

PUGLIA -

TRAVEL WITH A LOCAL

Experience the true essence of Southern Italy through the eyes of a local. Forget the tourist traps and discover the hidden gems of Puglia with someone who knows its heart and soul.

YOUR GUIDE: CHEF DIEGO BUTTIGLIONE

Imagine arriving in Italy and having a local friend guide you to the most authentic experiences—from the best restaurants to breathtaking hidden beaches. Born and raised in Puglia, Chef Diego Buttiglione (you may recognize him from MasterChef) will take you beyond the typical tourist spots.

With Diego, you don't just visit Puglia—you **experience** it as an Italian would. His deep roots and insider knowledge will lead you to family-run vineyards, authentic bars with master sommeliers, and brunches in charming Italian villas.





DAY 1: WELCOME TO PUGLIA

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at Bari Airport, you'll be personally welcomed by Diego and transferred to your boutique hotel in Polignano a Mare, a charming coastal town perched dramatically on limestone cliffs above the Adriatic.

EVENING WELCOME

As the sun sets over the Mediterranean, join an exclusive dining experience featuring regional specialties. In this warm and relaxed atmosphere, savor Puglia's rich culinary delights while Diego introduces you to the region's deep-rooted viticultural traditions.

DAY 2: A TASTE OF AUTHENTIC ITALY



1

MORNING: MOZZARELLA MASTERY

Visit a traditional family-run caseificio (cheese factory) where you'll witness the ancient art of mozzarella-making and taste the creamy, just-made cheese still warm from production.

2

MIDDAY: VILLA BRUNCH

Enjoy an exclusive brunch at Diego's personal villa, with local delicacies and prosecco served poolside under the Pugliese sun—experiencing true Italian hospitality.

3

AFTERNOON: TUK-TUK ADVENTURE

Discover Polignano's winding streets and hidden corners via tuk-tuk, venturing where tour buses can't go to see the authentic character of this seaside gem.



DAY 3: WAVES, WINE AND ITALIAN CHARM

MORNING COASTAL CRUISE

Set sail along Polignano's magnificent coastline, where dramatic limestone cliffs meet the azure Adriatic. Dive into secluded coves accessible only by boat, and enjoy a floating brunch with local wines and fresh seafood caught that morning.

AFTERNOON BEACH RELAXATION

Unwind at Polignano's iconic Lama Monachile beach, where locals gather between dramatic rock formations to soak in the Mediterranean sun and cool off in crystal-clear waters.

EVENING AT MASSERIA MONTENAPOLEONE

Dine among the vines at a family-owned masseria (fortified farmhouse), where generations of winemakers will guide you through their estate-produced wines paired with a traditional Pugliese dinner under the stars.

DAY 4: CRAFTED WITH LOVE: ITALIAN HERITAGE

1

MORNING: NONNA'S KITCHEN

Learn the secrets of handmade pasta from a true Italian grandmother. Roll orecchiette ("little ears") pasta by hand using ancient techniques passed down through generations, then enjoy the fruits of your labor for lunch.

