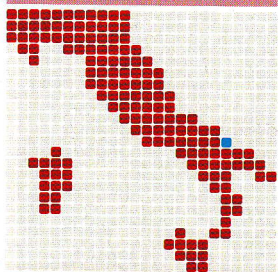


Bari//

ITALY



Country code: 39 Currency: Euro

FROM THE AIRPORT

Car Hire: Take advantage of the special easyJet inflight rates. Visit the Europcar desk on arrival or call +39 (0)80 531 6144. Open from 8am-11.30pm Monday-Friday and 8am-11pm at the weekend.

Airport Transfer: Pre-book your door-to-door transfer with easyJet's transfer partner, Holiday Taxis—from home to the airport, then city or destination (easyjet.holidaytaxis.com).

Taxi: The fare for the 25-minute journey to the centre is €20-€25.

Bus: Number 16 from the terminal leaves every 40-60 minutes for Piazza Moro train station. The journey takes 35-40 minutes. Tickets: €0.77.

BON APPETIT

■ **UP TO €15 Maccheroni**

Pizzeria a Metro (90 Via Abate Gimma. Tel. 080 521 3356) Delicious pizza served by the metre—the whole table's order is made into one continuous dish!

■ **UP TO €30 Antica Osteria**

Vini e Cucina (23 Via Vallisa. Tel. 338 212 0391) The blackboard menu changes daily, offering simple Bari cuisine, with an emphasis on seafood. Run by the same family for more than a century, the place has real character.

■ **UP TO €50 Ristorante Al**

Pescatore (6-8 Piazza Federico II di Svevia. Tel. 080 523 7039) Discreet service and fantastic seafood make this buzzing restaurant a must. Be brave and try the Pugliese speciality, *frutti di mare crude* (mixed raw seafood) as a starter.

■ **EXCLUSIVE Ristorante**

Alberosole (13 Corso Vittorio Emanuele II. Tel. 080 523 5446) Deceptively simple décor emphasises the excellence of the offering at Bari's most exclusive eatery. The *linguine*

con gamberi di Gallipoli, pesto di fave fresche e zenzero (linguini with prawns and fava bean pesto) is worth the trip alone.

NIGHT FEVER

■ **LOW KEY Tavli Caffè** (23 Via Angiola. Tel. 329 473 7847) A laid-back bar with a monthly changing art exhibition and good wine by the glass. Platters of snack-food are served.

■ **LIVE MUSIC Gargà** (58 Via Palazzo di Città. Tel. 333 277 1377) Rock and indie bands play this stylish Old Town venue at the weekend. Great cocktails and a varied clientèle make it a popular hang-out.

■ **LATE & LIVELY Matitti Brown** (17 Piazza del Ferrarese) DJs play everything from funky house to old-school Italian peasant music at this tiny, but very lively bar.

ON THE GROUND

■ **SHOP** – Formaggi e Vini is piled high with typical Pugliese cheese, cured meats, wines and preserves. The five-flavour pasta is a feast for the eyes as well as the stomach (29 Via Melo. Tel. 080 523 4506).

■ **INSIDER TIP** – Dolceamaro Caffè d'Arte serves the best hot chocolate in the city. Drop in from 4.30pm and browse in the bookshop (11 Via San Francesco d'Assisi. Tel. 080 528 9368).

■ **KEY AREA** – Piazzas Ferrarese and Mercantile, east of the Old Town, are both crammed on weekend nights. Crowds spill out onto the street from bars, tempting you inside.

■ **THIS MONTH** – American company Aspen Ballet Santa Fe perform choreography by dance greats such as David Parsons and George Balanchine (13 March. Teatroteam, 46 Via Davanzati. Tel. 080 521 0877).

DAY TRIPPING

Ostuni – A labyrinth of tiny, white-washed streets perched on top of a hill just five kilometres from the coast. Ostuni, 'The White City', is about 75 minutes by car from Bari, the city boasts some fantastic restaurants and breathtaking views.

NO WAY!

Domenico Modugno—the original singer of *Nel blu, di Pinto di Blu* (Volare)—was born in Polignano a Mare. More than 100 cover versions of the song have been recorded.

Compiled by Jo Caird