

About Apulia

The Queen and the Crown of Puglia: a walk through the Heel of the Italian Boot "Jewels".

Wednesday, May 17th 2017

The Southernmost region overlooking the opposite site of the Adriatic Sea, Apulia has always been considered as a gateway to the east. Rich in history, dotted with precious monuments and original dwellings, proud of a cuisine based upon the traditional fresh season products, the region has recently been listed among the main Italian destinations,



In the past the symbol of danger, Apulian sea today welcomes visitors and travelers with its warm crystal like and reassuring color, while the countryside around is a perfect background to tell about the region's long history with its thousands of old century, twisted olive trees.

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Welcome to Puglia!

Our tour guides and drivers will meet us at the Chamber of Commerce, and together we will depart towards Trani.



The ancient Tirenium or Turenum, as indicated in the Roman Age maps of the region, was very important during the Middle Ages, as here for the first time a Maritime Code was written, and the Swabian Emperor Frederick II allowed a big Jewish community to live within its walls and build 4 Synagogues.

Upon arrival enjoy a pleasant walk towards the heart of the old town, where the imposing Cathedral overlooking the sea stands like an elegant Queen ready to welcome

her guests.

After visiting the site with the help of our tour guide, we will have some time for a photo stop, before rejoining our bus, and proceeding towards our next destination.

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Located at the highest point of the Central Murgia Hills, dominating the valley on one side, and the Adriatic Shore on the other, the octagonal shaped Castle built by the Swabian Emperor Frederick II seems to be a crown lying at the top of a huge head.



Once there, we will be able to learn about the reason of its unusual structure, and to figure out how the Castle was preciously decorated almost 800 years ago.

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Listed among the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites, today its octagonal open courtyard which seems to join the blue Apulian sky, is a perfect place for music concerts, events,



and temporary shows, and for sure the Castle is a remarkable starting point to explore the countryside around.

We will then reach one of the local "Masseria", literally farmhouse or countryhouse our region is famous for, often deserted after 1960s by locals, and today renovated and trasformed into perfect venues for guests to enjoy nature, local products, and landscape.

Here a traditional dinner will be perfect to "explore" also Apulian cuisine, its flavors, tastes, and colours.

After our lovely meal, we will return to our hotel in Bari for the overnight stay, hopefully wishing to meet each other again next year in Puglia.

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NOTES

- ✚ The tour involves a certain amount of walking over uneven surfaces and some steps. Wearing comfortable walking shoes is highly recommended.
- ✚ While visiting the sacred sites, guests are requested to wear appropriate clothes, avoiding uncovered shoulders and shorts.
- ✚ Tour guides are not allowed to provide narrations should a celebration take place in a church: they will give the main information from outside, allowing guests to visit the site independently.
- ✚ Restroom facilities are located nearby the Castle in Trani, and at the bus parking area at Castel del Monte.
- ✚ Buses are not allowed to reach Castel del Monte, and will park in a reserved area where a little shuttle to the Castle is available. Depending on the number of visitors, it is possible that guests will wait a few minutes before catching the shuttle.

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