



CAMMINO MATERANO SUMMER

type : Hiking Tours Self-Guided
 level : 
 duration : 15 days
 period: Apr May Jun Jul Sep Oct
 code: ITSM005

Matera & Salento Coastal Walk - Italy

15 days, PRICE FROM € 1802



Embark on an unforgettable **Matera and Salento walking tour**, a self-guided walking adventure through Puglia that combines the first part of the Cammino Materano with the stunning Salento coastal trail.

Your journey begins in **Bari**, from where you set off on the **Materano route** through rolling countryside and rugged gorges, arriving in **Gravina in Puglia**. The scenery alternates between **olive groves, rocky ravines, and charming villages**, immersing you in authentic southern Italy.

Next, you are transferred to **Matera** for a leisure day to **explore the iconic Sassi district, a UNESCO World Heritage site**, and soak in the city's unique atmosphere. The adventure continues in **Alberobello, Monopoli, and Lecce**, with time to explore at your own pace among **trulli houses, whitewashed streets, baroque architecture, and lively piazzas**.

Finally, follow the **Salento coastal walk from Otranto to Bari**, walking along **crystal-clear waters, golden beaches, and dramatic cliffs**, with daily opportunities to swim and enjoy the Mediterranean sun.

This trip is perfect for active travelers looking for a **walking holiday in Puglia** that blends hiking, culture, and coastal landscapes, with plenty of time to relax and discover southern Italy's hidden gems.

Route

Day 1 Arrival in Bari

Welcome to **Bari**, the starting point of your walking adventure!

Take some time to **stretch your legs** and explore **Bari's charming old town**, the historic **port**, and lively **streets**. This is the **perfect chance to soak in the atmosphere**, enjoy local flavors, and prepare for the days of walking ahead.

Day 2 Transfer to Santeramo and walk to Altamura, 24 km

Today your journey begins with a **private transfer from Bari to Santeramo**, the starting point of your walk. From here, you set off on foot through the heart of the **Alta Murgia National Park**. In spring, the landscape is dotted with colorful wildflowers, while in summer it takes on a striking, almost lunar appearance with warm shades of sun-burnt grass.

Along the way, you pass white **rural farmhouses, ancient jazzi** (traditional animal enclosures), **archaeological remains, and caves once adorned with frescoes**. By the end of the walk, you arrive in **Altamura**, a town that captures authentic Apulian life, with its lively main street, locals gathering in the piazzas, and the unmistakable scent of its famous DOP durum wheat bread baking daily.

A **highlight of your visit** is the **Archaeological Museum, dedicated to the Altamura Man — a remarkably preserved Neanderthal skeleton** discovered in a nearby cave. While the original remains rest undisturbed in the cave, the museum displays a fascinating life-size reconstruction.

Distance: 24,4 km

Elevation gain: +300/-337 m

Day 3 From Altamura to Gravina in Puglia, 20 km

Today you walk through **open countryside dotted with sunflower and grain fields, herb gardens, and wide pastures**. The route leads you to **Gravina**, a town whose name means “canyon” and which is dramatically **perched on the edge of a deep ravine**. After admiring the breathtaking view, you can visit the beautiful **cathedral** overlooking the gorge.

To truly understand Gravina's history, you must go underground. **Beneath the modern town lies a hidden city carved into the soft tufa rock** over centuries, with ancient cellars, rock churches, and stables. This underground world can be explored on a guided tour led by passionate young local volunteers.

Distance: 20 km

Elevation gain: +300/-337 m

Day 4 Travel by Train to Matera

Today you travel by train from Gravina in Puglia to **Matera**. Upon arrival, you discover one of southern Italy's most extraordinary cities, famous for its ancient **Sassi districts**, where **houses, churches, and streets are carved directly into the rock**. **Matera is a UNESCO World Heritage Site** and offers a unique blend of history, culture, and atmosphere, with breathtaking views, stone pathways, and a timeless sense of place shaped by centuries of human settlement.

Day 5 Leisure day in Matera

Today is a leisure day to fully enjoy **Matera** at your own pace. The city is a **true open-air museum, a maze of stone alleyways** lined with charming bed and breakfasts, **artisan workshops, and small local restaurants**. Perched above a deep ravine, Matera offers **countless viewpoints and a unique atmosphere, inviting you to wander, relax, and soak in its timeless beauty**.

Day 6 Transfer and leisure day in Alberobello

Today a **transfer** takes you from Matera to **Alberobello**, where you will spend the day. **Alberobello** is famous for its **iconic trulli, the traditional white limestone houses with conical roofs that make the town a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Walking through its streets feels like **stepping into a fairytale village**, with hundreds of trulli, small shops, and panoramic viewpoints that showcase one of the most distinctive landscapes in Apulia.

Day 7 Transfer to Monopoli and train to Lecce

Today a **transfer** takes you from Alberobello to **Monopoli**, where you will spend the day. This **charming coastal town** is known for its historic old town, lively harbor, and **crystal-clear Adriatic waters**. Stroll through **whitewashed streets, enjoy the seaside atmosphere**, or relax along the waterfront before continuing your journey.

In the afternoon, you **take the train to Lecce**, heading south into the **heart of Salento**.

