



From its dramatic beaches along the Adriatic coast to its quiet roads lined by majestic olive trees, Puglia, the “heel of Italy’s boot,” will captivate you with its diverse terrain and wild beauty.

This largely undiscovered region rewards you at every turn, from the amazing caves at Castellana’s Grotte to ancient trulli dotting the landscape to the awe-inspiring mosaic floor of Otranto’s cathedral. So much more than just a cycling trip, our luxury tour of Puglia overflows with discovery—enjoy private olive oil and wine tastings, ancient architectural marvels, private historic walking tours and unforgettable archaeological tours, all complemented by sumptuous dining, delicious local wines and luxurious accommodations.

From
\$4399pp

Rider Type
Recreational

Hotel Style
Luxury

Duration
6 days | 5 nights

Start | End
Bari, Italy | Lecce, Italy

Dates
2015/Apr/May/Sep/Oct

TRIP WOWS

UNFORGETTABLE RIDING ALONG THE COAST to southern-most portion of Italy.

SAVOR PUGLIA’S REMARKABLE wines paired with the delicious local cuisine, based on homemade pasta, fresh seafood and seasonal produce.

MARVEL AT THE CENTURIES-OLD conical stone houses or “trulli”.



VISIT OTRANTO CATHEDRAL a UNESCO World Heritage site and its famed mosaic floor.

Savor the cultural landscape of this largely un-touristed region, including luxurious hotels, genuine hospitality, fresh, excellent food, and regional olive oils and wines.

DAILY ITINERARY

2015

DAY 1

Today's Ride:

Masseria il Frantoio to Savelettri

Approximately 19 miles with 90 feet of climbing

Description:

After a 45-minute shuttle you'll arrive at the Grotte di Castellana. We'll take a guided tour of the majestic caves, once a subterranean river, and explore its huge caverns. After the tour, you'll enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch, featuring local specialties. Your guides will then spend some time familiarizing you to the Trek bicycle you'll be riding, and make sure that you and your bike are a comfortable fit. Then we take to quiet roads surrounded by olive trees, and spot our first trulli—conical stone dwellings dating from the Middle Ages, unique to this small area in Puglia. After winding through spectacular countryside dotted with these distinctive structures, the ride concludes at your hotel, Masseria Torre Maizza. Wander its beautiful grounds before gathering for an aperitivo and a discussion of the week ahead. You'll enjoy the first dinner of the trip at the hotel's own remarkable restaurant that specializes in flavorful, local cuisine prepared with a modern twist.

[View meeting and departing information»](#)

Hotel:

Masseria Torre Maizza
www.MasseriaTorreMaizza.com

Included Meals:

Lunch | Social Hour | Dinner

DAY 2

Today's Ride:

Savelettri to Alberobello

Approximately 24 miles with 1,250 feet of climbing

Short Option:

Savelettri to Alberobello with Shuttle

Approximately 17 miles with 500 feet of climbing

Avid Option:

Savelettri to Alberobello Loop

Approximately 43 miles with 1650 feet of climbing

Description:

After a hearty breakfast, you'll head out on quiet country roads, surrounded by vineyards, olive trees and the ubiquitous trulli. Take a moment to get an up-close look at one of these ancient stone structures. Back on the bike, you will cycle to Alberobello, home to over a thousand trulli, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here you can wander narrow streets lined with trulli, or perhaps visit the fascinating Trulli Museum, before sitting down to lunch of your choice. Afterwards, you have the option to shuttle back to the hotel to enjoy the pool or the spa. However, if you are ready to keep riding, your Trek Travel guides have a spin through more quiet roads for you to enjoy. This evening, head into the historic center of Martina Franca, where you'll enjoy a delightful meal of tasty Pugliese appetizers, freshly made pasta and delicious roasted meats at a small, family-owned osteria.

