



GRAND ITALY: VENICE TO PUGLIA JOURNEYS (TOUR CODE: 17031)

STARTS AND ENDS

Venice to
Bari

TRAVEL PERIODS

14 Apr 27 - 09 Jun 27

EXPERIENCE

Group Journeys
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Journey from Venice to Puglia, discovering Italy's iconic cities, UNESCO-listed treasures and charming towns. Explore Venice, Florence and Rome before experiencing Puglia's Trulli, ancient villages, coastal beauty and authentic cuisine through unforgettable guided tours and local experiences.

Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures**
- Group of maximum **25 People**
- Explore Venice's iconic landmarks, **St. Mark's Square** and **enchanting canals**
- Discover Florence's Renaissance treasures, including the **Duomo** and **Piazza della Signoria**
- Experience Rome's highlights, including the Vatican **Museums**, **Pantheon** and **Trevi Fountain**
- Discover Alberobello's **Trulli**, **Castel del Monte** and **Matera's** ancient **Sassi**
- Enjoy **fresh pasta making**, **local wines** and authentic **regional cuisine**

Entire Bonus

This holiday package is carefully designed by our team to give you complete Peace of Mind, with access to trusted local partners and expert support at your destination.

Discover the diverse beauty of Italy on the **Grand Italy: Venice to Puglia Journeys**, travelling from the canals of Venice through Bologna, Florence and Rome to the sun-soaked landscapes of Puglia. Explore iconic landmarks, historic towns and UNESCO-listed treasures, from St. Mark's Square and the Vatican Museums to Alberobello's trulli and Matera's ancient Sassi. Savour authentic Italian flavours with Tuscan and Roman dinners, Apulian wines and fresh pasta-making. With guided sightseeing, scenic journeys and leisure time, this unforgettable adventure reveals Italy's rich history, culture, cuisine and timeless charm.



GUARANTEED
DEPARTURES



VARIED GROUP
SIZES



SUSTAINABLE
TRAVEL



ENGLISH-ONLY
EXPERT GUIDES



HANDPICKED
CENTRAL HOTELS



AUTHENTIC
EXPERIENCES



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 15-night accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Transportation by deluxe coach
- Daily breakfast
- Meals and drinks as per itinerary
- Spritz & "Cicchetti" Experience in Venice
- Cooking experience and lunch in Masseria
- Visit Bologna and San Gimignano
- Guided tour in Florence, Venice Bari, Matera, and Lecce
- Guided tour of Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Square (with our exclusive "Skip the Line")
- See the UNESCO Heritage Sites of Castel Del Monte: Alberobello and Matera
- Entrance fees: Casa Grotta (Matera), Otranto Cathedral, and the churches of Lecce
- English-Speaking Only Tour Director throughout the journey

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Venice

Welcome to Venice! Meet your driver at the airport and enjoy your included transfer to the hotel.

In the afternoon, **meet your tour guide at the hotel**, who will introduce you to your journey and give you the chance to meet the other members of your group, with whom you'll spend these wonderful days exploring Italy.

After the meeting, **enjoy a glass of spritz or prosecco with cicchetti, traditional Venetian snacks**. Relax and soak in the atmosphere. Rest of the evening at your own pace. Feel free to wander through the charming alleys, visit the iconic squares, or relax at a local café. Return to the hotel on your own.

Overnight stay in Venice at **Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal** or similar.



Day 2

Venice

After breakfast, together with your tour leader, set off on a pleasant walk to discover the authentic soul of Venice. Strolling through **picturesque calli**, **charming bridges**, and **lively Venetian squares**, you will make your way to the monumental heart of the city while experiencing the unique atmosphere of La Serenissima. Along the route, admire glimpses of the **Grand Canal**, elegant historic palaces, traditional artisan shops, and the vibrant daily life of Venice.

Upon arrival in **St. Mark's Square**, the tour will continue with a local guide who will lead you through the city's most iconic landmarks, symbols of the grandeur of the Venetian Republic. Admire the majestic **Doge's Palace** from the outside and listen to fascinating stories and legends surrounding the famous **Bridge of Sighs**.

At the end of the guided visit, enjoy some free time to soak up the atmosphere of the city. We suggest relaxing in a traditional Venetian bacaro while savoring a refreshing spritz or a glass of prosecco accompanied by typical cicchetti, delicious local Venetian snacks.

The afternoon is at leisure to further explore Venice at your own pace: wander through hidden canals, artisan boutiques, and peaceful corners away from the crowds, letting yourself be enchanted by the timeless charm of the lagoon city. Return to the hotel at your leisure and overnight stay in Venice

Overnight stay in Venice at **Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal** or similar.