Day 8 Leisure day in Lecce

Today is a leisure day to explore **Lecce** at your own pace. Known as the “**Florence of the South**,” Lecce is celebrated for its **stunning Baroque architecture**, ornate churches, and elegant piazzas carved from **local golden stone**. Wander through the historic center, **visit artisan papier-mâché workshops, or relax at a café and soak in the lively atmosphere of Salento's cultural capital**.

Day 9 Travel by train to Otranto

Today a transfer takes you to **Otranto**, where you will spend the day. This picturesque coastal town lies at **Italy's easternmost point** and is known for its clear **turquoise waters, historic harbor, and charming old town**. Don't miss the **Cathedral of Otranto**, famous for its **extraordinary medieval mosaic floor**, and enjoy time wandering along the sea walls or relaxing by the Adriatic, surrounded by a **unique blend of history and seaside beauty**.

Day 10 Walk from Otranto to Porto Badisco, 12,5 km

Winding through the **narrow alleys of the old town, you reach the new port**, where a flat gravel path follows a series of coves. **Along the way, you pass WWII bunkers and can take a short detour to a striking “bauxite lake” inland**. The coast offers several **small beaches** with crystal-clear waters, leading to the **Punta Palascia Lighthouse**. In some areas, **knee-high Mediterranean vegetation can be dense**, but as long as the lighthouse is ahead and the sea is on your left, you're on track. On clear days, the Albanian mountains rise across the Adriatic—Punta Palascia marks Italy's easternmost point, just 71 km from Albania.

Distance: 12,5 km

Elevation Gain: +270/-240 m

Day 11 Walk from Porto Badisco to Santa Cesarea Terme, 13 km

The first stop of today's walk is the charming inlet of **Porto Badisco**, just before the local bar/newsagent where you can grab excellent coffee and sandwiches for a picnic. **Follow the coastal shepherds' path, passing the traditional “pagliari,” round, flat-topped dry stone huts once used by shepherds**. Then leave the coast and climb to the inland plateau, winding through narrow field paths. A small pine forest offers a perfect shaded picnic spot. The final stretch is along a paved road, descending to the **spa town of Santa Cesarea Terme**, known for its **wonderful swimming spots**.

Distance: 13 km

Elevation Gain: +200/-170 m

Day 12 Walk from Santa Cesarea Terme to Marittima, 11,5 km

From **Santa Cesarea**, start by climbing the paved road until it gives way to an **old gravel and grass track bordered by dry-stone walls**. Head inland along narrow paths through the fields until you reach the ancient **Messapian town of Castro**, notable for its **towering walls**. Spend some time exploring the old town and maybe **enjoy lunch before descending to the port, where a refreshing swim awaits**. The trail then follows a rugged, rocky stretch along the coast to **Acquaviva Cove**, a hidden gem with a **freshwater spring at sea level**—perfect for a dip. The final part winds uphill through the lush Acquaviva valley, leading to **Marittima**.

Distance: 11,5 km

Elevation Gain: +310/-370 m

Day 13 Walk from Marittima to Marina Serra , 13,5 km

After picking up a tasty sandwich in **Marittima**, begin along a paved road winding through **orchards of ancient, towering olive trees**. Soon you'll reach the first of several traditional **"tratturi,"** old paths once used by locals to reach the sea or connect villages and orchards—each stone telling the story of a **hard peasant life**. The trail descends to Tricase **Porto**, where you can **enjoy a refreshing "caffè in ghiaccio" (iced coffee) and take a swim**. The final stretch follows some asphalt roads to today's destination, **Marina Serra**, a small coastal hamlet known for its excellent swimming spots.

Distance: 13,5 km

Elevation Gain: +310/-370 m

Day 14 Walk from Marina Serra to Gagliano del Capo, train to Bari, 12,5 km

The final day's walk begins with a short **uphill trail known as the "Enemy's Path" (Sentiero del Nemico)**, once the perfect spot for ambushing unsuspecting visitors. After a stretch on the **coastal road**, the route turns inland along more ancient **"tratturi,"** eventually reaching **Novaglie, a scenic rocky beach**. From here, the **breathhtaking "Cipolliane Path"** begins, named for the caves you can explore along the way, leading to the **Ciolo Bridge**—the last major swimming spot of the trip. From the tiny Ciolo Cove, the trail climbs through the Ciolo Valley to **Gagliano del Capo**, where you catch the train to Bari for your final night.

Distance: 12,5 km

Elevation Gain: +530/-380 m

Day 15 Arrivederci, Bari!

Our services end after breakfast, unless you have booked extra nights or other services with us.

Practical info



On Arrival:

Bari is served by an international airport, making it easy to arrive from abroad. From the airport, you can reach the city center conveniently by either bus or train.

On Departure:

From Bari, you can reach the airport easily by bus or train for your onward flight.

Included

What is included

- 14 Nights in double room in **/** hotels , B&B and agriturismo with breakfast
- 2 dinners
- Luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (1 item per person, max 20 kilos, size 65x40x30 cm)
- People Transfer (Bari-Santeramo on day 2, Matera-Alberobello on day 6, Alberobello-Monopoli on day 7, Gagliano del Capo-Lecce on day 14)
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital for, app
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- Lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- Visits and entrance fees - tips
- Personal expense
- Possible sojourn taxes
- Everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- Cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.
- Travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel
- Extra nights