

# 5 MINUTES of HISTORY

## THE WAY WE WERE

85 (before creating of saint Nicholas)  
III century B.C Under the Roman Empire, Bari, a small Peucetan port, becomes *municipium cum suffragio* (city with full rights of citizenship).  
493 After the fall of the Roman Empire, Bari becomes part of the Ostrogoths Kingdom.  
553 After the Greek-Gothic War, Bari joins the Byzantine Empire. But the Byzantines can't enjoy this victory for too long.  
568 The Langobards come to Italy. For two centuries Langobards fight against Byzantines to control the peninsula and Bari too. In Italy we say "among the two fighters, the third one enjoys". The third one are the Arabs.  
847 Arabs establish an emirate in the city. It will be ruled by just three caliphs, Khalafn, Mufarrn ibn Sallam, Sawdn: after your departure, fight your nostalgia for Peroni using their names as tongue-twisters!



871 The emperor Ludwig II reconquers the city to Western christianity only just to give it back again to Eastern christianity. The Byzantines are back and they make Bari the capital of the *thema di Langobardia* (we should admit that they were loyal towards their old rivals, as they left them the honour of the name!).  
1072 Between some raids by the Saracens (clearly not as loyal as the Byzantines) and a rescue from attacks led by the Venice doge Pietro II Orseolo, the Norman ruler Robert Guiscard conquers Bari.  
1087 During the Norman domination, the relics of Saint Nicholas, bishop of Myra (Turkey) are brought to Bari; relics are kept in the Basilica of St Nicholas which is opened in 1089 and will be finished in 1197.  
AS (after stealing of saint Nicholas)  
1464 The Normans will be followed by Suebi, Anjou, Aragoneses and Sforza. Isabella of Aragon, wife of Gian Galeazzo Maria Sforza, and her daughter Bona Sforza, queen of Poland, established a refined Renaissance court in the castle of Bari.  
1557 Death of Bona Sforza. The Spanish, Austrian and Bourbon dominations followed each other.

1808 Joseph Bonaparte, king of Naples, rules Bari.  
April 24th 1815 Joachim Murat (1767-1815) sets the first stone of the new district rising next to the old town, which still keeps this name (*il borgo murattiano* - Murat district).  
1934 Opening of the Fiera del Levante.  
1942 The port of Bari is the scene of two main war events. On 9 September, general Nicola Bellomo leads few soldiers against the enemy once he gets news the German army wants to destroy the port... Thanks to the help of the people, he manages to stop them, although after the 8th September many people (including general Pietro Badoglio and the king) throw away their uniforms and run away (in spite of his heroism, Bellomo will be executed for war crimes). On 2nd December of the same year, a German air raid causes the sinking of 17 ships; among them, the Liberty ship John Harvey, which was laden with mustard gas. The released gas makes hundreds of victims.



## THE WAY WE ARE

August 8th 1991 The ship Vlora arrives at the port: more than 20000 Albanians are on board. It's the largest disembarking of immigrants in Italy ever. They were running away after the economic and political crisis that took place in Albania due to the end of Communism.  
October 26th and 27th 1993 The Petruzzelli theatre is on fire (reconstructed and inaugurated in 2009). This deep wound in the heart of the city is the beginning of the urban regeneration: the old town, until then a poor area, is redesigned by the EU project URBAN II (1994-1999). The port, the airport, the interport and the railway are all due for infrastructural renovation.  
April 2nd, 23rd and 24th 2006 The Apulia Region demolishes Punta Perotti, a very huge and horrible building situated close to the city beach.  
2013 On Twitter our mayor describes a lazy student as *tr'mon* (see "Speak like a local") and Ridge and Brooke, the two main characters of the evergreen American soap "Beautiful" (a classic for the Bari housewives), play in the ad of a local furniture company. It's the definitive sign of the Bari and Apulia influence in Italy.  
2014 Release of USE-IT Bari map for young travellers. Bari is the first South Italy city to join the network. Up yours, Lecce!

