

PUGLIA ITINERARY

October 18-25, 2025

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Saturday Bari airport pick-up, Welcome to Conversano dinner
(meals included: dinner)



PM

- Bari airport/train station pick up with two air-conditioned minivans, with the exact time to be agreed upon, and **transfer to Conversano***. The driving time is approximately 40-45 minutes.
- Check in at Hotel Corte Altavilla in the historic downtown area (*possibility to have SPA experience on your arrival. Must be booked in advance.*)
- **7:30 pm** - meet your **local guide Katia** at *Welcome Reception* and learn more about this 7-day Italian cultural vacation.
- Group dinner with Katia in a traditional restaurant in the heart of Conversano.

* Group transportation is included in the package cost. *We will organize up to **two group transfers** for your arrival, at two different times and locations, which may include **Bari Airport** and/or **Bari train station**. We will coordinate the logistics of these two transfers based on everyone's arrival times. Please make sure you provide your travel details to Fondazione Italia, lbignamini@fondazione-italia.org.*

Important Note: If you prefer **private transfer** from/to the airport/station from/to Hotel Corte Altavilla, the total additional cost is **€90**, payable directly to the driver. This cost can be split among multiple passengers. This applies only if more than two transfers are needed to pick up all participants upon arrival and take them to their final destinations on the last day.

DAY 2 Sunday Mozzarella cheese experience in a “Masseria” with lunch, exploring Monopoli (meals included: breakfast, mozzarella cheese tasting, lunch)



AM

- After breakfast we'll have a guided **tour of Conversano** with its medieval Castle and Romanesque cathedral
- Next our journey takes us to a historic “**masseria**”, a traditional Apulian farmhouse. We'll meet the “**casaro**” (cheesemaker) for a tour, visiting the animal areas and the production space (where he'll explain milking and cheesemaking)
- Lesson about how mozzarella and burrata are made (with a chance to try it!)
- Traditional lunch inside the casaro's home

PM

- **Guided tour of Monopoli**, an enchanting seaside town with a lot of history, surprising corners and fascinating alleys
- Dinner at your leisure in one of the many restaurants in Conversano

DAY 3 Monday Grotte di Castellana Tour, Free time and Cultural Insight with Katia (meals included: breakfast)



AM

- **09:15 am** – Depart for **Castellana Caves guided tour** (*tickets not included*).
- Tickets for the visit must be purchased directly on the [official website](#), one month in advance. **Please book the October 20 10:00 AM full tour** (in Italian) independently. Please, be on time for departure from the hotel! The cave managers are very strict and do not accept delays.

PM

- **12:30 pm** - Return to Conversano
- **05:30 pm** - Meet Katia at the Hotel reception for first of two **cultural enrichment** sessions on Puglia (1.5 hours).

DAY 4 Tuesday Discover amazing Lecce with traditional lunch and visit to Ostuni, the White town (*meals included: breakfast, lunch*)



AM

- **09:15 am** - Depart for guided tour of **spectacular Lecce**, known as the *Florence of Southern Italy*
- Traditional lunch in the heart of Lecce

PM

- After lunch we'll drive to the amazing **Ostuni for a guided tour**
- Return to Conversano
- Dinner at your leisure in one of the many restaurants in Conversano

DAY 5 Wednesday Olive oil tasting, explore Locorotondo and the UNESCO site Trulli of Alberobello (*meals included: breakfast, extra-virgin olive tasting, lunch*)



AM

- **09:15 AM** - Visit to **ancient olive oil mill** where we'll have an extra virgin olive oil tasting
- Explore the **charming village of Locorotondo**, whose name derives from the Latin *Locus Rotundus* and literally means "round place" recalling the circular

shape, which is repeated on several rings between suggestive alleys and streets

- Visit to the **UNESCO site of Alberobello** to enjoy a **traditional lunch** in this unique town

PM

- Guided tour and walk among the **Trulli**
- Return to Conversano
- Dinner at your leisure in one of the many restaurants in Conversano

DAY 6 Thursday Exploring Bari, traditional lunch and guided tour of Polignano a Mare (*meals included: breakfast, tasting, lunch*)



AM

- **09:15 AM** - Visit to Bari, the capital city of Puglia. We'll have a **guided tour to discover** San Nicola's church, and the city center called *Bari Vecchia (Old Bari)* where you can meet local ladies making fresh pasta in the middle of enchanting streets

PM

- Visit **Polignano a Mare** to enjoy a traditional lunch and to discover its wonderful sea views and charming alleys
- Return to Conversano
- **5:30 pm** - Meet Katia at the Hotel reception for second **cultural enrichment sessions** on Puglia (1.5 hours).
- Dinner at your leisure in one of the many restaurants in Conversano

DAY 7 Friday Matera and its UNESCO site, focaccia tasting, and farewell dinner (*meals included: breakfast, focaccia tasting, light lunch, dinner*)



AM

- **07:00 AM** – optional visit to the local market in Conversano will take place
- **09:15 AM** - meet Katia at hotel to depart for visit to **spectacular Matera** in the Basilicata Region*
- We'll have a **guided tour of the Unesco site of “the Sassi”** (cave houses and rocky churches where time seems to stop)
- After some free time to explore Matera by yourself we'll have a **Focaccia and bread tasting** with a light lunch in a traditional bakery in Matera

PM

- Return to Conversano
- You will have more free time to relax and pack or do last minute shopping, before we enjoy a **farewell dinner** at Hotel Corte Altavilla

DAY 8 Saturday Departure and goodbye (*meals included: breakfast*)

AM

- After breakfast departure (normally at 09:00, but the **drop off time will be arranged according to your needs**) for **Bari airport or your next destination** (45 minutes driving from Hotel to Bari airport and 40 minutes to Bari train station)

NOTE ABOUT YOUR ITINERARY

Your Itinerary is a guide to your activities during the week. However, sometimes we modify the final itinerary to take advantage of the season and the weather. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has a fabulous time, and sometimes that means tweaking the schedule even after your arrival. Your guide will provide suggestions during the week, and the group will decide if any modifications are desired. Rest assured that only enhanced experiences are ever considered.

