

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.
95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1, Canada
Tel: 519-756-4900 / 519-753-2695 - Fax: 519-753-6376
tours@pauwelstravel.com – www.pauwelstravel.com



“Trulli” near the town of Alberobello (Photo by Marcok, free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)

“THE OTHER ITALY”: A LEISURELY TOUR OF ITALY’S SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF PUGLIA - PLUS ROME

14 days, from Friday, September 22 to Thursday, October 5, 2017

A leisurely exploration of the isolated and little-known, but scenic and fascinating “heel” of the Italian “boot,” the province of Puglia (a.k.a. Apulia), offering fabulous coastal and mountain scenery, Ancient Greek as well as Roman, Medieval, and Baroque historical towns, sites and monuments - and delicious food and fine wines! Tour escorted by Sandra Pauwels.

**Tour price, based on double occupancy: \$4,895 CAD from Toronto including airport taxes;
Single supplement: \$725 – Land only \$3,840.00**

TOUR ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Friday, September 22: Late evening departure on Alitalia’s non-stop flight from Toronto to Rome.

Day 2 – Saturday, September 23: Arrival in Rome in early afternoon, and short connecting flight to Brindisi, one of the major cities in the Italian province of Apulia, known as Puglia in Italian. A private coach will be waiting to take us immediately to **Lecce**, an Apulian city famous for its baroque churches and palaces. Check into the centrally-located 5-star/deluxe Hotel Santa Chiara (www.santachiaralecce.it) and free time to settle in. Welcome drink and dinner in the hotel’s fine restaurant.

Day 3 – Sunday, September 24: Morning walking tour of Lecce. Known as the “Baroque Florence,” this city features countless buildings and monuments in the Baroque style typical for its “golden age,” lasting from the 16th to the 18th centuries, such as Santa Croce Basilica and other churches with exuberant exteriors as well as

interiors, the palaces along elegant Via Palmieri, and harmonious Piazza del Duomo, one of most beautiful squares in southern Italy. In the afternoon we enjoy a leisurely drive around the tip of the “heel” of the Italian “boot,” a region known as the Salento. Stops will be made in **Otranto**, the most oriental of all Italian cities, overlooking the narrow stretch of water between the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas, known as the Strait of Otranto, and **Gallipoli**, an ancient town on an offshore island. Return to Lecce. No group dinner this evening.



< Lecce's Piazza del Duomo (photo by M. Kabel c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 4 – September 25: Full-day excursion to the Adriatic seaport of **Brindisi**, in Antiquity the terminus of the famous Appian Way, still marked today by two Roman columns; and the hilltop town of **Ostuni**, an architectural jewel commonly referred to as “the White Town” for its mostly white-painted architecture. We will also be introduced to the fine wines of Puglia during a visit to **Castel**

di Salve, one of the province's leading wineries! (www.casteldisalve.com). No group dinner this evening.

Day 5 – Tuesday, September 26: Excursion to **Taranto**, one of the most important Greek seaports in southern Italy since the time when the ancient Greeks settled here, in the land they called *Megalè Hellas* (Latin: *Magna Graecia*), “Greater Greece.” The quaint old town occupies a peninsula tucked between a bay of the Gulf of Taranto, called *Mar Grande*, “Big Sea,” and a lagoon called *Mar Piccola*, “Little Sea.” Highlights will be the palm tree-lined waterfront promenade, the Aragonese Castle, the Cathedral, and the remains of a Greek temple. We also visit the National Archaeological Museum, featuring countless mementoes of the Hellenic past of this city and region, including beautiful statues and vases, and there will be some free time for shopping. Late afternoon return to our hotel in Lecce. No group dinner this evening.

Day 6 – Wednesday, September 27: Departure from Lecce after breakfast. We motor via the picturesque walled town of **Locorotondo**, where we stop for a mid-morning cappuccino, to the region of the “**Trulli**,” curious dwellings with conical roofs in and around the town of **Alberobello**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/727>). In the afternoon we continue to **Matera**, the picturesque little capital of the mountainous province of Basilicata, whose name conjures up the title of the Byzantine governors of southern Italy, *basilos*. The main attraction here are the *Sassi*, “pebbles,” a troglodyte settlement of houses, some of them already inhabited in the Stone Age, and no less than 130 ancient Byzantine churches (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/670>). Late afternoon arrival in **Bari**, Puglia's biggest city and a busy Adriatic seaport connecting Italy to Greece. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located 4-star/first-class Hotel Oriente (www.orientehotelbari.com).

Day 7 – Thursday, September 28: Morning sightseeing tour of Bari, with as highlights the impressive Romanesque Basilica dedicated to the immensely popular Saint Nicholas with his Turkish-Greek connection (to be explained by your tour guide), the Cathedral, the castle built by German Emperor Frederick II, and the rest of the attractive, labyrinthine old town (*Bari Vecchia*) as well as the monumental waterfront. Afternoon free to shop, explore the city on your own, and/or visit museums like the Archaeological Museum and the Pinacoteca, featuring Byzantine icons as well as paintings by Italian masters such as Tintoretto, Bellini, Veronese, and De Chirico. No group dinner this evening.

