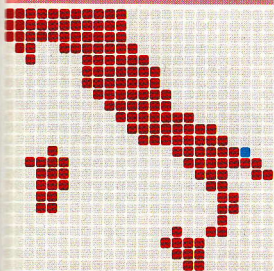


Brindisi//

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 0831 41206. Open from 8.30am-11pm seven days a week.

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 journey takes about 25 minutes to Brindisi city centre and costs €30.

Bus: Frequent STP buses take 40 minutes to Brindisi. Tickets: €3.

BON APPETIT

■ UP TO €15 Fast and Way

Maripa (16-18 Via Casimiro) Bright and clean cafeteria-style lunch spot. You can get a good-quality four-course meal for less than €10.

■ UP TO €30 Ristorante del

Pescatore laccato (32 Via Lenio Flacco. Tel. 0831 424 084) Generous portions are served at this understated fish restaurant overlooking the harbour. The mixed seafood grill comes recommended.

■ UP TO €50 Menhir

(18 Via Pacuvio. Tel. 0831 562 836) Minimalist décor, an informal atmosphere and a choice of three dining areas makes this a good choice for an intimate evening. Try the *mare* (sea) tasting menu as a crash course in Pugliese food.

■ EXCLUSIVE Enoteca

Ristorante Penny (5 Via San Francesco. Tel. 0831 563 031) A 13th-century palace is the backdrop as courteous staff guide you through the excellent wine list and seafood menu. Choose fresh fish from the trolley and save room for handmade almond biscuits for dessert.

NIGHT FEVER

■ **LOW KEY Bar Betty** (6 Viale Regina Margherita. Tel. 0831 561 084) Ice cream, cakes, snacks, cocktails—this place does it all. At a table in the covered area out front you can gaze out over the harbour while sipping your aperitivo.

■ **LIVE MUSIC Il Petra Live** (Castello Ducale, Ceglie Messapica) On alternate Saturday nights this tiny town hosts the most atmospheric jazz gigs in Puglia. It also holds rum-tasting evenings.

■ **LATE & LIVELY Mavù Club** (Strada Provinciale Locorotondo, Locorotondo) All sorts of Italian and international DJs and bands, including the Buena Vista Social Club, have played at this "factory of ideas".

ON THE GROUND

■ **SHOP** - L'Elixir sells products made in monasteries across Italy and around the world. Take home Belgium beer, Indian incense, or olive oil and wine from Puglia's two monasteries (4 Via San Lorenzo da Brindisi. Tel. 0831 527 478).

■ **INSIDER TIP** - Hop on the small public motorboat in front of the Agenzia di Viaggi Poseidon (29 Corso Garibaldi) for a tour of the port. Tickets: €0.70 (Tel. 0831 522 203).

■ **KEY AREA** - Viale Regina Margherita is home to bars, restaurants and cafés, and offers good views of the harbour. In the evening, stalls sell tasty hot panini in Piazza San Teodoro D'Amasea, at the far end of the road.

■ **THIS MONTH** - Catch Italian actor Andrea Giordana in *Otello* at the Teatro Roma, Ostuni (18 March). Shakespeare's drama of jealousy and treachery loses none of its passion by being translated in Italian (37 Via Tanzarella (Tel. 0831 336 033).

DAY TRIPPING

Otranto - Just over an hour from Brindisi by car, the intricate mosaic floor and stunning rose window in Otranto's 11th-century cathedral are well worth the trip. The town's 15th-century fortress is also very impressive.

NO WAY!

The poet Virgil, author of *The Aeneid*, died in Brundisium (the Roman name for the port) in 19BC after catching a fever.