Upon your arrival, Katia will provide you with the updated, definitive itinerary. This will include daily meeting times, which are generally between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM each day. Please note that while our days typically begin between 9:00 AM and 9:30 AM, our return times are flexible and usually fall between 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM. This can vary depending on the day's itinerary, the time spent at each location, and the group's interests and questions. As this is a private group tour, we can offer flexibility while still adhering to scheduled activities and respecting the guide and driver's time

Cultural Enrichment Sessions: Tailored to Your Interests

The specific topics covered during our immersive cultural sessions will be decided upon in collaboration between Katia and Lorena a few weeks prior to the tour's commencement. This will allow Katia ample time to prepare and personalize the sessions based on your group's specific interests and areas of focus.

Important Note: *to accommodate scheduling needs, these enrichment sessions may occasionally take place on days other than those initially outlined in the itinerary.*

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

What's included

7 nights in Conversano at [Hotel Corte Altavilla](#). Standard single or double rooms, centrally located accommodation - *This hotel provides a high standard of service, is meticulously clean and equipped with modern conveniences, air conditioning, elevator, free wi-fi and it is within walking distance of the main attractions and squares of Conversano.*

- Daily breakfast buffet
- 7 meals featuring traditional Apulian dishes made with fresh, local ingredients. Depending on the location (selected restaurants, a farmhouse, a bakery) and itinerary, meals may include a selection of appetizers and either a first or second course, followed by traditional dessert, & locally source wine, and water. Most evenings are free for you to explore the town on your own and practice your Italian
- Guided tastings of olive oil, focaccia bread and visits to the producers
- 1 authentic Puglia mozzarella cheese class
- Two immersive cultural sessions, each lasting 1.5 hours, with Katia, held in the conference room at Hotel Corte Altavilla
- Daily trips, excursions and guided tours
- All transport for daily trips and excursions will be in two air-conditioned minivans
- Pick up in Bari airport/train station and drop off in Bari airport/train station in two air-conditioned minivans
- Entry fees for Casa Grotta in Matera are included. *For any other museums and churches, such as those in Lecce, the decision to visit will be made by the group in collaboration with the guide during the tour. This allows everyone to choose the sites that most interest them, considering the group's pace and energy levels. Entrance fees for these additional sites will be paid individually at the locations by those who choose to participate.*
- English-speaking professional tour director/licensed local guide as per itinerary
- All taxes except city tax

What's not included

- Airfare
- Money spent on personal interests
- Snacks/Drinks between meals, or any meals not listed on the itinerary
- Personal expenses like phone calls, visa costs, laundry or tips
- **Travel insurance (not mandatory, but recommended)**
- Drinks not listed in the itinerary (an extra bottle of wine, for example)
- The cost of additional excursions or activities, including entry to museums and churches, not listed in the inclusions.
- **Entrance to the Castellana Caves is not included.** The current cost is € 20 per person, and tickets can be conveniently booked online in advance through the official website.
- City tax (currently €1.50 per person per night, for a maximum of six nights, meaning €9 total with the current rate. *Please note that this amount is subject to change due to potential adjustments in rates by the municipality*)
- During your stay at Hotel Francavilla, you have the opportunity to enjoy a SPA experience in their wellness center to be booked in advance.

FAQ

I can't do hours of walking. Does this trip include hiking?

On a typical day there could be 0.5-2 hours (some days even a few minutes) of slow and light walking (with stops to see monuments, churches, piazzas, historical sites and so on, not hiking) except for day 7 in Matera. In any locations, if you feel tired and don't want to walk too much, we'll be happy to give you suggestions on where to stop and wait for the group in a nice bar or in a nice piazza or a bench to enjoy the Italian atmosphere.

Is there a laundry service available at the hotels?

Yes, the hotel in Conversano offers laundry service to meet the needs of our guests during their stay.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Pick up

For this tour you can be picked up in an air-conditioned minivan at Bari-Palese Airport (BRI) or at Bari Train Station (Stazione Centrale). The pickup time is to be determined.

If you want to be **picked up at the Bari airport or station privately**, shortly after you land or arrive at the station, there is a **€ 90 surcharge** at the airport or train station per group (people arriving together and wanting a private transfer) that you can pay directly to the driver that day (by credit card or cash). Please **let us know if you would like to book a private transfer** by sending an email to lignamini@fondazione-italia.org with flight/train number, arrival time in Bari and station/airport of origin.

Drop off

For the **drop off to Bari**, we follow this program: after breakfast we leave (normally at 09:00, but the drop off time will be arranged according to the group's needs) for Bari airport or your next destination. If there are some specific needs, we can organize private transportation (before or after the planned one) from the hotel to Bari airport (€90) or train station (€ 90).