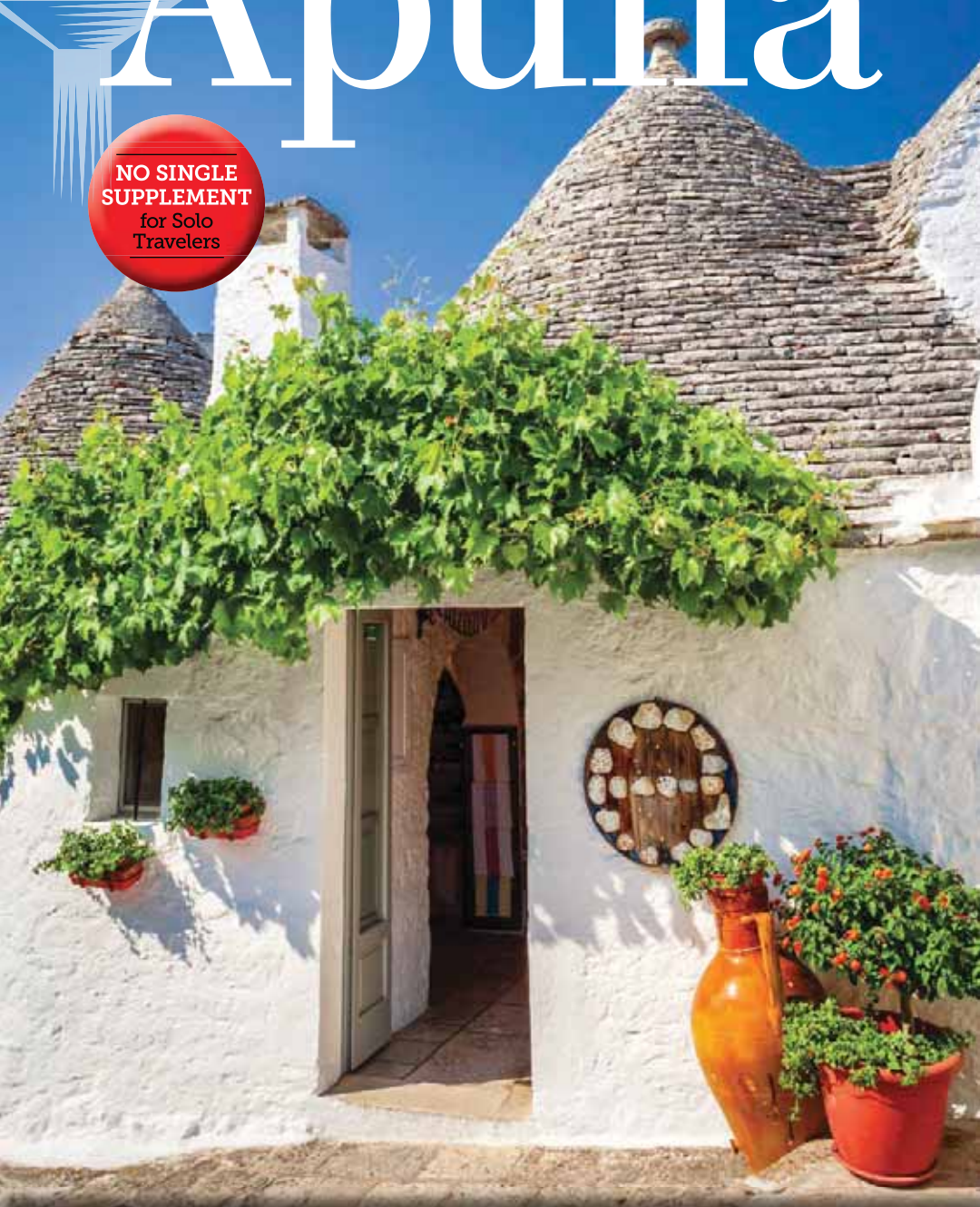


UNDISCOVERED ITALY

Apulia

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
for Solo
Travelers



SPONSORED BY

University of Illinois Alumni Association

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

May 28 – June 5, 2025

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Journey to the southern shores of Italy to a land punctuated by poetry, where traditions of community are set firmly in the rhythms of the past. Apulia, a relatively undiscovered Mediterranean region, awaits to share its fascinating history, coastal beauty and welcoming hospitality on this seven-night stay.

