



Randonnée Tours

Puglia Cycling 9 Days

Summary

Length

9 days/8 nights, with 8 days of cycling

Dates

Can start any date between March to November

Level

Level of Activity: Moderate
D1: 27 km; D2 42 km or 70 km; D3: 42 km or 65 km; D4: 36 km or 64 km; D5: 70 km; D6: 60 km or 110 km; D7: 40 km; D8:

You spend two nights in two locations, so you can take time off from cycling on some days

"The overall experience: It was a good tour for a couple with a variety of cycle touring experience. It got us to a part of Italy that we would not have seen had it not been for a suggestion from Eve Cabanel. We would definitely do it again."

- S. Danno & M. McNeill

"Puglia is the new 'in' place to cycle in Italy. The region combines moderate cycling, quiet roads, wonderfully charming towns including the Unesco Heritage Site of Alberobello, food and wine that is drawing rave reviews from food lovers and last but not least, exquisite hotels. Beginning in Monopoli and finishing 7 days later in Otranto you'll see the best of this region, all the while enjoying distinctive lodging and exquisite meals. Buon appetito!

Itinerary



Day 1

Monopoli
The meeting time can be as early as 11:00 at the hotel in Monopoli, where our area manager will do bike fit and

answer any questions you may have. The ride on this day is a loop ride to Egnazia, a Roman port city dating to the 5th century, where remnants of the ancient road to Rome, a beautiful Acropolis and other monuments still exist. Back in Monopoli there are many tempting restaurants that you can choose between. Ride distance: 27 km

Day 2

Monopoli

Today's ride is along the Adriatic to the vibrant fishing village of Polignano a Mare, where white-washed buildings appear built out of the limestone cliffs and the winding streets are adorned with flowers and plants. Enjoy one of the chic cafes here before continuing on to Conversano for lunch. You'll have an option to return directly back to Monopoli or take a longer route via Castellana Grotte where underground caves can be explored. Ride distance: 42 km or 70 km



Day 3

Locorotondo
You'll cycle to the Unesco World Heritage site of Alberobello which boasts over 1500 *trulli* distinctive round stone build-

ings with conical slate roofs. Visit local artisan workshop with knitted goods, linen tablecloths and delightful handmade story dolls. The short option will take you directly to Locorotondo, with more *trulli*. A longer option will take in the Bosco delle Pianelle Nature Reserve. Either way, we recommend allowing time for a wine tasting in town before dinner as this region is well-known for its white DOC wines. Ride distance: 42 km or 65 km

Day 4

Locorotondo

On your second day here, there is a wonderful ride to the sea-side town of Grottaglie or a shorter option that will have you back early for further exploration of Locorotondo. Ride distances: 35 km or 70 km



How to get there?

Getting there: Our trip starts in Monopoli:

If you stay in Bari the night before the trip begins, you can take a 12:27 train from Bari Centrale station to Monopoli, arriving at 12:51 p.m.

Taking the train to Monopoli from Rome, Milan or Florence

From Rome: There are five daily departures from Rome's Termini station to Monopoli. We recommend arriving in Bari or Monopoli a day early, but if you choose to leave Rome on the day the trip begins, the 7:38 a.m. train from Rome's Termini station arrives in Monopoli at 12:51 p.m. and we'll arrange for the Area Manager to meet you on arrival. (train schedules are subject to change without warning-please check the train schedules before departing).

From Milan or Florence: Train travel from Milan or Florence is also an option, but it is a long trip. Average travel time from Milan to Monopoli is 9 ½ hours; average travel time from Florence to Monopoli is 8 hours. There is one overnight train from Florence to Monopoli, arriving in the early morning, but otherwise to travel from either of these destinations, you need to plan on arriving in Monopoli the day before the trip starts.

