

Apulia and the Basilicata

A mixture full of emotions



Have you ever asked yourself why you should visit these two regions? Just because they are a perfect mix of famous historical towns, natural parks, crystal clear water and tasting cuisine? Or because **Matera** has been **awarded with the title** "European Capital of Culture 2019"?

Just ask **Helen Mirren**, who has purchased a Masseria there... or better yet the actors **Matt Damon** and **Hugh Jackman**, who have had themselves photographed next to the Domenico Modugno statue in Polignano. And let's not forget **Tom Hanks** and the icon singer **Madonna**, who celebrated her 59th birthday (!) with a folk dance in Borgo Egnazia with her family! There are indeed many reasons to visit Apulia and the Basilicata.

Tour includes:

- 6 nights half board at a 4* Hotel in the area of Torre Canne area
- 1 night B&B at a 4* Hotel in the area of Torre Canne area
buffet breakfast
- 2 coach transfer from the airport Bari/Brindisi to the hotel and back
- 3 full-day coach rental and 3 full day guide:
 - Castellana Grotte, Alberobello and Ostuni
 - Matera and Altamura
 - Martina Franca, Cisternino and surroundings
- 1 half day coach rental Torre Guaceto
- 1 half day guide Torre Guaceto
- 1 assistance at the airport at the arrival
- 1 focaccia tasting
- 1 olive oil tasting Cisternino area
- 1 buffet lunch in a typical farm house

Package Price per person, 8 days
from € 558,00

Available dates:

- 31.03 - 07.04.
- 14.04 - 21.04.
- 28.04 - 05.05.
- 05.05 - 12.05.
- 12.05 - 19.05.

- 01.09 - 08.09.
- 08.09 - 15.09.
- 29.09 - 06.10.



Programme

Day 1 – Arrival in Bari or Brindisi and transfer to the hotel in Torre Canne area. Evening meal at the hotel and overnight.

Day 2 – After breakfast, full day excursion to **Grotte di Castellana**, Alberobello and Ostuni. The long underground caves offer the visitor a unique natural spectacle. During a one hour visit, you will enter into the caves about 1 kilometre. Then you will reach **Alberobello**, the capital of the round Trulli stone houses. There are more than 1.000 Trulli in the world cultural heritage centre! It's a characteristic rural spot in the Murge area, famous for its being built almost exclusively from Trulli, houses of very ancient origin: the covering is raised above a cylindrical base, in conical form, in concentric rings made of limestone without mortar. **Ostuni** is the last leg of today. This town rises about 250 metres above the coastal plain, which is cultivated mainly with olive tree cultivations. The town is almost entirely covered with lime. This is why Ostuni also calls itself the "white town by the sea". The only exceptions here are those buildings which are not part of folk tradition. This is especially true of the cathedral, which has a very unique shape. It has a wavy profile, with curves and countercurves.

Return to the hotel, evening meal & overnight.

Day 3 – Today you will start a half-day excursion to the **Torre Guaceto** WWF nature reserve, where, in the company of a hiking guide, you will learn interesting things about the particular flora and fauna of the region. It starts off with a walk through dense Maccia, past ancient juniper trees and fossil dunes. There is a fresh water source nearby, which flows into the sea; it provided a livelihood to ancient settlers.

Dinner at your own (B&B at the hotel).

Day 4 – Breakfast and departure to **Matera** The Sassi are landmarks of the city: cave dwellings carved into the tuff, in which prehistoric people lived. Matera's antique origins go back to the first prehistoric settlements. The so-called Sassi are the outstanding feature of this location: a collection of houses and cottages, which dig into the tuff rocks while being stacked upon each other. Then you will visit the medieval town **Altamura**. You will enter the historic centre through one of the old gates and marvel at the architectural beauty of the St. Blasius and St. Nicholas churches, the Greek church and the cathedral of Altamura, the only church which was built by emperor Frederick II of Hohenstaufen in the Middle Ages. The walk continues through the typical squares and the narrow lanes of the old town.

Return to the hotel, evening meal & overnight.

Day 5 – The day is free for you to enjoy. Why not discover the dreamlike coast of this wonderful region at your own pace?! Evening meal in the hotel.



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Day 6 – Excursion to Martina Franca: a charming town founded in the 14th century, located on the edge of the Valle d'Itria; it lies on one of the last surveys of the Murgia dei Trulli. The construction of the Prince's Palace was accompanied by a new urban renewal which dominated the entire 18th century and gave the historical core its current baroque style. Visit the Basilica of San Martino and walk through the streets of the old town which has a wealth of palaces. Then visit the village of Cisternino. In this area you will visit an oil mill, where an oil sampling session will be organised, and then you can enjoy lunch in a typical Masseria. Dinner at your own (B&B at the hotel).

Day 7 – The day is free for you to enjoy. You can plan a visit to a local market in the nearby villages at your leisure. Farewell dinner at the hotel.

Day 8 – Breakfast and transfer to the airport, to fly back home with a new emotional boost.



Jolanda & Fabiola
Tel +39 0183 548 205
toursud@gadis.it