Discover the pace of local life from your base in Polignano a Mare, a white-washed village perched above aquamarine waters. Each day, strike out to explore well-preserved, rustic towns boasting unique architectural and archaeological treasures. 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, delight in soothing Adriatic breezes and engage with the region's gregarious, warm people – experiencing everything this special area has to offer.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted by travel experts to include enriching cultural excursions, preferred access to popular attractions and an engaging educational component. Delight in the camaraderie of traveling with a group, plus enjoy ample free time to make your own discoveries. Space is limited and will sell out quickly, so make plans today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

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



Trulli



Sassi, Matera



A World of Discovery



Discover the rhythms of southern Italian life! Here, lyrical villages dot the hills and ancient cobblestones hum with history. Explore the photogenic countryside, bursting with sunflowers and plump cacti. Stroll along scenic waterfronts and discover pretty little towns, each made even more lovely by the caring hands of locals. Along the way, our experts share their passion and first-hand knowledge of the region.

Top: Ancient Matera | Above: Fresh olives at an olive mill
Cover: Trulli, Alberobello
Mail panel: Polignano a Mare

Inspiring Moments



- Witness **magnificent Adriatic skies** melt into the cerulean sea.
- Uncover **Matera**, home to a fascinating network of caves.
- Feast your eyes on **Lecce's flamboyant, florid architecture**.
- Visit a **countryside winery** that perfectly encapsulates the Apulian way of life.
- Discover conical trulli houses in **Alberobello**, and explore the history-steeped streets of **Ostuni**.
- Taste **Apulia's simple, fresh cuisine** crafted with homegrown flavors.
- Delight in the exquisite charm of **Locorotondo**.
- Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®



Locorotondo

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Bari, Italy. 🌐

Day 2 | Bari, Italy | Polignano a Mare

Arrive and transfer 🚗 to Polignano a Mare to check in to the Hotel Covo dei Saraceni. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel tonight.

Day 3 | Bari | Polignano a Mare

Beautiful Bari. Take a walking tour through this seaport, where colorful boats sway gently on their buoys and winding alleys give way to splendid churches and shrines. See the carved portal of the Basilica di San Nicola, and explore the French-influenced Murat Quarter. After, dine on regional fare for lunch.

Wonders of Polignano a Mare. Once a popular port for merchants and travelers, this vibrant fishing village rises from craggy limestone cliffs. On a walking tour, witness the medieval Marchesale Arch in the historic center, and weave through cobbled lanes bordered by artisan shops, quaint cafes and restaurants.

Enrichment: Apulia's History, Beauty & Agriculture. Discuss Apulia's rich past, and learn about its olive groves and vineyards. Gather for a Welcome Reception tonight.

Day 4 | Locorotondo | Alberobello

Locorotondo. Travel through the Valle d'Itria to picturesque Locorotondo. Notice the narrow houses brandishing pointed gable roofs. Locorotondo's historic center features stone staircases, balconies draped with flowers and fragrant parks.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Family Winery.** Visit a family-owned vineyard that grows white grape varieties such as Verdeca, Bianco d'Alessano and Fiano Minutolo. Enjoy a tour of the property and learn about the family's combination of traditional and modern wine-making techniques. See the property's new cellar, ancient farmhouse and vineyards. Sample wine made from native white grapes and enjoy the peaceful ambience of this retreat over a light snack.

Trulli of Alberobello. Discover Alberobello's ancient, dome-shaped trulli, which are pieced together using stones without mortar. Legend claims that peasant owners used this prehistoric construction technique in order to quickly disassemble their houses. Alberobello is home to more than 1,000 trulli!

Enrichment: History & Architecture of Lecce & Ostuni. Learn about this region's fascinating history and unique architectural styles.

