

NOW JOURNEY / SOUTHERN ITALY

Puglia & Basilicata

The complete eight-day Journey

POLIGNANO A MARE / ALBEROBELLO / MATERA / LECCE / OTRANTO

True small groups | Tour Captain hosted | Boutique stays | No big buses

[NOWJOURNEY.COM](https://nowjourney.com)

THE COMPLETE JOURNEY

Eight days through Italy's sun-washed south.

The heel of Italy is a landscape of whitewashed towns, centuries-old farmland, cave dwellings and hundreds of miles of Mediterranean coastline. This complete itinerary follows the Journey from the Adriatic cliffs of Polignano a Mare to the trulli of Alberobello, Matera's ancient Sassi and the golden Baroque streets of Lecce.

8 DAYS	7 NIGHTS	8-12 GUESTS	MAXIMUM 16
Bari to Lecce	Three distinctive stays	Tour Captain hosted	True small group

DAILY ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

DAY 1	Polignano a Mare - arrive via Bari Airport
DAY 2	Taste and explore Polignano a Mare
DAY 3	Alberobello and the trulli houses to Matera
DAY 4	Secrets and treasures of Matera
DAY 5	Travel to Lecce - the Florence of the South
DAY 6	Explore the art and layers of Lecce
DAY 7	Otranto outing or a day at leisure
DAY 8	Departure day or onward Amalfi Coast extension



A NOTE ON HOTELS

The Now Journey Hotels Collection features 4- to 5-star properties. Room categories generally include entry level at 5-star properties and one category above entry level at 4-star properties. Final hotel assignments are normally made about 60 days before departure.

CHAPTER ONE

Puglia

White stone, blue water and a table set for welcome.

DAY

1

Puglia Adventure Begins

POLIGNANO A MARE

One of our most asked-about itineraries begins in the heart of Polignano a Mare.

Discovery Walk: Heart of Polignano a Mare. This afternoon, join your Now Journey Tour Captain for a Discovery Walk through stunning Polignano a Mare - birthplace of Mr. Volare himself, Domenico Modugno. Explore seaside terraces, dramatic cliffs and the iconic Lama Monachile bridge on this unforgettable stroll.

Welcome Dinner. Tonight, delight your palate with cuisine from the land and sea at one of the most iconic locations in southern Italy. Your Journey Tour Captain welcomes you to Puglia.

Authentically Italian dining. Now Journey dining is as authentic as Italy itself, featuring family-owned restaurants with farm- and sea-to-table cuisine. Enjoy premium beverages and full menu choice at every included dinner. In Puglia, savor fresh pasta, seafood, local vegetables and homegrown flavors rooted in tradition.

WHERE YOU STAY

Polignano a Mare - 2 nights with breakfast.

Covo dei Saraceni, a villa stay on select departures, or a similar Now Journey Hotels Collection property.

DAY

2

Tasting Polignano a Mare

COASTAL FLAVORS AND TIME AT LEISURE

Breakfast is included daily.

This morning - with some itineraries featuring an afternoon experience - enjoy exploring Polignano a Mare through its local flavors. Traditional *panzerotti* stuffed with mozzarella and tomato sauce are a favorite, along with typical Apulian cold cuts and focaccia.

After the experience, enjoy the balance of the day at leisure. Tonight, consider joining your Tour Captain for an optional dinner or explore independently.

CHAPTER TWO

Basilicata

From storybook trulli to a city carved into stone.

DAY

3

Alberobello & the Trulli Houses

SCENIC PUGLIA TO MATERA

After a delicious breakfast, set out with your Tour Captain on a scenic drive through the rolling countryside of Puglia - olive groves, dry-stone walls and wide Mediterranean skies guiding the way.

Our first stop is **Alberobello**, a storybook town unlike anywhere else in the world. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Alberobello is famed for its whimsical *trulli* - whitewashed stone homes crowned with conical roofs that seem lifted from folklore. With our Local Guide, wander through the Rione Monti district and discover the symbolism behind the painted roof markings, the history of these ingenious limestone dwellings and the charm of the **Trullo Sovrano**, the only two-story trullo in town. We also visit the distinctive **Church of Saint Anthony of Padua**, built in trullo style - a rare architectural treasure.

After time to explore and enjoy lunch at leisure - perhaps at a rustic osteria featuring local burrata and handmade orecchiette - we continue onward.

This afternoon, we arrive in **Matera**, one of Europe's most extraordinary cities. Carved into limestone cliffs, Matera's ancient cave dwellings and dramatic ravines create a landscape both haunting and beautiful. As you settle in, you will feel it - the sense that you have stepped into another era. Here, among stone pathways and candlelit courtyards, the next chapter of your Journey begins.

WELCOME TO MATERA

Tonight, join your Tour Captain and fellow travelers for the Italian meal known as *apericena*. Is it a snack? Is it dinner? It is both - a combination of aperitivo and dinner, enjoyed in a picturesque Matera setting.

WHERE YOU STAY

Matera - 2 nights with breakfast.

Quarry Resort, Aquatio Cave Luxury Hotel & Spa, Sant'Angelo Luxury Resort, or a similar Now Journey Hotels Collection property.

DAY

4

Exploring Matera

SECRETS AND TREASURES OF THE SASSI

After breakfast, step into a world that feels suspended in time. Together with your Tour Captain and expert Local Guide, explore the extraordinary **Sassi di Matera**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site unlike any other in Europe.

Set within the ancient city of Matera, the Sassi are a labyrinth of stone dwellings carved directly into limestone cliffs - homes, chapels, cisterns and passageways layered over thousands of years of human history. As you wander narrow alleys and sweeping viewpoints, discover how generations once lived in these cave homes, adapting ingeniously to the rugged landscape.

