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Costa dei Trulli
CUORE DI PUGLIA

Città di
Monopoli  Assessorato al
Turismo

in the heart of Apulia



...and its old town, leaning towards the sea, protected by its sixteen century walls. It hides a whole bunch of emotions, slowly disclosing for the attentive tourist. Carried away by the light, the gaze is captured by the church of S.Domenico's rose window, and a few steps afterwards by the impressive Cathedral façade. The herbal aromas coming from the traditional fisherman's dishes will please the smell. The rhythmical hammering of the calatafari will lead the ear to the old dockyard, where the expert hands of the shipwrights have been building artfully fishing boats for centuries. By then you will be arrived in front of the sea. Intensely blue, rich and inviting. That sea offers its fruits to those who love it and know its tempers; it skirts the long golden beaches where one can lean and enjoy a kindly sun. At the sunset, a rosemary flavoured breeze crosses a thousand-year-old tree row: olive trees twisted by the time, reminding the traveller that a few hundreds of meters away, at the bottom of the Murgia hills, an industrious and silent farming community work passionately the red Apulian terrain to produce oil, wine and vegetables. Their hands are strong and callused, they value their work, they repeat all along the same simple gestures, in the shadow of fortified masserie, they transform milk in tasty cheeses and press superfine oil under slow, turning millstones.





Sea culture

Here the nautical tradition is alive and present in the historical trawlers, in the harbor and its gozzi (small fisherman's boats), in the callused hands of the shipwrights, in the infinite fisherman's look, but above all in that recovered sense of community, always renovating itself in the seafaring roots.

The harbor, integrated into the urban fabric, serves as joint between the old town and the city. It is a multipurpose port of call, dedicated both to trade (fishing and various materials) and tourism. Boatyards are also in the port area, that's why it is easy to chance on the building of a small or medium size hull. Ancient crafts like shipwrighting live together with a highly technological design and realization industry.

The bond the city has with the sea is celebrated through sports too: in sailing, thanks to an active section of the Italian Naval League; in rowing, due to one of the oldest Italian rowers' club, and more: scuba diving in renown biodiversity sites, fishing tourism on board the boats belonging to the historical Monopoli fleet.

the sea place



The naval league
Berths and boatyard services

The historical shipyard
Shipwright at work

The "PRO Monopoli"
More than a century of rowing history

The landing place of fishing boats
Every day at sunset the unloading of the catch



Rupestrian settlements

The area around the city of Monopoli is crossed by huge rifts in the rock, which create canals with an irregularly perpendicular pattern to the sea. They are ravines, dug by the rush of ancient torrents. Nature didn't save colors in painting the Mediterranean Scrub. From asparagus to caper and mastic, vegetation and olive trees frame ancient cave churches, dug on the slopes. Carved crosses, niches and inscriptions invite to enter and pray. A theory of saints or Christ's life episodes are frescoed on the side walls, telling stories of devotion and of a refined culture. A swarming of activities testified by windmills, oil mills, cave houses, and millstones developed around the crypts: the rupestrian culture.

There are 22 known crypts, two of which are enclosed into the urban context. Among the most suggestive ones the 10th century crypt of Spirito Santo, remarkably organized in naves, imitating Romanesque churches. Under the church of Santa Maria Amalfitana, we find the homonymous crypt, articulated in a nave and two apses, cherishing a piecemeal fresco of San Nicola with his life stories.

Dug in an inlet of the old harbor, the crypt of Madonna del Soccorso is located six meters under the current street level. Two pillars divide it in nave and aisles. A fresco depicting the Pantocratore towers over the apse in the crypt of San Leonardo. The divine figure, in the act of blessing with the right hand in the Greek manner, holds in the other hand a book bearing the text 'Ego sum Lux Mundi'.

