

BRINDISI – HISTORIC AND ARTISTIC ITINERARIES

Itinerary 2 - The City Centre heading east



Departing from Crispi square which is at the railway station, you will proceed straight ahead along the main road and reach **1 Cairoli Square**, where you will find the **Anchors Fountain**, built in 1937; continuing along “Corso Umberto” you will come to the intersection where the road crosses “Corso Roma”, this is where “Corso Garibaldi” begins. On the left of this intersection is **2 “Victory square”** (Piazza della Vittoria) where you can admire the historic fountain built in 1618 by royal governor Peter Louis **De Torres**. This fountain was built for the use of the soldiers of the Spanish galleon who were at anchor in the harbour. All citizens contributed financially for the construction of this fountain; a marble basin, previously used as a christening font was used, on which four fountain jets were attached.

Continuing up the square and crossing “Via Santi” you will reach the **3 New Theatre “G. Verdi”**, a modern steel construction, covered with vertical stave sheeting. At the entrance, the bass-relief created by Amerigo Tot, stands out for all to admire. It is very interesting to visit the **archaeological site** which lies under the new theatre: it is a Roman quarter measuring approximately 5,000 sq.m with ancient buildings decorated in marbles, mosaics, some thermal springs and a large street made from flat stone.



Anchors Fountain



De Torres Fountain



Theatre “G. Verdi”

Exiting this site and turning right on "via Tarantafilo", you will enter the ancient quarter of **4 San Pietro degli Schiavoni**, named after the Slavic and Albanians who inhabited this quarter for half of XV century. These houses with "cannizzo rooves", being a double-layer sloping roof top, made from wood rafters and cane, are typical of this area. From the characteristic little square of "Largo dè Calò" it is possible to admire the beautiful "cupola" (dome) of the **church of St. Michael the Archangel** (also known as "Pious Schools") which is covered by polychrome majolica tiles.



The church of St. Michael the Archangel is located in Via Tarantini, not far away from the Cathedral; its main characteristic is the "cupola", made with polychrome bricks.

It has been recently restored and nowadays it's used for meetings and seminars. The church is made by a single nave with chapels on both sides, the inner part is almost completely lacking of furnishings.

Besides there are the monastery's rooms, also recently restored and used for cultural events, in the past were used as school and dormitory, and sometimes as a jail.

The Bishop Francesco De Estrada bought the entire building for educational activities that started on 1664 by the Monks of "Scuole Pie" (Pious Schools) with a good success. Here St. Pompilio Maria Pirrotti taught just after being ordained in 1734.

From "via Balzo", just behind the new theatre, you will reach "Via Duomo", turn right and after few meters, on the left you will have arrive at **5 Granafei-Nervegna**, a building of the XVI century, where you can admire the balconies, portal and the ancient façade, which are still in the process of being restored.

On the right, of this small square, you can see an antique arch from medieval age. Continuing on Via Duomo and turning left into "Via Casimiro", more ancient **6 ruins**, houses and a temple can be seen from late roman times. Some archaeological finds from this area are kept in the provincial Museum.

Turning back and then left into "Matteotti Square", you will have arrived at the Town Hall. Crossing over Piazza Vittoria and then "Corso Garibaldi" you will then reach the small "Piazza del Popolo", where you will see the statue of "**Augusto Imperator**" (Emperor Augustus), a replica of this statue is kept in the Vatican Museum.

Continuing and arriving into "Anime Square" you will find the **church of 7 St. Sebastian** also known as "The Church of Souls"; in this church there are paintings of great importance, such as "St. Gennaro, Saved from the Earthquake", by Giovanni Scatigno (1747) and on the altar the "Martyrdom of St. Sebastiano" by Umberto Colonna (1950). Also to be seen, on the external portal is the city's coat of arms.

Continuing on the narrow "Via Protospata", you will reach "Via Lata", just in front of the beautiful **lodge and portal of the Greco building**, which is of XVII century. Turning left and continuing for approximately 200 meters, on the left you can visit the interesting **church and crypt of 8 St. Lucy**, this being from the XI century.

The Church of St. Lucy or of the Holy Trinity, has been built in XI century with a Romanesque style (facade).

The upper church has three navas where there are interesting XIII and XIV century frescos, and paintings like the "Martyrdom of St. Lucy" and the XVI century polyptich of the "Madonna del dolce canto" (Our Lady of "Sweet Singing").



During XIII century, the Convent of Penitents was placed besides to the church.



In the VIII century crypt, divided into four parts by means of four columns with capitals, there are fine frescos of particular interest, like "St. Nichols", "History of St. Peter from Verona", "Magdalena Mirrifora" (the symbol of Penitents) and the "Kyriotissa" (Our Lady on the Throne with Jesus), the last two being located in the central niches.

Continuing on “via Lata”, on the left, (No. 91), you will find the XVIth century **9 Ripa building**, where you can pleasingly see the durazzesco-angevin portal carrying the coat of arms, and the characteristic arch placed side by side in the lateral alley. A little ahead on the right (No. 112), there is the **Orlandini building**, with its valuable portal and XVIth century coat of arms set between the windows.

Turning back and then left, you will enter “via Madonna della Scala”, and approximately half way down the road, on the left is the **10 church of “Madonna della Scala”** (Our Lady of the Ladder) founded by the Amalfitani colony in the XII century. During its restoration in 1986, a painting of the Virgin Mary was found which had been hidden in the previous century. This was due to the strong belief that this painting was far too modern for its time.

At the end of this street, there is a striking view of the east-cove of the inner port. Following “Via Taranto” for approximately 400 meters and turning left into “Via dè Roma”, on the left, you will have reached the large square which is dominated by Porta Lecce, another of the ancient gates to the city; here you will find the entrance of the **11 Church of Christ**, with its splendid rose-window on the facade.



In the area of Porta Lecce (close by the ancient wall of the town) there is the Church of Christ.

The church was built by the Dominicans in 1232 and has an evocative facade made by alternating white and red stones.

It has a magnificent external rose-window with sixteen columns.

Inside there are a statue of the Virgin with "Lux Mundi" and a wooden cross, both from the XIII century, and several barocco alters.

Coming down the stairs from the square, you will pass through the ancient south-gate of the city, known as **12 Porta Lecce**, close by the ancient wall of the town. On the external wall of this gate you can see the coat of arms of Charles the Vth.

Text by Giovanni Membola
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