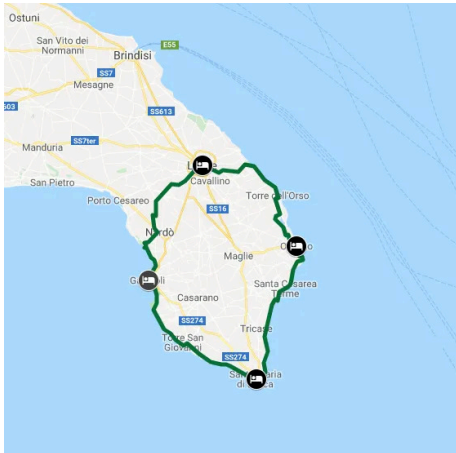


Cycling Holidays in Puglia: Heel of Italy from Lecce

6 days, € 758



Introduction



The Apulia region of **south-eastern Italy** has quite a story to tell, having been in the hands of the **Greeks**, the **Romans**, the **Ottomans**, the Spaniards and other colourful peoples, each of whom contributed to the region's dialects, flavourful cuisine and distinctive architecture. Today, this corner of Italy is one of the country's best-kept secrets for cycling, and these **Cycling Holidays in Puglia** reveal its most authentic side.

From Otranto, a historic crossroads of cultures, to the enchanting **white sand beaches** near Gallipoli, enjoy superlative rides through sparsely inhabited ancient olive groves, Mediterranean maquis and invigorating **coastal roads**, with views that make you fall in love with southern Italy – the perfect backdrop for unforgettable **Cycling Holidays in Puglia**.

Day to Day

Day 1 Arrival in Lecce

Arrive in the Baroque masterpiece of southern Italy: **Lecce** has a lovely historic centre (centro storico) where you can easily spend a day exploring its picturesque little lanes and discovering its treasure: the architecture and the Baroque churches. This lovely town will charm you with its attractive countryside, seashore and small towns close to it.

Day 2 Ride from Lecce to Gallipoli

49 km

Today's ride it's you and nature. Pedal across flat countryside, an occasional olive tree, pine tree forests and sand dunes. The natural morphing of the scenery is spectacular, especially as this area is very sparsely inhabited. Pass ancient seaside watch towers as you approach the medieval fishing town of **Gallipoli**, bursting with life.

Challenge: 4.5 hours, 49 km, 200m ascent, 140m descent

Day 3 From Gallipoli to Santa Maria di Leuca

51 km

This cycling holiday in Puglia takes you to the southernmost point of Puglia through a coastal road, which divides the Ionian and Adriatic Seas. But first, take a swim in the turquoise waters of paradise, at the Torre del Pizzo beach and lie upon the fine white sands. Then continue south to Santa Maria di Leuca, a magnificent village of fantastic beaches and wacky, wild, colourful mansions.

Challenge: 4.5 hours, 51 km, 200m ascent, 170m descent

Day 4 **From Santa Maria di Leuca to Otranto**

51 km

Revel in the sea breezes as you ride along the high coastal route, winding your way along the gentle, undulating ridges of the cliffs. Phenomenal views will make you feel part of a National Geographic cycling special feature. Stop for a glimpse of the spectacular cave, the Grotta Zinzulusa, and then on to Otranto, a Greek-come-Roman port town, frequented by merchants and thrill seekers.

Challenge: 3 hours, 51.5 km, 520m ascent, 530m descent

Day 5 **From Otranto to Lecce**

52 km

Today you visit the Alimini Lakes which run parallel to the sea. Cycle your way through the countryside of Greek Salento, where traces of the former colonies are still present in the dialect, cuisine and bright style of architecture. The whites shine against the euphoric blue of the sea. Arrive in Lecce, a brilliant city full of wonderful palaces and a treasure which will mesmerize you.

Challenge: 4.5 hours, 52.5 km, 120m ascent, 90m descent

Day 6 **Arrivederci Lecce !**

The trip and our services end after breakfast. You may have booked extra nights in Lecce or a transfer to the airport.

Prices, Data, Booking

Price pp		€
Double room, breakfast	price from	758.00
Single room, breakfast	08 Sep 2024 - 08 Sep 2024	955.00
	15 Sep 2024 - 15 Sep 2024	955.00
	22 Sep 2024 - 22 Sep 2024	955.00
	29 Sep 2024 - 29 Sep 2024	955.00
	06 Oct 2024 - 06 Oct 2024	936.00
	13 Oct 2024 - 13 Oct 2024	936.00
Rental bike		€
Hybrid		130.00
E-bike		210.00
Extra services		€
Bike helmet	per piece	12.00

Accommodation

Nights in 3/4 -star hotels with breakfast

Practical Info



5 nights included



3/4 Star Hotels



Breakfast included



Tourist information on all the places of interest



Bike rental available



7-days a week service-hotline



Luggage transport included



Lecce Train station



GPS-tracks available