To visit

- Crypt of the Holy Spirit (Spirito Santo)

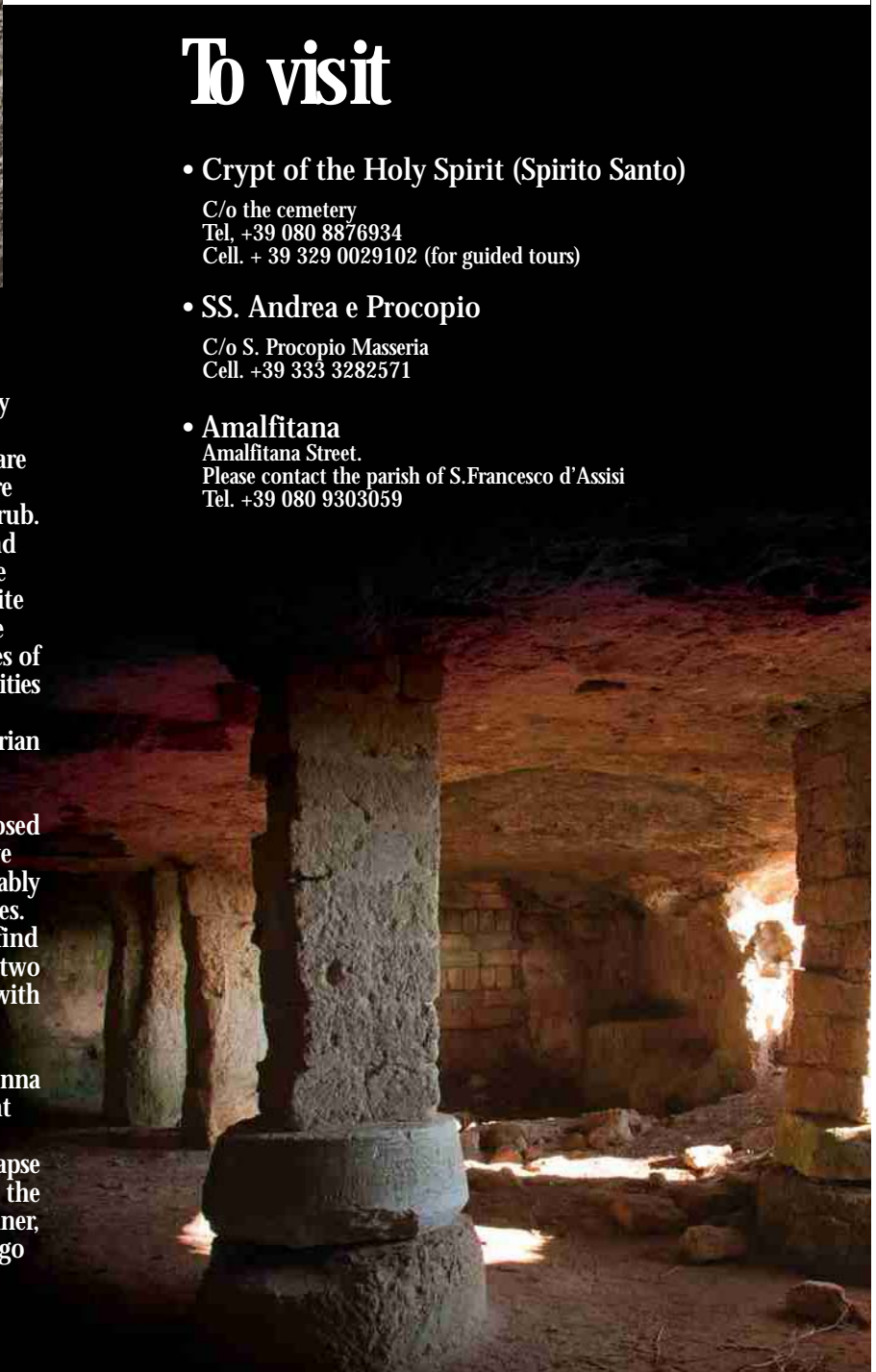
C/o the cemetery
Tel. +39 080 8876934
Cell. + 39 329 0029102 (for guided tours)

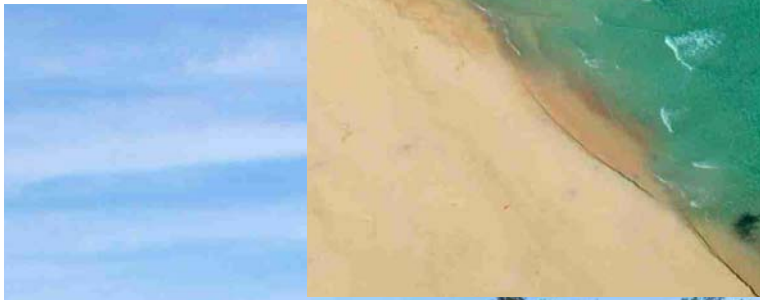
- SS. Andrea e Procopio

C/o S. Procopio Masseria
Cell. +39 333 3282571

- Amalfitana

Amalfitana Street.
Please contact the parish of S. Francesco d'Assisi
Tel. +39 080 9303059



