

# The Wonders of Puglia



*Visit: Matera / Lecce / Bari / Alberobello / Ostuni /*

*Polignano al Mare*

*and much more*

**May 16—27, 2024**



*Dear Friends;*

*We are excited to present this magnificent trip to the Adriatic side of Italy; Puglia. A visit to the ancient city of Matera in Basilicata before arriving at the eastern coast of Italy. Famous for its sassi and stunning landscapes, Matera, located on the border of Basilicata and Puglia, is one of the most intriguing cities in Italy. It's not only breathtaking, but fascinating: Its history goes back more than 30,000 years. Puglia is a southern region forming the heel of Italy's "boot," known for its whitewashed hill towns, centuries-old farmland and hundreds of kilometers of Mediterranean coastline. Puglia and Basilicata can be considered the cradle of the Mediterranean diet, with seafood and a wine and olive oil tradition dating back from the Greek and Roman period (described by several Latin writers as one of the best agricultural areas in the entire Roman Empire).*

*We certainly hope that you can join us on this fantastic voyage through southeastern Italy; truly a feast for the eyes and the appetite!*

*Sincerely,*

*Father Ken Brighenti*

*Lou Falconeri*

*Fratelli & Company Group Travel, LLC*

### Day 1—USA / Naples, Italy—May 16

### Day 2—Matera in Basilicata—May 17

Upon arrival we will board our motor-coach from Naples Capodichino Airport to Matera. Upon arrival we will check into our hotel and have some time to freshen up. Afterwards, we will gather for a welcome drink before a short orientation walk and then on to dinner in a local restaurant with regional cuisine and local wines. In Matera we will discover the magnificent city of the Sassi, typical caves carved into the ravine, used as a dwelling. The Sassi di Matera (UNESCO World Heritage Site) were excavated and inhabited starting from the prehistoric period and up to World War II. The city was made famous in 2004 for the filming of "The Passion of Christ" with Mel Gibson.

**Dinner (included)** and overnight in Matera.



### Day 3—Matera Full Day Walking Tour—May 18

After a good night's rest and a good breakfast, we will meet our guide



for a full day walking tour of this amazing pre-historic city. You've never seen anything like Matera. Nicknamed the 'subterranean city' for its rock-hewn buildings, this small city in the Basilicata region of southern Italy will leave you speechless. The biggest draw is the 'Sassi,' a fascinating multi-level network of cavern houses, but the city is filled with surprises. We'll walk on the "Strada Panoramica dei Sassi", with beautiful views of the ravine and cave houses. We will be able to visit a cave house and a cave church, hewn by hand and primitive tools out of the mountain. **Dinner (included)** and overnight in Matera.

### Day 4 - Matera / Ostuni / Lecce—May 19

Today after breakfast we depart this magnificent city and travel south, what is referred to as the Florence of the Baroque, capital of southernmost Italy, Lecce. Enroute to Lecce, we will stop in Ostuni; is a city in Italy's Apulia region that's known for its whitewashed old town. Ostuni Cathedral combines Gothic, Romanesque and Byzantine elements. The tour of the medieval village is a unique, cultural and exciting experience by Tuk Tuk.

Later we will visit a wine cellar immersed in the Apulian countryside and discover the history of the family and how the local wine is produced. Walk in the vineyard to discover the secrets of the wine varieties. Afterwards, enjoy a tasty four-course **lunch (included)** paired with four local wines. Later we continue on to Lecce. Upon arrival at our hotel, check-in, time to freshen up before our Welcome Drink at the hotel. **Dinner (on your own)** and overnight in Lecce.

### Day 5- Lecce City Tour—May 20

After breakfast today we visit Lecce on foot; a walking tour is the best way to see this city. As mentioned before, it's referred to as the Florence of the Baroque due to its Leccese sandstone Baroque architecture. Between 1550 and 1750 the capital of the Salento region saw a period of economic and artistic heyday, and the historic center emerged completely transformed. Visit to the Basilica of Santa Croce, Piazza Duomo, the Government Palace and Piazza Sant'Oronzo with the Roman Amphitheater. In Lecce



one of the most



popular arts are “carta pesta” a beautiful tradition handed down for generations.

Carta pesta is simply paper mache` a poor material, as wood was always a very precious resource. You can see these artists creating in the many shops or in the streets. Later, after the tour, wander these alleys and streets and take in the fascination of this marvelous city. Visit one of the many café`s and enjoy a cocktail or coffee and a must is to try the “pasticciotta Leccese”.

**Dinner tonight (included)** in a local restaurant featuring local cuisine of the region. Overnight in Lecce.

### Day 6—Lecce / Santa Maria Leuca - May 21

Today after breakfast we will begin our journey to Santa Maria Leuca; the southern most tip of the heel of Italy. SM Leuca is the cape where the two seas come together, the Ionian Sea and the Adriatic Sea, called Punta Ristola. We will have a short guided tour of the city and a visit of the Basilica of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae (end of the earth). Santa Maria di Leuca was founded in fact in the early 1st century AD by monks. After Saint Peter's passage a cross was built in his honor and after some restructurings. **Lunch (included)** in SM Leuca. On the road back to Lecce we will make a brief scenic stop in Gallipoli; an ancient town with a long and significant history. The beauty of this southern Italian town is inscribed in its name: Gallipoli comes from the Greek kallipolis, which means “beautiful city.” **Dinner (on your own)** and overnight in Lecce.



### Day 7 - Lecce / Wine Tasting /Otranto—May 22



This morning you are free to relax and sleep in if you wish. We will gather the group in the hotel lobby (time to be announced, approx. noon), for a wine tasting experience at local cantina within the city walls. Delve into the world of Puglian wine without leaving Lecce's old town with this wine tasting experience in the heart of the Baroque city. Take a break from sightseeing and relax at a local wine bar for a guided tasting featuring four different regional wines paired with local specialties. Later this afternoon, we will leave on an excursion to the beautiful city of Otranto, on the coast. It's home to the 15th-century Aragonese Castle and 11th-century.

Otranto Cathedral, with a rose window and ornate mosaic flooring. At the harbor, Torre Matta tower has sweeping sea views. In Otranto we will visit the Cathedral of Santa Maria della Assunta; sacked by the Ottomans in 1480. 18,000 invading Turks destroyed and launched a full blown attack on Otranto, destroying most of the city. Eight hundred survivors took refuge in the church, given conditional clemency by the Turks if they converted to Islam. Those that refused were all slaughtered, these are known as the martyrs of Otranto.

**Dinner tonight (included)** in Otranto before returning to Lecce for overnight.

### Day 8 - Lecce / Alberobello / Bari—May 23



After breakfast, departure for Alberobello which is the center of the trulli, the circular stone cone-shaped buildings. Over 1000 trulli make up the historic center of this town which was declared in 1996 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. A walk through the streets of the Monti district leads to the Church of S. Antonio. Visit this quaint little village on your own, browsing through some of the open houses where the owners welcome guests to see a living trulli, still occupied and lived in by families. There are many boutiques, wine and liquor shops for tasting and many cafes, bars and restaurants to enjoy some refreshments or just take a break. **Lunch** and free-time (**on your own**). Later we will continue our drive to the city of Bari, capital of the Puglia region. **Dinner tonight (included)** and overnight in Bari.

### Day 9—Bari - City Tour—May 24

The capital of Puglia and one of southern Italy's most prominent cities, Bari combines seaside charm and historical appeal. A major Mediterranean cruise port, the university city is also known for its old town, which boasts churches, picturesque courtyards, and other tucked-away gems. Its maze like old town, Bari Vecchia, occupies a headland between two harbors. Surrounded by narrow streets, the 11th-century Basilica di San Nicola, a key pilgrimage site, holds St. Nicholas' remains. Set along the Mediterranean Sea, the old town of Bari Vecchia boasts a historic vibe with narrow meandering alleyways leading to sites like the 13th-century Cattedrale di San Sabino and the Fortino di Sant'Antonio. Its many piazzas are lined with trattorias, cafes, and shops galore, and it's also home to a lighthouse.



We will visit Arco Basso to watch the ladies making the traditional pasta of Bari called Oricchiette outside their homes. During the Bari Walking Tour you will visit the main attractions of the old town like the Basilica of Saint Nicholas, the Fresh Pasta street, the Cathedral, the Norman

Castle, the narrow streets, the fish market and the warm local people.

