boat ride** to admire the coast. Free lunch and afternoon at leisure. Continue to Martina Franca. in the heart of this region. Check-in to your Hotel enjoying the comfortable setting.

The Murgia: Grotte di Castellana, Alberobello, Martina Franca

In the morning depart by car. Meet your local guide in front of the **Grotte di Castellana** for a visit to the wonderful Castellana Caves located at a depth of 70 metres, along a stretch of almost 2 kilometre. After the Caves continue to the enchanting and fascination town of **Alberobello for lunch**. Here you will enjoy Murgia cuisine and the local specialities with their delicious dishes and wines served at a local "Trattoria", part of the "Osterie d'Italia" Slow Food project (*Slow Food is an organization that promotes local food and traditional cooking*).

After lunch, meet your local guide for a walking tour around the **Trulli** to visit the little shops, galleries and artisan laboratories selling homemade cheeses and *Taralli* - savoury crackers typical to this region. Return to Martina Franca for a relaxing evening. Tonight we suggest a stroll around the beautiful historical town centre, stopping at the Partenope pastry shop in the Corso Italia to try their famous cakes and pastires. Return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Martina Franca at **Masseria San Michele** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



The Murgia: Cisternino, Ostuni

After breakfast, departure towards **Cisternino**, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy by car. Visit of the old town centre, stopping to admire the little shops along the way selling a famous regional cured ham (called *Capocollo*), then finish the tour with another **superb lunch at a typical restaurant** where culinary delights such as *Capocollo* ham, along with the other dishes and local wines from the Puglia region, will be served. After lunch, proceed to visit the white village of **Ostuni** and its old historical centre. Short stop at a local dairy producer, to sample some of their amazing cheese. Back to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Martina Franca at **Masseria San Michele** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day 7

Martina Franca Lecce Martina Franca

After breakfast, depart to **Lecce** by car. Meet up with your private guide for half-day private tour of the city to discover the so-called Baroque Pearl. After the tour taste the famous Pucce Leccesi (a traditional bread with olives, tomatoes and other toppings). Return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Martina Franca at **Masseria San Michele** or similar.

Breakfast



Day 8

Martina Franca

After breakfast, check-out and departure.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

iH Hotels Bari Oriente

Bari

The iH Hotels Bari Oriente is a 4 star hotel located in the heart of Bari, in the Murat district, a few steps from the historical Petruzzelli Theatre. It is housed in a majestic building of the XVIIIth century. The roof garden on the sixth floor offers, in the warm season from May to September, an enchanting view of the city and the dome of the famous Theater, where it is possible to sip cocktails and enjoy delicious aperitifs.



Masseria San Michele

Martina Franca

Masseria San Michele is a stunning fortified structure dating back to 1700, with an adjoining consecrated church dedicated to the homonymous saint. The Masseria is immersed in the heart of the Valle d'Itria in an oasis of peace.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

- This package is excluded from the "**CHANGE OF MIND**" Portion of our Peace of Mind Booking Plan.
- **FLEXI CAR HIRE CREDIT:** This self-drive package includes a \$800 (\$100/day) Flexi Car Hire Credit. This provides the flexibility of selecting a vehicle based on your own preferences and requirements. As each location has vehicle limitations, please speak to our team for options.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package