Day 8 – Friday, September 29: Departure from Bari after breakfast. We motor inland and visit **Castel del Monte**, a mighty medieval castle in a lonely but scenic setting, built by Emperor Frederick II and a unique blend of Cistercian and other occidental as well as oriental, i.e. Byzantine and Islamic, architecture (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/398>). Return to the Adriatic Coast via the area that witnessed the 216BC Battle of Cannae, Hannibal's most famous victory against the Romans, a perfect excuse for your tour guide to talk about

the Carthaginian Wars. We pause in the town of **Barletta**, an important seaport in Antiquity and in the Middle Ages, to view the “Colossus,” a huge bronze 4th-century statue of a Roman emperor. Then we continue along the coast to the mountainous and forested **Gargano Peninsula**, the “spur” of the Italian boot, one of Italy’s most unusual and scenic regions. Dinner and overnight in the 4-star/first-class Forte Hotel, centrally located in the picturesque coastal town of **Vieste** (www.fortehotelvieste.com).



< Castel del Monte (Photo by Travus c/of Wikimedia Commons)

Michael’s Way, which started in Cornwall and reached Italy via a string of other famous sanctuaries devoted to the Archangel, such as the Mont St. Michel. And we finish with a scenic drive along the peninsula’s magnificent coast, dotted with fabulous beaches, rocky promontories, and offshore rocks known as *faraglioni*, plus quaint resorts such as Vieste, where we return in late afternoon for some individual exploration and shopping, followed by dinner again in the restaurant of our hotel.



The town of Vieste, on the coast of the Gargano Peninsula (Photo by Idéfix c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 10 – Sunday, October 1: Scenic all-day drive to Rome, a total distance of just over 400 km. First we continuing to follow the Adriatic coastline, leaving Puglia and entering the small province of **Molise**, tucked between the Adriatic and the Apennine Mountains. Short stop in the seaside resort and seaport of **Termoli**, liberated in the fall of 1943 by Canadian troops who called it “Maple Leaf City”! Then we turn inland, enter the Abruzzi region, and cross the rugged **Abruzzo National Park**, with its forest-covered mountains inhabited by a variety of wildlife, including bears and wolves. Lunch of regional culinary specialties in a typical restaurant! Via the town of **Sulmona** we reach **Rome** in late afternoon. Accommodation in a 4-star/first-class hotel for the next 4 nights.

Day 11 – Monday, October 2: Morning exploration of “Imperial Rome,” featuring the still very impressive ruins dating back to the time of the Roman Empire and rulers such as Caesar, Augustus, Nero, and Trajan. Highlights will include the Colosseum, the Imperial Forums and the Roman Forum (flanked by the over-the-top Monument to King Victor Emmanuel, known as the “Wedding Cake”!), the Circus Maximus, the triumphal arches of Constantine and Titus, and Trajan’s Column. In the afternoon, leisurely walking tour to the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. Group dinner in our hotel or in a neighbouring restaurant.

The Tiber, St. Peter's Basilica, and St. Angel's Castle on a painting of 1834 by Rudolf Wiegmann (illustration, free of copyright c/o Wikimedia Commons)



Day 12 – Tuesday, October 3: This morning we focus on Vatican City, with thorough visits to St. Peter's Basilica with its huge central altar, papal crypt, treasury, massive dome and Michelangelo's evocative *Pietà*, as well as the Vatican Museum, featuring frescoes by Raphael, paintings by Giotto, and antiquities such as the celebrated Hellenistic sculpture, *Laocoön*. But the absolute highlight will of course be the Sistine Chapel, venue of the papal elections, with Michelangelo's superb paintings. In the afternoon, leisurely exploration (on foot) of the picturesque district around Piazza Navona and the Pantheon. No group dinner this evening.

Day 13 – Wednesday, October 4: Your last day in Rome is at leisure, except for this evening "arrivederci"-dinner in a typical ristorante!

Day 14 – Thursday, October 5: After a leisurely breakfast, transfer to Fiumicino Airport and return flight from Rome to Toronto, departing around 3 and arriving around 7PM.

TOUR COST, \$4,895.00 from Toronto including all airport taxes - Land only \$3,840.00

Single Room Supplement: \$725

Included in the tour price:

- Return flights on Alitalia including airport taxes;
- Overland travel in a private coach;
- Accommodation in first class/4-star hotels, in double occupancy (the single room supplement is \$725);
- Daily breakfast and seven dinners (or occasionally full lunches);
- All sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary, including admission fees;
- Gratuity for the coach driver;
- Services of a tour escort as well as local guides.

Not Included:

- All items of a personal nature;
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- Travel Insurance, available upon request.



Map of Puglia, c/of <http://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/italy/apulia.html>

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Ont. Reg. #1034992

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
45 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates. Pauwels Travel will research any request for date or routing changes at the time they are requested. Should any individual rate be less than the group fare plus airline and administrative fees, the lower rate will be offered to the tour participant. Individual airfares are subject to immediate ticketing and the fare plus taxes must be paid at the time the ticket is issued by the participant requesting the change. Should the group airfare be the lowest available rate, an administrative fee of \$50.00 plus any airline charges will apply.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat(s) on the "Other Italy tour" September 22 – October 5, 2017.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights _____ or Land only _____.

Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an interim payment of \$1500.00 and the balance due 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S): **Please** indicate the appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS _____

Postal Code: _____ PHONE: _____ (Email) _____

If traveling alone, is a SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED? YES _____ NO _____

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin _____ double _____?

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc here.

We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

Insurance, Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I/we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

All-inclusive Package \$ _____ Non-medical Package \$ _____

Other \$ _____ **OR Decline Insurance (Please sign here)** _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____ Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment".

Date _____ (Signature)(s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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Email: tours@pauwelstravel.com