Hotel:

Included Meals:

DAY 3

Today's Ride:

Savelettri to Ostuni to Tutarano

Approximately 39 miles with 550 feet of climbing

Short Option:

Savelettri to Ostuni

Approximately 18 miles with 400 feet of climbing

Avid Option:

Savelettri to Casalabate

Approximately 65 miles with 650 feet of climbing

Description:

Today you'll cycle into the stunning region of Salento, enjoying beautiful country roads as you head down "the heel of the boot". Our first stop is Ostuni, la Città Bianca, a whitewashed village high on a hill with astonishing views of the Adriatic. There are great shops in the old town and narrow, winding streets that are enticing to explore. After uncovering the town's attractions, enjoy lunch at the trattoria of your choice. Afterward, for those who elect to continue cycling, the terrain flattens as we head south to our hotel for the night, Tenuta Monacelli. This ancient farmhouse now offers luxurious accommodations amidst ancient olive groves, just a short distance from the coastline. Enjoy an olive oil tasting of the local varieties. If you'd like, relax by the hotel's infinity pool after your ride. Tonight you'll reconvene with the rest of the group to dine on delicious, inventive fare at the hotel's restaurant.

Hotel:

Tenuta Monacelli
www.TenutaMonacelli.com

Included Meals:

Breakfast | Lunch | Social Hour |
Dinner

DAY 4

Today's Ride:

Casalabate to Torre dell'Orso

Approximately 26 miles with 140 feet of climbing

Short Option:

Casalabate to Torre dell'Orso with shuttle

Approximately 15 miles with 100 feet of climbing

Avid Option:

Casalabate to Otranto

Approximately 36 miles with 200 feet of climbing

Description:

Today, you'll leave the tranquil surroundings of your hotel after a replenishing breakfast. Continuing your journey south, we cycle the coastline of the Adriatic, enjoying views of rocky beaches and brilliant blue waters. You'll head to San Foca, where you can enjoy a dip in the warm waters of the Adriatic before we sit down to lunch at a casual seaside restaurant. Then hop back on your bike for the final few miles along the coast to Otranto. This port city has Greek origins and a range of influences over the centuries, from Roman to Norman to Turkish to Spanish. Otranto's quiet streets, clean beaches and vibrant dining scene are just part of its charm—the magnificent cathedral and imposing fortress add a palpable sense of history to the mix. Tonight, explore the many local options for dinner—trattorias serving everything from pasta and pizza to freshly caught seafood abound.

Hotel:

Palazzo Papaleo
www.HotelPalazzoPapaleo.com

Included Meals:

Breakfast | Lunch

DAY 5

Today's Ride:

Otranto to Santa Maria Di Leuca

Approximately 33 miles with 2,300 feet of climbing

Short Option:

Otranto to Grotta Zinzulusa

Approximately 25 miles with 100 feet of climbing

Avid Option:

Otranto to Santa Maria Di Leuca Return

Approximately 66 miles with 4,500 feet of climbing

Description:

This morning, the sea is never out of sight as we make our way along the some of the most breathtaking

coastline in all of Italy. To your right, stone fences crafted centuries ago from local limestone adorn windswept fields, while the shimmering clear waters of the Ionian Sea beckon from your left. We arrive in Grotta Zinzulusa just in time for a swim and lunch. Choose to jump in the saltwater pool perched high on the rocky cliffs, or descend the stone staircase to swim in a secluded cove. Then enjoy some of the best pizza in southern Italy along with tantalizing salad and freshly made gelato. Afterwards, jump back on your bike and continue your seaside explorations. Or, shuttle back to Otranto, where you can enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the charming town. This evening we'll toast our week together as we dine on fresh local seafood and ribbons of homemade pasta paired with the region's best wines.

Hotel:

Palazzo Papaleo
www.HotelPalazzoPapaleo.com

Included Meals:

Breakfast | Social Hour | Dinner

DAY 6

Today's Activity:

Private Guided Walking Tour of Otranto

Description:

Today, linger over a hot cappuccino and soak in the gorgeous views from the rooftop breakfast terrace. Afterwards, stroll through Otranto with Trek Travel's local guide and savor the multi-cultural flavors of Puglia. Among other highlights, you'll discover the hidden meanings of the remarkable mosaic-tiled floor of the 11th century cathedral, recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. After completing your exploration of this delightful town, you'll have a chance to pick up some last-minute necessities, such as handcrafted pasta or a bottle of your favorite Pugliese wine.