Step inside restored cave dwellings to understand daily life of the past and visit remarkable rock-hewn churches adorned with faded Byzantine frescoes - quiet spaces that still hold a sense of reverence and mystery. The views across the Gravina ravine are breathtaking, especially as morning light illuminates the honey-colored stone.

Matera is not simply a place you visit; it is a place you feel. Today's exploration reveals resilience, beauty and the enduring spirit of one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited settlements. Then enjoy time at leisure to explore this remarkable destination.

CHAPTER THREE

Lecce & Otranto

Golden Baroque, Adriatic light and a southern finale.

DAY

5

To Lecce

THE FLORENCE OF THE SOUTH

After breakfast, bid farewell to Matera in Basilicata and travel to Lecce, your home for the next three nights. Journey farther into the heel of Italy and discover more beauty, wonderful people and, of course, delicious cuisine and vino.

Arrive in Lecce in mid-afternoon, check into your resort hotel and enjoy time to freshen up before joining the Tour Captain for an orientation Discovery Walk through the Baroque city center.

Tonight, enjoy a traditional Apulian dinner in Lecce with your Tour Captain and fellow travelers. Perhaps you will try the region's signature pasta shape, orecchiette.

WHERE YOU STAY

Lecce - 3 nights with breakfast.

Risorgimento Resort and Spa, Patria Palace Hotel, or a similar Now Journey Hotels Collection property.

DAY

6

Exploring Lecce

THE ART AND LAYERS OF A BAROQUE CITY

Today, step into the golden glow of Lecce, often called the **Florence of the South**. With an expert Local Guide leading the way, discover why this elegant city is considered one of Italy's great Baroque masterpieces. Wander through honey-colored streets sculpted from Lecce's soft *pietra leccese* stone, allowing extraordinary detail to flourish on every facade.

Admire the exuberant artistry of the **Basilica di Santa Croce**, whose intricate carvings seem almost theatrical in their expression. In **Piazza del Duomo**, one of Italy's most harmonious cathedral squares, feel the quiet grandeur of centuries past while exploring the cathedral and surrounding palaces.

The Journey reaches deeper into Lecce's Roman roots with a visit to the remarkably preserved **Roman Amphitheatre of Lecce**, where echoes of ancient spectacles still linger beneath the modern city. Along the way, expect moments to pause - perhaps for a cafe in a sunlit piazza or to admire artisan workshops carrying on traditions that define this soulful southern city. Lecce is atmospheric, intimate and proudly distinct.

We take our time today. Look up. Notice the details. Lecce rewards the curious traveler. Tonight, consider joining your Tour Captain for an optional dinner or explore at leisure.

DAY

7

Otranto or a Day at Leisure

THE SALENTO COAST

After breakfast, join your Tour Captain for an included outing to Otranto, or keep the day entirely at leisure in Lecce.

In picturesque **Otranto**, enjoy time to walk and explore the town's fascinating architecture and history, with free time for shopping or simply wandering. Following lunch on your own, continue exploring the Salento peninsula while making your way back to Lecce.

Our Special Now Journey Finale. Meet tonight for a special apericena celebrating your time together. The days have been filled with new sights, tastes and discoveries; tonight, reflect on the incredible Journey shared with new friends. Until our next Journey - Arrivederci!

DAY

8

Arrivederci, Italy

DEPARTURE DAY

Say Arrivederci to Lecce today, arrange onward travel to Bari, continue independently, or extend your stay to the Amalfi Coast.

PLAN YOUR DEPARTURE

2026 & 2027 Journey dates

All prices shown are per person, double occupancy, in US dollars. International airfare is not included. Select the inquiry link in the PDF or connect with a Trip Planner for current availability.

2026 DEPARTURES			2027 DEPARTURES		
TRIP DATES		DELUXE	TRIP DATES		DELUXE
May 21-28		\$7,879 INQUIRE	May 20-27		\$7,879 INQUIRE
June 2-9		\$7,879 INQUIRE	June 2-9		\$7,879 INQUIRE
June 11-18		\$7,879 INQUIRE	June 10-17		\$7,879 INQUIRE
June 16-23		\$7,879 INQUIRE	SUMMERTIME IN PUGLIA! <i>Warm summer temperatures make the beach amazing</i>		
June 23-30		\$7,879 INQUIRE	June 17-24		\$7,879 INQUIRE
June 30-July 7		\$7,879 INQUIRE	June 22-29		\$7,879 INQUIRE
AUTUMN / FALL IN PUGLIA <i>Perfect weather, fewer summertime crowds</i>			June 30-July 7		\$7,879 INQUIRE
September 3-10		\$7,879 INQUIRE	AUTUMN / FALL IN PUGLIA <i>Perfect weather, fewer summertime crowds</i>		
September 13-20 HOST MARK STORY		\$7,879 INQUIRE	September 3-10		\$7,879 INQUIRE
September 22-29		\$7,879 INQUIRE	September 12-19		\$7,879 INQUIRE
September 29-October 6		\$7,879 INQUIRE	September 22-29		\$7,879 INQUIRE
October 6-13		\$7,879 INQUIRE	September 29-October 6		\$7,879 INQUIRE
			October 6-13		\$7,879 INQUIRE

READY FOR SOUTHERN ITALY?

Let us shape the Journey around you.

Connect with a Now Journey Trip Planner for departure availability, hotel details, air guidance, private or independent options and the four-day Amalfi Coast extension.

START
PLANNING

nowjourney.com/reservation/
Call or text +1 (720) 464-3248
Now Journey is American owned and operated.

Itinerary order, experiences, hotels and timing may change when local conditions require. Comparable experiences and accommodations may be substituted while preserving the character and standards of the Journey.