Basilica di Santa Croce, Lecce





Cathedral bell tower, Trani

Day 5 | Lecce | Ostuni

Barocco Lecce. Witness whimsical Barocco Lecce architecture, where cherubs, garlands and lyrical scrolls decorate fanciful façades. In the heart of Piazza Sant'Oronzo, see Le Colonne Romane, which marked the end of the Roman Appian Way, and the ruins of a Roman amphitheater.

Free Time: Indulge in leisure time for lunch, and explore Lecce's treasures on your own.

The White City. Journey to Ostuni, where whitewashed buildings cascade from a hilltop perch. Uncover the city's cultural riches and revel in Mediterranean vistas of olive groves and seascapes during a walking tour.

Gather for a dinner of traditional regional cuisine. Typical meals often include focaccia, locally sourced meats, crusty breads, seasonal

vegetables or *orecchiette*, a local pasta dish.

Day 6 | Trani | Bisceglie

Trani, the Pearl of Apulia. Take a walking tour of Trani, renowned for its fresh seafood, bustling harbor and notable Jewish history. Witness the seafront cathedral dedicated to Saint Nicholas the Pilgrim, and view a defensive fortress built by Emperor Frederick II. In the Jewish neighborhood, see well-preserved, beautiful synagogues that date from the Middle Ages.

AHI Connects | Olive Mill Outing.

Visit a family-run olive mill in the sun-baked countryside. Learn about the history and cultivation process of olives. Unwind over lunch and gather with the mill's employees or owners to discuss life in Italy.

Ostuni, "The White City"





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

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

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 24 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Day 7 | Matera

Matera. Journey through the remote region of Basilicata to Matera, home to honeycombed dwellings called Sassi. Carved from limestone tufa, these prehistoric caverns were continuously inhabited until 1952 when the government relocated the population.

Savor southern Italian cuisine during lunch.

Enrichment: Contemporary Italy. Compare the rich cultural heritage and lifestyle of Apulia with its northern neighbors.

Day 8 | Polignano a Mare

Free Time: Enjoy a full day at leisure.

Elective | Private Cooking & Dining Experience. Under the guidance of a local chef, enjoy a hands-on Italian cooking lesson. After, dig into the fruits of your labor during a lunch with carefully matched wines.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers and raise a toast to your adventure at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 9 | In Transit

Following breakfast, transfer to Bari airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

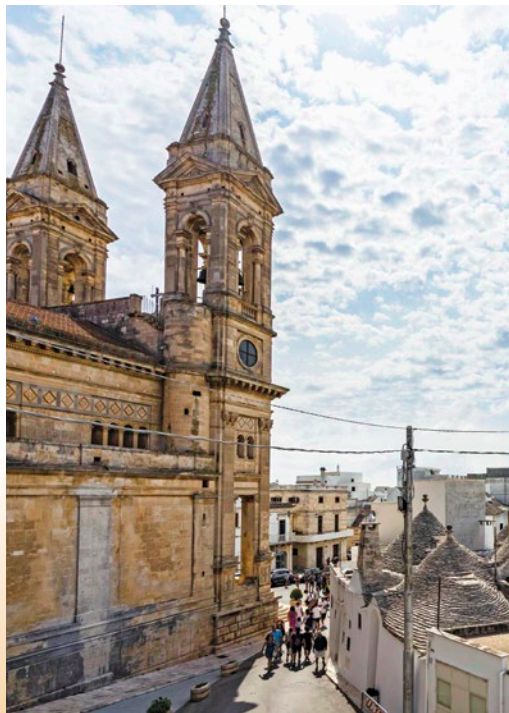
Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Alberobello



Accommodations



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.



Harbor, Bari



Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **844-414-0369** or
visit <https://uiaa.org/explorers/>.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

May 28 – June 5, 2025

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates*

May 29 – June 5, 2025

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Full Price | \$4,240 |
|-------------------|----------------|

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Special Savings | \$750 |
|------------------------|--------------|

| | |
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| Early Booking Special Price* | \$3,490 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

VAT in the amount of \$295 per person is included in the above prices. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

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

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1901A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

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 group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Trulli of Alberobello



Vineyard, Apulia



Apulian Farmer

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 stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Matera

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural 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.



Explore, taste and treasure the riches of Apulia!

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel

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