

Jubilee Rome and a Week in Puglia, Italy - a Bucketeer Adventure

24 Persons Max

Day 1 November 2, 2025

Depart the USA for Rome

Day 2. November 3, 2025

Arrive Rome. Transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the city.

Day 3. November 4, 2025

A private driver/guide will take us to Rome's Four Major Basilicas: **St Peter's Basilica**, the Basilica of **St John in Lateran**, the Basilica of **St Mary Major**, and the Basilica of **St Paul Outside the Walls**. We will enter through the Jubilee Doors and have ample time at each location for tours of these magnificent Basilicas and private moments.

Breakfast

Day 4. November 5, 2025

The morning is free to continue your exploration. Tours are available to the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel.

Afternoon. We are on a 1pm high-speed train to Bari, Italy.

Our Tauck guides will meet us at the Bari train station transfer us to our luxury hotel, set in a 15th-century stone palace in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Matera in Basilicata.

Nestled on the tip of Italy's boot, Puglia welcomes with seaside delights, mouthwatering cuisine and entire cities resplendent in art, architecture and warm hospitality. Join us this evening for a rooftop welcome reception, followed by dinner.

Breakfast Dinner Palazzo Gattini →



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Day 5, November 6, 2025

The Sassi of Matera

First up today is a visit to Casa Noha, an Italian National Historic site. Following our visit, we'll meet our local guide to explore this unique city, home to a settlement of cave dwellings that dates back to Paleolithic times – and one that starred in Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*. As we explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site, our local guide shares insights about Matera's famous rock dwellings, known as Sassi (for "stone"), which you'll see piled haphazardly atop one another across the sides of a steep ravine; they began back in antiquity as natural caves and grottoes, and over the centuries were adapted as homes, and were lived in until 1960. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant; the rest of the day is yours to explore as you wish.

Breakfast, Lunch Palazzo Gattini →

Day 6. November 7, 2025

Baroque treasures of Lecce

We drive through the countryside to Lecce today, stopping enroute at a winery known for its Apulian Primitivo wine; we'll have a tour of the wine museum, followed by lunch, that's paired with a wine tasting, then travel to our hotel in Lecce. In Lecce we'll enjoy an orientation tour of the city, regarded as the "Florence of the South" before some time at leisure exploring as you wish; dine this evening at a local restaurant.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Risorgimento Resort →

Day 7 November 8, 2025

A day in Lecce & a special evening

A guided walking tour of the city's 300-year-old cobblestone streets includes a close look at its Baroque monuments and architectural site – the ornate 15th-century Chiesa di Santa Chiara; the 2nd-century Roman Amphitheater, unearthed in 1901; the Piazza del Duomo; and more. Dinner tonight is at an authentic masseria, where you'll enjoy a family-style farm-to-table menu that showcases ingredients grown on site and "Officina Zoe" pizzica folk music and dance.

Breakfast, Dinner Risorgimento Resort →



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Day 8 November 9, 2025

Galatina and seaside Otranto

We'll head to nearby Galatina, home of the "Tarantella," for a tour of the Basilica di Santa Caterina d'Alessandria where we will view impressive frescoes depicting biblical stories. On a visit inside the Baroque Chiesa di San Paolo, see the church well that was reputed to have healing powers. After lunch, we bus to the fortified seaside town of Otranto for a guided walking tour of its historic sites. See its famous castle and visit its medieval cathedral, home to a magnificent floor mosaic (and wooden coffered ceiling) along with its macabre crypts. Return to our hotel, where your evening is free to spend as you please.

Breakfast, Lunch Risorgimento Resort →

Day 9 November 10, 2025

Trulli houses in Alberobello

Regulated by an edict enforced by the Kingdom of Naples in the 15th century, mortarless buildings and homes in the southern region of Puglia called *trulli* were constructed only of stone during that time, with many still standing distinctively intact today. Today, we visit the "barnyard district" of Rione Aia Piccola in the town of Alberobello, tightly packed with alleys lined by whitewashed trulli once inhabited by the farmers who built them. There are no shops or cars here, lending to the authenticity of this unique experience. This afternoon, following lunch and a class in making pasta, we'll bus to our *Masseria* hotel; all Masseria hotels are inland as they were original farmhouses, not on the sea.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Masseria Il Melograno →

Day 10 November 11, 2025

Seaside Polignano a Mare & a farewell dinner

Built into a rugged ravine pitted with caves and painted with deep blue grottoes, the seaside town of Polignano a Mare is renowned for its cliff diving; for inspiring the 1958 international hit song "Nel blu dipinto di blu" (a.k.a. "Volare") by Italian singer, songwriter, actor and Parliament member Domenico Modugno (who was born here) and known for its special coffee. Enjoy time to wander in town before returning to our resort. Join Tony and Nancy Cassano and your Bucketeer friends for a farewell reception and dinner tonight.

Breakfast, Dinner Masseria Il Melograno →



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Day 11 November 12, 2025

Journey home

Trip ends: Monopoli. Fly home anytime or we can arrange a custom tour extension in Italy or elsewhere in Europe. A transfer is included from Masseria Il Melograno to Bari Karol Wojtyła Airport or Brindisi Airport, regardless of time or day of departure. Ask at booking about extending your stay with additional hotel nights. You should allow three hours for flight check in.

Optional Bucketeer Adventure –

Today Tony and Nancy Cassano of Go Bucket List Travel will be flying on to Barcelona to meet our next group who will cruise from Barcelona to Lisbon. You are free to join us on this adventure.



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