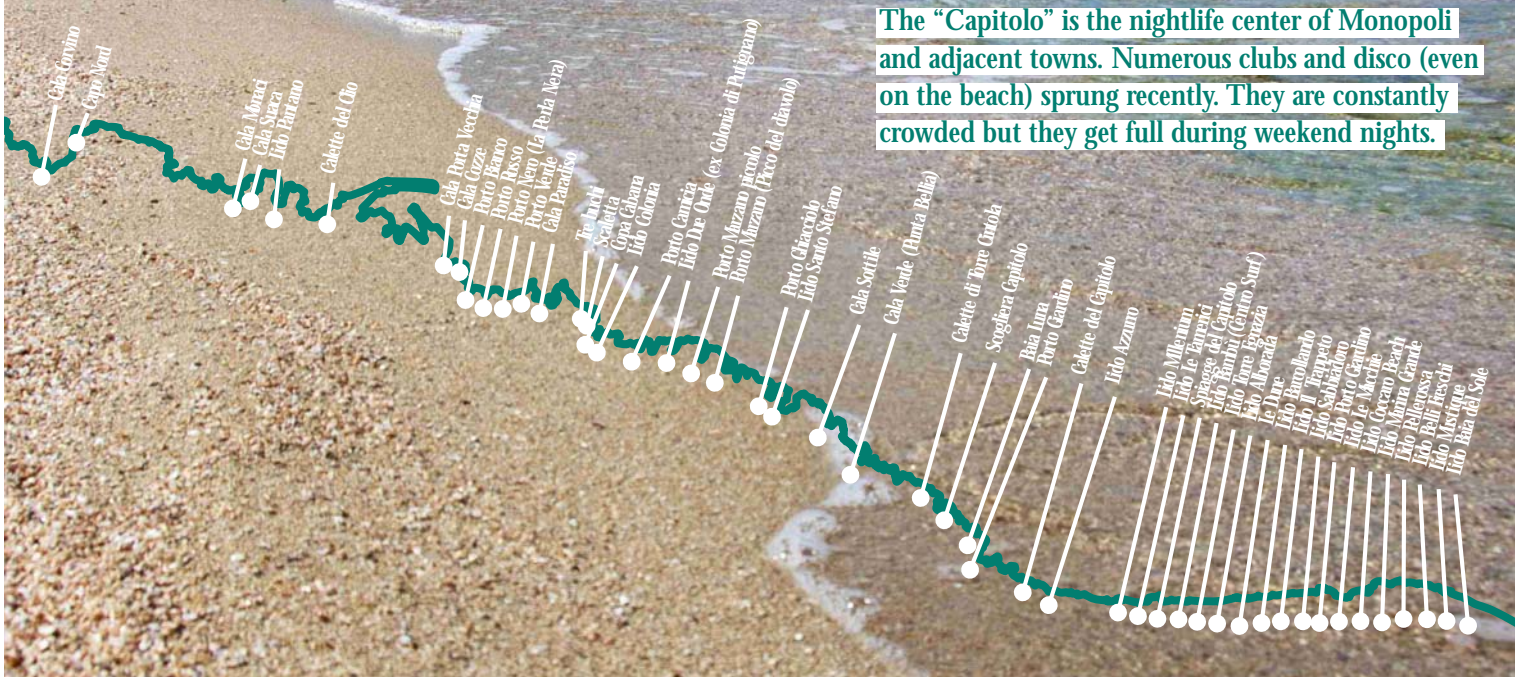


A unique and amazing seacoast frames a clean sea. The seashore, more than 13 kilometers long, includes white beaches and more secluded creeks. Creeks can be reached by feet or on boat. Water is transparent and irresistible. Cliffs are sweet and harmonious, full of ravines, gorges, and banks. Tens of creeks are suitable for anchorage though some of them are particularly precious like "Porto Bianco", "Porto Rosso", "Porto Paradiso", "Porto Camicia", "Porto Marzano", and the wonderful "Cala Verde" wherein one can enjoy magical lunar glints.

