



APULIA

UNDISCOVERED ITALY

An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



SPONSORED BY
THE MIT ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM
APRIL 10-18, 2012



Bathed in golden light, this undiscovered region on the heel of Italy's boot humbly offers many glorious surprises amid its craggy grottoes, sun-bleached beaches, endless vineyards and silvery olive groves. Ancient civilizations were lured from across the turquoise sea, and Apulia's diverse cultural history is told through time-frozen villages, baroque churches, Norman castles and novel architectural forms. Here the Italian language is at its lilting best, and the heady scent of sea and sun-warmed rocks wafts on the breeze as Italy's deep south shares its riches with an openness unmatched anywhere in the country.



"[APULIA IS] A BEAUTIFUL LAND WHERE THE SUN BECOMES WINE."

~ DANTE ALIGHIERI, ITALIAN AUTHOR AND POET, 1265-1321

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend seven nights in the historic seaside town of **Polignano a Mare**, your base while exploring the unique Apulia region.
- Visit the lively, ancient Greek port and Basilica of St. Nicholas in **Bari**.
- See the baroque splendor of **Lecce**, and **Ostuni's** "White Town."
- Visit a working winery and family-run olive farm, sample regional specialties.
- View the Jewish Ghetto and Norman structures of **Trani**.
- Wander among the mysterious clusters of domed *trulli* in **Alberobello** and **Matera's** carved *sassi* dwellings.
- Explore the geometric wonders of Emperor Frederick II's **Castle del Monte**.

Alumni Campus Abroad[®] Advantages

The unique, value-added features of Alumni Campus Abroad program deliver an outstanding educational experience in a special environment.

- **Unpack only once** for a stay of seven nights and the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyle.
- **A carefully selected hotel** provides comfortable accommodations and the perfect base for exploring the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures.
- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** opportunities allow you to interact with local residents and gain personal insight into their everyday lives.
- **Knowledgeable guides** lead your excursions and **local experts** present insightful educational lectures.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive service for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for guides and drivers are included.

Above left: San Vito Abbey, Bari
Right: Friendly local



Dear MIT Alumni and Friends,

Journey with us to the southeastern corner of Italy, April 10-18, 2012. Discover why **Apulia's** mysterious beauty has been tempting travelers since the ancient Greeks first glimpsed its rugged coastline. Sample hearty southern cuisine while immersing yourself in the Italian lifestyle. Throughout your stay experience the abundant delights of this exciting, unspoiled territory.

Enjoy preferred access to popular attractions and an exclusive educational program featuring expert local speakers who will enhance your appreciation of the people and the culture.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. You will enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group of like minded people and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries! Space on this journey is limited to 36 travelers. Be sure to make your reservations today.

If you have any questions about this program, or to make a reservation, please call the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749 or email compass@mit.edu. Or you may call the tour operator, AHI Travel, at 800-323-7373. We hope you decide to join us!

Sincerely,

Melissa Chapman Gresh
Director
MIT Alumni Travel Program

P.S. Please visit our website at <http://alum.mit.edu/travel> for details and updated information on all our trips.

“Good company on the road is the shortest cut.”

~ Italian Proverb

“I love the [Italian] language... Which melts like kisses from a female mouth; And sounds as if it should be writ on satin with syllables which breathe of the sweet South.”

~ Lord Byron,

English poet, 1788-1824

“Cease to inquire what the future has in store, and take as a gift whatever the day brings forth.”

~ Quinas Horatius

Flaccus,

Apulian poet,
65 B.C.-8 B.C.

APULIA

ITALY'S UNDISCOVERED TREASURE

Discover Apulia, where road signs are rare and the region's precious cultural heritage is in abundance. You'll hear it in the language, taste it in the food and see it in the architecture. From seaside Polignano a Mare, visit the ancient port of Bari. Admire Lecce's baroque masterpieces, Ostuni's white town and Trani's Norman houses. Explore Alberobello's exotic trulli and Matera's ancient sassi dwellings. Marvel at the geometric symmetries of Castle del Monte. Sample fragrant olive oil and ambrosial wine, reveling in the sleepy pace of authentic southern Italy.



DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for Bari, Italy, aboard scheduled jet service[±].

DAY TWO

BARI AND POLIGNANO A MARE, ITALY

D

Upon arrival in Bari, transfer[±] to Polignano a Mare and check in at the Hotel Covo dei Saraceni.

This evening join fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception* and *Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY THREE

BARI AND POLIGNANO A MARE

B/L/D

Educational Focus: *Italy's Deep South.*

The primal allure of Apulia has been tempting travelers since the ancient Greeks first glimpsed its rugged coastal beauty. Study the enduring influence of the region's diverse cultural inheritance on architecture, food and languages. Learn how the rocky terrain produces thriving olive groves and vineyards.

Excursion: *Polignano a Mare.* Discover why this vibrant fishing village, rising from limestone cliffs molded by the Adriatic, makes the ideal base for exploration of the region. Weave through Old Town's village streets, fragrant with flowering plants, and experience the warm hospitality of local residents.

Excursion: *Beautiful Bari.*

Colorful fishing boats bob in the harbor of Apulia's capital city. Tour this historic port and

glimpse daily southern life amid the entrancing passages of Old Town. Visit the Basilica of St. Nicholas, Bari's patron saint. Traverse the seafront promenade and stroll the Murat quarter.

Local Flavor: Enjoy regional specialties for lunch in Bari.

DAY FOUR

LECCE AND OSTUNI

B/L

Educational Focus: *Lecce and Ostuni's Architectural History.* Learn the storied past behind two of Apulia's great architectural treasures. Lecce and Ostuni were once settled by the Greek and Messapi, from there the stories diverge. Lecce is celebrated for its 17th-century baroque style, while Ostuni's fame is derived from its Greek-influenced whitewashed buildings.

Excursion: *Baroque Lecce.* Travel to Lecce and visit the Basilica of Santa Croce, the quintessence of Lecce baroque. Wander the Roman amphitheater, which once held 20,000 spectators.

Local Flavor: Enjoy a delicious lunch in Lecce.

Excursion: *The White Town.* Gleaming in Italian sunshine, Ostuni's whitewashed buildings cascade over the side of its hilltop perch. Lose yourself in the labyrinthine passages of the city's Old Town. Visit the magnificent cathedral and walk the ancient city walls for wonderful vistas of olive groves and the sea.





Polignano a Mare



UNESCO

The Trulli of Alberobello, The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera, and Castel del Monte are UNESCO World Heritage Sites featured in this program. These sites are distinguished due to universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.



Above far left: Trulli of Alberobello
Above left: Castle del Monte

to mind ancient times and has been the setting for many films.

Local Flavor: Savor southern cuisine for lunch in Matera.

Excursion: *Trulli Fascinating Alberobello.* Found only in Apulia, more than 1,000 mysterious dwellings known as *trulli* cluster the cobblestone streets of Alberobello.

DAY FIVE

BISCEGLIE AND TRANI B/L

Educational Focus: *Meet the People.*

Visit a family-run olive farm in Bisceglie for a guided tour. Learn the fascinating history and cultivation process.

Local Flavor: Enjoy an olive oil tasting followed by a hearty lunch.

Excursion: *Discovering Trani.* Journey north along the coast to Trani, a key port city in the Middle Ages. View the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Nicholas dramatically perched at the Adriatic's edge. Explore the Jewish Ghetto, once home to southern Italy's largest Jewish community. Visit the extensively restored 13th-century fort.

DAY SIX

MATERA AND ALBEROBELLO B/L/D

Excursion: *Sassi di Matera.* Explore Matera and its rock-hewn cave dwellings known as *sassi*. The stark landscape brings

DAY SEVEN

ANDRIA AND CORATO B/L

Excursion: *Castle del Monte.* Visit this magnum opus of secular medieval architecture commissioned by Frederick II of Hohenstaufen in the 13th century. The bastion's octagonal shape symbolizes the transitional phase between Earth and the heavens. Enigmatic symmetries and the eclectic blend of architecture are intriguing.

Cultural Event: Apulia produces more wine than almost any other region of Italy. Visit a working winery in Corato and learn how Apulia's autochthonous grapes are transformed into fragrant reds, roses and whites.

Local Flavor: Sample regional varieties followed by lunch at the winery.

Far left: Basilica of Santa Croce, Lecce

Lower left: Interior of church, Matera

Architecture of Apulia

For centuries cultures have ebbed and flowed in Apulia, leaving architectural gems everywhere. Of particular fascination are the *trulli* dwellings, Lecce baroque and the *sassi* of Matera. Found only in Apulia, the mysterious dome-shaped *trulli* are constructed from thick slabs of the area's limestone without the need of mortar or scaffolding. Conical fieldstone roofs are painted with primitive Christian and pagan symbols. Legends abound concerning the origins of these whitewashed structures, including one theorizing their creation as a 15th-century tax dodge due to the ease of their demolition and reconstruction. Lecce's exuberant 17th-century baroque architecture earned it the name, *Florence of the South*. Lecce baroque is characterized by lavish decorative elements and impossibly intricate carvings which cover entire surfaces of both religious and secular buildings. Matera's rock-hewn cave dwellings known as *sassi* were initially gouged from limestone tufa by troglodytic nomads. Later, blocks were cut adding rooms and ornate façades. Honeycombed throughout the *sassi* are more than 100 rock churches featuring delicate frescoes. These were carved by monks seeking refuge from the Byzantine Empire between the 8th and 13th centuries.