Itinerary

Day 5
Ostuni
Start your day cycling to Martina Franca, an ancient city with stone walls, stunning piazzas and tiny winding streets. You'll pass through olive groves, vineyards, and forested lands on a road with very little traffic. Enjoy a picnic in Cisternino or sample one of the specialties of this city, *bombettes*, a type of roasted meatball in one of the many restaurants. We'll finish the day in Ostuni, known as the "white city" with its Arab influenced architecture and a labyrinth of streets designed to confuse invaders. Don't miss a visit to a local hand made ceramic shop. Tonight, we have arranged a cooking class at a local trattoria where you will enjoy eating the apulian specialties you prepared. Ride distance: 36 km or 64 km

Day 6
Otranto
This day will start with a transfer by local train to Torre Rinalda for a coastal ride with the aquamarine Adriatic at your side. The sea-side town of San Foca awaits you for lunch (we recommend a gelato here) and afterwards you'll continue south to historical Otranto, the most eastern point on the Italian peninsula. Ride distance: 70 km

Day 7
Otranto
This is the one of the most rewarding ride today! For those who want the challenge, we've included a century ride option all the way to Marina dei Leuca. Both rides will take in Santa Cesarea Terme, with unsurpassed architectural and natural beauty in one of Italy's most serene locations. Back in Otranto, enjoy the lively nightlife in this town. Ride distance: 30 km, 60 km or 100 km

Day 8
Lecce
You'll ride into Lecce today, and the route is through quiet countryside where the local dialect is similar to ancient Greek. Arriving to Lecce, sometimes referred to as the 'Florence of the south', you'll be astounded by the architecture, and cultural attractions. Best seen on a walking tour, we'll provide a local guide to show you the sites on an afternoon walk.

Day 9
Departure

Accommodation

Classic



Bellavista B&B
Monopoli
Located in the historic center of Monopoli, Bellavista has stunning views of the Adriatic sea. The rooms are comfortable and elegantly furnished. Rated Number 1 on Trip advisor.



Randonnée Tours

The Price includes:

- 8 nights hotels
- All breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Cooking class and dinner included
- Use of a top quality 21-speed hybrid bike complete with pump, and all the necessary accessories for changing flats. We recommend that you bring your own helmet for safety and hygiene reasons
- Detailed route instructions and map
- Luggage transfers
- Area Manager available throughout the tour
- Guided Walking tour in Lecce

Accommodation

Classic



Hotel Le Cummerse

Locorotondo

This hotel comprises a group of historic apartments or *casas*, each unique and distinctive in the old town center.



La Terra Hotel

Ostuni

Occupying a 13th century palace, and adjacent to St. Peter's Benedictine monastery, this family run hotel sits in the center of Ostuni; there is a wonderful restaurant here and a charming bar built quarried out of stone.



Masseria Bandino

Otranto

This former 17th century manor house sits in 5 ha of park and features an outdoor pool and large comfortable rooms. The surrounding area is rich in olive trees, citrus plantations, and the Salentine beaches are only a few kilometres distance.



L'orangerie D'epoque

Lecce

Located In the heart of Lecce, L'orangerie d'Epoque offers elegant accommodation in a 19th-century palazzo next to the old walled city.

The building encloses an enchanting garden filled with orange trees and the rooms are furnished with beautiful family antiques.

Luxe



Masseria Torre Coccaro

Savelletri di Fasano

This old beautiful white-washed Masseria (a large olive-producing farm) was transformed into a luxurious 5 star hotel. It is set in a vaste estate with olive groves and wonderful sea views. The hotel has a large swimming pool, two restaurants, a cooking school, fitness room, private chapel, wine tasting, 9 holes of golf on-site, and a spa with indoor pool that is tucked within an ancient cave.



"Very pleased with the accommodation!! Wonderful location and high standards. We loved the destination, perfect choice of town and cities, would not have changed a thing. We had the trip of a lifetime! It was the perfect mixture of natural beauty, culture, food, exercise and elegance. We are counting down the days until our next summer with Randonnee!"

- S & M Colomby

Accommodation

Luxe



Il Palmento

Locorotondo

This 4 star *masseria* has been built in the *trulli* style, typical of the region. The rooms are elegant and comfortable and the hotel boasts two swimming pools.



Ostuni Palace

Ostuni

This 4 star boutique and modern hotel boasts a magnificent view of the picturesque White City. The rooms are elegant and comfortable and its restaurant serves delicious regional dishes and has a wine list with over 300 labels.



Palazzo Dè Mori

Otranto

Wonderfully located in the heart of the historical center, all rooms boast sea views; breakfast is served outside on the terrace facing the port! Magic.



Patria Palace

Lecce

A 4-star hotel in the centre of town, with great ambience, individually decorated rooms and a roof-top solarium with great views of the city.