[View meeting and departing information»](#)

Included Meals:

Breakfast

2015 Alternate

DAY 1

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Masseria il Frantoio to Savelettri

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Description:

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[View meeting and departing information»](#)

Hotel:	Included Meals:
Masseria Torre Coccaro www.masseriatorrecoccaro.com	Lunch Social Hour Dinner

DAY 2

Today's Ride:	Short Option:	Avid Option:
Savelettri to Alberobello Approximately 24 miles with 1,250 feet of climbing	Savelettri to Alberobello with Shuttle Approximately 17 miles with 500 feet of climbing	Savelettri to Alberobello Loop Approximately 43 miles with 1650 feet of climbing

Description:

After a hearty breakfast, you'll head out on quiet country roads, surrounded by vineyards, olive trees and the ubiquitous trulli. Take a moment to get an up-close look at one of these ancient stone structures. Back on the bike, you will cycle to Alberobello, home to over a thousand trulli, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here you can wander narrow streets lined with trulli, or perhaps visit the fascinating Trulli Museum, before sitting down to lunch of your choice. Afterwards, you have the option to shuttle back to the hotel to enjoy the pool or the spa. However, if you are ready to keep riding, your Trek Travel guides have a spin through more quiet roads for you to enjoy. This evening, head into the historic center of Martina Franca, where you'll enjoy a delightful meal of tasty Pugliese appetizers, freshly made pasta and delicious roasted meats at a small, family-owned osteria.

Hotel:	Included Meals:
Masseria Torre Coccaro www.masseriatorrecoccaro.com	Breakfast Social Hour Dinner

DAY

Today's Ride:	Short Option:	Avid Option:
Savelettri to Ostuni to Tutarano Approximately 39 miles with 550 feet of climbing	Savelettri to Ostuni Approximately 18 miles with 400 feet of climbing	Savelettri to Casalabate Approximately 65 miles with 650 feet of climbing

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Hotel:	Included Meals:
Tenuta Monacelli www.TenutaMonacelli.com	Breakfast Lunch Social Hour Dinner

DAY 4

Today's Ride:	Short Option:	Avid Option:
Casalabate to Torre dell'Orso Approximately 26 miles with 140 feet of climbing	Casalabate to Torre dell'Orso with shuttle Approximately 15 miles with 100 feet of climbing	Casalabate to Otranto Approximately 36 miles with 200 feet of climbing

Description:

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Hotel:

Palazzo Papaleo
www.HotelPalazzoPapaleo.com

Included Meals:

Breakfast | Lunch

DAY 5

Today's Ride:

Otranto to Santa Maria Di Leuca
Approximately 33 miles with 2,300 feet of climbing

Short Option:

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Approximately 25 miles with 100 feet of climbing

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www.HotelPalazzoPapaleo.com

Included Meals:

Breakfast | Social Hour | Dinner

DAY 6

Today's Activity:

Private Guided Walking Tour of Otranto

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Today, linger over a hot cappuccino and soak in the gorgeous views from the rooftop breakfast terrace. Afterwards, stroll through Otranto with Trek Travel's local guide and savor the multi-cultural flavors of Puglia. Among other highlights, you'll discover the hidden meanings of the remarkable mosaic-tiled floor of the 11th century cathedral, recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. After completing your exploration of this delightful town, you'll have a chance to pick up some last-minute necessities, such as handcrafted pasta or a bottle of your favorite Pugliese wine.

[View meeting and departing information»](#)

Included Meals:

Breakfast

DAY Us

Explore the city of Rome

\$1099 per person

3 days | 2 nights

Based on double occupancy.

