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# Travel with The Met

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October 15–22, 2023

## Puglia: Southern Italy's Treasures & Traditions

with Keith Christiansen,  
Curator Emeritus, Department  
of European Paintings



THE  
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# Puglia: Southern Italy's Treasures & Traditions

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

This October, I would like to invite you on a fascinating journey of discovery through Puglia—the sun-bleached region in the “heel” of Italy. Colonized by Greeks in the eighth century B.C. as part of *Magna Graecia*, and later claimed by Rome, Byzantium, the Normans, and Spain, Puglia is as rich in archaeological sites as in hilltop towns and cities filled with architectural monuments. I'm excited for us to enjoy Puglia's treasures, ranging from prehistoric dwellings carved into the hills to contemporary sculpture.

During our stay in Bari, Puglia's capital, we'll go behind the scenes of the city's Romanesque churches and stately castles, including the majestic Basilica di San Nicola and the 13th-century Castello Svevo fortress. In nearby Matera, we'll have an inside look at one of Europe's most unique sites: the UNESCO-listed Sassi, a collection of dwellings carved into rock that were part of a prehistoric troglodyte settlement. In the remote Puglian countryside, a highlight will be an exclusive visit to the UNESCO-listed Castel del Monte, an octagonal castle with eight octagonal towers. This medieval masterpiece was built in the 13th century by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, whose interests in science, architecture, poetry and music make him one of Western history's most intriguing rulers.

In ancient Taranto, experts will guide us through one of the largest collections of gold and terracotta artifacts from Magna Graecia. In UNESCO-listed Alberobello, we will visit the famous *trulli*, cone-shaped, 14th-century dwellings. In the town of Monopoli—situated on the ancient Via Traiana, one of the Roman Empire's most famous roads—we will spend a special night in a local 16th-century *masseria*, a fortified farmhouse.

Our two nights in the fabled city of Lecce will give us time to explore the picturesque streets, ornamented palazzi, and churches that have earned the city the sobriquet “the Florence of baroque.” A highlight will be the Basilica di Santa Croce, with its sumptuously carved façade supported by projecting statues of men and fantastical beasts.

We'll also savor some of Puglia's characteristic dishes and farm-to-table dining, including its celebrated orecchiette. I hope you'll join me on this in-depth exploration of one of Italy's most fascinating regions.

Sincerely,

Keith Christiansen

*Curator Emeritus, Department of European Paintings  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



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## Traveling with You

Keith Christiansen

Keith Christiansen is Curator Emeritus, formerly the John Pope-Hennessy Chairman of the Department of European Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He began work at The Met in 1977, and, during his 44 years there, organized numerous exhibitions on Renaissance and Baroque painting. He has written widely on Italian art and is the recipient of several awards. Raised in Seattle, Washington, and Concord, California, he attended the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Los Angeles and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

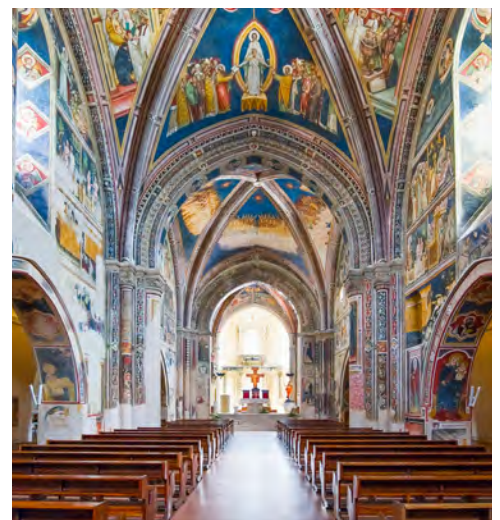
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## Trip Highlights

- Go behind the scenes of **Castel Del Monte**, a remote UNESCO World Heritage Site designed by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II and universally considered an example of genius medieval architecture
- Discover the history of **Matera**, with an expert-led inside look at its UNESCO-listed collection of prehistoric dwellings dug into the hillside
- Join a curator for an exclusive tour of **Museo della Scultura Contemporanea di Matera**, a contemporary art museum highlighting Italian sculpture from the 19th century to today, housed in a 16th-century palazzo
- Take an expert-led visit of the **Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Taranto** and view one of the largest collections of artifacts from Magna Graecia, including stunning Hellenic-era gold artwork, and jewelry, and the sixth century B.C. bronze *Zeus of Ugento*
- In the baroque city of **Lecce**, explore the unique beauties of the city, gain access to artist's studios, visit the richly ornamented **Basilica di Santa Croce**, and enjoy a private visit to **Palazzo Vernazza**, a jewel of Renaissance architecture
- In Monopoli, spend a night at **an authentic masseria**, a rustic country estate surrounded by centuries-old olive trees and echoing with past lives of noblemen and farmworkers



Basilica di Santa Croce, Lecce



Photos clockwise from top right: Castel Del Monte, Boat-shaped gold earring, Taranto, via Umbria, Second half of the 4th century B.C., The Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Taranto, Basilica di Santa Caterina d'Alessandria, Galatina, The Bishop's Palace, Lecce; Matera; and Map of the region. Front cover: Matera. Back cover: *Trulli* in Alberobello (top) and the Old port of Monopoli (bottom).

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Bronze doors, Cattedrale di Trani

## Departure

Sunday, October 15

Depart for Bari on an overnight flight.

## Bari, Italy

Monday, October 16

Arrive this morning in Bari, the regional capital of Puglia and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon explore the Old Town of Bari, the so-called “Bari Vecchia,” with its world-famous Basilica di San Nicola, one of the first Norman churches built in southern Italy and an important pilgrimage site for both Catholics and Orthodox Christians. Visit the Cattedrale di San Sabino, an outstanding example of Romanesque style. Conclude with an exclusive visit to a private art studio, followed by drinks. This evening, enjoy a festive welcome dinner.

D

## Trani / Castel del Monte / Bari

Tuesday, October 17

Depart for the charming seaside town of Trani, known as the “Pearl of Puglia,” for a visit to the Castello Svevo (Swabian Castle), a 13th-century fort with imposing towers that was built to protect the Kingdom of Sicily, then used as a prison from 1844 to 1974. View the Romanesque Cattedrale di Trani, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas the Pilgrim. Inside this riveting 11th-century cathedral perched on the seafront, discover its magnificent original bronze doors inside. Next, stop in the Jewish ghetto, once home to southern

Italy's largest Jewish community. After lunch, drive to Castel Del Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Considered an extraordinary example of medieval architecture, the castle, with its eight perfectly octagonal towers, was commissioned by Frederick II in the 13th century. Return to Bari this evening, where an optional visit to the Corrado Giaquinto Pinacoteca has been arranged. The museum's collection provides extensive documentation of Puglian art from the 11th through the 20th centuries.

B, L, D

## Matera / Bari

Wednesday, October 18

Today, travel to Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the oldest cities in Europe, described as the “most outstanding, intact example of a troglodyte settlement in the Mediterranean region, perfectly adapted to its terrain and ecosystem.” In the company of an archaeologist, explore the steep streets that climb up and down among Matera's Sassi (literally, “stones”), the rock dwellings found in the city's two historic districts, Barisano and Caveoso. Conclude with a curator-led tour at the Museo della Scultura Contemporanea di Matera (MUSMA, also known as the Museum of Contemporary Sculpture), housed in the three-story, 16th-century Palazzo Pomarici. Built on the ruins of a 13th-century Dominican convent, the museum is famous for its unique cave exhibition spaces and focuses on Italian sculptures from the late 19th century through present day. Return to Bari for an evening at leisure.