DAY EIGHT

POLIGNANO A MARE B/D

Educational Focus: *Italy and Apulia Today*. In 2011, Italy celebrated the 150th anniversary of its unification as a single state. Join a discussion concerning contemporary Italian society. Compare the rich cultural heritage and slower-paced lifestyle of southern Apulia with its northern neighbors.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy leisure time to further explore Polignano a Mare or other intriguing areas of the countryside.

Celebrate with fellow travelers at a *Farewell Reception and Dinner* at the hotel.

DAY NINE IN TRANSIT B

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.†

Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

† Provided for Air Program participants.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- Spend **seven nights** in **Polignano a Mare** at the first class **Hotel Covo dei Saraceni**.

Meals

- **Enjoy an extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, five lunches and four dinners, in addition to in-flight dining service†. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** at local restaurants.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Dinner**.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For full details please refer to the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word of your expert English-speaking guides.
- **All excursions:**
 - Tour the historic village of **Polignano a Mare**.
 - Visit the ancient seaport of **Bari**.
 - Admire the baroque architecture of **Lecce**.
 - Explore **Ostuni's** "White Town."
 - Wander the medieval Jewish Ghetto in **Trani**.
 - See **Alberobello's** fairy-tale *trulli*.
 - Explore **Matera's** rock-hewn *sassi*.
 - Tour the enigmatic **Castle del Monte**.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a friendly, professional **Campus Director** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL COVO DEI SARACENI

On a rocky promontory overlooking the Adriatic Sea, the first class Hotel Covo Dei Saraceni is near the historic center of Polignano a Mare, reflecting the authentic character of this quaint coastal town. After an active day of exploring, unwind with a glass of wine or a meal at Il Bastione. The hotel's restaurant offers terrace seating with panoramic views, and specializes in fresh seafood and delicious regional cuisine. Each spacious room showcases a stunning view of the sea, and features wrought-iron accents, ceramic tile flooring, and air conditioning.



Reserve your trip to Apulia today!

For Office Use Only: B #: _____ Date: _____
Trip #: 2-20044W PSR: _____

Send to: MIT Alumni Travel Program
600 Memorial Drive, W98-2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

Please contact the MIT Alumni Travel Program at **800-992-6749** or AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) _____
Title First Middle Last MIT Affiliation

(2) _____
Title First Middle Last MIT Affiliation

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Home: (_____) _____

Office: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land and Air Program

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the roundtrip Air Program to and from Bari, Italy, to depart from:

Departure City _____

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **January 26, 2012** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

*Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be canceled with **no obligation up to 75 days before departure.***

Land Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.

Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$895 (limited availability).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.

Charge my deposit to: MasterCard Visa

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

Need pre- or post-trip assistance? *

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact **AHI Travel** at **800-323-7373** no later than **60 days prior to departure** and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations.

* A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.

LAND PROGRAM

April 11-18, 2012

Full Price

\$2,745

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price

\$2,495*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$145 per person.

All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated) and are subject to change without notice. Single accommodations are an additional \$895 (limited availability).

AIR PROGRAM

April 10-18, 2012

Take advantage of AHI Travel's exclusive Group Air Program, which provides the benefit of specially negotiated rates on major commercial airlines worldwide. Participants enjoy advanced seat assignments on most airlines; guaranteed arrival and departure transfers with baggage handling; a price guarantee that covers airfare, fuel surcharges and all taxes; and many other benefits.

AHI can also make flight arrangements for passengers who wish to fly independent of the Group Air Program.

All passengers who book their flights through AHI automatically receive flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms. Please indicate how you would like us to handle your air on the Reservation Form or call us to discuss your flight options. Special business-class upgrades are available on select international flights.

AHI Travel's exclusive Air Program provides special advantages for travelers who are flying on our designated group flights.

NOT INCLUDED-Domestic and International air transportation; transfers to and from the airports; fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares and includes components listed on this page in the left hand column. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any arrival and departure transfers, and airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS - On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

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Top to bottom:

Ceramic pottery, Apulia
Cathedral of St. Nicholas,
Trani

Craftsmen, Lecce
Polignano a Mare

Letter page photo (right):

The White Town, Ostuni

Cover photos:

Trulli houses in Alberobello



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Cambridge, MA 02139

ITAPULLIA12 70

*"The campus lecturers were
wonderful, the campus director
was top notch, and our MIT
group was very congenial."*

~ Anne and
Kreon Cyros '56, SM '62,
Campus Abroad:
Cortona, 2010

**Please call or refer to our
website for the most current
program information,
discounts and pricing.**

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel