

Apulia

UNDISCOVERED ITALY

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers



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Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



October 3-11, 2018



A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

Fill the pages of your newest chapter with tales of the cultural riches, medieval architecture and rugged coastal beauty that create the fascinating quilt of Italy's deep south.

Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Bask in sun-kissed **Adriatic vistas** and sip sweet Moscato on your hotel's terrace.
- ▶ Visit the Sassi districts of **Matera, a 2019 European Capital of Culture**, and witness its dramatic saga of rebirth.
- ▶ Walk in the footsteps of Romans in the city of **Lecce**.
- ▶ Take in sweeping panoramic views of the Apulian countryside from hilltop **Locorotondo**.
- ▶ Discover Alberobello's fascinating conical **trulli houses**, which date from the Middle Ages.
- ▶ Explore labyrinthine passageways in the luminous "**White City**" of **Ostuni**.



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Howdy, Ags!

Journey to the southern shores of Italy and join us for a seven-night stay in the heart of Apulia. Together, we'll discover this fascinating Mediterranean region steeped in ancient history and unspoiled coastal beauty.

From your base in Polignano a Mare, explore medieval hilltop towns and charming fishing villages with unique architectural and archaeological treasures, including remarkable UNESCO World Heritage sites. Dine on seafood, fresh from the Adriatic, and indulge in locally produced olive oil and wine. Centuries of history will unfold as you dip into Apulia's rich heritage, taste the salt in its tangy Adriatic breezes, and engage with its welcoming people—experiencing everything this special area has to offer. Enjoy included excursions, enriching lectures and leisure time to make your own adventures.

Travel experts have also incorporated an exclusive educational component into this journey, the hallmark of our Alumni Campus Abroad® programs. You'll gain a deeper appreciation of the people and the culture from expert local speakers. At the same time, you'll appreciate the security, ease and value of group travel, as well as the opportunities for exploring independently. Enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and feel the thrill of making your own discoveries!

This popular program fills quickly, so please be sure to make your reservation today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel - Outreach and Engagement
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The "White City" of Ostuni





Day One

In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Bari, Italy. ✈

Day Two

D

Bari, Italy | Polignano a Mare

Upon arrival, transfer ✈ to Polignano a Mare and check in to Hotel Covo dei Saraceni.

Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel tonight.

Day Three

B | L | D

Bari | Polignano a Mare

Enrichment: Apulia's History, Beauty and Agriculture. Listen to stories of Apulia's multicultural past, and learn the secrets behind its bountiful olive groves and vineyards.

Discovery: Beautiful Bari. Tour the ancient seaport of Bari. Step inside the 11th-century Basilica of St. Nicholas to admire its Byzantine columns, colorful mosaics and Apulia's oldest ciborium. Stroll a tangle of alleys, passing beautiful churches, and explore the Murat Quarter, which was designed by Joachim Murat, Napoleon's brother-in-law.

Dine on local specialties during lunch in Bari.

Discovery: Wonders of Polignano a Mare. This village rises dramatically from craggy limestone cliffs. Admire the medieval Marchesale Arch in the historic center, and weave through Old Town's cobbled, sweet-smelling streets.



Basilica of St. Nicholas, Bari

Engage with fellow travelers during a Welcome Reception at the hotel this evening.

Day Four

B | L

Matera

Discovery: Sassi di Matera. Visit Matera, a 2019 European Capital of Culture, and venture into the village's celebrated Sassi. These prehistoric caverns and more than 100 rock-hewn churches are carved into the soft calcareous rock straddling both sides of a steep ravine. The honeycombed dwellings were continuously inhabited until 1952 when the government relocated the population. Savor the flavors of the region during lunch.

Enrichment: History and Architecture of Lecce and Ostuni. Explore the region's rich architectural heritage, focusing on Lecce, "The Florence of the South," and Ostuni, the "White City." Learn about the local stone used in Lecce's architectural development and how Ostuni's practice of whitewashing their houses is linked to the 17th-century plague.



Ancient Roman amphitheater and ruins, Lecce

UNESCO World Heritage

1. The Trulli of Alberobello
2. The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera

Day Five

B

Lecce | Ostuni

Discovery: Barocco Leccese and the White Town of Ostuni. Witness Lecce's whimsical Barocco Leccese architecture.

These 17th-century structures display elegant caryatids, ornamental garland and lyrical scrolls. Stand in the heart of Piazza Sant'Oronzo where the ancient Roman Column marks the end of the Appian Way. View the Roman amphitheater that once held 20,000 spectators, and see the intricate façade, rose window and ornately carved capitals of Basilica di Santa Croce.

