



GRAND CULTURAL & CULINARY TOUR



OF PUGLIA

CASERTA MATERA & NAPLES

15 Days to discover an unexpected and authentic ITALY

22 SEP – 07 OCT 2026 (14 NIGHTS/16 DAYS)

PROGRAM



DAY 1 – 22 SEPT – depart **TORONTO** on AIR TRANSAT direct flight to **ROME**

DAY 2 – 23 SEPT – **ROMA FIUMICINO AIRPORT - CASERTA**

On Arrival at **Roma Airport at 12.15 pm**, meeting with the driver and private transfer to **Caserta** (2h 30 mins.).

Accommodation in a central 4-stars Hotel, relax time or free walk through the historic centre of Caserta. Welcome dinner at the hotel and overnight stay. (D)

DAY 3 – 24 SEPT – **CASERTA - LECCE**

After breakfast, we will visit the nearby magnificent **Reggia di Caserta** (Royal Palace of Caserta), one of the largest and most spectacular royal palaces in Europe, built in the 18th century for the Bourbons of Naples. A UNESCO World

Heritage Site, it is striking for its monumental architecture and the extraordinary harmony of its spaces. The Royal Apartments preserve furnishings, frescoes and decorations of great value.





The Royal Park stretches for kilometres with spectacular fountains, waterfalls and avenues. The complex is completed by the refined English Garden, an oasis of nature and romance. Free time for lunch followed by departure for **Caprarica di Lecce**, in Puglia (4.30 hours by coach). Accommodation in 4-stars authentic Masseria (farmhouse), located in the country of Lecce, 14 km from the centre of Lecce. Dinner in Hotel and overnight stay. (B, D)



DAY 4 – 25 SEPT - LECCE



Breakfast at the hotel and leave for Lecce, a tour of the city known as the "*Florence of the South*". We will discover its charm from the Basilica of Santa Croce to Piazza Duomo, to the Roman Amphitheatre dating back to the 2nd century BC, located in Piazza Sant' Oronzo. During the visit to this fabulous city, we will take a short street food tour, sampling local delicacies. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 5 –26 SEPT – OTRANTO - Beach

After breakfast transfer to Otranto (30 mins), the eastern most city in Italy, guided tour of the historic centre to discover its treasures, including the Romanesque Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata dating back to the 12th century, with the medieval mosaic floor of Pantaleone, the *Tree of Life*. Followed by a day at the beach on the town's beautiful beaches. Return to the hotel in the afternoon, dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 6 –27 SEPT - GALATINA – Masseria – GALLIPOLI Beach



After breakfast, we will leave for **Galatina**, to admire the amazing cycles of frescoes of the Giotto school in the Basilica of Santa Caterina D'Alessandria and to taste a typical Lecce *Pasticciotto* at an old pastry shop where, in 1700, this legend of Apulian sweets was born. Mid-morning transfer to a nearby authentic **farmhouse**, which has been producing excellent wines and extra virgin olive oil for centuries. Visit to the farmhouse and lunch featuring local products accompanied by wines. In the afternoon, transfer to **Gallipoli**, one of Puglia's most famous seaside resorts, perfect for visiting its beautiful historic centre or spending a relaxing afternoon by the sea. Return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)





DAY 7 – 28 SEPT – OSTUNI – Masseria - FASANO

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out and transfer to **Ostuni**, a tour of the "White City" so-called for the characteristic lime-painting of the marvellous medieval town, full of narrow streets and houses, in a maze of streets that climb up to the Cathedral at the top. Next, we will continue with a visit to an



ancient and authentic **Masseria (farmhouse)** near Ostuni, which has been a centre of **cheese production** for centuries. Here we will visit the farmhouse, learn about the production chain of mozzarella, burrata, and local cheeses, and finish with a lunch based on typical products from the farmhouse. In the afternoon departure for **Savelletri di Fasano**, accommodation in a 4-star Masseria Resort, have dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)



DAY 8 – 29 SEPT – MONOPOLI

After breakfast, transfer to Capitolo, the beach of Monopoli. Enjoy the beach. In the early afternoon, return to the hotel to relax and prepare for an evening in the centre of Monopoli. In the late afternoon, we will visit beautiful Monopoli, a lively town with a historic centre overlooking the sea, and stay in Monopoli for the evening, dining in one of its many restaurants. Return to the hotel and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 9 – 30 SEPT – MARTINA FRANCA - LOCOROTONDO

After breakfast and transfer to **Martina Franca**, the "*salotto*" of the Itria Valley, an elegant Ducal city that shows off its rich



baroque, between the Basilica of San Martino and the Ducal Palace and



its pretty houses with typical wrought-iron balconies. At around 11:30 a.m., transfer to an ancient **Masseria** for a **fresh pasta cooking class**, where we will learn the art of Apulian pasta and enjoy a delicious lunch made with local ingredients. In the afternoon transfer to **Locorotondo**, perched on a hill with its small white

houses (the typical *Cummersè*) reflecting the Apulian sunlight, Locorotondo is on the list of the most beautiful villages in Italy. The tour ends with a wine tasting at sunset in a magical location. Return to the hotel in the evening, dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)





DAY 10 – 01 OCT – ALBEROBELLO - POLIGNANO



After breakfast and check-out, transfer to stop in **Alberobello**, to discover this beautiful town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its famous Trulli, rural houses with conical roofs built-in dry stone. We will stroll through its oldest districts, Rione Monti and Aia Piccola, in a sort of fairy-tale landscape. Transfer to **Polignano a Mare**. The first stop will be the Cala, home to the Benedictine Monastery of San Vito on the north coast of Polignano a Mare. We

will continue with a visit to the historic centre, a town perched on the rocks, with the well-known and scenic Lama Monachile. Return to the hotel in the evening, have dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 11 – 02 OCT – ALTAMURA - MATERA

After breakfast, transfer to Altamura, A city famous for its delicious bread. After a brief tour of its historic center, we'll visit an ancient bakery dating back to the Middle Ages that still produces excellent bread today. Here, we'll learn about the history of Altamura bread and see how the nones still make fresh bread right outside the bakery. The whole experience will conclude with a delicious outdoor lunch, seated at a long table in the alleys of Altamura.



The afternoon is dedicated to visiting **Matera**, UNESCO World Heritage Site and former European Capital of Culture 2019. The tour guide will take us on a wonderful journey through the Sassi of Matera, one of the oldest urban agglomerations in the world, where man has been able to live in harmony with the surrounding nature over the millennia, digging the stone and inhabiting it (still today), in the scenario of the local rocky habitat. We will admire the two Rioni Sassi, Barisano and Caveoso with their Rupestrian Churches. In the late afternoon,

return to the hotel for dinner. and overnight stay. (B, L, D)



DAY 12 –03 OCT – BARI

After breakfast, transfer to **Bari**, capital of Puglia and historic crossroads of trade with the East. Visit the Old Town of Bari overlooking the sea, with the Basilica of San Nicola and its



characteristic narrow alleys, where you can easily come across local women making pasta, the famous orecchiette. Bari is also a city of street food, so we'll be tasting its famous focaccia and panzerotti, in the best bakeries in the centre. In the afternoon, stroll through the Murat district, between Corso Cavour and Via Sparano, the shopping streets lined with big-name brands. For those who wish, there is also the nearby urban beach of Pane e Pomodoro.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon, have dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

DAY 13 – 04 OCT - IRPINIA – Sant'Agata dei Golfi (Sorrento)

Breakfast, check-out and departure at around 8.30am from Monopoli, arriving at 12 noon in Ponteromito di Nusco, Irpinia, a hilly and mountainous area of Campania famous for its wines, chestnuts and truffles. We'll learn about truffle hunting and then have a truffle-based lunch at a local farmhouse. After lunch, departure for Sant'Agata Dei Golfi and accommodation at Fattoria Terranova. Time to relax, dinner and overnight stay.



(B, L, D)



DAY 14 – 05 OCT - NAPOLI – Sant'Agata dei Golfi

After breakfast, transfer to Naples to visit its incredible, colourful and historic city centre. In the afternoon back to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)



DAY 15 – 06 OCT – SORRENTO After breakfast, transfer to **Sorrento**, where we will spend our time enjoying breathtaking views of the Gulf of Naples, strolling through the historic centre, visiting artisan workshops, citrus groves and sea views that reveal the Mediterranean soul of the city. We will visit an ancient and authentic lemon farm, followed by a light lunch. For those who wish, there is the option of spending the afternoon at the beach in Sorrento. Return to the farm and, on the last evening before dinner, we will treat ourselves



a classic ice cream to learn how to make real Italian ice cream, followed by a farewell dinner and overnight stay. (B, L, D)

DAY 16 – 07 OCT – ROME – Fiumicino Airport

After breakfast at the hotel, we have an early transfer from Sant 'Agata to Roma Fiumicino Airport. (B)

The flight departs at 2.15 p.m., so we need to be at the airport by 11 a.m. and coach departs from hotel at 7:00 a.m. sharp!



“Arrivederci to Italy”



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Transat economy flight Toronto to Rome
- Accommodation in 4-stars Masseria in HB Formula, dinner included (3 courses + water and wine)
- 1 night in Caserta * 4 nights in Lecce * 6 nights in Fasano * 3 nights in Sant 'Agata
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary (5 lunches in Day 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 & 15)
- Guided sightseeing per itinerary (English-speaking guide)
- Private Transfer with 30-seats Gran Tourism Coach (20-seats coach in case of 15 participants)
- Food & Wine Experience as per program
- Entrance Tickets in Matera and Lecce
- Tips & Gratuities for drivers and guides

EXCLUSIONS:

- Meals unless otherwise specified - Phone and internet charges
- City taxes (where required)
- Personal expenses e.g. telephone bill & laundry, spa services

COST: Per person on a double basis:

(Payment only by e-Transfer, cash or cheque. Add 3% to total if paying by credit card)

CAD\$8875.00 + Taxes \$993.00 Total \$9868.00

Based on minimum 14 passengers

Cad\$8305.00 + Taxes \$993.00 Total \$9298.00

Based on minimum 19 passengers

Single add: \$1998.00

TIPS & GRATUITIES ADD \$150.00 WITH FINAL PAYMENT



**FOR INFORMATION OR MAKE RESERVATION
CALL 905 303 0200
or
E-MAIL info.1256@Marlintravel.ca**

This tour is not recommended for people with reduced mobility.



DEPOSIT AND TERMS OF PAYMENT & CANCELLATION

Reservation or booking request made 90 days or more prior to the departure date must be accompanied by a deposit \$1500.00 per person. Unless otherwise specified, final payment must be made no later than 90 days prior to the departure date. Reservations made within 90 days or less before the departure date must be accompanied by payment in full.

Payment schedule:

- Non-refundable deposit of \$1500.00 due upon confirmation of tour.
- Second deposit due \$2500.00 by April 22, 2026
- Balance due 90 days prior to departure (June 22, 2026)
- Credit card payments are subject to 3% surcharge

Excluded from the price:

Personal expenses, travel insurance, meals and drinks not the itinerary

If final payment is not received within the required period, Marlin Travel reserves the right to cancel any such reservation, in whole or in part, without prior notice and without recourse by the customer, and charge the applicable cancellation fees indicated at the end of these terms and conditions.

Travel documents will be issued only if full payment for the services has been received. It is the responsibility of the Customer to ensure that the information shown on all travel documents are accurate and in accordance with the reservation.

By providing a credit card number verbally or in writing, the Customer undertakes to respect these terms and conditions and authorizes the payment of the deposit or final payment.



Cancellation Charges

Cancellations of confirmed booking will result in penalties and fees assessed by the travel suppliers. If you need to cancel for any reason prior to the tour departure, the following cancellation fees will be assessed.

More than 90 days prior to departure: the nonrefundable deposit \$1500.00 will be retained.

90 - 60 days prior to departure: 50% of total price

59 - 45 days prior to departure: 75% of total price

44 - Day of departure and after: 100% of total price

Upon cancellation of travel services where you, the client, are not at fault and have not cancelled in violation of these terms and conditions, you will be refunded 100%.

Travel Insurance

Marlin Travel highly recommends the purchase of travel insurance at time of booking to cover against any unexpected events, namely trip cancellation, loss of, or damage to baggage and insurance to cover medical costs abroad. Insurance quotes are available at the time of booking. All participants need hospital/medical out of province travel insurance for the trip. If travel insurance is bought through Marlin Travel no proof is required or else, a copy of the policy is necessary for the record showing proof of coverage for both hospital/medical or else a waiver will be signed by the participant saying insurance offered but declined.

ACCOMMODATION: HOTELS AND AGRITURSMOS

23 – 24 SEPT ... Caserta - ROYAL CASERTA HOTEL <https://www.royalcaserta.it>

24 - 28 SEPT ... Caprarica di Lecce – MASSARIA STALI <https://masserastali.it>

28 – 04 OCT ... Fasano – CASALE Del MURGESE <https://www.casaledelmurgese.net>

04 - 07 OCT ... Sant 'Agata – FATTORIA TERRANOVA <https://fattoriaterranova.it>

