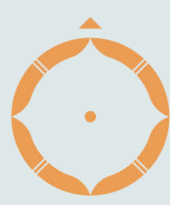


compass
ROAM

PUGLIA

THREE WEEK
TRAVEL ITINERARY





compass
ROAM

TRIP OVERVIEW



OSTUNI,
MARTINA FRANCA
Day 1 - 4



POLIGNANO A MARE,
MONOPOLI, ALBEROBELLO,
LOCOROTONDO, & BARI

Day 5 -11



MATERA

Day 12 -13



LECCE, OTRANTO, CASTRO
& SANTA MARÍA DE LEUCA

Day 14 - 20

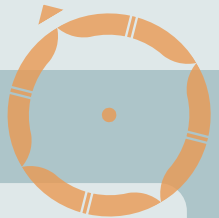
DETAILS

TRANSPORTATION

- TWO AIRPORT OPTIONS: BARI OR BRINDISI
- FOR TRANSFERS TO/FROM AIRPORT: APULIA SLOW TRAVEL
- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS NOT RELIABLE - RENT A CAR INSTEAD

A HEAD'S UP!

- Many car rentals companies will drop off/pick up your car directly at the hotel for an extra fee. They will also install car seats if requested ahead of time. Your hotel can help arrange this.



ITINERARY

DAY ONE

✈️ TRAVEL DAY

DAY TWO

MORNING / AFTERNOON

🏠 ARRIVE AT MASSERIA CERVAROLO

EVENING

☀️ RELAX AT THE HOTEL

🍴 HAVE DINNER AT MASSERIA CERVAROLO

DAY THREE

MORNING

☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA CERVAROLO

🏛️ EXPLORE MARTINA FRANCA

AFTERNOON

🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT I TEMPLARI (MARTINA FRANCA)

🚲 GO ON A BIKE TOUR WITH MADERA BIKES

EVENING

🍴 HAVE DINNER AT PANETTERIA PANIS IN PUGLIA (MONTALBANO)

DAY FOUR

MORNING

☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA CERVAROLO

☀️ RELAX AT THE HOTEL POOL

AFTERNOON

🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT MASSERIA CERVAROLO

🏛️ EXPLORE OSTUNI

EVENING

🍴 HAVE DINNER AT RISTORANTE LA VECHHIA TERAZZA (OSTUNI)

TRAVEL TIP

- If traveling with kids, Munich is a good airport to connect through. Enjoy breakfast at Dallmayr Bistro, and there's a small playground in the airport too.

TRAVEL TIP

- Keep "Day 1" light, especially if adjusting to new time zone.
- Rooms 18+19 connect creating a family suite
- Room 5 was a beautiful trullo

TRAVEL TIP

- The tour with Madera Bikes is kid friendly
- Don't miss dish at Panetteria Panis: Tiella (mussels, rice, cheese, potatoes mixed together). Trust me!

TRAVEL TIP

- For views of Ostuni, drive to Piazzetta Martiri delle Foibe on Corso Vittorio Emmanuele II.
- Our dinner restaurant had lovely views, but would try Osteria Del Tempo Perso next time

ITINERARY

- DAY FIVE**
- MORNING**
- HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA CERVAROLO
 - DEPART FOR NEXT HOTEL USING APULIA SLOW TRAVEL
- AFTERNOON**
- CHECK IN TO MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA (ROCCO FORTE HOTEL)
 - RELAX AT THE HOTEL POOL & HAVE LUNCH
- EVENING**
- HAVE DINNER AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA

TRAVEL TIP

- Families can book 2 connecting rooms (which also have large private yards) at Masseria Torre Maizza.