B, L



MUSMA, Matera

## Alberobello / Monopoli

Thursday, October 19

Travel through the beautiful countryside and arrive in Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its beehive-shaped white stone houses with conical roofs, called *trulli*. Lunch is at a typical family-run *masseria* located within the quaint rolling hills and olive groves of the Valle dell'Itria. This afternoon, stroll around the picturesque fishing village of Monopoli, tucked away along the Adriatic coast and situated on the ancient Via Traiana, one of the most important roads of the Roman Empire. While there, amble along the scenic walking path known as the Lungomare and admire the Castello di Carlos V, a 16th-century fortress with stunning views of both the Adriatic Sea and the Porto Antico. Stop at Chiesa San Salvatore, one of the many churches dotting Monopoli, which is believed to have been built in the early fourth century A.D. by pirates who survived a shipwreck. Afterwards, enjoy a wine pairing with dinner at the hotel.

B, L, D

## Taranto / Lecce

Friday, October 20

Depart for Taranto, which was founded in 706 B.C. by Spartan colonists. Once the ancient Greek city of Taras, Taranto is a fascinating historic site. In the company of an expert, visit the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Taranto (MAR TA) which features more than 200,000 artifacts dating from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages, including the magnificent collection of Ori di Taranto (Golds of Taranto), stunning Hellenic-era gold artwork, jewelry of extraordinary craftsmanship, and the largest collection of Greek terracotta figures in the world. This afternoon, continue to Lecce, stopping along the way at the atelier of a local artist transforming Lecce's unique stone into one-of-a-kind designs and sculptures. After checking into your hotel, take a walk to admire some of the city's architectural gems, including a private visit to one of the city's baroque palazzos. Dinner is at leisure.

B, L



Roman amphitheater, Lecce

## Lecce

Saturday, October 21

This morning, discover Lecce's cultural highlights, including the Duomo, completed by Giuseppe Zimbalo in the 17th century, and the Basilica di Santa Croce, which introduced the Baroque style in the city and features a magnificent 16th-century fresco of the Madonna of Constantinople. At the Roman theater and amphitheater, sit on the steps and get transported back to ancient Rome. Our tour will also touch on the city's Jewish heritage and feature an exclusive visit to a private palazzo. After lunch at leisure, enjoy a free afternoon or, alternatively, drive to the nearby town of Galatina, located between the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. There, you will visit the Basilica di Santa Caterina d'Alessandria, one of Puglia's few Gothic churches and an authentic masterpiece of medieval architecture and art. This evening, toast to a remarkable journey during a festive farewell dinner. B, D

## Lecce / Bari / Return

Sunday, October 22

Depart in the morning for the Bari airport and your flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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## Program Rate

**\$7,999 per person, double rate**

**\$9,499 single rate**

### Rate Includes

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wine/beer at dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges

### Not included in rate

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

## Accommodations

### iH Hotels Bari Grande Albergo Delle Nazioni

The only five-star hotel in Bari, the Bari Grande is located in the most exclusive and popular area of the Puglian capital, overlooking the Adriatic Sea. As a luxury destination, the interior décor creates a great visual impact.

### Hotel Il Melograno, Monopoli

Il Melograno is renowned throughout Italy as the first *masseria* (farmhouse) to open its doors to guests and reveal 400 years of history. Set among bougainvillea, lantana, and jasmine, Il Melograno houses 40 rooms, all elegantly furnished with traditional antiques.

### Hotel La Fiermontina, Lecce

Located within the ancient city walls and just a pleasant ten-minute stroll from the middle of Lecce in a quiet area of the city, La Fiermontina offers a modern, artistic take on a beautifully restored *masseria*.



Sculpture on the grounds of Hotel La Fiermontina, Lecce

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### Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: [met@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:met@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

### Accommodations

Hotel room preference  One bed  Two beds  Single

I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

### Form of payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)  Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

**Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.**

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email [travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org](mailto:travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org)



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The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

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