

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Puglia

Matera to Lecce



“

*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, 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 them describe the food you'll find—pasta from locally grown wheat, sea-fresh fish, peppery olive oil. Italians love the heel of their boot and it's easy to see why. Especially since it's also 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 »

Lecce & Otranto

- Walk coastal paths near Otranto, then linger over lunch at a masseria
- With your expert local guide stroll Lecce's Baroque old town

Your Puglia journey begins in Lecce, where you meet your expert local Classic Journeys guide and fellow travelers before setting out toward the Adriatic coast and the walled town of Otranto. As you leave the city behind, the landscape shifts to rocky shoreline, wind-sculpted scrub, and the brilliant blue of the sea stretching to the horizon. Together with your guide, you follow a coastal footpath that traces Italy's easternmost point, passing WWII bunkers, craggy watchtowers, and quiet stretches of countryside where sheep and goats graze in the wild Mediterranean vegetation. The walk feels wonderfully cinematic—your route curls from Porto Grande around Punta Faci, with the Torre del Serpe lighthouse keeping watch and stories of the 1480 Ottoman invasion adding drama to the views.

By midday, settle in at a countryside masseria—an historic fortified farmhouse now lovingly restored—perched above the sea and surrounded by rugged, sun-warmed scenery that makes a long lunch feel perfectly natural. Between courses, you can gaze back toward the cliffs and towers like those you've just walked, connecting the flavors on your plate with the landscapes beyond the terrace. Here, your hosts welcome you for an Only with Classic Journeys experience: a relaxed, multi-course meal that pairs regional recipes with thoughtfully chosen wines.

In the afternoon, return to Lecce and discover why it's often called the "Florence of the South." Stroll through the historic center where Baroque palaces and ornately carved churches glow in the soft stone the city is famous for. As you walk, you'll see the remarkably intact Roman amphitheater and the lively piazzas that anchor local life today. Along the way, your guide shares favorite spots for gelato, aperitivi, and dinner, so you can ease into the rhythms of Puglia at your own pace in the evening.

MEALS: L

OVERNIGHT: LECCE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Porto Selvaggio & Matera

- Hike Porto Selvaggio's coastal trails past cliffs, coves, and watchtowers
- Arrive in Matera and explore its historic center at eye level

This morning, head to Porto Selvaggio Nature Reserve on the Ionian Sea for a coastal walk through fragrant Mediterranean vegetation, past watchtowers and hidden coves that hint at ancient civilizations. The footpaths offer far-reaching sea views and a wonderfully immersive start to the day in nature, with chances to spot seabirds and raptors riding the thermals above cliffs riddled with Paleolithic caves like Grotta del Cavallo and medieval lookout towers once used to scan the horizon for pirate raids.

Continue to the town of Nardò for lunch, where local cafés and trattorias cluster around handsome piazzas. In the afternoon, journey inland toward Matera, watching the scenery shift from coastal plains to stony hills. On arrival, join your tour leader for an eye-level orientation walk through the historic center and Sassi, highlighting favorite spots for the best gelato, spritz, and shopping. As evening settles, savor a gourmet dinner that pairs Matera's creative cuisine with regional wines, celebrating this new chapter of the journey.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: MATERA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Matera Canyon, Sassi & Altamura

- Walk Matera's canyon and Sassi for sweeping cave city views
- Join Maria in Altamura for homemade orecchiette and farm specialties

The morning is dedicated to discovering Matera and its surroundings on foot at eye level. Set out on a canyon walk down into the Gravina that leads to a settlement carved into the rock, where traces of past civilizations appear in cliffs, caves, and pathways shaped by centuries of human presence. This curated walking route, "only with Classic Journeys," offers an intimate look at the landscape that cradles Matera.

Return to the Sassi, where thousands of houses and some churches have been excavated in the soft tufa sandstone—people have lived in these caves since prehistoric times. Learn how some homes have been restored as little museums preserving tools, furniture, and kitchens from over 200 years ago. With your tour leader, wind through lanes, staircases, and terraces that reveal Matera's cave dwellings from ever-changing vantage points. This flowing exploration finishes back at your hotel with ample time to enjoy lunch at a quaint trattoria, explore boutiques and artisans' workshops, or unwind with a spa session.

Later in the late afternoon, travel into the countryside around Altamura to the farm of our friend Maria, passing homes draped with drying tomato vines and communal ovens where locals still bake the celebrated Pane di Altamura. Known as the only bread in Italy with a Denominazione d'Origine Protetta (DOP), it has inspired praise for thousands of years—even the Roman poet Horace called it the “best bread in the world.” Here in the wheat fields around Altamura—often called the breadbasket of Italy—you experience how Puglia’s famed durum wheat becomes everything from crusty country loaves to hand-shaped orecchiette, just the kind of pasta pilgrimage food writers rave about.