Beaches

Heading south from Monopoli, the coast is made up of fine, soft and golden sand. There are stretches of free beach and several bathing establishments. They are organized and equipped with stands, bar, and restaurants. They feature cabins, umbrellas, sunbeds, and pedal boat rentals. Facilities include also sport areas like basketball playgrounds, beach volley, soccer, bowls, swimming, motor-boating, windsurf, and entertainment for children.

The "Capitolo" is the nightlife center of Monopoli and adjacent towns. Numerous clubs and disco (even on the beach) sprung recently. They are constantly crowded but they get full during weekend nights.





Gastronomy

Both in the town and in the 99 country districts, bakers, dairymen and farmers transform land fruits into simple, tasty and fragrant products. Olive oil is the common denominator of the various dishes. With its intense flavour and its smell, it enriches any taste without covering it.

Among first courses, the orecchietta is the queen. With the cima di rapa or with traditional ragù, it creates indissoluble duos. The tiella (whose name echoes back to the Spanish domination) with rice, potatoes and mussels deserves also a special mention. Among the second courses, the bracirole alla barese are particularly appreciated: stuffed veal rolls flavoured with parsley, sheep milk cheese and hot pepper, they are cooked slowly with tomato sauce and spices.

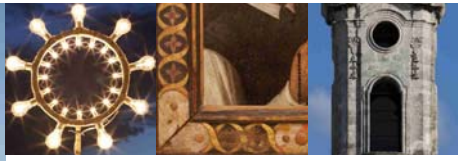
In a land where the sun shines most of the year, vegetables production stands in a preeminent position. Celery, chard, chicory, are served with mashed broad beans, lampascioni, cucumbers, and barattini.

Other typical dishes are sea starters, both raw or cooked ones, fish soups, bread and its varieties like the frisedda, the focaccia, the onion calzone, the panzerotti stuffed with mozzarella and tomato, the taralli. And then there are plenty of dairy products: the cacio ricotta, the mozzarellas, the burrata, and the ricotta forte to be spread on toasted bread.



To taste

- **Cacioricotta:** produced with mixed sheep and goat milk, both in a fresh version and a seasoned one, to be grated on orecchiette with fresh tomato sauce with abundant basil.
- **Cime di rapa:** always popular with orecchiette sauced with garlic, hot pepper and anchovies browned in burning hot oil.
- **Frisedde:** large taralli usually dipped in water and dressed with ripe tomato, salt, oregano and extra virgin oil.
- **Lampascioni:** onion bulbs scalded in water and vinegar and conserved in oil. They are also fantastic roasted under the ash, fried, or oven-baked with potatoes and lamb.
- **Mozzarella o fiordilatte:** Though excellent as they are, they can be served worthily with fresh tomatoes and basil.
- **Ricotta forte:** spread on toasted bread or used as filling for fritters.
- **Taralli:** recommended for aperitif as appetizer with olives and local cheeses.
- **Purè di fave:** served together with chicory previously pan-fried with garlic, oil and hot pepper.
- **Pomodori secchi:** conserved in oil with mint and hot pepper.
- **Cozze:** stuffed with eggs, grated bread, sheep cheese and parsley, they are cooked in tomato sauce.
- **Tiella with rice, potatoes and mussels:** prepared in layers, baked in wood stoves.
- **Orecchiette:** flavoured with a tomato sauce, in which horse meat rolls, stuffed with bacon, sheep cheese and parsley, are browned.
- **Calzone:** stuffed with sponsali onions, olives, anchovies and wild fennel, it is baked and eaten the day after Good Friday.
- **Panzerotti:** bread dough filled with mozzarella and tomato, then fried in extra virgin olive oil.
- **Focaccia:** dressed with ripe tomatoes, salt, oregano, oil and oven-baked.



Rural culture

Rural Monopoli includes trulli, historical masserie, little farmhouses and the oil-mill hypogea scattered among the centuries-old olive tree groves. They are all examples of an architecture that was functional for an essentially agricultural past; today they constitute a cultural heritage of inestimable value. From the piedmont strip it is possible to wander with the eye-look until the seashore through a multitude of centuries-old olive trees. They are gnarled and contorted, different from each other and each of them has a particular history: one has been bent by the wind, the other one was mutilated by a thunder; knots mould shapes that anybody interpret with her/his own imagination. The younger ones are 500 years, the oldest are even 2000 years; they all have beheld the course of history from the "Mare Nostrum" land sides.

In the hundred contrade (country districts) among the centuries-old olive trees, almond trees, cherry and carobs trees, there is a highlight of white, lime-plastered masserie. They are typical buildings whose architecture developed along the transition from medieval economy to the modern one. From 15th century onwards, they have become places of agro-pastoral utilization. Some historical masserie maintained the original function. Besides visiting them, it is possible thus to purchase dairy products, bread, taralli and friseddè directly from the massaro's hands.



The fortified masserie

Masseria Caramanna
main road to Castellana grotte; about 4 km to the right.

Masseria Catalluccio
main road to Castellana grotte; about 1 km to the right.

Masseria Cavallerizza
main road to Alberobello; after 14 km, to the right.

Masseria Conchia
main road to Alberobello; after 1 km, to the left, get into the local road to Contrada Conchia; after 3 km, to the right.

Masseria Garrappa
from Capitolo, main road to contrada Coccaro (Fasano); after about 1 km, to the left.

Masseria Lamalunga
from Capitolo, main road to contrada Coccaro (Fasano); after 3 km, follow the sign. After the level crossing – at the crossroads – proceed to the right, after 500 mt, to the left.

Masseria La Mantia
littoral road to Capitolo; after about 4km, to the right.

Masseria Losciale
from Capitolo, main road to contrada Coccaro (Fasano); after about 1 km, to the right.

Masseria Petrarolo
main road to Conversano; after about 7 km, in contrada Cozzana, get into (on the right) the local road to contrada Pesarolo. After about 2 km, to the right.

Masseria Rota
from Capitolo, main road to Castellana grotte and Selva di fasano; after about 3 km to the left.

Masseria Spina
main road to Bari (Aldo Moro avenue); after about 1km, to the left.



Folklore

There exists a Monopoli made up of patronal feasts, processions, and rites surviving in the white hidden houses of the old town; a town of chants and prayers transmitted from generation to generation, an incredibly rich and vital heritage of traditions and customs whose origins are very ancient.

Habits and customs, aesthetical predilection and religiosity are preserved and passed on through time, each time absorbing contributions of cultures passed by this land: Greeks and Romans, Byzantines and Venetians, Spanish and French, even Saracens and Turkish; each of them left something.

The most famous recurrence is the Madonna della Madia's Day, on the 16th of December sunrise, which is repeated and expanded for the several citizen living abroad on 15th August. An immense

crowd of believers and sightseers pay homage, in the magical atmosphere of the old harbour, to the Byzantine icon arrived on the Monopolitan shore upon a raft, way back in 1117. Equally interesting is the Santi Cosma e Damiano's

Day, recurring on the first weekend of June. A multitude of barefoot believers carry their statues during the procession. They are dressed up with dark clothes, bearing long and heavy candles, lighted in sign of devotion and thanksgiving for the graces received. The calendar is full of festivals and anniversaries along the whole year.



Last Carnival day: costume parade around the central square ring.

19th March: St. Joseph's Day with fires in various spots and festival of the zeppola.

25th March: fair of the Annunziata in the harbour's surroundings.

Holy Thursday and Good Friday: church services and mysteries procession along the downtown streets.

1st weekend of May: Procession to the sea with the statue of S.Francesco da Paola, patron saint.

1st weekend of June: Santi Medici Cosma, Damiano and Cataldo's Day with a

very long procession of barefoot women, dressed up in black, bearing huge candles.

13th June: Blessing of the bread and procession

14th/15th August: Madonna della Madia's Day with the landing in the harbour of the raft which carries the Byzantine Madonna icon, and subsequent fireworks show.

7th/8th December: Christmas' drops, traditional market,

food and entertainment in Garibaldi St.

13th Dec: Santa Lucia's Day with Christmas market, where one can find traditional decorations for Christmas trees and earthen statuettes for the Nativity.

16th Dec.: Festival on the seaside, landing of the Madonna della Madia on the miracle raft at night, subsequent procession along the city streets,

up to the Cathedral where a High Mass is celebrated at sunrise.

End of December's Sundays, till Epiphany: living Nativities with final ride of the Magi nearby S.Francesco da Paola church and near the country districts: Antonelli and Madonna del Rosario.

July and August: "Festivalmare" takes place, i.e. a rich program

of shows and events in the town and its surroundings.