2

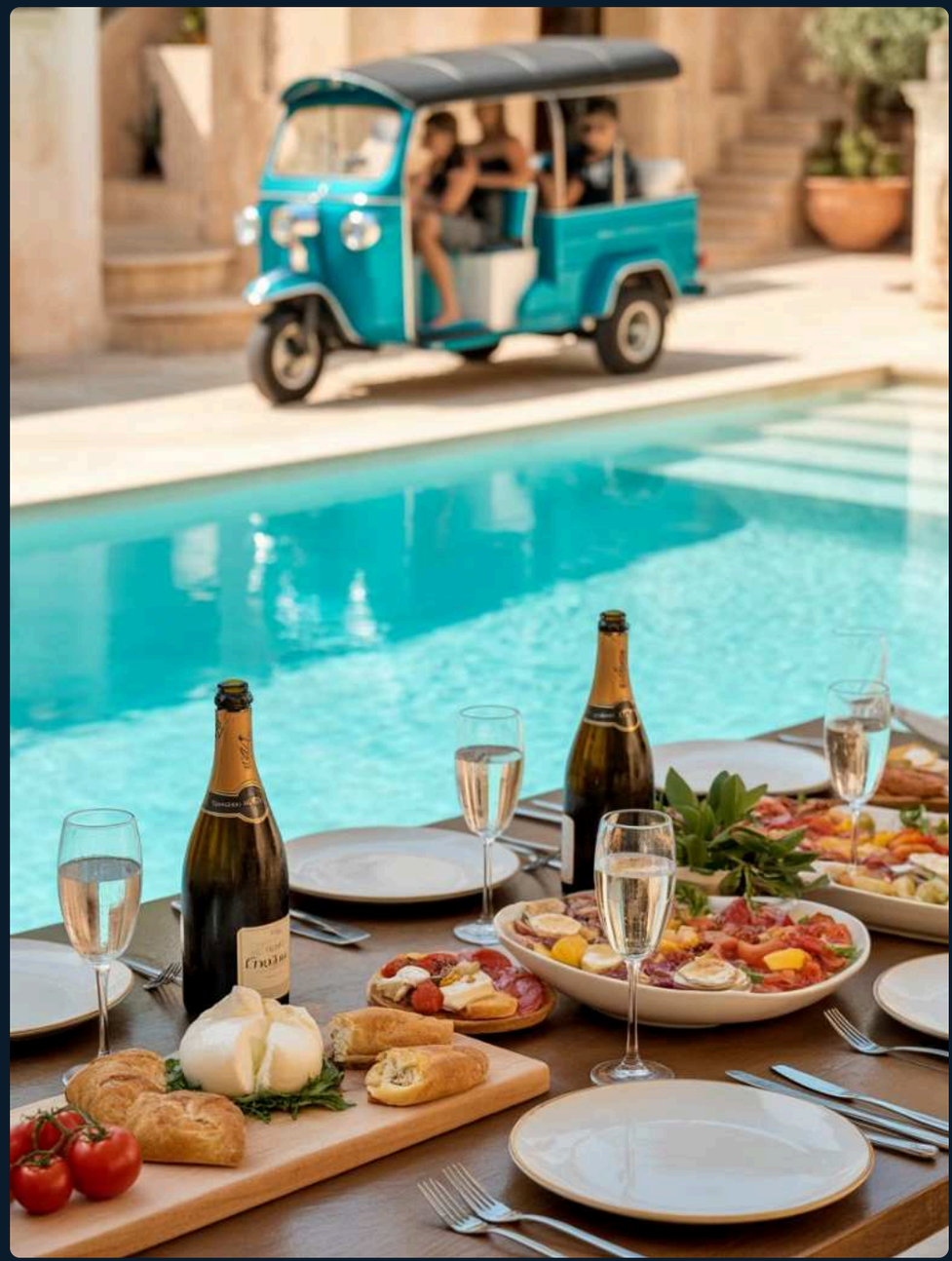
AFTERNOON: TRULLI WONDER

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Alberobello, where over 1,500 cone-shaped trulli houses create a fairytale landscape found nowhere else in the world.

3

EVENING: COASTAL TRANSFER

Journey to Porto Cesareo on Puglia's Ionian coast, where white sandy beaches and crystal waters await for the next phase of your adventure.



DAYS 5 & 6: LA DOLCE VITA



After immersing yourself in Puglia's cultural and culinary treasures, it's time to embrace the region's celebrated beach lifestyle. The next two days are dedicated to pure relaxation on the pristine shores of Porto Cesareo.

PRIVATE BEACH ACCESS

Enjoy exclusive entry to two of Puglia's most stunning private beaches, where soft white sands and shallow, Caribbean-like waters create the perfect setting for ultimate relaxation.

EVENING EXPLORATIONS

As the sun sets, discover Porto Cesareo's vibrant waterfront restaurants and bars with Diego's insider recommendations, mingling with locals enjoying their aperitivo ritual.

FAREWELL DINNER

On your final evening, gather for a spectacular seafood feast at a beachfront restaurant where the day's catch becomes an unforgettable culinary experience as you toast to new friendships and memories.

DAY 7: CIAO PUGLIA!

As your Pugliese adventure draws to a close, savor these final moments in this enchanting region. Before departing, you'll have time to explore Bari's atmospheric Vecchia Bari (Old Town), where narrow medieval streets reveal centuries of history.

Enjoy one last authentic meal together—a leisurely brunch featuring Bari's famous focaccia and street foods—while sharing stories and memories of your week. As you exchange contact information with your new friends, you'll realize that you're not just leaving with photos, but with a genuine connection to Puglia's soul.





JOIN US THIS SEPTEMBER

TOUR DETAILS

- Dates: September 7-13, 2024
- Group Size: Intimate gathering of 8-12 travelers
- Investment: €2,450 per person (shared accommodation)
- Personal guidance by Chef Diego throughout the journey

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Boutique accommodations with daily breakfast
- Curated dining experiences: welcome dinner, winery dinner, villa brunch, farewell meal
- Hands-on experiences: pasta masterclass, mozzarella factory visit
- Transportation: all transfers, tuk-tuk tour, private boat excursion
- Exclusive beach access and cultural experiences