On arrival, Maria and her family welcome you into their daily rhythm: tending a flock of hundreds of sheep, making fresh and aged cheeses, and raising pigs that supply the farm’s specialties. After exploring the farm, enjoy an Only with Classic Journeys experience in their large country kitchen, sipping homemade wine as you join your hosts to prepare dinner. The hands-on, informal cooking session might feature free-range lamb, orecchiette pasta—a typical Puglian dish made by hand with simple durum wheat semolina and water—festively stuffed peppers, and a cheesecake that stands apart for its use of ricotta cheese instead of cream cheese, lending it a lighter, delicate texture and a slightly tangy flavor unique to Puglia.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: MATERA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Parco delle Murgia & Val d’Itria Olive Country

- Cross Parco delle Murgia on foot, admiring Matera’s best viewpoints
- Dine at a family masseria, tasting cucina povera and estate olive oil

As you bid farewell to Matera we’ve saved a special treat for you—the best view of Matera so that its magical setting lingers a little longer in your memory. On foot, trace paths across the plateau of Parco delle Murgia as the stone city slowly recedes behind you. Ancient, uninhabited cave dwellings stand guard over the canyon, and each rise in the trail reveals new views back toward Matera’s honey-colored facades. This farewell walk offers a final, sweeping sense of the UNESCO World Heritage site as one complete tapestry woven into the landscape.

Nearby is the Val d’Itria, where rolling hills, vineyards, red soil, white dry stone walls, olive groves, and trulli signal the start of your olive-oil themed chapter. Midday, our friends (brother and sister) Filippo and Chiara welcome you to their masseria for an al fresco lunch in courtyards and gardens that feel like a natural extension of the surrounding countryside, immersed in olive trees near Ostuni and Cisternino. Here, farm-to-table is not a slogan but a lived tradition: the menu highlights estate-grown produce and homemade pasta crafted with ingredients picked from the organic garden. Lunch becomes a delicious lesson in Puglia’s cucina povera—humble recipes elevated by estate olive oil, sun-ripened vegetables, and durum-wheat pasta that show why this corner of Italy now draws travelers who plan their journeys around what’s on the plate.

Later in the afternoon, travel a short distance to the Lama d’Antico area for a gentle countryside walk among olive trees, dry stone walls, and seasonal vegetable plots, passing traces of prehistoric cave dwellings tucked into the landscape. By evening, arrive at your coastal masseria, with time to relax and choose your own dinner plans.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: SAVELLETRI

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Alberobello & Savelletri

- Approach Alberobello on foot through vineyards and trulli-dotted countryside
- Visit an oliveoil producer and sample their distinctive regional oils

This morning’s walk follows a footpath toward Alberobello, threading through oak woods, vineyards, and countryside punctuated by trulli. Along the route, notice the land’s subtle changes—the shapes of stone walls, the neat vineyards, and the first impressions of the conical rooftops rising ahead. The path winds through quiet groves, past small farms and ancient dry stone walls, offering peaceful immersion in Puglia’s countryside before entering the town.

On arrival, explore Alberobello with your tour leader. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention. And so it is in 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.

In the afternoon, leave town on foot and meander through some of Puglia's most ancient olive groves toward a family-run olive-oil producer. The route passes twisted trunks of every shape and size—many hundreds of years old—and opens into views of orchards that have sustained communities for generations. By now, between hand-rolled orecchiette, Altamura's famous bread, and these peppery, golden oils, it is easy to understand why Puglia has become a byword among food lovers for pasta, bread, and olive oil at their purest. At the estate, sample their oils while learning about harvesting, pressing, and how to distinguish different styles.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: SAVELLETRI

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Savelletri

- [Linger over breakfast and relax by the pool or at the spa](#)
- [Stroll among olive trees before your departure from Savelletri](#)

Savor a leisurely final morning at your resort, with time to linger over breakfast, relax by the pool, visit the spa, or take a last stroll among the olive trees. This gentle pace lets the week's coastal vistas, canyon views, stone cities, and farm kitchens settle into memory. Late in the morning, depart for Brindisi airport. Part company carrying the tastes, textures, and connections that only Classic Journeys can offer in Puglia.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

Tour Hotels



[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.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



[Aquatio Cave Luxury Hotel & Spa](#)

Aquatio Cave Luxury Hotel & Spa is an enchanting 5-star property located in Matera, one of the world's oldest cities. The luxurious rooms have been expertly designed in the ancient caves and enhanced with modern amenities for an unforgettable stay.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Masseria Il Melograno](#)

A 17th-century fortified farmhouse turned five star Small Luxury Hotels retreat, surrounded by ancient olive groves, pools, and gardens. Interiors blend whitewashed stone, antiques, and contemporary comfort, with a serene spa and upscale dining.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	3	4	5
Day 2	2	4	6
Day 3	2	3	5
Day 4	2	4	6
Day 5	2	4	6
Day 6	*	1	2

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Matera, Alberobello and Lecce; as well as well-maintained countryside and coastal trails; and vineyard, olive grove and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain with some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Patria Palace
CITY: Lecce, Italy
TIME: 9:30 AM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Brindisi airport
CITY: Brindisi, Italy
TIME: 12:00 PM
Late morning transfer to Brindisi airport

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ REGENERATIVE TRAVEL
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 2 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
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

- ▶ **PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS**
A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.
- ▶ **INVISIBLE CHECK-IN**
When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.