Following leisure time, continue to Ostuni and admire the famous whitewashed buildings that blanket its hilltop perch. In Old Town, take in sweeping coastal vistas from the city walls.

Day Six

B | D

Alberobello | Locorotondo

Discovery: Trulli Fascinating Alberobello.

Discover Alberobello's enigmatic trulli dwellings, unusual dome-shaped buildings that dot the countryside. More than 1,000 trulli cluster along cobblestone streets, some dating from the 15th century. Beneath conical fieldstone roofs, the limestone buildings are pieced together without mortar. According to legend, this was done so peasant owners could quickly disassemble their houses to avoid property taxes.

Discovery: Luminous Locorotondo.

Journey to Locorotondo, where gleaming



Olive mill visit and lunch

white buildings swirl down the contours of a hilltop setting. Explore this picturesque medieval village whose name means "round place." Wander past angular townhouses with pointed roofs piercing the sky and vibrant blossoms spilling from iron balconies.

Gather with your group to enjoy a delicious dinner of local flavors.

Day Seven

B | L

Trani | Bisceglie

Discovery: Trani, the Pearl of Apulia.

Tour the historic seaport of Trani, renowned for sweet Moscato di Trani wine and some of Apulia's finest architecture. Admire the 12th-century cathedral, its pale pink stone an arresting sight against the turquoise Adriatic. Note the cathedral's elegant portals and pillar capitals that hint at an Arab influence. View Norman houses that line polished cobblestone streets in the historic Jewish Ghetto.

Enrichment: Meet the People and Olive Mill Outing.

Visit a family-run olive mill in Bisceglie for a guided tour. Learn about the mill's cultivation process, and sample the rich flavors of the olive oil during a tasting. Then delight in lunch on the olive mill property, and

INCLUDED FEATURES

ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Seven nights in Polignano a Mare, Italy, at the first-class Hotel Covo dei Saraceni.

EXTENSIVE MEAL PROGRAM

- Seven breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.

YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - Tour the highlights of Bari.
 - Explore Polignano a Mare, a picturesque fishing village.
 - Encounter Matera's unique Sassi cave dwellings.
 - Discover Lecce's beautiful architecture.
 - Visit the "White City" of Ostuni.
 - See Alberobello's mysterious trulli houses.
 - Meander through Locorotondo's captivating, whitewashed lanes.
 - Stroll through the historic seaport of Trani.
 - Enjoy an excursion to an olive mill, and sample local olive oil.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Clearly hear your English-speaking guide with your VOX headset.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



Cathedral, Trani



meet some of the staff or owners to discuss life in Italy.

Enrichment: Contemporary Italy.

Compare the rich cultural heritage and lifestyle of Apulia with its northern neighbors.

Day Eight

B | D

Polignano a Mare

Free Time: Today is at your leisure. Consider exploring nearby Grotte di Castellana, a subterranean labyrinth of passages and caves. Tonight, gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner, and share your favorite Apulian stories.

Day Nine

B

In Transit

Transfer to the Bari airport for the return flight to your gateway city. ✈

Note: *Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.*

✈ Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants

B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **Passenger Service Representative** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



HOTEL COVO DEI SARACENI | POLIGNANO A MARE ●●●●●

With breathtaking views of Polignano a Mare's Cala Porto cove, the Hotel Covo dei Saraceni sits in one of the world's most enchanting locations. Traditional wood, wrought iron and ceramic tile touched with modern elegance and airiness are hallmarks of this property. At the end of an adventurous day, relax on the restaurant's terrace and enjoy local and regional cuisine.

Reserve your Apulia trip today!

Trip #: 11-23692W

Send to The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
Phone: **979-845-7514**
Fax: **979-845-9263**
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**



Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Guest 1: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____
Class Year

(2) _____
Class Year

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Bari, Italy, to depart from:

Departure City

Please contact me regarding air options.

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by **July 20, 2018** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600/person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.

Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Card # _____

Expires _____ / _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: October 3-11, 2018

Land Program dates: October 4-11, 2018

LAND PROGRAM

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$2,945	\$250	\$2,695

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Let us arrange your flights!

✈ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ arrival and departure **transfers** on most flights
- ▶ **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ▶ **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.



Matera

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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CANCELLATION-All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS**-Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

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Polignano a Mare

Explore, experience, taste and treasure the riches of Apulia!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

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