This evening we will do a Wine Crawl with food tasting. Let's have some fun, meeting new people, drinking some local wine and chat about this place! We start with a nice waking guided tour to visit Bari by night and at the end of the tour we all go for wine tasting and dinner like a big group of friends, spending the evening like a local! Overnight in Bari.



**Day 10 - Polignano a Mare - Hometown of Domenico Modugno “VOLARE” - May 25**

A handful of years ago, back when Puglia was yet to reach the imaginations of non-Italians, an image surfaced that forever changed the course of the region’s tourism; a photo of a small pebble beach edged by limestone cliffs, white-washed houses, and the most vibrant of aquamarine waters. This image was of Cala Porto in Polignano a Mare. Today we will sail around Polignano on a Catamaran and enjoy a light lunch on board.



One of the most popular things to do in Polignano is to take a boat trip along the coast - not only will you be treated to an alternative vantage point on the historical city, but you’ll also stop at impressive caves and have the chance to swim in beautiful azure waters. **Light lunch (included) onboard.** Afterwards, free-time to explore this little jewel of the Adriatic. Return to Bari late afternoon. **Dinner (on your own)** and overnight in Bari.



**Day 11—Bari to Pimonte, Napoli—May 26**

Today, after breakfast we depart this beautiful and amazing region of southeastern Italy as we cross the peninsula from east to west, from the Adriatic to the Mediterranean Sea. We will arrive in Naples area; a region that remains in your heart. Glimpses of an unparalleled panorama, rules of life that apply only here and nowhere else on earth. Naples province is a true theater of life. In this area we are in very close proximity to the International airport for the next day’s departure. This evening we will have a farewell **dinner (included)** with wine and Neapolitan fare in a family owned trattoria style restaurant high up in the hills of Pimonte, across the Bay of Naples. In Ristorante Del Sorbo, owner Anna will be our host.



Meet Anna and her family as we dine on some of the most traditional dishes of the Neapolitan and Sorrentine peninsula cuisine. Follow Anna on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/fratellids>

All the dishes are prepared in old world Neapolitan style home type cooking. Overnight in Pimonte, NA.

**Day 12—Naples, Italy / Newark, NJ, USA— May 27**

This morning, with heavy hearts and even heavier luggage, we board our trans-Atlantic flight home to the USA. We’ll bring fond memories of fun days touring the Apulian region of Italy. Bon Voyage.



## AIRFARE & TRANSFERS

This trip is priced Land & Air separately. The reason: \*anyone wishing to procure their own air travel through frequent flyer miles or other, may do so, keeping in mind, they must adhere to the “group” arrival and departure schedule in Naples, Capodichino Airport in Italy, to be able to take advantage of the “included” transfers to and from the airport in Italy. Otherwise you may be obliged to take taxis or hire a private transfer to meet the group or return to the airport at your own expense. We will be pleased to assist you in booking your flights from the USA to Italy. If you are booking “your own” air, please contact us. See group air schedule on page below.

## INSURANCE

Many times we are asked about travel insurance. We, unless licensed by the State of New Jersey, we cannot sell you insurance of any kind. There are several options that you can research such as; AARP Members, AAA Members, check your “homeowner’s policies” for travel provisions, other organizations to which you may be a member, or check online at <https://www.insuremytrip.com/> . This web site will give you comparisons from which to choose.

## PRIOR to DEPARTURE

Prior to all of our group departures Fratelli & Company Group Travel, LLC will provide you with an “information” packet which will answer many of your concerns and questions about the trip. It will give contact information, flight schedules, hotel information and telephone numbers to leave at home with family members. It will give you info for packing suggestions, type of weather to expect, Euro vs US Dollar exchanges, US Embassy telephone numbers and much more. However, if you have a question or concern beforehand, please do not hesitate to call or email our office.

## PASSPORTS

Make two copies of all of your travel documents (passports picture page) in case of an emergency or loss and leave one with a trusted friend or relative.