During summer, every weekend: feasts in the districts with typical products coming from the sea and from the land.

Every Thursday: goods market, c/o via Togliatti

Small Calendar





Museums

A tourist can find and admire traces of the town's thousand-year history in the museums, the real jewels of the city. The original open air Artillery Museums stretches out along the defence circuit of the old town, starting from Charles V's Castle. Cannons coming from Gaeta have been placed on towers; the House of Savoy donated them to Monopolitans in order to employ them as bollards. Parts of the walls were fundamental, together with citizens' ardour, to fight off the memorable siege by the Marquis of Vasto's troops in 1529.

The airy palace of the Seminario Vescovile, dating back to the end of 17th century, houses the Diocesan Museum. Various icons exposed in it testify the layering of dominations and artistic influences from Byzantine world to the Neapolitan kingdom. The mystical tension of the Byzantine Virgins, the 16th century brightness of Francesco Vecellio's works, and baroque theatricalism make you perceive the popular religious fervour behind saints and holy effigies, subjects of humble prayers.

Visiting the Cathedral Museum drives you back to the Messapian and Medieval civilization. A typical bronze Messapian trozzella and other finds discovered in tombs are particularly interesting, together with sculpted figures representing Ancient and New Testament scenes. The crypt was found in 1986. It belonged to the Romanesque Cathedral that was erected by bishop Romualdo, protagonist of the miraculous landing of the Madonna della Madia. San Leonardo Museum contains sacred art manufactures exposed along the matroneum of the homonymous church in the heart of the downtown.



Diocesan Museum

Ex Seminario Vescovile, Via Cattedrale, 26
Tel. e fax:
+39 080 748002

Cathedral Museum

Piazza Cattedrale, 1
Cell. +39 3381885866
+ 39 3289251701

San Leonardo Museum

Via San Leonardo
Cell. +39 3289226913

Charles V's Castle

Piazza Castello
Tel. +39 0809303014

Open air Artillery Museum

Via Cadorna e Lungomare Santa Maria
Cell. +39 329002910



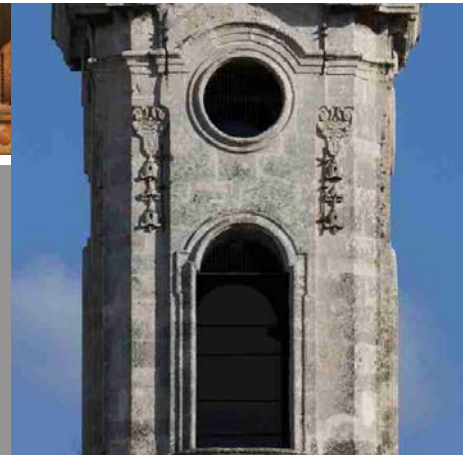
City and monuments

There are fifty thousand inhabitants in Monopoli, distributed also among the 99 populous contrade, which the countryside is divided in.

A thousand-year sweep of olive trees fringes the urban centre up to the Murgia hills step. The ancient inhabited nucleus expands on a strip of land oriented towards the sea. The Charles V's castle has garrisoned the water access since 1552, addressing some cannons to the built-up area too. Four great towers complete the town fortification, from which the 19th century cannons stick out.

The steeples and the baroque domes stand over the houses, giving in only to the Cathedral Basilica, emblem of the 18th century splendour, symbol of the clergy's and dominant classes' opulence. The temple treasures an icon of the Madonna della Madia, landed on a beam-made raft in 1117, according to the tradition. Among the conspicuous works of the majestic interior, two canvases from Iacopo da Palma il Giovane deserve a mention: 'San Michele Archangel and the Demon' and a 'Madonna in Gloria with saints Rocco and Sebastian'.

Moving on in the maze of tiny streets one lights upon courtyards



called chiassi. The airy Palmieri square opens wide in a central position with respect to the ancient lived-in area. Here one can admire the elegant façade of the homonymous palace realized at the end of 18th century.

The church of San Domenico's façade excites for the rose window and the sculptures by Stefano di Putignano: spine-crowned Christ, San Domenico and the Madonna on throne with child.

From the apses of Santa Maria degli Amafitani the sculptures and the architectural structure give a meaningful example of Apulian Romanesque.

The Vittorio Emanuele garden square joins the old town with the perpendicular streets of the Murat period buildings.

