

First (and Last) Bulletin of NOW 2016

1 – Workshop Website and Email

The website of the Neutrino Oscillation Workshop 2016 (NOW 2016) is <http://www.ba.infn.it/now>. For email communication, please contact us (the Local Organizing Committee) at the address now2016@ba.infn.it.

2 – Completing your arrival information

If you have not already done so, **please send us your complete arrival information (date, place, accompanying person(s), exact time, and flight or train number) as soon as possible**. We need such information not only to ensure lodging, but also (for those not arriving by their own car) to organize our shuttle service from the Brindisi airport and from the Lecce train station, which are both very far from the Workshop site in Otranto (up to 1h+15' and 45' driving, respectively.) Private taxi services would be very expensive, and is strongly discouraged.

We shall e-mail the shuttle pick-up schedule to each interested participant, a few days before the Workshop. Notify us immediately in case of last-minute changes (see the last page for emergency numbers).

3 – Lodging and meals

All the participants will be lodged at the **Basiliani Resort & SPA**, which is also the site of the Workshop. Room rates, as reported on our Accommodation webpage, are “**full board**” and include meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and beverages at meals (e.g., water and wine). Extra drinks at the bar are at your own expenses. Typical meal times might be approximately: breakfast ~7:15-10:00; lunch ~12:30-14:00; dinner ~19:45-21:15 (to be more precisely communicated on site). Note that after the excursions on Sept. 6 and 8 (see below) dinner will start later, around 20:30 - 21:00.

If you have special dietary or accommodation needs, please inform us at now2016@ba.infn.it. Do not contact the Hotel by yourself: we take care of all the reservations and accommodation details.

Please note the following points about arrival, departure and payment. The scientific sessions will start on Monday 5 and will end on Saturday 10 Sept. **The arrival is expected on Sunday 4**; rooms will generally be available after 16:00 of Sept. 4. **The departure is expected on Sunday 11**, with rooms generally to be left before 10:00. We recommend to stay for the whole week 4-11 September. If you need to extend your stay beyond these dates, you should make your personal arrangements (our Secretariat will help you on site, if needed).

Hotel payment. You will pay for your stay at the Hotel Reception, usually two or three days before leaving (to avoid long queues on the last day). Any major credit card will be accepted. You can ask for specific forms of receipt, but then you have to inform the Hotel staff well in advance.

4 – Arrival

There are three ways to reach the Basiliani Resort in Otranto:

i) By plane. The nearest airport is **Brindisi** (we do exclude the Bari airport because it is too far). Since there are not many daily flights to/from Brindisi, it is advisable to book your flights at your earliest convenience. We shall organize a shuttle service from the Brindisi airport to the Basiliani Resort, by grouping participants with similar arrival times. In order to do so, **we need to know precisely -and well in advance- your arrival day, time, and flight code**, otherwise we cannot ensure your transfer by bus (which may take up to 1h+20', depending on traffic conditions). The bus schedule will be communicated by email, a few days before the Workshop starts.

When you arrive, please wait around the “Arrival” exit of the airport: at the scheduled pick-up time, the driver or a Workshop staff person will show up with a “NOW 2016” sign, and bring you to the shuttle. In case of flight delays or other unexpected events at your arrival, please refer to the NOW 2016 emergency numbers at the end of this Bulletin.

iii) By train. The only practical railway station is Lecce (in principle you might reach Otranto, but it is not a convenient choice). Also in this case **we need to know precisely -and well in advance- your arrival day, time, and train number**, otherwise we cannot ensure your transfer by bus to the Basiliani Resort (which may take up to 45', depending on traffic conditions). The bus schedule will be communicated by email.

When you arrive, please wait around the main exit of the Lecce Railway Station: at the scheduled pick-up time, the driver or a Workshop staff person will show up with a “NOW 2016” sign, and bring you to the shuttle. In case of train delays or other unexpected events at arrival, please refer the NOW 2016 emergency numbers at the end of this Bulletin.

iv) By car. You can find a map with the Basiliani Resort location on the NOW workshop home page. See also the Resort info on their official webpage: <http://www.basilianiresort.com/en/hotel/how-to-reach-us.htm>

Note: Parking in the Hotel area is free of charge for the customers.

5 – Departure

Please inform us well in advance about your return travel plans, so that we can organize your transfer by shuttle from Otranto to Brindisi airport or to Lecce railway station. If you want to extend your stay after Sept. 11, you must arrange both lodging and transfer by yourself.

6 – Fee

The conference fee is 400 euros, to be paid to “Comitato PHYS 2016”. No fee is requested for accompanying persons. **You can pay the fee in two ways:**

(1) Highly preferred way: by Bank Transfer (only before August 12), following the instructions and IBAN coordinates given on our web page;

(2) Alternative (discouraged) way: by Cash in Euros (at the arrival); in the latter case, you are advised to prepare well in advance your 400 Euro cash, since it is not easy to change money in Otranto, and we expect the exchange rates to be not so convenient. *[Note: Fee payment by credit cards or checks is not allowed.]*

Of course, in both cases, you will receive a receipt of your payment at arrival. Please **read carefully the “Conference Fee” link** on our webpage for details.

