

# From Rome to the Finibus Terrae 2021

Roma, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Trani, Bari, Polignano A Mano, Lecce, Santa Maria Di Leuca, Manduria, Taranto, Matera, Castelpetroso



## Day 1 Welcome to Italy - Rome

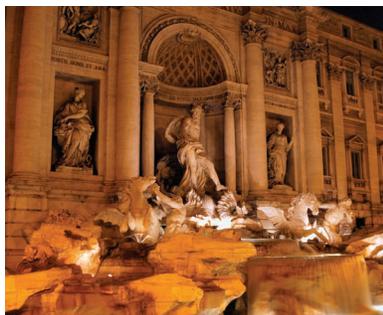
Upon arrival at Rome Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to Montecassino to visit the Abbey which is the principle monastery of the Benedictine Order. It was founded by Saint Benedict around 530 A.D. Celebrate Mass. Then we will continue to San Giovanni Rotondo. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in San Giovanni Rotondo (D)

## Day 2 San Giovanni Rotondo - Monte Sant'Angelo - San Giovanni Rotondo

This morning celebrate Mass at Santa Maria delle Grazie, the second most visited Catholic shrine in the world. Following Mass, we will tour the sanctuary, the old church and the crucifix from which St. Padre Pio received the stigmata in 1918. Then we will visit the tomb of Padre Pio at the new shrine. In the afternoon we will drive to Monte Sant'Angelo to pray at the Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel. Many Popes and Saints have prayed at this grotto seeking the protection of St. Michael. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

## Day 3 Castel del Monte - Trani - Bari

After breakfast and check out, we will depart hotel to reach the mysterious and perfectly octagonal Castel Del Monte, a Unesco World Heritage Site. No one knows why Frederick II built it, since there's no nearby town or strategic crossroads. Some theories claim that the castle was nothing less than



a celebration of the relationship between humanity and God. Then we will continue to the city of Trani. After lunch, we will visit its magnificent seafront Cathedral dedicated to St Nicholas the Pilgrim, a Greek Christian who wandered through Puglia crying 'Lord, have mercy'. Celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Bari (B, D)

## Day 4 Bari - Polignano a Mare - Lecce

In the morning we will enjoy a city tour of Bari including the Basilica of St

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Nicola, a 12th century church built to preserve the relics of Saint Nicholas of Myra. It is considered, like the Cathedral of Trani, as one of the best examples of Romanesque architecture. Here we will be able to explore the crypt with the remains of the Saint dedicated to Orthodox worship. Celebrate Mass. Then we will walk through the historic center, and have free time to visit shops and buy local products. After lunch, we will continue our drive towards south and we will stop for a relaxing walking through the streets of the seaside village of Polignano a Mare and to see the Abbey of St Vito. Tonight dinner and overnight will be in a beautiful masseria in Lecce. (B, D)

## Day 5 Lecce

Today we will discover Lecce starting our walking tour from Porta Napoli. We will be able to admire some significant noble dwellings and the suggestive Piazza Duomo, with its Cathedral, Bell Tower and Bishop's Seminar. Then we will continue to the Church of the Theatines, dedicated to St. Irene, and to Piazza Sant'Oronzo, where we will be able to admire the remains of the Roman Amphitheatre, the Church of San Marco and the famous "Sedile". Finally we will see the beautiful Basilica of Santa Croce, a jewel of Lecce Baroque and the Convent of the Celestines. Free afternoon in the historic city center of Lecce for shopping. Tonight we will enjoy a special "Pugliese" dinner at our masseria (B, Special dinner)



### This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: [anton@travelwithus.com](mailto:anton@travelwithus.com)





### **Day 6 Walking day: from Tricase to Santa Maria di Leuca (9,5 miles)**

Following a good breakfast, we will drive to the small town of Tricase. From here we will start our walk along the last part of Francigena Way to reach the village of Santa Maria di Leuca and the Sanctuary of Finibus Terrae, the last point of the Italian peninsula on the Adriatic. The monument leading onto the square features two angels who watch over pilgrims, representing a journey that is not yet over, but rather has only just begun: the journey to Jerusalem. Celebrate Mass. Return to the masseria for dinner and overnight (B, D)

### **Day 7 Manduria - Taranto - Matera**

Today we will depart from our hotel and drive to the small town of Manduria, the Land of the Messapians and of the renowned Primitivo di Manduria wine. It is a treasure trove of history and legends, developed over the centuries. We will be able to admire the succession of noble and humble palaces along the streets paved with black lava rock, the labyrinth of streets inside the Jewish Ghetto, in front of the big rose window of the Mother Church, hewn into the Romanesque façade and protected by stone lions. Then we will reach a wine cellar to enjoy a light lunch and a Primitivo wine tasting. In the afternoon we will continue to Taranto to visit the Basilica of St Cataldo. Of medieval origin, it was remodelled during the Baroque period and today holds the relics of the patron saint in a lateral chapel. Its 18th-century façade is a triumph of Baroque, with niches containing statues of saints, angels and medallions, a prelude to the sumptuous interior opening onto three naves and countless chapels. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Matera. (B, L, D)

### **Day 8 Matera - Melfi**

After breakfast, we will enjoy a relaxing walking tour of Matera including its ancient city, "Sassi," and the 13th Century-old Cathedral. Here we celebrate Mass. We will visit also a typical cave dwelling, typically furnished and evacuated in the '50s for the unhealthy and sanitary conditions of the whole area. In the afternoon we will drive to Melfi. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

### **Day 9 Castelpetroso - Rome**

In the morning we will drive to the small town of Castelpetroso to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows. This neogothic sanctuary, set on a hill and surrounded by nature, was started in 1890 but only fully completed in 1975. It was built on the spot where in 1888 two peasants were surprised by a vision of Our Lady at the foot of the Cross. Many pilgrims have visited here over the years, including Pope John Paul II in 1995 and Pope Francis in July 2014. Celebrate Mass. Then we will continue to Rome. Upon arrival, we will set into our hotel. Dinner and overnight (B, D)

### **Day 10 Vatican Museums - Christian Rome**

After breakfast, we will start our tour with a visit of Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel, followed by a tour of the Basilica of St Peter. Following lunch, we will visit St Mary Major, St John in Lateran and the Holy Stairs. Finally we will celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at the hotel (B, D)

### **Day 11 Papal Audience - Free afternoon**

This morning, we will return to the Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. Free afternoon for shopping or to discover the other beautiful monuments of the Eternal City. Tonight we will enjoy our farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Rome. (B, Special dinner)

### **Day 12 Departure**

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to Rome airport for return flights home. (B)

