

VIA FRANCIGENA COASTS & ISLANDS

type :	Hiking Tours Self-Guided Caminos
level :	
duration :	8 days
period:	Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSW545

Via Francigena in Salento - Italy

Lecce to Santa Maria di Leuca

8 days, PRICE FROM *€ 893*



Step into the **soul of southern Italy on the Via Francigena in Salento** from Lecce to Finisterre, a **walking journey** where ancient pilgrimage routes meet the wild beauty of the **Salento**.

This unique journey follows the **final stretch of the Via Francigena in Salento**, the historic path once walked by pilgrims heading **toward the finis terrae** — the “end of the land” — at **Santa Maria di Leuca**. Your adventure begins in **Lecce**, the baroque heart of Puglia, and leads you **inland through Martano**, crossing a quiet, **authentic countryside** shaped by centuries of faith and tradition along this southern **Via Francigena walking route**.

From there, the **route opens toward the sea**, reaching **Otranto**, Italy’s eastern gateway, where history, light, and **turquoise waters** converge. Walking south along the coast, the Via Francigena Finisterre reveals its most dramatic side: **rugged cliffs, hidden coves, and endless horizons** as you pass through **Marittima, Tricase,** and **Gagliano del Capo**.

The journey **culminates in Santa Maria di Leuca**, where the Adriatic and Ionian seas meet — a **powerful and symbolic destination for pilgrims and walkers alike**. After completing this final chapter of the **Via Francigena in Salento**, you’ll return comfortably to **Lecce**, enriched by landscapes, stories, and the slow rhythm of the Mediterranean.

Route

Day 1 Arrival in Lecce

Arrive in the **Baroque masterpiece of southern Italy, Lecce** has a lovely historic center (Centro storico), you can easily spend a day **exploring its picturesque little lanes and discovering its treasure**: the architecture and the Baroque churches. This lovely town will charm you with its attractive countryside, seashore and small towns close to it.

Day 2 Transfer to Cannole or Martano and walk to Otranto, 22 or 30 km

The journey begins in **Martano**, one of the **cultural hearts of Grecìa Salentina**, where Greek traditions and language still linger. Leaving the town, the **path winds through olive groves, dry-stone walls, and quiet country lanes** typical of the **Salento** countryside. As you approach the coast, the landscape opens up and the air becomes saltier. The final stretch leads **downhill toward Otranto**, dramatically perched above the Adriatic Sea. **The arrival is memorable: ancient walls, the Aragonese Castle, and the magnificent Cathedral of Santa Maria Annunziata**, home to the famous mosaic floor. Otranto’s historic center is an ideal place to rest, reflect, and enjoy fresh seafood by the sea.

Distance: 22 or 30 km

Elevation Gain: +150/-235 m

Day 3 Walk from Otranto to Uggiano la Chiesa, 12 km

Leaving Otranto behind, the route initially **follows coastal paths** with **beautiful views of cliffs and turquoise waters**. Soon, the trail turns inland, **returning to a quieter rural atmosphere** of farmland and olive trees.You pass small chapels and traces of ancient pilgrimage routes before reaching **Uggiano la Chiesa**, a peaceful village with a strong spiritual heritage. The **Crypt of Santa Maria di Leuca del Belvedere**, with its **medieval frescoes**, is a highlight and a reminder of the deep religious roots of this land. This is a short stage, perfect for a slower pace and cultural exploration.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation Gain: +160/-100 m

Day 4 Walk from Uggiano la Chiesa to Marittima, 16 km

This longer stage crosses the **interior** of the **Salento peninsula**. The walk alternates **between country roads, paths through olive groves, and small rural settlements**. You pass near **Giurdignano**, known as the "**garden of megaliths**," with its menhirs and dolmens scattered across the fields. As you continue south, the terrain becomes more undulating. The approach to **Marittima**, **a hilltop village overlooking the Adriatic, offers sweeping views of the sea**. The town retains a strong local character, with narrow streets and traditional architecture, making it a welcoming stop after a demanding day.

Distance: 16 km

Elevation Gain: +100/-90 m

Day 5 Walk from Marittima to Tricase, 11 km

A relatively short and gentle stage. Leaving **Marittima**, the path descends **toward the coast and follows quiet roads through olive groves and small hamlets**. The proximity to the sea is felt in the light, the vegetation, and the breeze.

Distance: 11 km

Elevation Gain: +100/-95 m

Day 6 Walk from Tricase to Gagliano del Capo, 12 km

This stage continues south through the deep **Salento** countryside, passing stone **farmhouses** (**masserie**), **fig trees**, and **dry-stone walls**. The route is quiet and reflective, ideal for walking meditation. As you approach **Gagliano del Capo**, the land becomes more rugged, hinting at the **dramatic coastline nearby.** Gagliano has long been a **gateway for pilgrims heading to Leuca**, and the sense of nearing the journey's end becomes tangible here.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation Gain: +95/-55 m

Day 7 Walk from Gagliano del Capo to S.Maria di Leuca and train to Lecce, 6,5 km

The final stage is short but emotionally powerful. From Gagliano, you walk toward the southern tip of Puglia, **where the Adriatic and Ionian seas meet**. The path offers striking views of cliffs, caves, and open sea. **The arrival in Santa Maria di Leuca is symbolic and moving**. The **Sanctuary of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae** ("at the end of the land") marks the traditional end of the Via Francigena del Sud. **Standing by the lighthouse, overlooking the vast sea, pilgrims often take time for reflection, gratitude, and closure before concluding their journey.**
At the end of the walk a private transfer will take you back to Gagliano del Capo. Then return by bus or train to Lecce.

Distance: 6,5 km

Elevation Gain: +40/-100 m

Day 8 Arrivederci Via Francigena!

The trip and our services end after breakfast unless you have pre-book an extra in night in Rome or other destinations in Italy.

Practical info



How to get there:

The closest International Airports to Lecce are Bari and Brindisi Airports.

How to leave:

The closest International Airports to Lecce are Bari and Brindisi Airports.

Included

What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast
- Luggage transportation from hotel to hotel (1 item per person, max 20 kilos, size 65x40x30 cm)
- Transfer (Transfer to Cannole or Martano)
- Maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, app
- Pilgrim Passport
- 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.
- Official camino guidebook, shipped to the first hotel
- Travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel