



IMPORTANT TO READ BEFORE MOVING TO POGGIARDO

useful information, advices

About:

weather, culture, transportation, free time, shopping, beach, practical
Information, sport, nature travel



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Poggiardo

Poggiardo is a small village with 6,175 inhabitants in the province of Lecce, in Puglia. It is located in the south-east of Italy in an area called **Salento**. Salento is situated exactly on the heel of the Italian 'boot'. This part of Italy has its own particular climate, culture, tradition, music and folk dance called **pizzica**, language, dialect and food.



In Poggiardo you are involved in many aspects of Salento's culture: the Mediterranean climate, the Salentino dialect, a very particular language that only the people who live here can speak and understand, the Baroque style of the churches and the monuments, the typical Salento dishes, and the friendly and nice people. Wherever you come from, it will be surprising for you to discover how different is the lifestyle here, comparing to your own culture. You can see old men on the streets and corners chatting all afternoon, if you enter the shop, people will remember you and greet you and whoever you ask for help, for sure they are going to help. It is good to be familiar with the term of "cultural shock".

WEATHER



The climate of Poggiardo has the features of **Mediterranean climate**. The whole year is very humid, you can feel it even inside the house. During the summer (May-September) the weather is hot, around 36°C and the sun can burn your skin easily, so be prepared for it. During the winter (October-March), the climate is mild and the temperature is always above-zero. However some days can be cold and rainy because of the freezing cold winds that blow on Salento from the North of Italy. It sounds nice, but don't forget your winter clothes! The humidity makes you feel colder than it is. If you are asthmatic, or sensitive for the weather you

should be aware of this.

CULTURE

The community of Poggiardo gives importance for keeping their traditions, within festivals and culture. **In summer time** the community organizes special events and nights with different cultural activities to promote its music and dance. **Each week on Wednesday the market** is set up to sell some local products and to keep the typical local foods alive.



Besides bazaar, **festivals** are also a really important occasion to get some ideas about Salento traditions, culture and music. During the festivals you can have the possibility of listening the songs of this area with the **special folk dance** called **pizzica**. Unfortunately from November to April the cultural life is quite low, but in the summer each week you can find a place with some programs. Be aware of the **transportation issue**: in the evening you cannot find any buses or trains between the cities. The solution can be hitchhiking or having nice local friends, who can drive you home.

TRANSPORTATION

TRAIN Generally, the use of train is really common in this part of Italy. Especially in Puglia if you want to reach small villages you can take the train. For this reason, **it's better for you to get the weekly or monthly train schedule**. You can get more detailed information from the website of **Ferrovie del Sud Est FSE**: www.fseonline.it. This company has trains and buses around Lecce. There is a stereotype of South Italy, that everything is late. Well, it isn't just a legend, sometimes the trains are 20-30 minutes late. If you are planning a trip,



always count on some delays. The best is to ask about the trains at least two people on the station, the website is not always up to date. If you want to travel more far from Lecce, you can use Trenitalia (www.trenitalia.it), they have modern and high-velocity trains to Bari, Rome, Milano, Bologna. If you buy your ticket in advance (online or on the station with the machines), you can find economic prices. Be aware of the prices, because just like plane tickets, they are growing in time!

BUS The company FSE organizes buses as well, which is important, because on Sunday there isn't any train between Poggiardo and Lecce, only one bus in the morning and one in the evening. There are small cities in Salento, where there is no train station, so to reach these cities, you have to take a bus. To buy tickets for these buses and trains, you have to find a *tabaccheria*, a small news stand and ask for it. On the train or on the bus you cannot buy any tickets. Sometimes the bus stop is not marked, in Poggiardo the bus stop is close to Caffee Borghese. During the summertime there is a special bus, it's

called Salento in Bus, it operates from 4th of June until 1st of September, you can use it to discover all the beaches along the coast.

HITCHHIKING If you are adventurous and want to meet new friends in Salento, **hitchhiking** is your way. Usually after 10-15 minutes you can always find a car. People are really friendly and nice, but it's "necessary" to speak at least basic Italian, because the locals don't speak English. For short distance trips or just to go to the beach, hitchhiking is the fastest, funniest and cheapest way.



BIKE When the weather is nice, you can go with bike too, it is the best way to discover the beauty of the countryside, the nature, the olive fields, close villages, or to reach the closest beaches. There are principal roads between the cities and also ancient small ways which are better for hiking, biking or jogging/running because there isn't traffic on them. Use google maps to indicate even the smallest roads, it is very accurate. In autumn and spring it gets dark very fast around 5 pm so make sure you don't get lost.

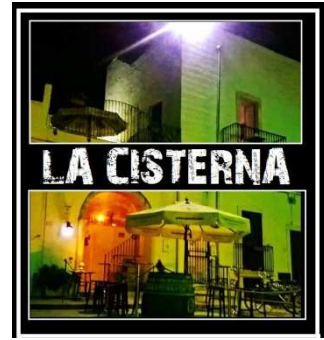


RESTAURANTS, BARS, PASTRY SHOPS

In Poggiardo there are many options to have a dinner or an *aperitivo* or just a couple of drinks. What could be strange for you is, the Italians here are not dancing at all, they prefer to drink, snack and talk and talk and talk. If you sit down with your coffee, drink or your meal, don't forget, that you have to pay 1-2 euros as service fee, called *coperto*.

LA CISTERNA

The bar on Piazza del Popolo is a great social meeting point of the city Poggiardo. The barmen Juri is extremely friendly and has good relation with the previous EVS volunteers of Jump In. He can help you to rent a car, to get bikes for big group or he just lets you to use the WiFi without consuming. You can find various special local beers and specialties from all over the world. If you are hungry, you can have here snacks, fast food, there are always some special offers. Sometimes there are live acoustic concerts or some social events. If you want to have a nice night out, La Cisterna is the best option! [facebook.com/La-Cisterna-Top-BEER-and-FOOD-Selection-842425349132740](https://www.facebook.com/La-Cisterna-Top-BEER-and-FOOD-Selection-842425349132740)



CAFFÉ BORGHERESE

Caffè Borghese is one of the most popular restaurant –café where you can taste typical dishes in harmony with Salento cuisine. You can eat or drink something with prices a bit higher then average. Here you can find people from Poggiardo but also people from closer villages. Sometimes Caffè Borghese organizes **special nights** with DJ performances, tribute bands and hosts some popular groups for live concerts, but it is rare. In the weekends and the evenings young people are having drinks here. It is **open also on Sunday**. **Menu:** Espresso coffee, sandwiches, salads, pizza and pastries.



AMERICAN BAR

American Bar is a classic Italian bar with the label of “Illy” coffee which you can find in all Italy. So if you want to taste famous Italian coffee, American Bar can be the best place for you. Besides coffee you can taste many traditional desserts with the liqueur or the cocktail you prefer. You find Caffè Borghese in the heart of Poggiardo and many people go there to take Espresso coffee, so sometimes it can be very crowded. The barmen who work there are very friendly and professional. **Menu:** coffee, cocktails, liqueurs, desserts, salads



CAFFETINO

If you are searching for breakfast, a coffee or local gossips, just go to Caffetino and take it all. This bar is the only one, which is opened in siesta-time too, there is WiFi, nice coffee specialties and nice atmosphere too. Caffetino is a nice meeting point to have appointments as well.

BAR EUROPA

Bar Europa is a good and cheap place to buy pizza, calzone or rustic, you can also eat here horse meat and local pasta. The owner Emilio is helpful and can arrange anything you ask in terms of food. It is the locals favorite with cheap beer.

TESORETTO

Tesoretto is the biggest restaurant of Poggiardo, so if you don't want to eat pizza, Tesoretto can be your alternative to taste different types of dishes. The prices of this restaurant are above the standards, related to the service quality. It is far from the city center and it is better to take bicycle or car when you go there. There are also events concerts and dance parties. It also serves as a hotel.

OASI

Oasi is a typical Italian restaurant which provides its guests a large variety of Italian pizza. The prices are cheap but each person has to pay an extra of 1 - 1,50€ for **cover charge** which is an additional charge per person in restaurant and pub. **Menu:** pizza, calzone, pasta, seafood, meat.

MASQUENADA

Masquenada is another option for pizza lovers. It is located in the center of Poggiardo next to the American Bar. The first floor of the restaurant is decorated like a cafe-bar in which you can listen DJ performance and do karaoke. Like Oasi, Masquenada has cover charge for its services.

PORTICI

The standard meeting point in the city center for a coffee or something handmade sweets is Portici on the main square.

LIEVITO MADRE

A newly opened place with really good pizza and chic atmosphere and import beers.

MARTINUCCI

Martinucci is one of the most famous bakeries **you can find in many villages near Poggiardo: Santa Maria di Leuca, Specchia, Tricase, Maglie, Otranto, Lecce, Gallipoli.** It was founded in 1950 by Giovanni Martinucci. Since 1950 this label preserves its traditional recipes and continues to satisfy its clients with delicious tastes. In Martinucci you can taste Salento's traditional delicious pastries like **pasticcio, tiramisu, cheesecake, and salty baked products like calzone, rustico, pizza.**

You have to taste the wonderful ice-creams... a pleasure for your eyes but especially for your mouth! You'll come back to Martinucci to buy your favorite ice-cream any time you want to feed your stomach. If you are a coffee lover, Martinucci recommends you to drink coffee with ice-cream or coffee with chocolate and cream. The local specialty is the espresso with ice and almond-syrup.

CREMA & CIOCCOLATTO



If you want to try delicious tastes of Salento without going far from Poggiardo, Crema & Cioccolato is the best choice you can make. One of the best specialties of this bakery is the “**cornetto**”. It is made of puff pastry **full of hot chocolate, cream or marmalade**. You can eat it for breakfast with milk or coffee but also after dinner, if you are still hungry. If you want to enjoy this piece of glory, you have to go early in the morning to taste fresh-baked cornetto. In Crema & Cioccolato you can also **buy biscuits** and other Salento typical dessert and **liqueurs, ice creams**. You can find this bakery in **Via Sant’ Antonio, 6**.

SHOPPING, MARKET

Poggiardo has few supermarkets and small shops for basic needs, but if you want local goods and buying high quality of food, your choice is the market on Wednesdays. The supermarkets have basically the same prices, but only one is open in siesta, its name is MD. The supermarkets of Poggiardo are: Eurospim (1,5 km from the city), Pam (in the center), MD (10minutes from the center), Sigma (in the center).



In the market you can find vegetables, fruits, milk products, clothes, sunglasses, second hand shops, vintage things. The market is on every Wednesday, and it is a kind of social event of the city as well. Don't be afraid to speak Italian or communicate with the locals, they are friendly, the sellers are happy to help you. If you are at Jump In as an EVS volunteer, collect your bills and receipts for the food because you will get the reimbursement based on that.

BEACH, SEASIDE

The two closest beaches are **Porto Miggiano** and **Castro**, both of them are 7 km from Poggiardo. To reach them the easiest and cheapest way is hitchhiking or biking. From the middle of June until the end of August there are buses as well, but it is not easy to find a schedule for them, ask at the local train station and note the bus stop is also different than FSE buses. More info: <https://www.salentu.com/salento-in-treno-e-bus/>. Castro has a nice ancient city center, where you can drink a coffee and try handmade ice cream, the beach is with concrete and rocks. In Santa Cesarae Terme – Porto Miggiano you can find a “wild” natural beach with rocks and sand as well, close there is a bar with some drinks, but only from June to August.



LIBRARY

You can find a **small library** in the center of Poggiardo, in **Palazzo della Cultura, Piazza Umberto I**. If you are a member, you can borrow some books. It is not possible to find every kind of books you need, but in the library there are many books about Italian culture. There are also many **computers with Internet connection**.

If you are searching for a big library, you can go to **Maglie** in **Via Vittorio Emanuele, 117**. The **Francesco Piccinno library** gives you the possibility to find magazines, novels, history books, encyclopedias, DVDs. This library offers also the opportunity of **borrowing some movies** within membership. Besides this, there is a **WiFi zone with several computers**. The library organizes seminars, open air cinema, didactic works and summer camps.

The opening and closing times of the two libraries are limited only for the afternoons. They will be opened every morning in a week days:

- **Poggiardo Library:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00 A.M to 12.00 A.M; Tuesday and Thursday from 4.00 P.M to 6.30 P.M
- **Maglie Library:** From Monday to Friday from 9.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M; Monday and Thursday from 4.00 P.M to 6.30 P.M

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

HOSPITAL

The Francesco Piscipo Hospital provides you limited health services with your insurance because it hasn't got sufficient equipment for every kind of health problems. In the Hospital you can find day surgery, radiology ward, general medicine and analysis laboratory. In case you should need other specific treatments you might go to a more equipped



hospital in **Tricase** or in **Scorrano**. The staff of the hospital is competent and the doctors and the nurses will do their best to make you feel good.

