

South Eastern Italy – Puglia, the road less travelled

Bronlyn Schoer

Brief outline of tour

This 14 day small group tour (maximum 14) explores south-eastern Italy through the regions of Puglia. The tour begins in the beautiful Baroque town of Lecce and subsequently explores the agriculture, the heritage of ancient settlement of this region and delights of the landscape of the Valle d'Itria; famous for the stone trulli dwellings (see photo).

Major highlights of the tour

Strange little trulli houses, beautiful baroque Lecce, fortresses, white hill towns, caves and rocky seashores, sandy beaches, plenty of sunshine and excellent cuisine ...



The Lonely Planet guide describes this southeastern ascendant region of Italy as being less 'frenetic and manicured' than other more popular tourist destinations in Italy. The earthy *cucina povera* of Puglia reflects the local agriculture and seafood – it has the longest coastline of any region on Mainland Italy and has wonderful examples of 'Italian Baroque' architecture and fresco decorated churches.

This small group tour was the second that we have enjoyed with Phillip and Lucca of [Italian Tours](#). They are 'dream' tour leaders – relaxed, consultative, informative and expert in meeting the needs of clients. As

experienced travellers, the easy pace of the trip suited us well with enough free time to independently explore the features and food of several localities we visited, if we wished.

The itinerary of this tour to a less 'touristy' part of Italy is varied and at times surprising – we appreciated the exemplars of the local culture through which we were guided. We loved insights into the regional agriculture, the exploration of ancient Greek/Roman origins, the unique architecture, the fabulous regional food and the time spent in the natural environment of the Gargano Peninsular.

The occasional use of local guides added to the depth of understanding of the region and the choice of interesting and well located hotels added to the quality of the tour. We highly recommend this small group tour to a region of Italy that has many surprises.

You can 'add on' extra regions of Italy to explore independently where travel is easy and English widely spoken. On this occasion, we included Rome, Florence, Padua and Milan to the Puglia itinerary – all connected by excellent train journeys.

Useful references

Italian Tours: [Puglia Tour – The road less travelled](#)

You are also welcome to contact the Schoers for a reading list.

The expedition travel company cited will also provide useful references.

Contributor details

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Bronlyn was the principal of Lucas Heights Community School, 1992 -2006. Since retiring from the Department she has consulted in the area of school leadership and combined a deep interest in voluntary roles supporting young women and students from a refugee background. Bronlyn is a life member of the NSWSPC and has enjoyed many travel adventures since retirement with her husband Gary, both in Australia and overseas.