

Contact **Marah Walsh** call **215-208-0293** or email marahwalsh@gmail.com



Puglia & Southern Italy

12 days | 14 days with Rome extension

Sip cappuccino in a cafe where only Italian can be heard. Wander underground through Neolithic caves. Travel back to simpler times in untouched Alberobello, the heart of Puglia, Italy. From the soothing shores of the Amalfi Coast to the quaint homes of the Trulli Valley, authenticity presides everywhere you go on a Southern Italy tour.



Estimated Dates: April 8-18, w/ext -20, 2024

Estimated Price (as of 3/10/21)
US\$5,699 - Full tour + air (quoted from Newark) + all excursions

Contact **Marah Walsh** for more details
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Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- National Archaeological Museum Bari
- Castel del Monte
- Basilica of St. Nicholas
- Trulli entrance
- Casa Grotta
- Sassi di Matera cave dwellings

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and paved roads, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Naples today.

Naples → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Naples

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Naples

Included meals: breakfast

This morning's guided sightseeing tour introduces you to the highlights of Naples.

- Enjoy a panoramic tour with a scenic drive along the Naples waterfront
- Pass Castel dell'Ovo, the seaside castle on a peninsula in the Bay of Naples
- Visit the National Archaeological Museum and see relics of Roman history

Enjoy a free afternoon in Naples or add an excursion.

+ The Lost City of Herculaneum

Bari Region → 2 nights

Day 4: Bari Region via Benevento & Castel del Monte

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel to Benevento and explore the historic city on a guided walking tour.

- View the Arch of Trajan and Church of Sant'Ilario
- Enter the Church of Santa Sofia and the Museum of Sannio

Then, continue on to the Bari region.

- Stop along the way for a guided tour of the UNESCO-protected Castel del Monte
- Step inside the 13th-century structure, which is known as a masterpiece of medieval military architecture

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Bari

Included meals: breakfast

Explore the town of Bari with a local guide.

- Visit Bari Cathedral, built atop the ruins of an Imperial Byzantine church destroyed in 1156 by William the Wicked
- See the Old Town, the castle, Piazza Mercantile, and Piazza Ferrarese
- Visit the Basilica of St. Nicholas, which contains the remains of the bishop whose penchant for anonymous gift-giving inspired the legend of Santa Claus

Enjoy a free afternoon in the Bari region or add an excursion.

+ Monopoli & Ostuni Olive Oil Farm

Lecce → 2 nights

Day 6: Transfer to Lecce & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel to Lecce, nicknamed "the Florence of the South," to get to know the city on a guided sightseeing tour this afternoon.

- Marvel at the extravagant ornamentation of Lecce's churches and monuments
- Visit Lecce Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce, and the Roman Amphitheatre

Please note: The sightseeing tour of Lecce may take place on the morning of day 7.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 7: Free day in Lecce

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Lecce or add an excursion.

+ Otranto with Dinner & Wine Tasting

Trulli Valley → 2 nights

Day 8: Trulli Valley via Ostuni

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Join your Tour Director and pay a visit to Ostuni's picturesque cathedral and whitewashed Old Town homes.

Then continue on to the Trulli Valley. Sit down at one of the area's famous cone-shaped *trulli* homes for an included dinner featuring regional specialties.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Alberobello

Included meals: breakfast

A local guide leads a tour of Alberobello, where you'll explore more of its UNESCO-recognized *trulli*, the iconic homes with symbols painted onto the roof to bring luck.

Enjoy a free afternoon in the Trulli Valley or add an excursion.

+ Puglia Agriturismo Cooking Class & Dinner

Amalfi Coast → 2 nights

Day 10: Amalfi Coast via Matera

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Travel through the scenic Apennine Mountains on your way to the Amalfi Coast, stopping along the way in Matera for a guided tour of the hilltop town.

- Visit the 9,000-year-old Sassi di Matera cave dwellings, including the Casa Grotta di Vico Solitario and the *chiese rupestri*, or "rock churches"
- View Matera Cathedral, Palazzo del Sedile, and the Tramontano Castle, which has sat unfinished since the early 16th century

Celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

Day 11: Free day on the Amalfi Coast

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day on the Amalfi Coast or add an excursion.

Sip a farewell drink as you raise a toast to your trip this evening.