Breakfast



ST. MARK'S SQUARE

Day **3**

Venice Bologna Florence

Travel to **Bologna**, a city rich in culture and culinary excellence. Walk from **Piazza Malpighi** to **Piazza Maggiore**, admiring **San Petronio Basilica** and the **Palazzo del Podestà**. Take your time to explore the medieval streets, arcades, and bustling markets of this charming city. We suggest enjoying some of Bologna's famous street food during your free time—perfect for a quick, authentic taste of the local flavours.

In the afternoon, continue your journey to Florence. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and unwind.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Grand Hotel Mediterraneo** or similar.

Breakfast



PALAZZO DEL PODESTÀ

Day **4**

Florence

After breakfast meet your guide and explore **Florence**: cradle of the **Renaissance**. Visit the **Duomo**, **Brunelleschi's Dome**, **Giotto's Bell Tower**, and **Baptistry**. See **Piazza della Signoria**, **Palazzo Vecchio**, and **Santa Croce Basilica**.

Enjoy free time for lunch.

In the afternoon, choose between free time in the city or an optional visit to **Pisa**, with its **Leaning Tower** and **Piazza dei Miracoli**.

In the evening, enjoy a traditional **dinner at Ristorante I Tre Pini** in Impruneta, located in the heart of the Chianti region. Indulge in authentic Tuscan dishes made with fresh, local ingredients and paired with the finest regional wines. The cozy, rustic atmosphere makes this an unmissable experience to savour true Tuscan cuisine.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Grand Hotel Mediterraneo** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **5**

Florence San Gimignano Rome

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we will depart from Florence and head towards the Eternal City, Rome. Along the way, we will make a stop in **San Gimignano**, famous for its **medieval towers** and picturesque historic center, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. You will have free time to wander through its charming streets and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

Lunch will be at leisure, giving you plenty of opportunities to explore local eateries or relax in one of the town's charming cafés.

In the afternoon, continue your journey to Rome, arriving in the late afternoon. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Twenty One Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



SAN GIMIGNANO

Day **6**

Rome

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, meet your guide in the lobby and set off on an exciting walking tour towards Vatican City.

Enjoy an included “Skip the Line” guided visit to the **Vatican Museums**, the **Sistine Chapel**, and **St. Peter’s Square**. Discover the stunning Galleries of Tapestries and Maps, Raphael’s Rooms, and Michelangelo’s world-famous masterpiece inside the Sistine Chapel. The tour concludes in St. Peter’s Square, where you will admire the majestic exterior of **St. Peter’s Basilica**.

The afternoon will be at leisure, giving you time to further explore the city independently or simply relax and enjoy the atmosphere of Rome.

In the evening, savour a special **dinner at a traditional Roman restaurant**, accompanied by live music, for a truly authentic and memorable experience in the Eternal City.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Twenty One Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



VATICAN CEILING ART

Rome

Breakfast at the hotel. Start your day with a pleasant stroll towards the **Castel Sant'Angelo**, where you will discover its fascinating history while enjoying panoramic views over the city. Continue along the Tiber River, crossing the picturesque **Ponte Sant'Angelo**.

The tour continues to **Piazza Navona**, with its stunning Fountain of the Four Rivers, before heading to the magnificent **Pantheon**, an ancient temple and symbol of Rome. You can't miss the **Trevi Fountain**, where you can throw a coin to ensure your return to the Eternal City.

Finally, the tour will conclude in **Piazza di Spagna**, with the famous Spanish Steps and the **Fountain of Barcaccia**, where you'll have free time to explore or relax at one of the local cafés. The afternoon will be at leisure. Alternatively, you may enhance your stay with an optional guided tour, such as a visit to the Colosseum.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Twenty One Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



TREVI FOUNTAIN

Rome

After breakfast, the entire day is yours to enjoy as you wish. Take the opportunity to experience more of the Eternal City, wandering through Rome's charming streets and discovering the unique atmosphere of neighborhoods such as Trastevere or Monti.

Make your day even more special by choosing from our selection of optional experiences, available at an additional cost and upon reservation: join a cooking class or a street food tour, or venture beyond Rome on a full-day excursion to Pompeii, Capri or Florence. You can even take the opportunity to discover Venice with one of our day tours. Whether you prefer to slow down and enjoy Rome like a local or add another unforgettable Italian destination to your journey, today is entirely yours.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Twenty One Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **9**

Rome Bari

After breakfast, at the scheduled time, meet your driver for the transfer to Rome station and board your included train to Bari. Check in at the hotel and day at your leisure0

Overnight stay in Bari at **Hotel Excelsior** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **10**

Bari

Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel and meet our Tour Leader for a morning tour of **Bari**, the main city of Puglia. Visit the old city centre, including the **Basilica of San Nicola** and the **Norman-Swabian Castle**, with its breathtaking views (Castle entry at your own expense).

