



# HIDDEN TREASURES OF SOUTHERN ITALY

## EXPLORING PUGLIA & THE AMALFI COAST

**APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

This spring we peel back the tourist veneer and explore two very different, but equally beautiful, areas of southern Italy – one perhaps familiar and the other virtually ignored by modern-day visitors.

The Sorrento Peninsula and the Amalfi Coast have long been a playground for the rich and famous, and for a very good reason! The mountains tumble down into the azure waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea providing breathtaking views around every bend in the road. The Island of Capri glistens like a jewel set in the Bay of Naples; it is small wonder that Roman emperors made this their “home away from Rome.” You may have been here before, but if you have, the chances are you’ll be keen to return.

Not many people, on the other hand, visit the province of Puglia, also known by its Roman name of Apulia. This is the “heel” of Italy’s “boot.” It is a region that has a long, proud and often tumultuous history, but in modern times has become more of an agricultural backwater, largely bypassed by modern industry – and therein lies its charm.

The Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Lombards, the Moors and the Normans all have left their mark on the art and architecture of Puglia, favoring the region for its position on trading routes between east and west. This was the embarkation point for the crusaders to journey by sea to the Holy Land and their castles still dot the landscape.

If your idea of a travel experience involves superb fresh local cuisine, unspoiled villages redolent with centuries of history, magnificent scenery and friendly local people – all without another tour bus in sight – then Puglia is the place for you.



TRULLI IN ALBEROBELLO



ISLE OF CAPRI

### THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	<b>\$ 3990</b>
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	<b>\$ 740</b>

*Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.*

### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

<b>HOTELS:</b>	8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
<b>COACHING:</b>	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
<b>MEALS:</b>	Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
<b>GUIDES:</b>	Fully qualified Discover Europe guide throughout the tour Local guides in Paestum and Lecce
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
<b>ENTRANCES:</b>	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
<b>FERRIES:</b>	Sorrento to Capri and the Blue Grotto

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.  
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>** - Departure from your chosen gateway city aboard your overnight flight to Naples. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>** - Upon your arrival at Naples Airport, you will be met and transported to our hotel in Sorrento. The afternoon will be free to unpack, relax and begin exploring the town. This evening we gather for a dinner party at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: SORRENTO**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we board the ferry for the 45-minute ride through the Bay of Naples to the Island of Capri. We'll land at the Marina Grande and take the funicular railway up the cliff to the town of Capri. There will be time to explore and have lunch before we return to the harbor and take a boat trip to the Blue Grotto (weather permitting). We return by boat to Sorrento for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SORRENTO**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>** - Our day starts with a leisurely drive along the spectacular Amalfi Coast, through the towns of Positano and Amalfi. After lunch we'll stop at Paestum, where we visit the fabulous remains of the ancient city originally founded by Greek settlers around 600 B.C. and named by them Poseidonia. We'll tour the temples of Neptune and Hera and see the original city walls unearthed by accident in the 18th century. We'll return to our hotel in Sorrento for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SORRENTO**



**MONDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we get the only long bus ride of the tour behind us as we drive due East across the country through the provinces of Campania and Basilicata. Our first stop will be the town of Matera, overlooking a deep ravine that separates it from the Murge Hills of Puglia. We'll have lunch here (included) and visit the Sassi, for which the town is famous. These are dwellings and churches (130 of them here and in the surrounding area) carved out of the solid rock. A few are still inhabited. We continue this afternoon into the heart of the Puglia region and our hotel in the town of Alberobello. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: ALBEROBELLO**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>** - Alberobello is in the center of the Terra dei Trulli and we will spend a leisurely day today exploring this fascinating area. Our first stop will be the village of Locorotondo (literally: round place) where the streets wind in concentric circles around the hilltop. From here we proceed to the local market town of Ostuni for lunch. We'll return to Alberobello via Martina Franca, where we'll visit the Ducal Palace. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ALBEROBELLO**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>** - Our excursion today takes us right down into the "heel of the Italian boot." Our first stop is the city of Lecce, known as the "Florence of the Baroque." We'll tour the old town with a local guide and visit the church of S. Croce. After time for lunch we continue south to the very tip of the "heel," the Capo Santa Maria di Leuca and from here follow the coast up to Otranto. This is the Terra d'Otranto, a region that has been under Greek influence for so long that even today the local dialect is similar to Greek. The coast road offers fine views of this wild and indented coastline. We'll stop briefly in Otranto before continuing back to Alberobello, where we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ALBEROBELLO**



**THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>** - We head north this morning, following the Adriatic Coast up to the Gargano Promontory – the "spur" on the "boot" of Italy. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty combining a high limestone plateau, deep fertile valleys, mysterious forests and a rugged coastline. We begin our tour of the area at Monte Sant'Angelo. The Abbey here, dedicated to the Archangel Michael, was where all the Crusaders came to pray before embarking at nearby Manfredonia. A brief detour to the west to visit San Giovanni Rotondo, where Padre Pio was ordained and lived, before we continue around the Gargano coast. We return to Alberobello for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ALBEROBELLO**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>** - A short drive this morning brings us to the fantastic natural limestone caverns at the Grotte di Castellana. These are considered to be the finest stalactitic caves in Europe. We'll have an open-air lunch at a nearby agriturismo and then head back to our hotel for a final free afternoon. We'll gather this evening for a farewell dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: ALBEROBELLO**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfer to Bari Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*