- DAY SIX**
- MORNING**
- HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - EXPLORE THE STREETS OF POLIGNANO A MARE
- AFTERNOON**
- HAVE LUNCH AT MINT CUCINA FRESCA (POLIGNANO A MARE)
 - RELAX AT THE HOTEL POOL
- EVENING**
- EXPLORE MONOPOLI
 - HAVE DINNER AT PIAZZETTA 10 PIZZA & RISTORANTE (MONOPOLI)
 - HAVE GELATO AT GELATERIA CARUSO (MONOPOLI)

TRAVEL TIP

- Explore Polignano a Mare, and the main beach Lama Monachile, in the morning to avoid crowds.
- KID-TIP: There's a small area with rides right before the historical center of Monopoli
- Piazzetta 10 had good pizza, but next time I'd try La Locanda Sul Porto

- DAY SEVEN**
- MORNING**
- HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - TAKE KIDS TO SEE ZOOSAFARI & FASANOLAND (AMUSEMENT PARK)
- AFTERNOON**
- HAVE LUNCH AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - ENJOY THE BEACH AT LIDO BAMBU
- EVENING**
- HAVE DINNER AT OSTERIA DEL PORTO (SAVELLETRI)

TRAVEL TIP

- The zoosafari and fasanoland are great to do with little kids.
- Lidos are beach clubs - you can reserve chairs, umbrellas, and there's restaurants, and showers. Reservations are required.
- Request a table outside at Osteria Del Porto

- DAY EIGHT**
- MORNING**
- HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - EXPLORE THE CITY OF BARI
- AFTERNOON**
- HAVE FOCACCIA FROM PANIFICIO FIORE (BARI)
 - RELAX AT THE HOTEL/POOL
- EVENING**
- HAVE DINNER AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA

TRAVEL TIP

- Bari is an hour away - so the second half of the day is less structured
- Don't miss dish: Focaccia from Panificio Fiore



ITINERARY

- DAY NINE**
- MORNING**
- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - ☀ RELAX AT THE LIDO PALME BEACH CLUB
- AFTERNOON**
- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT LIDO PALME BEACH CLUB
 - 🏰 EXPLORE OSTUNI
- EVENING**
- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT CASA SAN GIOCOMO (OSTUNI)

TRAVEL TIP

- There are many beaches and beach clubs in this area. You can see the full list of ones we had researched below.
- We returned to explore Ostuni because we loved it - but, can substitute this for a visit to Ceglie Messapica or Alberobello instead.

- DAY TEN**
- MORNING**
- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - 🏰 TAKE THE OLIVE OIL TOUR AT MASSERIA BRANCATI
- AFTERNOON**
- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - ☀ RELAX AT THE POOL THEN HEAD INTO LOCOROTONDO TO EXPLORE
- EVENING**
- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT OSTERIA IL ROSONE (LOCOROTONDO)

TRAVEL TIP

- Locorotondo was one of my favorite cities - don't miss this one!
- Stroll along the circular promenade for beautiful views.
- Our dinner had a nice atmosphere, but I'd try pizza at Casa Pinto next time..

- DAY ELEVEN**
- MORNING**
- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT MASSERIA TORRE MAIZZA
 - 🚗 TRANSFER TO MATERA WITH APULIA SLOW TRAVEL, WITH 2 HOUR STOP IN ALBEROBELLO TO EXPLORE
- AFTERNOON**
- 🏰 CHECK IN TO SEXTANTIO LE GROTTI DELLE CIVITA
 - 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT SEXTANTIO GROTTI DELLE CIVITA
 - 🏰 EXPLORE MATERA
- EVENING**
- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT OSTERIA AL CASALE

TRAVEL TIP

- It's best to visit Alberobello in the early morning, or early evening.
- Sextantio is a luxury cave hotel - Cave room 21 is great for families.
- Cave 15 has good light.

- DAY TWELVE**
- MORNING**
- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT SEXTANTIO GROTTI DELLE CIVITA
 - 🏰 TAKE A TOUR OF MATERA
- AFTERNOON**
- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT 5 LIRE (PIZZA)
 - 🏰 EXPLORE MATERA - CLIMB TO THE TOP OF ROCK CHURCH, WALK THROUGH THE SASSI DISTRICT.
- EVENING**
- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT BACCANTI

TRAVEL TIP

- The guided tour (arranged by hotel) is best for adults.
- 5 Lire Pizza was just okay - would check out a restaurant instead from the recommendation list below.
- Matera can get very hot in the summer - have water and sunscreen.



ITINERARY

DAY THIRTEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT SEXTANTIO LE GROTTI DELLE CIVITA
- 🚗 TRAVEL TO L'ARGENTIERA WITH APULIA SLOW TRAVEL

AFTERNOON

- 🏠 CHECK IN TO THE THINKING TRAVELLER: L'ARGENTIERA
- ☀️ RELAX AT THE VILLA

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT THE L'ARGENTIERA VILLA, PREPARED BY LOCAL CHEF

TRAVEL TIP

- You can select your menu ahead of time working with The Thinking Traveller - they took care of grocery shopping, prep, cooking, and cleanup
- L'Argentiera can fit up to 17 people

DAY FOURTEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- ☀️ RELAX AT THE VILLA - ENJOY THE POOL/SWIM IN THE SEA

AFTERNOON

- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- 🏛️ EXPLORE THE TOWN OF CASTRO

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT DA AMEDEO (CASTRO)

TRAVEL TIP

- Castro has two parts: a historic section at the top of a hill, and the marina down by the water. The hilltop is a short drive from the villa (3-5 min). The marina is just a few minutes walk from the property.
- Request a table in the garden at Da Amedeo

DAY FIFTEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- 🏛️ EXPLORE THE TOWN OF OTRANTO

AFTERNOON

- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT SOFISH (OTRANTO)
- ☀️ RELAX BY THE POOL

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT THE VILLA, PREPARED BY PIZZA CHEF

TRAVEL TIP

- Bring activity books for little kids to do on the boat during down time.

DAY SIXTEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- ☀️ RELAX AT THE VILLA

AFTERNOON

- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH ON THE BOAT TOUR WITH SEA LUXURY YACHTS
- 🚤 GO ON A 6 HOUR BOAT TOUR WITH SEA LUXURY YACHTS ALONG IONIAN AND ADRIATIC SEA

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT FEDELE (SANTA MARIA DE LEUCA)



ITINERARY

DAY SEVENTEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- 🚌 DEPART FOR LECCE FOR GUIDED TOUR

AFTERNOON

- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT MAMMA ELVIRA (LECCE)
- 🏰 GO ON A 2 HOUR GUIDED TOUR OF LECCE

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT 37 NODI (CASTRO)
- 🏰 EXPLORE CASTRO MARINA AT NIGHT

TRAVEL TIP

- The guided tour of Lecce is better for adults
- If you'd like to bring kids, try this bike tour of Lecce instead.
- Museo Faggiano came highly recommended.
- Don't miss dish: The eggplant parm at Mamma Elvria

DAY EIGHTEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- ☀️ HANG AT VILLA/EXPLORE NEARBY SWIMMING SPOTS LIKE CALA DELL'AQUAVIVA

AFTERNOON

- 🍴 HAVE LUNCH AT ANAM TERRACE (AT CALA AQUAVIVA)
- 🏰 EMBARK ON COOKING CLASS/CASTLE EXPERIENCE ARRANGED BY THE THINKING TRAVELLER AT CASTELLO ALBORGO.

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT THE COOKING CLASS AT CASTELLO ALBORGO

TRAVEL TIP

- Cala dell'Aquaviva is a beautiful swimming cove, with parking, bathrooms, and a restaurant
- Don't miss experience: The cooking class was one of my most favorite travel experiences - read more on the blog.
- The cooking class is kid friendly, but I'd recommend having some adults arrive earlier for the class, and then others arrive with kids closer to dinnertime.

DAY NINETEEN

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- 🏰 EXPLORE BEACHES ALONG THE SALENTO COAST - TORRE DELL'ORSO AND I FARAGLIONI DI SANT'ANDREA

AFTERNOON

- 🍴 BOUGHT SNACKS AT LIDO CALAMARIN
- ☀️ RELAX AT THE L'ARGENTIERA VILLA AND PACK

EVENING

- 🍴 HAVE DINNER AT THE VILLA PREPARED BY THE THINKING TRAVELLER TEAM

TRAVEL TIP

- Torre dell'Orso beach was incredibly beautiful and very kid friendly, but also crowded. Arrive closer to 1pm (siesta time), and park here. Walk towards Lido Calamarin, which is furthest from crowds.
- If you prefer a more secluded scene, then go to Baia Dei Turchi (no facilities)

DAY TWENTY

MORNING

- ☕ HAVE BREAKFAST AT L'ARGENTIERA VILLA
- 🏰 CHECK OUT OF L'ARGENTIERA VILLA AND DEPART HOME



RESTAURANTS AT THE TOP OF MY LIST

POLIGNANO A MARE:

- **La Rotellina** - Sells the Puglian snack panzerotti
- **Olio Su Pane** - Small restaurant that focuses on street food
- **Il Quadrifoglio** - Popular local spot, known for pizza, but also serves fresh seafood and pasta.
- **Bar Luna** - Known for a good morning cappuccino and cornetto

BARI:

- **Pizzeria Di Cosimo** - Recommended for casual pizza

ALBEROBELLO:

- **Trattoria Terra Madre** - Farm to table restaurant, very highly recommended

OSTUNI:

- **Borgo Antico Bistrot** - This cafe/aperitivo spot has beautiful views over the city. It's a small sandwich/appetizer place - no reservations permitted.
- **Il Frantoio** - Small hotel near Ostuni that has a well known 9 course tasting menu (adults only)
- **Osteria Del Tempo Perso** - Michelin star spot that gets rave reviews

MATERA:

- **Kapunto** - Casual spot known for great pasta
- **Terazza Cavaliere** - Recommended for an aperitivo and views of the city
- **Osteria San Francesco** - Local chef known for his Versailles-trained twist on traditional dishes
- **Trattoria del Caveoso** - Stylish cave restaurant with outdoor terrace
- **Terrazza Cavaliere** - Great spot for drinks with views
- **Zipa Cafe** - One of the most unique bars in Matera

LECCE:

- **Le Zie Trattoria** - Local neighborhood trattoria
- **Cafe Alvino** - Good place for a drink/snack
- **Alle Due Corti** - Authentic regional cuisine, highly recommended
- **Come Vuoi Pane** - Sandwiches on the main square

OTRANTO:

- **Postofisso** - known for incredible Puglian sandwiches called Pucce.

CASTRO:

- **Martinucci** - offers coffee, pastries and gelato in the main square of Castro
- **Le Stuzzicherie del Porto** - sandwich (puccia) place



TOP OF MY LIST ACTIVITIES

BARI:

- **Bike tour** of Bari Vecchia and the coast
- **Ride the ferris wheel** located at the water's edge
- Take a **street food tour**
- Stroll along the **lungomare promenade**

MATERA:

- Visit **Casa Noha** , **Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario** or **Casa Grotta C'era Una Volta**
- Hike down into the ravine
- Visit **MOOM olive oil press**
- Check out underground cisterns at **Palombaro Lungo**

CASTRO:

- **Santa Casarea** - Thermal baths located nearby
- **Grotta Zinzalusa** - Known as one of the best caves in the world

ALBEROBELLO:

- **Walking Tour of Alberobello**
- Visit **Trullo Sovrano** - The only trullo in the village with two floors
- **Sant'Antonio Church** - The only trullo church in the world
- **Try a "Pasqualino"** - this sandwich is found only in Alberobello

LECCE:

- Take an elevator to top of **lecce bell tower**
- Go underground at **Museo Faggiano** (came highly recommended)
- **Villa Comunale Park** - outside city walls, good for short stroll or picnic



OTHER FABULOUS BEACHES & SWIMMING SPOTS

- **Cala Paradiso** (Monopoli) - local favorite
- **Cala Sussca** (Monopoli) - recommended for kids
- **Tre Buchi** (Monopoli)- local favorite
- **Porto Marzano** (Monopoli) - recommended for kids
- **Grotta della Poesia** (near Otranto) - You can't actually swim here anymore, but looks beautiful to see in person.
- **Bano Marino Archi** (Castro) - This swimming hole is located on the top of the cliff of Santa Cesarea Terme. There's also a restaurant with terrace views
- **La Castellana** (Otranto) - This is a beach club located between two natural coves, and it's known for its more elegant and private setting.
- **Kum Beach Club Alimini** (Otranto)- Beach club near the town of Otranto with helpful staff and good restaurant.



TOP OF MY LIST GELATERIAS

- **Gusto Caruso** (Pogliano a Mare)
- **Bar Peppino** (Pogliano a Mare)
- **Voglia di...Gelato Artesianale** (Pogliano a Mare)
- **Bar Turismo** (Pogliano a Mare)
- **Il Supermago del Gelo** (Pogliano a Mare)
- **Gelateria Borgo Antico** (Ostuni)
- **Baldo Gelateria** (Lecce)