Continue to **Piazza Mercantile** and see the ancient Column of Justice. After the visit, you'll have free time for lunch. While not included in the package, we recommend you enjoy a meal at a typical local restaurant in the city centre or explore the

area for some delicious street food.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Bari at **Hotel Excelsior** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 11 Bari Trani Castel Del Monte Alberobello

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing Bari by coach to **Trani**, known as the 'Pearl of Puglia'. Discover its art, monuments, the Jewish quarter, and the stunning white stone Cathedral. In the afternoon, visit **Castel Del Monte**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built in the 13th century under Frederick II. Explore this octagonal fortress, surrounded by mystery.

Continue to **Alberobello**, famous for its UNESCO-listed Trulli, dry-stone cone-shaped houses dating back to the 14th century. Enjoy a welcome drink with local white wine and Apulian taralli. Enjoy dinner at the hotel afterwards.

Overnight stay in Alberobello at **Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



CASTEL DEL MONTE

Day **12** Alberobello Matera Alberobello

Matera will be the destination for today. After breakfast, the coach will take you to this incredible UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit and learn the history of the “**Sassi di Matera**” (**Stones of Matera**), caves that have been used as houses for over 9.000 years, that are part of the historic centre of the city. Admire the Romanesque Cathedral that overlooks the city, its beautiful “**Campanile**” (**Bell Tower**) and enjoy the amazing view of the “Sassi”.

Transfer back to Alberobello in the late afternoon and enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Alberobello at **Grand Hotel La Chiusa di Chietri** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



SASSI DI MATERA

Day **13** Alberobello Locorotondo Ostuni Lecce

Breakfast in the hotel. Leave Alberobello by coach and reach **Locorotondo**. Enjoy some free time to visit this small town that is part of the “white towns” of Puglia. Board on the coach again and travel to **Ostuni**: located between the “Trulli”

region and Salento, overlooks the coastal plain rich of ancient olive trees.

Free time at your disposal to explore another “white town” with free time for lunch, shopping and tasting of several local products like the world’s famous ostuni olive oil (all at your own expenses). In the late afternoon, get again on board of the coach and reach Lecce in the heart of the Salento region. Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Lecce at **Hotel Delle Palme** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 14 Lecce Otranto Lecce

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a **3-hour guided visit of Lecce**. Learn its history, explore the old town centre, the 12th-century Cathedral, the **Basilica of Santa Croce**, and **Piazza del Duomo**.

Afterward, depart for **Otranto** by coach, with free time for lunch. Spend the afternoon exploring Otranto at your own pace, known for its blend of Greek, Roman, and Turkish influences. Visit the iconic Cathedral, housing the bones of 813 martyrs and a marvelous mosaic floor.

In the evening, head to **Maglie** for dinner at **Masseria L'Uliveto**, an ancient farm offering regional cuisine. Return to Lecce.

Overnight stay in Lecce at **Hotel Delle Palme** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



OTRANTO

Day 15 Lecce Martina Franca Monopoli Bari

After breakfast, head to **Bari**, passing through the unique land scape of the **Murge plateau**. Visit **Martina Franca**, an elegant Baroque town with churches, noble buildings, and **Piazza Plebiscito**. Explore the **Cathedral**, **Ducal Palace**, and **Torre dell'Orologio**, followed by free time.

Continue through **Valle d'Itria**, filled with olive trees and vineyards, to **Masseria Montenapoleone**. Here, learn to make fresh pasta like orecchiette, cavatelli, and strascinati, while enjoying local wines. Savour the lunch made with your creations. In the afternoon, visit Monopoli, a fortified citadel by the sea, then head to Bari for the overnight stay.

Overnight stay in Bari at **Hotel Excelsior** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



MARTINA FRANCA PIAZZA

Day 16 Bari

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel. Depending on your flight schedule, take advantage of any last-minute free time for

shop ping or sightseeing. Transfer to the airport is included. End of our services.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal

Venice

Facing the magical Grand Canal, the Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal is the ideal destination for an unforgettable holiday in Venice. The pastel colours, Venetian plaster-work and wall-lamps in Murano glass, the Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal will enchant you with its refined elegance. The elegant Carlton Café offers the possibility to savour excellent drinks, nibbles and snacks.



Grand Hotel Mediterraneo

Florence

Situated along the Arno River, this elegant 4-star hotel offers 327 comfortable guest rooms, making it an excellent choice for both business and leisure travellers. Guests can enjoy three on-site restaurants, a spacious lobby, and a private garage, while extensive meeting and event facilities with 15 dedicated rooms cater to conferences and special occasions. Its convenient location also provides easy access to Florence's historic centre and renowned attractions.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package

IN PARTNERSHIP

