

COASTAL HIKING PUGLIA

Olives, orange trees and ancient fishing villages

Read more: WEBSITE

Self-guided distance tour | 8/7 |

DESCRIPTION

The land of the trulli awaits you with magnificent beaches and a landscape lined with olive groves and citrus trees. Follow the enchanting coastal path, where sweeping views of the glistening azure sea are your constant companions. Winding shepherd's trails lead you to dreamy fishing villages just waiting to be discovered, make sure you taste the fishermen's fresh catch of the day there. The landscape changes just as spectacularly as your hiking route, rugged cliffs give way to the vast meadows of the Apulian savannah, while ancient stone walls and lush forests shape the scenery. The rustling of ancient olive trees, the chirping of crickets, and the scent of wild fennel and liquorice accompany you all the way to your destination in Lecce – and time and again, the round domed roofs of the 'Pagliari' greet you as if from a bygone era.

HIGHLIGHTS

Combine hiking with a dip in the sea and Italian specialities, such as fresh fish and homemade pasta. The mosaic floor of the Cathedral of Santa Annunziata in Otranto and the Ciolo Bay will leave you in awe.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL WALKING

The daily hikes, which last up to 5 hours, can be managed without difficulty by anyone with a good basic level of fitness. You'll mostly be walking along rocky coastal paths and narrow trails, so sure-footedness and a head for heights are required. A few sections follow paved side roads through small villages and towns.

2027

ARRIVAL / PARKING / DEPARTURE

- Arrival by train to Lecce, continue by train and bus to Otranto, duration approx. 2 hours (www.trenitalia.it)
- Brindisi or Bari airport
- Brindisi/Bari airport by bus to the respective train station and by train to Lecce, duration from Brindisi airport approx. 1 hour and from Bari airport approx. 2 hours (www.trenitalia.it)
- Airport transfers from/to Brindisi or Bari; available as an optional extra (see 'Services')

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Otranto

Your walking holiday along the fascinating Apulian Coast begins in the charming coastal town of Otranto. Enjoy your arrival day with views of the Adriatic Sea and soak up the southern Italian atmosphere.

Day 2: Circular walk Otranto

approx. 2.5 hours | 8 km | 100 m 100 m

To kick off your hiking adventure, head to the idyllic Idro Valley. The source of the river of the same name is located in the small village of Monte Sant'Angelo. The landscape is very fertile – orchids, orange trees, and numerous varieties of vegetables grow along the way. You'll hike through the olive groves and past the pretty stone church, crossing the river back to Otranto, the 'Pearl of the Orient'.

Day 3: Otranto – Porto Badisco

approx. 4 hours | 13 km | 270 m 240 m

Winding your way through the labyrinth of narrow streets in the Old Town, you'll reach the new harbour. Along the coast, there are plenty of opportunities to take a break a go for a swim in the crystal-clear water. Soon you'll catch your first glimpse of the Punta Palascia lighthouse, Italy's easternmost point, which will be your constant companion from now on as you make your way to Porto Badisco.

Day 4: Porto Badisco – Santa Cesarea Terme

approx. 4 hours | 13 km | 200 m 170 m

Today's hike takes you to the picturesque bay of Porto Badisco. Following narrow footpaths along the coast, you'll pass 'Pagliari' – round, flat-roofed buildings with dry stone walls where shepherds used to sleep – which are typical of this region. The trail then crosses the plateau inland, passing through fields and pine forests, until you reach today's destination, the spa town of Santa Cesarea Terme.

Day 5: Santa Cesarea Terme – Marittima

approx. 4 hours | 12 km | 310 m 250 m

Continue along the old shepherds' trails further inland to the ancient town of Castro, which impresses with its imposing city wall. The small harbour invites you to linger, and be sure to take enough time to explore the picturesque old town. Then follow a rocky path along the coast to the mysterious Acquaviva Bay and from there continue through the densely forested Acquaviva Valley to Marittima.

Day 6: Marittima – Marina Serra

approx. 4.5 hours | 14 km | 310 m 370 m

The hiking trail winds its way through stunning olive groves before you reach the first of several 'Tratturi' – an ancient network of footpaths and grazing routes used by locals to reach the sea or to travel between villages and fields. Soon after, you'll catch sight of the sea ahead, take a break in Tricase Porto for an iced coffee before arriving at the coastal village of Marina Serra.

Day 7: Marina Serra – Lecce

approx. 5 hours | 13 km | 530 m 380 m

On the final stage of your hiking week, you'll follow the coast once more and hike along the historic Tratturi to Marina di Novaglie, where you can enjoy a well-deserved break on the beach. This is where the breathtaking 'Cipolliane Trail' (Sentiero delle Cipolliane) begins, named after the impressive sea caves and prehistoric caves you can visit along the way. From the delightful Ciolo Bay through the Ciolo Valley to Gagliano del Capo. A transfer will then take you to the Baroque city of Lecce.

Day 8: Departure or extension

ARRIVAL DATES 2027

20.03. - 31.10.

Arrival daily
Season 1: 20.03. - 24.04. | 01.10. - 31.10.
Season 2: 25.04. - 14.06. | 09.09. - 30.09.
Season 3: 15.06. - 14.07. | 01.09. - 08.09.
Season 4: 15.07. - 25.07.

PRICES 2027

All prices given in Euros per person in double room.

Booking code	**IT-APWOL-**	**08X**
Season 1		959
Surcharge single room		399
Surcharge solo traveller		239
Season 2		999
Surcharge single room		459
Surcharge solo traveller		239
Season 3		1,069
Surcharge single room		519
Surcharge solo traveller		239
Season 4		1,129
Surcharge single room		549
Surcharge solo traveller		239

SERVICES

Included

- Accommodation in 3***- and 4****-hotels, comfortable B&Bs and 1x in traditional Masseria (Italian country house)
- Breakfast
- 2 dinners (Porto Badisco and Marina Serra)
- Luggage transfer
- 1 transfer Gagliano del Capo – Lecce
- Digital travel documents incl. navigation app, GPS-data, route book
- Service hotline

Optional extras

- Printed route book, per room EUR 30
- Transfers Brindisi: Brindisi airport – Otranto, costs per ride EUR 159 (up to 3 persons), costs per ride EUR 185 (4 persons); Lecce – Brindisi airport, costs per ride EUR 129 (up to 3 persons), costs per ride EUR 155 (4 persons); reservation is necessary, to be paid for in advance
- Transfers Bari: Bari airport – Otranto, costs per ride EUR 359 (up to 3 persons), costs per ride EUR 429 (4 persons); Lecce – Bari airport, costs per ride EUR 329 (up to 3 persons), costs per ride EUR 399 (4 persons); reservation is necessary, to be paid for in advance

Things to note

- Tourist tax, if due, is not included in the price.
- The prices for the optional transfers are valid for up to 4 persons, transfers for 5 or more persons are available on request
- For twin room bookings, a supplement may apply at the time of booking, costs per person EUR 25

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For a stress-free start to your travel, arriving at the start point by early evening the day before is recommended. The individual return journey takes place on the last day of travel. For any costs incurred locally (children, local taxes, dogs etc.), as well as excluded transport and services, please refer to the itinerary or the section “Services/Things to note”. If a minimum number of participants is necessary for the trip to take place, this is defined under “Arrival dates”. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour by the time specified under the heading “Arrival dates” before the planned travel date. We recommend organising your arrival and departure only after this deadline has passed. The distance travelled is approximate and may differ from the actual distance. The language in which the listed services are provided, as far as this is relevant for the provision of services, can be found under the heading “Services”. If special passport or visa requirements are needed for EU citizens, this is indicated under “Arrival/Parking/Departure”. This trip is not suitable for people with reduced mobility. Travel cancellation insurance, including travel interruption insurance is recommended. Information on insurance options to cover the cost of assistance during the journey, including transport in case of accident, illness or death can be found at https://www.eurobike.at/travel-insurance

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