

JCC Metrowest Culinary Trip to Italy
Apulia, Bari and the Adriatic Coast
May 11-19, 2020
(Draft Itinerary as of 9/12/19)*

Depart USA

Monday, May 11

Meet at the JCC and we will travel together to JFK to catch our Alitalia flight to Bari connecting in Rome.

Arrive in Bari

Tuesday, May 12

We will be greeted at the airport and escorted to our hotel in Torre Santa Sabina. En route to the hotel we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Leisure time to unpack and relax before our welcome dinner.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Cooking Class and Ostuni

Wednesday, May 13

Specialty of the Day: Panzerotti and Orecchiette Pasta

Drive to Ostuni, also known as the “White City of Puglia”. This stunning small town, made of a labyrinth of winding streets and stairs, offers exceptional views over the surrounding ancient olive groves. In the afternoon we immerse ourselves in a cooking class at a local farmhouse. At the end of the class we will enjoy our delicious homemade meal.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Grottoes of Castellana and Alberobello

Thursday, May 14

Specialty of the day: Homemade pasta and seafood

This morning we will visit the **Castellana Grottoes**, one of the most important tourist attractions of Puglia. The underground tunnels are as long as a mile and offer an amazing scenario of stalactites and stalagmites. We will proceed to the town of **Alberobello** with its unique cone shaped **Trulli houses**.

Tonight we will savor a delicious **dinner in a Trullo** and enjoy local delicacies like homemade pasta and seafood.

Meals include: Breakfast, Dinner

Castel del Monte and Trani

Friday, May 15

Specialty of the day: Seafood and Trani Wine

Today we visit the world-famous Castel del Monte, built by Federico II as a hunting lodge. We continue to Trani and visit the Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino, the “Queen of the Cathedrals. **Lunch at a local seafood restaurant**. In the afternoon visit the ancient **Synagogue of Sant’Anna** with its Jewish history exposition. Enjoy a festive Shabbat dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Matera and Cisternino

Saturday, May 16

Specialty of the day: Olive oil

Today we start off with a visit to Matera with its famous “sassi” (stones). This city, considered a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**, was built into the hills and ravines made of soft tufa stone. The local people carved their homes right into the sassi where they lived in cave-like homes. **Lunch at a local restaurant.** Board our motor coach to Cisternino for a **visit at an olive oil mill** where we will also enjoy an **oil tasting**. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals include: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Jewish Lecce and Otranto

Sunday, May 17

Specialty of the day: Salice Salentino wine

Today's tour takes us to **Lecce**, also called the “Florence of the South”. The magnificent baroque buildings, palaces, churches and the ancient amphitheater make this city truly unique. Our **guided tour of Jewish Lecce** will examine the main phases of Jewish history and will focus on the **Jewish Museum**, which stands on the remains of a 15th-century Synagogue. We will then discover much more of the town's Jewish past visiting the “Giudecca”, the **old Jewish neighborhood**. Our next stop will be in the **Salice Salentino wine area** where we visit the oldest wine cellar of this region. We then make our way to Otranto. **Otranto's** most important attraction is the 12th century mosaic in the town's Romanesque cathedral. Dinner at hotel.

Meals include: Breakfast, Dinner

Polignano a Mare and Bari

Monday, May 18

Specialty of the day: Gelato

Time at leisure in **Polignano a Mare**. This picturesque village is famous for its grottoes and breathtaking position on a cliff overlooking the sea. We proceed to **Bari, the capital of the Puglia region**. The major sights are the Basilica of San Nicola, the Cathedral and the Castle of Ruggero II. Enjoy a boat ride along the stunning sea grottoes. We will stop at a **traditional Gelateria** to get the real Italian ice-cream experience. Dinner at hotel.

Meals include: Breakfast, Dinner

Departure/Return to USA

Tuesday, May 19

Breakfast and check out for transfer to Bari Airport, connect in Rome and arrive at JFK. We will travel as a group back to the JCC. *Meals Include: Breakfast*

Ciao Italy!

Our memorable journey has come to an end!

****Itinerary is subject to change without notice. Activities may take place in a different order.***

Wonderful, unexpected opportunities may arise throughout the week!

Some surprises too!