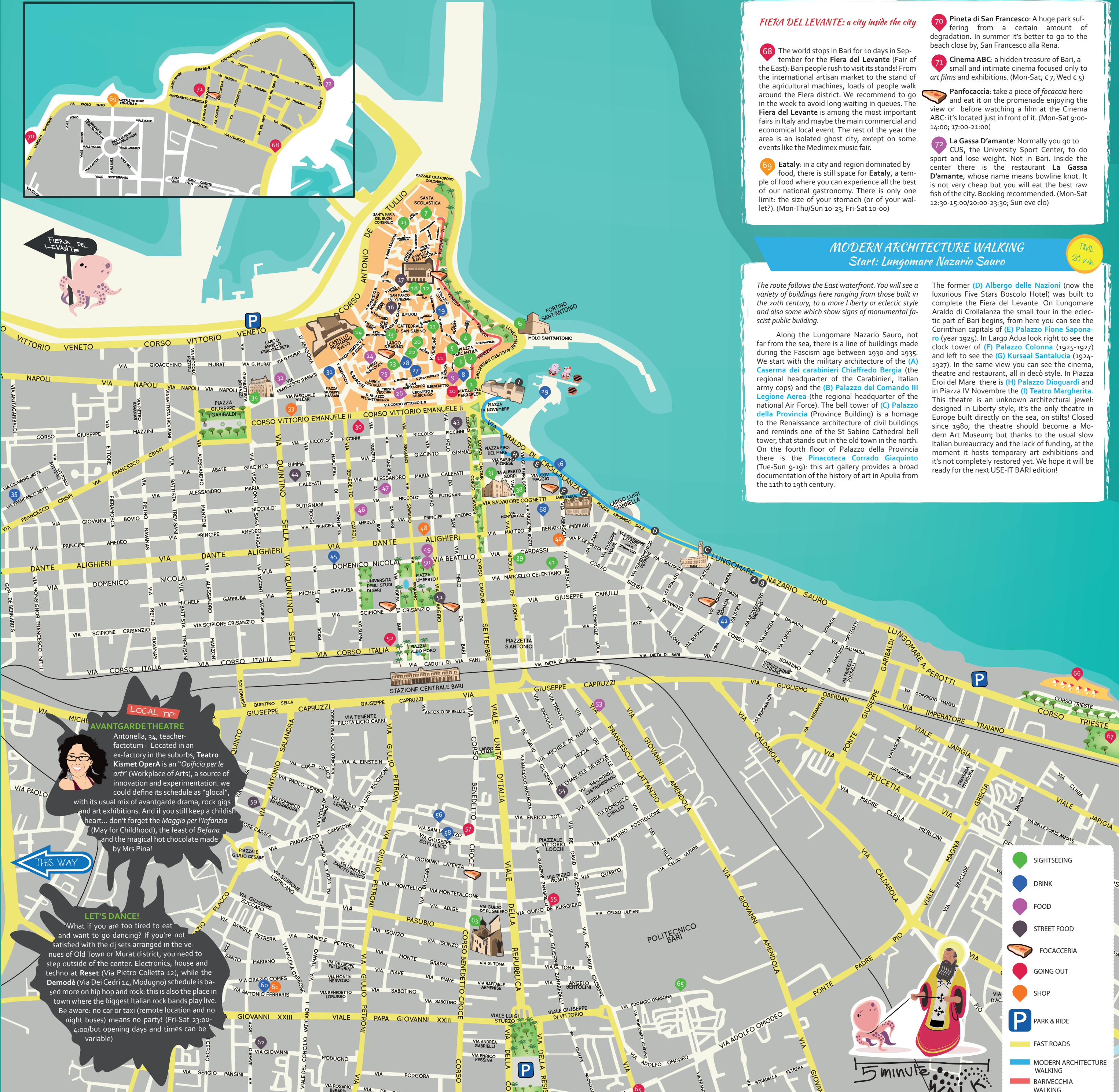
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**ABOUT THIS MAP**  
Nobody has paid to be registered in this map. The choice of locations was made by young people living in Bari. Thanks to all who helped us with their participation, suggestions and corrections.

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## FIERA DEL LEVANTE: a city inside the city