+ A Day on the Amalfi Coast

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Naples airport for your flight home or continue on to Rome.

+ Rome extension

Have your sights on more art, history, and street life? Rome is sure to deliver. Only in the Italian capital can you sip cappuccino in front of the Pantheon and have an audience with the pope all

in one morning. See the city's highlights during guided sightseeing, and then look to your Tour Director's expert suggestions to uncover even more.

Rome → 2 nights

Day 12: Transfer to Rome & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Travel to Rome and follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

Day 13: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Rome or add excursions.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

- + Iconic Sights: Vatican City
 - + Dinner with Tenors
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Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options.



Day 3: The Lost City of Herculaneum

\$50/\$60* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Part of the family of Lost Cities, Herculaneum was also glazed over by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. On this excursion, a guide will take you through the small city and all of its well-preserved wonders. Unlike Pompeii, the conditions in Herculaneum allowed for many buildings and artwork to remain intact. Examine the frescoes and mosaics that decorated the homes of the wealthy, and the narrow streets that characterized the area. Before you leave, take some free time to shop.

Day 5: Monopoli & Ostuni Olive Oil Farm

\$55/\$65* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Your first stop is Monopoli, a small town located on the picturesque shores of the Adriatic Sea. Take a guided walking tour of the historic center, making stops to view the charming port and the Baroque Monopoli Cathedral. Then, head inland to visit the farmhouse and groves of one of the largest olive oil-producing areas in the world. The thousand-year-old olive trees and perfectly preserved underground mill, both of which date back to pre-Roman times, make this farmhouse one of the most famous in Puglia. Enjoy learning about the history of olive oil production and how the family uses a 19th-century oil mill to create their oil.

Day 7: Otranto with Dinner & Wine Tasting

\$79/\$89* (7 hours, departs in the afternoon with dinner)

This excursion brings you to the seaside town of Otranto, a former Greek colony that repeatedly defied Roman authorities by siding with the Romans' enemies in the Pyrrhic and Punic Wars. Explore Otranto's old town and the Romanesque church at the center of town. Later, sit down for an included dinner featuring regional specialties and a wine tasting.

Day 9: Puglia Agriturismo Cooking Class & Dinner

\$110/\$120* (6 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Discover Puglia's culinary traditions on a visit to the Masseria Montenapoleone villa. This grand agriturismo sits atop an ancient cave settlement and offers up views of the shimmering Adriatic Sea and the surrounding olive groves. Here, local chefs will show you how to make fresh pasta and focaccia bread, which you'll taste alongside local olive oil and wine. After your cooking class, enjoy a three-course meal of regional specialties.

Day 11: A Day on the Amalfi Coast

\$139/\$149* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Join a local guide and drive along the Amalfi Coast, enjoying views of lemon groves growing on terraced cliffs and whitewashed villas clinging to the rocky shores. Stop along the way to see the region's beauty up close during a visit to the town of Amalfi. Here, you'll admire picturesque streets and historic sites, including the architecturally stunning Cathedral of St. Andrew. Enjoy an included entrance to the unique, 13th-century

cathedral, which houses relics of St. Andrew the Apostle. Then, spend free time shopping or relaxing over a leisurely lunch before continuing on to Ravello. This breathtaking town's hilltop location makes it the place to go for some of the Amalfi Coast's most awe-inspiring views, and you'll enter the beautiful gardens at Villa Rufolo to soak them all in. End your time on the Amalfi Coast with a taste of delizia al limone, a local lemon dessert, as you travel back to your hotel.

Extension excursion options

Day 13: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$109 (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside the world's smallest state, Vatican City. Skip the lines upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headsets, and immediately begin diving into the Vatican's incredible history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are over 500 years old and hold many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, where you'll gaze up at what is perhaps Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known, including Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà. Please note: This excursion is not available on Sundays. Backpacks are not allowed in the Vatican and a dress code of no shorts or sleeveless shirts is enforced. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 45 days prior to departure.

Day 13: Dinner with Tenors

\$79/\$89* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

End your day with an elegant, four-course dinner at a local restaurant. While you dine, you'll be treated to some of opera's best-loved arias, sung by professional tenors, and you might even join the singers on stage. Don't miss this lighthearted evening of food and fun! Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through November.

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