

Visit Lecce, our guide to what to see and do



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By Floriane

We discovered the town of **Lecce** during our [visit to Puglia](#) in Italy. Its elaborate architecture has earned it the nickname of " **Baroque Florence** ", and that's promising! We love visiting Lecce and wandering through its narrow streets. You will immediately fall in **love** with this beautiful city **full of history**.

If you're here, it's because you're wondering how to visit the magnificent city of Lecce and not miss a thing. In the article below, you'll find **all our tips and recommendations for visiting the historic center**, not forgetting the **beautiful beaches** nearby.

And all our Lecce addresses on our map (restaurants, hotels...). We wish you an excellent reading!

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What to do in Lecce Our itinerary so you don't miss a thing [map].

We suggest a walking itinerary to visit Lecce, to be completed in around 3 hours, with 10 points of interest we think are unmissable!

Since 2019, admission to the **main churches has been charged**. The **single LeccEcclesiae ticket** (full price **€21**) allows you to visit: **the Duomo (cathedral) and campanile**, the **Basilica di Santa Croce**, the **Chiesa di Santa Chiara**, the **Chiesa di San Matteo**, the **Antico Seminario** and the **Museum of Sacred Art**. Reduced rates are available for 12-17 year-olds. Opening times vary in summer and winter; admission possible until 15 min before closing time.

[Top rated accommodation in Lecce](#)

1. ♥ Porta San Biagio and its palaces

Located in the south of Lecce, the **San Biagio Gate** is one of the three gates surrounding the city. This majestic gateway, with its **beautiful columns** carved in **Lecce stone (pietra leccese)**, a typical blond limestone, puts you right in the city's architectural mood.

Don't miss the **majestic palaces** that surround it, then enter Lecce's old town.

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2. ♥ Chiesa San Matteo

As is often the case in Italy, there's no shortage of **beautiful churches**. Its **Baroque façade** will keep you busy for a while, and the interior, in the same style, is just as interesting. We visited it **for free on a Sunday morning before mass** (depending on the service).

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3. ♥♥♥ Piazza Duomo

This **majestic square**, almost entirely enclosed (only one entrance), is surrounded by **magnificent monuments** that give it a unique charm.

Several buildings surround the square:

- The **cathedral (Duomo)** with its 70 m-high bell tower.
- **Palazzo Vescovile**.
- The **Palazzo del Seminario**, home to the **Diocesan Museum** of Sacred Art.

In short, a **must-see** during your visit. During an **out-of-season** visit, the square was being renovated with **tarpaulins**: a good reason to come back!

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4. Chiesa di Sant'Irene

Beautiful **Baroque** church on the route between Piazza Duomo and the Basilica di Santa Croce. It's not always on the **classic itineraries**, so few people stop here, and admission is free when open.

If it's open, we recommend you go in. We were able to visit it on a Sunday morning, this time after mass.

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5. ♥♥♥ Basilica di Santa Croce

Another Lecce **must-see: its Baroque facade**, covered with **sculpted details**, is fascinating. We couldn't get in, as it was mass time: check with the church office.

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6. **Piazza Sant'Oronzo and its Anfiteatro**

This is the town's **main square**, surrounded by buildings from different periods, including the **ruins of the Roman amphitheatre**.

In our view, it's more a place to pass through than a place to linger for long.

7. ♥♥ **Chiesa Santa Chiara**

Another **beautiful Baroque church** (we warned you!). Admission is included in the €21 **LeccEcclesiae ticket**. When we were able to visit other churches for free (during services), we skipped the interior of Santa Chiara.

8. ♥♥♥ **Pizza by the slice, Il Pizzicotto**

Pizzeria à la coupe with **fresh local** produce, and everything is excellent. Pleasant little terrace on the street.

A little tip from Pourquoi Pas Nous: have a spritz at the bar next door

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to enjoy the toilets.

9. ♥ Bakery

The last two points are not in the hyper-center. The historic center is a mix of religious buildings, souvenir shops and bars/restaurants.

Want to **see the Lecce of the locals**? Head for **Piazza Mazzini**: grocery stores, hairdressers... and " **La Boulangerie** " for pizza and chocolate croissants.

10. ♥♥ Cemetery

As is often the case in Italy, the cemetery is a city within a city. Quite close to the center, it can be reached on foot. Beautifully **crafted tombs** and **cypress** avenues make for a peaceful stroll.

Things to do in Lecce

→ To find out more about this magnificent city, we recommend this [unique guided tour of Lecce](#) and its underground, which combines Baroque treasures with underground secrets.

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With your guide, you'll **stroll** through the golden streets of the historic center, discovering the sculpted masterpieces of the "Florence of the South", before descending underground to explore cisterns, crypts and forgotten remains.

