# APAVM PUGLIA, ROME & THE VATICAN

## *16 - 25 September 2027*

***Optional Pre-Trip Pilgrimage:***
**San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Trani & Bari**
**14 - 16 September 2027**



**REGISTER NOW!**
Participants must be Patrons with membership until at least end 2029

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APAVM
ASIAN PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

## APAVM Puglia, Rome & The Vatican 2027

The Board of Directors of APAVM invites you to join our 8th signature Vatican Trip to "Puglia, Rome & The Vatican" from 16-25 September 2027 and our Pre-Trip Pilgrimage, 14-16 September 2027, to San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Trani & Bari. On this extraordinary 10+2 day journey through Italy, we will experience a faith not only preserved in history but one that lives on vibrantly today. From the heart of Rome to the treasures of The Vatican and the deeply rooted traditions of Puglia, walk in the footsteps of saints and martyrs and stand before masterpieces that have shaped the spiritual imagination of the Church for centuries. At the same time, discover the living Church - vibrant communities, enduring devotions, and the quiet yet powerful presence of faith in daily Italian life. And, of course, no journey in Italy would be complete without its extraordinary cuisine. From Roman classics to the rich, authentic flavors of Puglia, each meal becomes part of the experience – an opportunity to gather, reflect, and savor the joy of Italian hospitality. This is more than a journey through places; it is an immersion into the continuity of belief - from the early Christians of Rome to the faithful of today, all woven together through Christian art, prayer and history.

### Dates

- *16 Sept 2027*
- *17 Sept 2027*
- *18 Sept 2027*
- *19 Sept 2027*
- *20 Sept 2027*
- *21-24 Sept 2027*
- *25 Sept 2027*

### Itinerary

- *Arrival in Bari & transfer to Matera*
- *Matera & Polignano a Mare*
- *Locorotondo & Alberobello*
- *Ostuni, Ceglie Messapica & Lecce*
- *Galatina & Otranto*
- *Rome & The Vatican*
- *Departure from Rome*

### Arrival & Departure

- *Our Main Trip begins on 16 Sept 2027 with a Welcome Reception @ 1330 hrs at the Eurostars Hotel, Matera. Group coach transfer will be provided from Bari Airport to Matera.*
- *We recommend all to take Rome/Bari AZ1617(0930/1035) on 16 Sept 2027 for group coach transfer to Matera at 1130 hrs.*
- *Our Main Trip ends with check-out from Hotel Bernini Bristol, Rome, anytime on the morning of 25 Sept 2027.*







## Optional Pre-Trip Pilgrimage

*We begin our specially curated pilgrimage on 14 Sept 2027 in the peaceful Gargano hills at San Giovanni Rotondo, to honor the legacy of Saint Padre Pio. Next, we ascend to Monte Sant'Angelo to stand in the mystical, UNESCO-listed cave sanctuary of the Archangel Michael. At twilight, we retreat to the coastal jewel of Trani to admire its stunning Norman cathedral, before enjoying fine wine and dine, overlooking the marina. Our pilgrimage ends with a nostalgic walking tour of vibrant old-town Bari, where we will visit the majestic Basilica of Saint Nicholas and pay homage to the historic saint. Finally, on 16 Sept 2027, a private coach transfers us to Matera to join the main trip Welcome Reception at Hotel Eurostars.*

## Main Trip: Euro 9,500 per person
**(Euro 3,200 single supplement)**

**Includes all hotels, group meals, off-sites and education, ground transportation and 16 Sept 2027 Bari/Matera group coach transfer.*

**Includes Brindisi/Rome internal flight but excludes airfare from home country to Bari and from Rome to your destination country*

### Pre-Trip: Euro 1,600 per person
**(Euro 300 single supplement)**

- ** Includes coach transfer from Bari airport on 14 Sept 2027 @ 1130 hrs to San Giovanni Rotondo.*
- ** We recommend all to take Rome/Bari AZ1617(0930/1035) on 14 Sept 2027.*

# Puglia Highlights 2027

- Walk through the historic streets of Bari, gateway to Italy's famous "stiletto heel," where grandmothers still prepare the traditional orecchiette pasta at roadside stalls.
- Visit the venerable Basilica of Saint Nicholas, lynchpin of the faith from East to West, and its ancient crypt, relics and treasures.
- Be transported to a prehistoric past in the cave dwellings of Matera, backdrop to the sacred stories of Pasolini's Gospel of St Matthew and Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ as well as the profane adventure of James Bond in No Time to Die.
- Soak up the Adriatic sun, in stunning seaside setting dining on the local specialities of violet shrimp, roasted octopus and the freshest burrata.
- See the most charming towns in Italy: Locorotondo famed for its pristine streets and floral décor, Alberobello, home of the characteristic trulli, ancient conical huts of stone, and Ostuni, the "white city" perched above the sea.
- Explore the magnificent city of Lecce, "The Florence of the South" with its amazing ancient ruins alongside sculpted Baroque facades.
- Learn of the extraordinary courage of the citizens of Otranto who resisted the Ottoman onslaught in the 15th century, and see the stunning cathedral that houses their relics today.

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# Highlights from Past Rome & Vatican Trips



APAVM BOARD MEMBERS WITH POPE LEO XIV



AN EXCLUSIVE VISIT TO THE ROMAN FORUM



PAPAL MASS VIP SEATING AT ST. PETER'S SQUARE ON THE OPENING OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS OCT 2024



EXCLUSIVE DINNER AT CASA DEI CAVALIERI DI RODI



BLACK-TIE GALA DINNER AT THE VATICAN MUSEUMS



PATRONS "BEHIND-THE-SCENES" VISIT TO THE SISTINE CHAPEL