- 68 The world stops in Bari for 10 days in September for the **Fiera del Levante** (Fair of the East): Bari people rush to visit its stands! From the international artisan market to the stand of the agricultural machines, loads of people walk around the Fiera district. We recommend to go in the week to avoid long waiting in queues. The **Fiera del Levante** is among the most important fairs in Italy and among the main commercial and economical local event. The rest of the year the area is an isolated ghost city, except on some events like the Medimex music fair.
- 69 **Eataly**: in a city and region dominated by food, there is still space for **Eataly**, a temple of food where you can experience all the best of our national gastronomy. There is only one limit: the size of your stomach (or of your wallet?). (Mon-Thu/Sun 10-23; Fri-Sat 10-00)
- 70 **Pineta di San Francesco**: A huge park suffering from a certain amount of degradation. In summer it's better to go to the beach close by, San Francesco alla Rena.
- 71 **Cinema ABC**: a hidden treasure of Bari, a small and intimate cinema focused only on art films and exhibitions. (Mon-Sat, €7; Wed €5)
- 72 **Panfocaccia**: take a piece of focaccia here and eat it on the promenade enjoying the view or before watching a film at the Cinema ABC: it's located just in front of it. (Mon-Sat 9:00-14:00; 17:00-21:00)
- 73 **La Gassa D'amante**: Normally you go to CUS, the University Sport Center, to do sport and lose weight. Not in Bari. Inside the center there is the restaurant **La Gassa D'amante**, whose name means bowline knot. It is not very cheap but you will eat the best raw fish of the city. Booking recommended. (Mon-Sat 12:30-15:00/20:00-23:30; Sun eve clo)

## MODERN ARCHITECTURE WALKING

Start: Lungomare Nazario Sauro

The route follows the East waterfront. You will see a variety of buildings here ranging from those built in the 20th century, to a more liberty or eclectic style and also some which show signs of monumental fascist public building.

Along the Lungomare Nazario Sauro, not far from the sea, there is a line of buildings made during the Fascism age between 1930 and 1935. We start with the military architecture of the **(A) Caserma dei carabinieri Chiaffredo Bergia** (the regional headquarters of the Carabinieri, Italian army cops) and the **(B) Palazzo del Comando III Legione Aerea** (the regional headquarters of the national Air Force). The bell tower of **(C) Palazzo della Provincia** (Province Building) is a homage to the Renaissance architecture of civil buildings and reminds one of the St Sabino Cathedral bell tower, that stands out in the old town in the north. On the fourth floor of Palazzo della Provincia there is the **Pinacoteca Corrado Giasquinto** (Tue-Sun 9-19): this art gallery provides a broad documentation of the history of art in Apulia from the 11th to 19th century.

The former **(D) Albergo delle Nazioni** (now the luxurious Five Stars Boscolo Hotel) was built to complete the Fiera del Levante. On Lungomare Araldo di Crollanza the small tour in the eclectic part of Bari begins, from here you can see the Corinthian capitals of **(E) Palazzo Fione Saponaro** (year 1925). In Largo Adua look right to see the clock tower of **(F) Palazzo Colonna** (1925-1927) and left to see the **(G) Kursaal Santalucia** (1924-1927). In the same view you can see the cinema, theatre and restaurant, all in deco style, in Piazza Ero del Mare there is **(H) Palazzo Dioguardi** and in Piazza IV Novembre the **(I) Teatro Margherita**. This theatre is an unknown architectural jewel: designed in Liberty style, it's the only theatre in Europe built directly on the sea, on stilts! Closed since 1980, the theatre should become a Modern Art Museum; but thanks to the usual slow Italian bureaucracy and the lack of funding, at the moment it hosts temporary art exhibitions and it's not completely restored yet. We hope it will be ready for the next USE-IT Bari edition!