An immersive experience of art, history and hidden mysteries, ideal for seeing Lecce differently and immersing yourself in its cultural richness. (*duration 2 h - guide in French, English and Italian*)

Where to sleep in Lecce

Without hesitation, we recommend the [7Rooms - Lecce](#), a magnificent hotel so **well renovated (as we like it), with a big favorite for the huge bathroom**. We arrived and left on our own, and got lots of good advice on how to visit Lecce.

It's right in the historic center of Lecce, **from 95€ with parking (outside the ZLT) + air conditioning**. We stayed there for 3 nights.

[View hotel 7Rooms availability](#)

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Are you looking for **a place to stay during your stay in Puglia** ? To help you, we give you all our advice in this article on [Where to stay in Puglia](#) in Italy, and share our **best hotel addresses** and **unusual accommodations**.

Our good addresses restaurant and bar in Lecce

Il Pizzicotto, excellent pizzas by the slice

Already mentioned in the itinerary: **pizzeria by the slice, fresh local** produce, everything is excellent.

Caffè Letterario

A great place in Lecce for a **drink** in a relaxed, cosy atmosphere!

The unforgettable beaches around Lecce

Just a few kilometers south of Lecce, you'll find **numerous white sandy [beaches](#)** and magnificent **rock formations**. Below, **our favorite beaches**.

Grotta della Poesia

Local favorite: an **absolutely magnificent site**, a veritable **natural swimming pool** that communicates with the sea. Most visitors go swimming (even though it's officially forbidden); at the very least, a must-see stop to observe this **natural wonder**.

Parking 3 € / day ~100 m away, entrance 3 €; good deal: free after 7 pm and in winter (check with the season).

Beach of Alimini

Our **favorite beach**: large and partly wild, **surrounded by pine trees**. **Fine sand, shallow turquoise water** over several meters: perfect for a lazy afternoon with the family.

Parking €3.50 / day; parasol + deckchair ~€20 / day.

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Torre Sant'Andrea rock formations

A series of ultra-photogenic **rock formations**. The water is, as so often in Puglia, **crystal-clear**. We love this coast full of treasures.

No beach: towel on the rocks and dive into the blue.

Small parking lot; prefer early morning or late afternoon for sunset.

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Beach of the Isole Asce

One of the closest to Lecce. Less spectacular than its predecessors, it is therefore a little less popular in summer. **Clear, warm** sea, **fine sand**.

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Small parking lot.

Frassanito Beach

Access via a small pine forest; we like the **wild, uncrowded feel**. Little space to land and rocks for ~20 m, then crystal-clear water. Restaurants on stilts allow you to eat *with your feet in the water*.

Parking €3.

Find all the beaches mentioned on the map below:

How to reach Lecce?

From Bari

Lecce is located south of [Bari](#), about **1 h 30 by car**.

Our tips for your car rental

→ **Car:**

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[Renting a car](#) is the best way to explore Puglia, its small villages and secret beaches, at your own pace.

□ To effectively compare offers and identify the best value for money, after testing several solutions, we use the comparator [Discover Cars, which compares offers from local and international agencies](#). It's reliable, clear and easy to use for car rental.

□ Another key point: the comprehensive insurance offered via Discover Cars is generally much cheaper than that sold directly at the rental company's counter, while offering more comprehensive coverage. This saves time and, above all, avoids unpleasant surprises when picking up or returning the vehicle.

□ As a guide, we found a car for **€30 per day**, to be collected from Bari airport.

[Compare offers on Discover Cars](#)

From Monopoli

We spent the previous night in [Monopoli](#): a 1.5-hour drive to Lecce, initially along the sea. From [Polignano a Mare](#), allow an additional ~15 min.

Free parking

We have indicated **a large, free, year-round parking lot**, ~1.5 km from the old town, on our map.

Please note that, as in all Apulian towns, there is a **ZTL** in the historic center.

This limited traffic zone is reserved for local residents. Overall, we recommend parking outside the historic centers to avoid the ZTL and maneuvering in alleyways.

What to do after visiting Lecce

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Otranto

Otranto lies to the south of Lecce. Its **historic center is protected by ramparts**. Along the Adriatic coast, you'll enjoy beautiful views of the small port and the beach with its crystal-clear waters.

Gallipoli

Another fortified town: situated on an islet, a bridge links the historic center to the modern town. It's a pleasure to get lost in the narrow streets.

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Before leaving the region, don't forget to explore the famous [Sassi of Matera](#) and the [trulli of Alberobello](#).

Now it's back up to **Bari to catch our flight!** Bye-bye Puglia, we'll be back for sure.

We wish you a **great trip!** Don't hesitate to leave us a **quick note** or **5 stars** below if you're planning this trip, to ask any questions you may have, here or on [Instagram](#). We'd love to hear from you.

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2 avis (5/5)

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