About:

Italy's capital city is a must see for any traveler. Rome's stunning architecture and history, beautifully told through its ruins - provides a glimpse of ancient times amongst the modern bustle and energy of this stunning metropolis. Gain access to some of the most important cultural attractions in the world as you explore the Coliseum, Forum, Vatican City, or the Pantheon with your own private guide.

We feel it's invaluable to have a local guide in Rome! That's why we've included 2 unique city tours with a local expert. For your first day your guide will introduce you to Rome's most famous monuments and help you get oriented in the Eternal City! On day 2 you'll have your choice of either a special tour of The Colosseum & Forum or The Vatican which includes the Sistine Chapel & St. Peter's Basilica.

How to get there

Choose the Rome add-on package before or after your Tuscany, Ride Across Italy, Cinque Terre, or Puglia trip package.

Suggested Area Attractions:

DAY Us

Travel Coordinator Services:

Rome, Italy

Description:

As your dedicated travel coordinator I'll make sure your travel arrangements are seamless. Assistance with arranging flights and full advisory services are included with your add on package. Once booked, you will receive a confirmation with exact dates, hotel and restaurant details along with a detailed list of suggested attractions & city guide.

Lindsay Juley

Please note: Gratuity is not included for any part of the package. Please tip at your own discretion.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

We Include More

Every moment of a Trek Travel bike trip has more than you could have ever dreamed. More romance. More scenery. More choice. It's the little additions to every Trek Travel cycling vacation that make it truly special. And that's how we help you create more memories. [See more](#)

Activities

- Gratuities for all scheduled special events, restaurants, hotels, local guides and transportation during your trip.
- Private tours
- Entrance fees to all group events/activities
- All luggage transfers
- All transportation during the trip, including private coaches

Lodging

- 5 nights of accommodation
- In every region we travel, we uncover the area's best, and most delightful accommodations. On our Puglia trip, you will stay in an elegant villa nestled in beautiful grounds on the edge of town, a secluded historic manor house nestled amid acres of olive groves, and a former palace in the very heart of a seaside port town.

Dining

- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, 4 social hours, 4 dinners, and all snacks and drinks for each day
- On our Puglia trip, breakfasts are served buffet-style at our hotels, while lunch ranges from a bountiful picnic of local goodies to casual meals enjoyed at seaside trattorias. Dinner ranges from local osteria fare to fine dining. Generally, Italians dress up for dinner out, and that is definitely the case for our first and last dinner together. You can expect lots of freshly made pasta and, given our proximity to the sea, lots of fresh seafood as well.

Support

- The knowledge, support, and camaraderie of experienced guides
- Daily route support
- The use of Garmin Touring Plus GPS cycling computer
- Paper route guides also available upon request
- Comprehensive trip literature and complimentary Trek merchandise

Gear

- The use of a Trek Domane 5.9 carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting, or Trek Domane 5.9 Women's Specific Design carbon road bike with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting (limited selection), or Trek 7.6 FX Hybrid bicycle
- The use of Garmin Touring Plus GPS cycling computer
- The use of Trek bike helmets and other gear and equipment to make your ride comfortable
- Trek Travel water bottles
- \$300 USD off any 2015 5 Series or 6 Series Trek Domane including Project One and the Trek Emonda SL6 and SL8 models.
- Trek Travel Bontrager RL jersey and cycling socks

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Thank your Guides, by tipping

Gratuities for your Trek Travel guides are not included in your trip price. Industry standard is 5-10% of the trip price which will be divided by your guide team. Please tip your guides at your discretion, based on their level of professionalism, guest care and service.

What's Not Included

- Airfare and transportation to and from the trip pick-up/drop-off locations
- Lodging before and after the trip
- Personal items purchased during the trip
- Optional activities not scheduled by Trek Travel
- On select trips some meals are not included. On these trips, Trek Travel invites you to explore the local cuisine at your leisure.
- Gratuities for your Trek Travel Guides may be given at your discretion in response to their professionalism and leadership. Industry standard is for each individual guest to tip the guide team 5-10% of the trip price.

