

# DISCOVER PUGLIA

## 1<sup>st</sup> Day

Arrival in Bari and transfer to the hotel in Barletta. Check-in, dinner and overnight.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Day

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning visit to the center of Barletta, gathered around the castle, built in the time of Frederick II of Svevia, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre (Barletta was the point of departure of the Crusaders to the Holy Land) and the baroque Palazzo della Marra. The tour continues to Trani, a lovely seaside town in the north of Bari; external visit of the Castello Svevo, built by Frederick II of Svevia to defend the harbor and the Cathedral, a superb example of Apulian-Romanesque. Free lunch. In the afternoon we reach Castel del Monte, built by Emperor Frederick II in 1250, on the model of the Palatine Chapel in Aquisgrana. The Castle is set in the Apulian landscape and impresses with its symbolic meanings; it's counted in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the evening arrival in Torrecanne. Accommodation at the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

## 3<sup>th</sup> Day

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit of Alberobello, a characteristic village of Murgia, famous for being almost entirely made up of trulli, small buildings of ancient origin, circular or quadrangular limestone-based with conical roof. The Trulli of Alberobello are the symbol of Puglia and are counted in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free lunch. The tour continues to the ancient city of Ostuni, known as the "White City", thanks to its whitewashed houses immersed in a landscape of olive groves, sloping down towards the sea. Time for a stroll in the lively streets of downtown. In the late afternoon departure to Lecce, a beautiful city of art in the heart of the Salento peninsula. Accommodation at the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Day

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is dedicated to an excursion to Otranto, the ancient center of Salento and the most easterly point of the Italian peninsula. The city, of Greek origin, was for a long period the focal point of contact between East and West, because it was the nearest port to Greece. Guided tour of the city almost entirely surrounded by walls, which open onto the Porta Alfonsina, through which you enter the old town, dominated by the Cathedral with the Chapel of the Martyrs, the crypt and the mosaics. After the tour, free lunch. Return to Lecce and time available. Dinner and overnight.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Day

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning guided tour of Lecce, a true city of art, which preserves the historical and artistic heritage of different peoples and cultures. Visit of the old Baroque style town; you will be amazed by the optical effect of the "Lecce stone", a golden stone used for the construction of the ancient town. We can admire: the Piazza St. Horace, dominated by the famous

obelisk, the Church of St. Matthew, the Church of the Rosary, the Church of Santa Croce, considered one of the most important baroque representations, the second-century Roman amphitheater, in excellent state of conservation, Villa Comunale with its enchanting gardens, the majestic Piazza del Duomo, surrounded by notable baroque palaces. Departure for Matera, the UNESCO World Heritage city. Free lunch along the way. Guided tour of the famous Sassi caves: shelters and dwellings carved into the rock and used as homes until a few decades ago, historical summary of the human presence from the primitive cave civilization to the High-Medieval era until the present day. Continuation to Bari. Arrival at the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Day**

Departure after breakfast.

### **The package includes:**

Accommodation in double or single room 3 star hotel with breakfast (or accommodation in a double or single room 4 or 5 star hotel with breakfast), specialized guides, transfers (by car or coach)

### **The package doesn't includes:**

Optional days, meals and dinners.