## THE MUSICAL HEART OF BARI

- 37 October 27th, 1993, 5.10 a.m. The fall of the immense painted dome of the **Teatro Petruzzelli** extinguishes the flames of a big fire. The theatre is a pile of rubble. Built at the end of the 19th century, the theatre takes its name from the Petruzzelli brothers, traders from Trieste. It's the fourth biggest in Italy: Nureyev, Ray Charles and Pavarotti performed here. Only in 2009 Petruzzelli re-opened. If you are an admirer of opera or ballet, if you want to take a look at the elegantly dressed ladies, look for a gallery or box seat (the stalls are not exactly affordable). You'll be overpowered by decorations and when the lights turn off, you'll experience the romanticism of the old Bari people, who used to rent a whole box just to enjoy the opera alone with their girlfriends.
- 53 **PIZZA AND FOOTBALL**  
The Bari football team is in newspapers now for its economic problems and poor results. You can revive the good old times by looking at the photos of the past Serie A players on the walls of **Pizzeria Da Donato**. (Mon-Sat 20:00; €10)
- 54 **GONE WITH THE CORNETTO**  
**Pasticceria Fanelli** is known for its endless variety of homemade *cornetto* (croissant). The list is almost as long as the queue of people at night time! (Mon-Thu 19:30-00; Fri 19:00-4:00; Sat 17:00-7:00; Sun 19:00-3:00; €1-1,50)
- 55 **THE HOUSE OF FILM**  
Andrea Sgobba, 28, film-eater. Apulia is the set of several films and since 2010 Bari has hosted the **Bif&st, Bari International Film Festival**. When the festival doesn't take place, every film lover can enjoy the **Mediateca Regionale**. Register and you will have access to free exhibitions, festivals, pc, a kids area and an infinite catalogue of film, magazines and books. (Mon-Fri 10-20)
- 56 **THE GOOD STORIES OF THE OLD SOUTH**  
A spacious "organic" counter, different shaped tables and odd chairs: some examples of the creative wooden furniture of **Storie del Vecchio Sud**. The place is popular with the alternative local scene: when Berlusconi came to Bari last time he definitely couldn't consider making a speech here. (Daily open 20:00-3:00)
- 57 **CREATIVE CYCLING**  
Aurelio, d-electronic music reviewer-urban cyclist-ping pong player - In **Ciclopazio** you can transform your race bike into a stationary bike or restore an old bike in a creative way. The managers always organize different activities: bike trips, small excursions and beer pong competitions.
- 58 **TAKE A BREAK WITH ZIO SAVERIO**  
Gino, 26, receptionist - Let's stop over at **Marrakesh People! Zio Saverio** - "Uncle Saverio" - is the owner of this small and picturesque haunt. **Zio Saverio** is very cheerful: share a drink with him but don't expect to understand him, he only speaks local dialect! (Daily open 19:00-3:00)
- 59 **ICE CREAM FOR EVERYBODY**  
At **Gelatiere** those that only eat lactose- and gluten-free will find ice-cream flavours for any food intolerance. (Mon-Sat 12:00-23:30; Sat 11:00-01:00; Sun 11:00-0:30)
- 60 **ENVIRONMENTAL PUB**  
E-koine is designed only with recycled materials. And if you want information about the city's nightlife, ask the wonderful red haired Anna. (Daily open 20:00-3:00)
- 61 **CREATIVE CLOTHES SHOP**  
Angela Castellana, 24, student - **Charity Chic** is the first (and only) Charity Shop in Bari. Thanks to the advice of Pamela & Co, you will come out dressed up supercool with your wallet still full. (Mon-Fri 10-13/18-21; Sat 10-13)
- 62 **MY PANZEROTTO IS BIGGER THAN YOURS**  
Pick your number and wait for your "extra-large" panzerotto being made by **Di Cosimo!** Don't ask for anything not included in the menu and, if you're a couple, don't kiss: the owners, quite aged, have strange ideas on female behaviour and public morality. (19:00-24:00; Wed clo)
- 63 **FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE**  
The **Chiesa Russa**, with its glittering green dome in Russian style, was built by order of the last zar, Nicholas II Romanov: the Orthodox people needed their own place to worship the beloved Saint Nicholas! The 1917 Russian Revolution changed the faithful Orthodox into atheistic comrades: then, the church was sold to the Bari Municipality in 1937. On 1st March 2009 Italy officially gave the church back to Russia. (Sat 18-20; Sun 10-13:30)
- 64 **OCCUPIED COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**Socrate Centro Sociale Occupato** has been a home to many homeless people. The center is self-financing with social events and concerts. Thanks to the Cartoon & Comics Festival (CA.CO Festival), it is fully decorated with wonderful murals and paintings.
- 65 **A LITTLE OASIS**  
In a city lacking green areas, pay a visit to the **Orto Botanico** (Botanic Garden). The luxurious collection of Lithops (living stones) is recommended: those kind of juicy South African plants look like smooth pebbles. (Mon-Fri 8:30-13:30; free entrance)
- 66 **MEMORIES OF A SINCERE BEACH**  
In 2012 Gabriele Micalizzi shot a photo-report on the beach of **Pane e Pomodoro**. All day long in summer, large family communities occupy the beach with bags of homemade specialties. Come here to have free lessons in local dialect or to watch people eating fresh raw octopus. The sea water here isn't always healthy and young ladies should avoid going topless and watch out for their bags (but the area is monitored by the Police).
- 67 **PARK ADVENTURES**  
Due to a complicated legal dispute, The **Parco di Punta Perotti** is smaller than planned. It's the ideal spot if you want to have a break in the sun or jog. Late at night, unless you are looking for some "special adventures", we don't recommend you pay a visit.

## THE PALACE ON THE WATER

In 1932 the **Palazzo dell'Acquedotto** (Palace of the Waterwork) was built to celebrate the making of the Waterwork (1915). There is also a museum about the history of the Apulia Waterwork. (Sat-Sun 10:00-12:00; Booking in advance is necessary to visit)

## EASY CONTEMPORARY ARTWORK

**Galleria Art Core** was born from the project "I low art", that promoted the Contemporary Art among the non-art people. Painting, photography and installation are the starting point for understanding contemporary art for kids, teenagers and non-experts. (Mon 17:00-20:30; Tue-Sat 10:00-12:30/17:00-20:30; Sun by appointment)

## INDEPENDENT BOOKSHOP

Big bookstores are more and more similar to malls. If you hate these places, come to **Libreria Zau!** It's full of small independent publishings, comics and fanzines, plus an enchanting collection of pop-up books for children. (Mon 16:30-20; Tue-Sat 9:30-13/16:30-20; Sun clo)

## BLUE IN THE FACE

**Art Gallery Blu Org** has become in a few years a benchmark for the lovers of art and culture. International young artist contests, temporary exhibitions, wine and food events: this is just a small part of the gallery activities. Just one problem: the gallery lacks a definite calendar!

## IRISH PUB

**Joy's Pub** is THE pub in Madonna, a popular and multietnic neighbourhood. Hard to get bored: gigs and music sessions (mostly focused on rock and 80's new wave), the dartboard, role plays and football match screenings. (Tue-Sat 16:00-02:00)

## DELICIOUS ICE CREAM

Lodis dice for the ice-cream flavours of **Gelateria Piccinni** like rum chocolate, espresso coffee or seasonal ones like autumn pumpkin and chestnut ice cream. (Mon-Fri 12:00-23:30; Sat 11:00-01:00; Sun 11:00-0:30)

## ESSENTIAL ICE CREAM

Colin has the atmosphere of a Bulgarian bar from the 70's: no sign, lack of any contemporary furniture, just a little table and two chairs. But the ice cream is incredibly genuine: a few simple flavours made with traditional procedures and organic products. (Tue-Sun 7:00-22:00)

## TAVERNA OR NOT TAVERNA? (WIFI)

**Taverna Nuova del Maltese** is the younger brother of Taverna Vecchia. This place is populated by a broad human fauna: desperate students, old bohémien, environmental activists and big dogs. (Mon-Fri 11:00-00:00; Sat-Sun 21:00-3:00)

## VEGETARIAN BISTRÒ (WIFI)

**Terra Terra Bistrò** is a fresh and young French style bistrò. Try one of the creative veggie juices and don't forget the pistachio soufflé. (Mon 10:00-20:00; Tue-Sat 10:00-01:00; €10-15)

## THE TASTE OF HISTORY

**Pasticceria Stoppani** is a patisserie still owned by the heirs of the Swiss family that started the business in 1860. Today the inside of Stoppani may look a bit old-fashioned, but their Swiss-quality chocolate is always a must. (Mon-Sat 8:10-13:00/16:30-20:00; Sun 8:00-13:30)

## CULTURAL INSTITUTION

The **Laterza** family established its bookshop in 1896, and some years later the publishing house. Since then Laterza has always been a benchmark in Italy for independence of thought and the high quality of its publications, mostly essays. The anti-fascist, philosopher and historian Benedetto Croce (1866-1952) greatly contributed to the company. (Mon-Sat 9:15-13:15; 16:30-20:30)

## HISTORIC PIZZERIA

The owners of **Da Mike** are (too much?) chatty: they will tell you a lot of stories about the once upon a time Bari or the latest news about the local football team. The **mozzarella in carozza** (fried mozzarella) is the not so diet friendly house specialty. (Daily open; 12:00-15:00/20:00-1:00; €10)

## THE VEGETARIAN WAY (WIFI)

Anna Laura, 26, vegetarian - "Are you vegetarian? Why, are you sick?" or "Is there meat in the dish? No, no, just chicken!" These are some of the classic answers that you as a vegetarian tourist could expect here. The places really equipped are very few and not so cheap. We recommend **Fruiter**, whose menu is based on local seasonal vegetables and fruit. (Mon-Sat 7:30-22:00; €10) Alternatively, see 31 and 46.

## PUGLIA SWEET CHAIN (WIFI)

Cream, pear, dark chocolate: try those ice creams at **Sandriino**, but, remember: according to the season, flavours can be unavailable! (Mon-Fri/Sun 7-23:30; Sat 7-0:30)

## NO ITALIAN DUBBING!

Foreign films are always dubbed in Italy. Do