*Notes to participants supported by I.N.F.N: (1) Italian participants coming with INFN funds must also individually pay the fee (and should **not** ask to transfer the fee via INFN Sections), since the Workshop is not managed directly by INFN, but is organized by "Comitato PHYS 2016". (2) INFN participants should also inform the Workshop secretariat, before or upon arrival, if they need a receipt fully reporting the fiscal data of their INFN section.*

7 – Computer Facilities and Internet Connection

A few desktop PC's and printers will be provided to participants. **Wireless connection will be available only in the Hall and the Conference areas** (but not in the rooms). WiFi Access will be granted via eduroam www.eduroam.org, so please check your eduroam credential in your home institution, if available. Participants without eduroam credentials can obtain local credentials at the secretariat desk. INFN participants may also connect to wifi via dot1x.

Hotel rooms are served only by a cabled network, provided by the Hotel. Some network cables may be available on site, but we suggest that you bring your own.

8 – Talks

Each **plenary talk will be 30' long** (+ 5' for discussion). **Parallel talks will be 20' long** (+ 5' for discussion). We will provide Windows laptops for presentations, but participants may give electronic presentations with their own laptop if they wish. Speakers are invited to show up well before their session starts, in order to upload their files and check possible technical issues.

We also expect to broadcast the plenary talks (and possibly part of the parallel talks) in real time, with access through a 'live videostreaming' link on the webpage. *If you do not want to appear in videostream, please report in advance to us by email or to the secretariat at arrival.*

9 – Presentations on the web and Proceedings

Copies of talks for plenary and parallel sessions will be posted daily on the workshop web site. For this reason, speakers should provide a copy of the talk, e.g., on a memory stick. **Please provide us also with a "safe" pdf version of your talk, to be used in case of software compatibility problems.**

All NOW 2016 presentations by plenary and parallel session speakers, together with short session summaries by the conveners, will be published electronically in Proceedings of Science (PoS - SISSA). The Proceedings will be edited by A. Mirizzi, A. Marrone, and D. Montanino. Further instructions will be given to the speakers and conveners in due time.

10 – Weather

Beware: Even though you will be in the South of Italy, the month of September is not necessarily hot. The wind blows normally from the North, and storms are not so rare. The temperature, despite being generally pleasant during the day, may decrease remarkably at night. So, clothing must be adequate. Before leaving to Otranto, please check the local weather information at the weather links collected on the NOW web page.

11 – Free time

As you can see from the Program, there is a 4-hour daily break from 12.00 to 16.00 o'clock, which can be used freely. You may want to spend this time either inside the Resort (which offers a large pool and a solarium free of charge, plus charged SPA services) or outside it, towards the old town and the seaside of Otranto which are favorite destinations for tourists. **Do not forget to bring your own swimsuit and beach/pool shoes!**

With regards to your lunch, you can either have it in the Hotel, or you can ask in advance to have a take-away lunch box (usually packed with sandwiches, water, fruit) prepared for you, and to be picked up at noon (more info on site).

Outside the resort, some points of interests are: the Old Town (with many places to stop for a visit, for a drink, or for shopping), the Cathedral (with its famous floor mosaic), the sand beach "Lido Miramare" and the rocky seaside, and the Otranto Castle (hosting the exhibition www.stevemccurryicons.it/index-en.php).

We have reserved a dozen beach umbrellas (and twice as many beach beds/seats) at **Lido Miramare for NOW 2016 participants** and accompanying persons during the days 5-10 September. Free access to the sand beach and its facilities will be possible by going down the stairs on the right of "Ristorante Miramare" and exhibiting the NOW 2016 badge at the personnel of the Lido.

On the opposite side along the coast, just after the stone arcs in front of the "Guardia Costiera" (Coastal Guard) building, there is a rocky seaside with deep waters, suitable only for experienced swimmers. The closest part features big artificial rocks, followed by natural rocks towards East (with access along the coastal road). *[Warning: if your are not an expert swimmer in sea water, you should safely remain close to the shore, but not reach deep water, where there may be strong currents. No lifeguard service is provided in this area.]*

A map with directions to these points of interest (**all within about 20' walking distance**) is given below, as well as on the Workshop website:



12 – Excursions

There will be a **brief guided excursion on Tuesday 6 (evening), by walking towards the old town of Otranto and back to the Resort.** The excursion will include a visit to the Cathedral and to the Castle.

For the **full excursion day on Thursday 9**, we will propose you to join one of two alternatives tours, with tentative itinerary as follows:

a) Southern Coast tour. You leave Otranto in the south direction. You will see small villages, churches and monuments of the South Salento. A boat tour might be organized, if the weather allows. Lunch will be provided at a Restaurant during the tour.

b) Northern Town tour. You leave Otranto in the north direction. You will visit Lecce with its baroque churches, Ostuni the "White Town" and Martina Franca. Lunch will be provided at a Restaurant during the tour.

Further details will be given on site. You will be asked to choose one of the tours (or none) in advance, in the first couple of days of the Workshop.

13 – Tours for accompanying persons

We have not organized additional tours for the accompanying persons. In general, the stay in Otranto is rather pleasant, both inside and outside the Resort. However, you may ask travel agencies in Otranto to organize or suggest for you tours of various kinds (visits to Lecce, tours by boat, etc.) at your own expenses.

14 – Emergency contacts

If you have any kind of emergency at arrival, please call:

- either the Basiliani Resort reception, at the number **0836 802920** (the reception will then transfer your message to the NOW organizers);

- or directly the NOW 2016 Secretariat at the mobile number **392 6325751** (this dedicated mobile phone number will be active for calls or messages, only during the days of the Workshop);

- or (if it's not extremely urgent) write a message to now2016@ba.infn.it, which will be checked very often during all Workshop days.

We remind you that, from abroad, **the Italy Country Code is +39.**

We wish you a nice and safe trip. See you in Otranto!