ACCOMMODATIONS

[Masseria Torre Maizza](#)

Savelletri Di Fasano, Italy

Masseria Torre Maizza Savelletri Di Fasano, Italy This elegant oasis is ideally situated in the heart of Puglia. The estate hotel offers excellent hospitality, exquisite attention to detail, and understated elegance. Overlooking the mediterranean sea, this 5 star resort features an Aveda spa and all of the amenities for an exceptional vacation.

[Masseria Torre Coccaro](#)

Savelletri Di Fasano, Italy

Masseria Torre Coccaro Savelletri Di Fasano, Italy Rated by Conde Nast Traveler as one of the top beach hotels in Puglia 2012, this stunning property is perfectly situated the heart of the region. The estate hotel offers excellent hospitality, exquisite attention to detail, and understated elegance. Overlooking the mediterranean sea, this 5 star resort features a private, heated pool and beautiful gardens.

[Tenuta Monacelli](#)

Casalabate, Italy

Tenuta Monacelli Casalabate, Italy The 17th century manor house is surrounded by hundreds of acres of centuries-old olive groves, and is just a kilometer from the white sand beaches of Casalabate. The sophisticated accommodations in this 24-room hotel are uniquely spacious and warmly comfortable. The large infinity swimming pool set within an olive grove is gorgeous, and the tranquil grounds are sure to cast a magical spell on you—it's impossible to remember everyday concerns here!

[Palazzo Papaleo](#)

Otranto, Italy

Palazzo Papaleo Otranto, Italy This 5 star luxury hotel is just steps from the renowned cathedral. Centuries ago, the property provides sumptuous accommodations with antique furnishings. The hotel affords breathtaking views and the historic property is an attentive staff member's home.

TRAVEL SERVICES

How to get there

We suggest that you arrive at least one day prior to the trip start, which will enable you to adjust to the time zone and minimize the risk of missing the trip start due to flight-related delays. We recommend that you fly into Bari airport (BRI), which will involve a transfer at a major European airport, or flying into Rome (FCO) and then taking the train to Bari center.

Meeting Time And Location

Bari Train Station | Bari, Italy

Your Trek Travel guides will meet you at the Bari Train Station (Piazza Aldo Moro 51, Bari, Italy) at 11:00AM on the first day of the trip. We'll then shuttle 45 minutes to our scenic starting point. Please have your first day cycling clothes and riding gear easily accessible, packed separate from your main luggage. We'll enjoy an Italian style bistro lunch together. Then we'll fit you to your bike and begin our day's ride through the countryside.

If you will be late for the pick-up or are going to miss it altogether, please inform your guides. You will receive an email a week before the trip start with their names and contact details. If you cannot reach them, please call our first hotel, Masseria Torre Maizza (+39 080.482.78.38) or Masseria Torre Coccaro (+39 080.482.78.38), and leave a message with your expected arrival time and contact details. Taxis from the Bari airport or train station are readily available. The ride to our trip start will take approximately 45 minutes and will cost between 80 euros and 120 euros.

Departing Time and Location

Lecce Train Station | Lecce, Italy

You will say farewell to your guides at 10:45 AM at the Palazzo Papaleo. You'll then take a private shuttle to the train station in Lecce, arriving at 11:45 AM. Please allow adequate connection time for any ongoing travel to accommodate possible traffic delays.

Before: BARI, Italy

Bari is Puglia's capital and is now one of the south's most prosperous cities. Once a haven for gangsters and ne'er-do-wells, the city today is surprisingly chic and upscale. Be sure to wander through "Bari Vecchia," the captivating medieval old town. Here the tiny streets are bustling with cafes, restaurants and boutiques, and beautifully restored churches line inviting piazzas. Or, take a few minutes stroll into "new town" and check out the designer boutiques on Via Sparano da Bari. We recommend the following accommodations for your pre-trip hotel:

Mercurio Villa Romanazzi Carducci Bari

This large hotel, complete with pool and gardens, is near the train station. Modern amenities and a welcoming staff make this an ideal base from which to explore Bari.