PHARMACY

There are two pharmacies in Poggiardo: in case you need some medicines, you can buy them here.

POST OFFICE

The post office of Poggiardo is in front of the Pam supermarket. The ones who aren't member of the EU can get the application form of Residence Permit from Post Office. Also for the PostePay – which is a special card that can be used like a credit card when you do shopping – you need to go to the Post Office. Be aware of the opening ours, they open at 9 in the morning and close at 12:30 from Monday to Friday.



SPORT

Obviously the sport opportunities are wider in the summertime, but still you can find various options to do sports.

SPORT CENTER

If you like sport and have enough time for yourself, you can go to the Style Fitness gym center in Poggiardo, via Monti Li Gatti, 5 and the newly opened New Life Gym. Here you can take care of your body with the help of professional trainers. **The monthly price of the gym center is 40€, but if you make a good bargain you can pay much less.** It's also possible to join other activities which are organized by the gym center without paying extra money, fox example **Zumba**.

The staff of the gym center is so kind and friendly so don't hesitate to ask for their help. The language will not be a problem for you. Check on facebook their opening hours.

STADIUM

If you are a football lover, there is a **stadium** where you can watch the matches of local teams **on Sundays**, for 3 euro.

SWIMMING POOL

If you are interested in swimming you can go to Hydropolis, a semi Olympic swimming pool in



Via O. Tiso, 54. More info: **tel: 0836 901109, +393385753237**

You pay only 5€ and you can relieve from the stress of a day! There are many professional trainers who organize some sportive and healthy activities during the week for you according to your weekly schedule. Ask about the certificate from your doctor to prove you have no skin problems, sometimes they ask for it. Check for the prices and what is included in them.

Some of the activities you can do are: water polo, hydro bike, individual swimming lessons, scuba diving courses, therapeutic swimming.

The swimming pool **is closed on Sunday**.

NATURE

There is a **huge countryside** which is ideal to get some fresh air or to go for a walk along the **trekking route (Pineta Marirossi)**.

If you want to go for a walk in this countryside you don't risk of losing yourself because there are some signs that give enough information about the route. This route is also convenient for the cyclists. If you are keen of bicycles you can find a **Cicloclub in Nociglia** and also Parco Paduli, that organize bicycle racings and cyclist meetings.



The nature in Salento is calm, beautiful and charming, don't lose the opportunity to visit and understand it. The olive fields and the small roads between them are great places to relax, to do meditations, yoga, or just spend the siesta or the weekend with a picnic.

TRIPS, TRAVELS, VISIT

There are many interesting cities and places to visit in Salento. The most famous destinations are Lecce and Otranto, but there are other cities to travel to, such as Gallipoli, Santa Maria di Leuca, Alimini Lakes, Maglie, and many different and beautiful beaches.

LECCE



Lecce is a city with 89,950 inhabitants. It is the main cultural center of the Salento area. It is characterized by a local cuisine, different traditions, a local language called "salentino dialect" and an old history.

Lecce is a really beautiful city with its unique Baroque style and is considered **the Florence of Southern Italy**. There are several churches like Chiesa del Gesù, Chiesa di Santa Chiara, the cathedral, Duomo di Maria Santissima Assunta, and the Basilica di Santa Croce.

One of the most important archeological sites is **The Anfiteatro Romano** in San Oronzo square. It is the symbol of the Roman Empire domination, was built among the I. and II. century A.D. and in the past it could include 25,000 spectators.

Apart from these in Lecce there are many shops, bar and restaurants. If you need to do shopping there is a big mall in which you can find some electronic devices, cosmetics, sport equipment and a big cinema. The shopping center is **Ipercoop**, is not in the center of Lecce. You can get there with the buses that depart directly near the station. You have to take the bus number 35 which passes from the bus station every 20-30 minutes.

Lecce is also nice to spend a Saturday there and have some drinks, but don't forget, the last train to Poggiardo goes at 18:59!

OTRANTO



Otranto is a small town which is famous for its wonderful seaside, beaches and historical town center. In the summer time, the population in Otranto increases because there are many tourists who choose to spend their holidays in this beautiful landscape made of sun, sea, local products shops. Although it has got a **small beach**, the sea of Otranto is really charming with its beauties. The most visited place in Otranto is its famous **castle**, **Castello Aragonese**, which is a symbol of the Roman Empire.

If you are interested in buying souvenirs in this town near the castle you can find many little shops that sell lots of hand-made local products.