## Travel to European Countries in the Schengen Area

Entry into any of the 26 European countries in the Schengen area for short-term tourism, a business trip, or in transit to a non-Schengen destination, requires that your passport be valid for at least six months beyond your intended date of return. Because many Schengen countries assume all travelers will stay the full 6 months allowed for \*visa-free visitors, we recommend that U.S. citizens:

- Have at least six month’s validity remaining on your passport whenever you travel abroad.
- Check the expiration date on your passport carefully before traveling to Europe.
- Carry your passport with you at all times in Europe. ID must be shown upon request by Government officials anytime in the Schengen areas.

## UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT SCHEDULE

	Date	Flight #	Location	Depart	Destination	Arrive
Thu	16MAY24	UA964	NEWARK/NY LIBERTY, NEW JERSEY	5:10PM	NAPLES, ITALY	7:55AM
Mon	27MAY24	UA965	NAPLES, ITALY	9:55AM	NEWARK/NY LIBERTY, NEW JERSEY	2:00PM

\*The possibility exists that after January 1, 2024 all visitors to Italy will need a VISA. They will be obtainable online. We will provide you with that info if and when the time comes.

**FOR FURTHER INFO CALL**

**Fratelli & Company Group Travel**

E-mail — louis@fratelliandcompany.com or fratelco@aol.com – tel. (908) 766-8994

Please fill in all areas and sign reverse side of application.

**Land Package - \$ 3,895. per person (double occupancy) 25 + passengers**

Under 25 passengers (20-24) will necessitate an increase of \$400 per person  
(Credit/Debit cards add 3.5%)

**Airfare -\$ 1,930. (see page 6 “Airfare, Schedule & Transfers”)**

**RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT — PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**May 16—27, 2024**

Name as it appears on passport: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile or Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: (City, State, Nation) \_\_\_\_\_

**US CITIZENS**

U S Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOREIGN NATIONALS Check with your Consulate should you require a VISA to enter Italy**

Foreign Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Alien Registration # (Green Card) \_\_\_\_\_

If you DO NOT have a passport at this time, please indicate, then provide to the tour operator/tour director the passport info ASAP

I wish to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Private Accommodations or Single Room: \_\_\_\_\_ + Single Supplement Fee **\$750.**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**Fratelli & Co. GTC**, 26 Pill Hill Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

\$500. Per person deposit due with this application

Balance in Full Due 60 days prior to departure date; **March 16, 2024**

Will you be taking Travel Insurance? It is recommended. Yes \_\_\_ / No \_\_\_ Your travel professional can assist you.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO: Please provide one or 2 Names (only) and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

I eat FISH \_\_\_yes or \_\_\_no. I eat RED MEAT \_\_\_yes or \_\_\_no.

I am GLUTEN INTOLERANT \_\_\_yes or \_\_\_no

**(Optional) Do you have any SEVERE FOOD or MEDICATION ALLERGIES: Please list use separate sheet if necessary**

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Reservations/Deposits/Payments:** A deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is required at the time of booking. No reservation is confirmed until the deposit is received by the tour operator/travel agent. The balance of the tour price is due and payable sixty (60) days prior to departure.

**Minors And Infirm:** Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or a responsible adult deemed worthy by the parent/guardian. If a minor is traveling with any person other than parent/guardian then the responsible adult will provide the travel agent/tour operator and have in his/her possession a notarized letter from the parent/guardian giving that adult full permission to make decisions on their behalf and permission to room with the minor. No minor will be allowed to room alone without the parent/guardian or named responsible adult. Due to the physical demands of the tour and the inaccessibility of handicap facilities abroad, no physically handicapped person may be a tour passenger.

**Tour Price:** The tour price in this brochure is based upon the U. S. currency vs. the European Euro at the time of printing, **September 2024**. If changes in these rates occur, it may change the price accordingly. The tour price is based on booking a minimum of 25 paying passengers. A lesser amount could increase the price of the tour. Should the price of the tour change for any of the reasons mentioned above, the passenger will then have the right to cancel the reservation and receive a full refund of payment made to date, provided that written notice be received by Fratelli & Co. LLC within 7 (seven) days of the notification of the price change. Otherwise, the cancellation policy written below prevails. No refund will be made if the passenger is dissatisfied with any of the accommodations; fails to use any of the accommodations included in the tour price, or must return home prior to completion of the tour.

**Cancellations:** Land and Air arrangements may be canceled and passenger may receive a full refund less one hundred (\$100.) dollars cancellation fee if the cancellation is made no less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled departure date. If cancellation is made less than sixty (60) days prior to scheduled departure, there is no refund unless a suitable replacement passenger books the tour in his/her place. For these reasons we recommend you take Travel Insurance.

**Travel Insurance:** Health, accident, Trip Interruption/Cancellation and baggage insurance are **NOT** included; brochures can be made available through your travel agent. Go to [www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com) for lists of insurance companies.

**Sightseeing & Itinerary:** Sightseeing is included as specified in the itinerary with English-speaking guides and customary entrance fees. The tour operator reserves the right to vary the sequence of the itinerary and/or reroute the order of cities, should circumstances arise.

**Passports:** A valid passport is required, and **MUST** be shown upon request to the travel agent/tour operator, tour leaders and any airline personal and customs officials. Passports must be valid up until 6 months after the return date.

**Responsibility:** Fratelli & Co.LLC, your tour operator/travel agent, has arranged a tour package which may include one or more of the following: air, land transportation, hotel accommodations and food service. Neither the tour operator nor the organizer own, operate, manage, or control any hotel, bus company, railroad, cruise line, service provider, restaurant, airline transportation company, person or persons rendering any of the services, and/or accommodations offered in connection with this tour. The tour operator/travel agent and/or tour organizer do not guaranty any passenger's safety who participates in the tour. Accordingly, the passenger understands that he or she has no claim against the tour operator/travel agent or organizer for any delay, or other irregularity caused by a third party service provider, damage to or loss of property, injury to or death of the person due to any action or failure to act by the air carrier, bus carriers, private cars, livery carriers, railroad, ships, hotels, restaurants and any service providers in connection with this tour, strikes, war, or any acts of God. Under these circumstances, no portion of the tour price will be refunded. It is advisable that you cover any potential risks with insurance coverage.

**Cancellation of Passenger's Rights:** In an effort to make the tour pleasant for all, the tour operator reserves the right to: 1.cancel any reservation and refund the tour price, pursuant to the cancellation clause, of any passenger who acts irrational by words, actions and demeanor prior to the tour departure; 2. refuse further participation in the tour once the tour begins, with no refund given, to passengers who: act unruly, irrational, unduly argumentative, incite trouble among passengers, endanger the health and/or safety of the other passengers, tour operator, tour organizer, and/or tour escort, or if they become physically or emotionally disabled and create a burden that the remaining passengers are unwilling to accept. No tour passenger, tour operator, tour organizer, tour escort, will be obligated to assist any infirm, handicapped or injured passenger.

**Inclusions:** All hotel taxes, service charges, Four Star First Class Hotels, Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary, English-speaking guides, all baggage handling and assistance abroad (except in airports for security reasons), Breakfasts, lunches and dinners (including in flight meals) as per itinerary.

**Exclusions:** Passport and visa fees, tips for tour escorts, drivers, guides, food service personal, hotel maids, phone calls, laundry services, and other items of a personal nature. Rates do NOT include beverages at meals unless specified in the itinerary. Rates do not include transportation to and from US airports or baggage handling in the United States. Rates do not include Hotel City Taxes (Soggiorno Tax).

**Physical and Emotional Limitations:** The tour operator cannot be held responsible for any part of the tour missed due to physical or emotional limitations. Anyone who cannot participate in an event will not receive a refund for any unused portion. Further, if anyone must stop or return to a hotel or motor-coach during a tour, and uses public transportation or taxis, it will be their responsibility to pay for the transportation.

**Miscellaneous:** Any Litigation concerning this tour shall be brought in the State of New Jersey. This agreement shall be construed according to New Jersey and Federal law. The tour operator/travel agent shall not be responsible for any typographical errors or misprints. The tour operator/travel agent reserves the right to substitute in its discretion any air, land and sea carrier, hotels, and service providers and itinerary.

**I have read terms and conditions of the tour and accept them. I represent I am not physically or emotionally challenged and I am able to meet the physical demands required by this tour.**