Via Giuseppe Capruzzi 326 | +39 080 542 7400 www.villaromanazzi.it/ | ~\$125

Parco Dei Principi Hotel Congress & Spa

The large hotel in the central district features a green area which incorporates an historic fortified farm-house that borders the building. Clean rooms, accommodating staff and full amenities make this a welcoming place to stay in Bari.

Prolungamento Viale Europa, 6 +39 080 539 48 | www.ParcoDeiPrincipiBari.it | ~\$120

Palace Hotel Bari

The personal touches, attention to detail and customer service of this large establishment give it the feeling of a boutique hotel. Enjoy its central location and its exclusive roof garden restaurant. 64 rooms.

Via Lombardi 13 | +39 080 521 6551 | www.PalaceHotelBari.it | ~\$125

FAQS

Trip Changes

Our itineraries are an approximation of our trips. Trek Travel strives to offer each and every guest a vacation of a lifetime on every trip. At times routes, hotels, activities, etc. listed here may change at the discretion of the trip designer or guides to improve the trip experience.

What are the daily rides like?

- Rider Type | 2
- Average Daily Mileage | 35
- Terrain | Hilly
- Average Daily Elevation | 700

On all of our vacations, Trek Travel strives to find quiet, paved secondary roads or bike paths to experience a region; busy roads are avoided as much as possible. Puglia is best suited for our Type 2 Riders. Our Trek Travel guides can also easily accommodate Type 1 Riders, who seek less mileage or fewer uphill, with a boost in the van. Those who wish to ride every mile but are concerned about their physical ability may want to try our electric bike option—you still get a workout but can climb alongside even the strongest rider. Type 3 Riders will enjoy the extra mileage the avid route options offer. The terrain is varied with rolling hills. Hills are short, but can be occasionally steep. We typically cycle along narrow, quiet roads, but surfaces vary, from somewhat rough country roads to smooth, newly paved larger roads. See Itinerary for specific daily ride distance and elevation options.

What is the weather going to be like?

In springtime, you can expect warm daytime temperatures (70F-80F), with evenings usually 10 degrees cooler. Fall is warmer with daytime temperatures reaching the mid 80s, but evenings remain cooler. Puglia's seaside location means that it can be hit with the odd cold spell or rain shower. Light layers and a wind/waterproof shell are recommended.

What are the options for a non-rider travel companion?

On most Trek Travel trips, we offer non-riding options for riders who want to take the afternoon off, or travel companions who want to spend little or no time in the saddle. Some of these options may need to be scheduled before your trip—please contact one of our Trip Consultants for more information. Expenses and/or related transportation to these activities may not be included in the trip price. See Included In The Trip Price for more information. Some non-riding options on this trip are:

- Play tennis or golf, or relax poolside at the hotel
- Explore "la citta bianca," the white city of Ostuni with its narrow passageways and enticing shops
- Spend a day at the beach and swim in the crystal clear waters of the Adriatic or Ionian seas
- Tour the cathedral and historic past of Otranto

- Spend a day in one of the hotel's luxurious spas

Do you have upgrade options available?

For an additional fee you may request to upgrade to the brand new Trek Emonda SLR with Shimano Di2 electronic shifting for the ultimate riding experience. Upgrades to Bontrager Aeolus carbon wheels and Trek Ride Plus electric assist bicycle are also available. Contact our trip consultants for more details.

WHAT IF I HAVE TO CHANGE OR CANCEL MY TRIP?

We understand things happen in life and sometimes you have to cancel or change your bike tour. We want to make it as easy as possible to do so and below you will find our timeline. If you ever have a question, just give us a call, 866 464 8735. [Read our cancellation policy.](#)

GENERAL FAQS

Didn't find what you were looking for? [Check out our General FAQs section.](#) You will find answers to all the most common questions that don't necessarily pertain to a specific trip.