

First (and Last) Bulletin of NOW 2018

1 – Workshop Website and Email

The website of the Neutrino Oscillation Workshop 2018 (NOW 2018) is <http://www.ba.infn.it/now> For any email communication, please contact us (the Local Organizing Committee) at the address now2018@ba.infn.it.

2 – Completing your travel 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) very urgently.** We need such information not only to reserve lodging, but also (for those not arriving by their own car) to organize our shuttle service from the Brindisi airport and from the Brindisi (or Ostuni) train station, which are both far from the Workshop site. Private taxi service 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 **Ostuni Rosa Marina Resort**, which is also the venue of the Workshop, in rooms of the “Comfort” category. The 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. *Single (not accompanied) participants will be accommodated, by default, into Comfort Rooms for single use, unless they wish to share a double room with other participants (provided that a room mate can be found).*

Please note that the scientific sessions will start on Monday 10th and will end on Saturday 15th. **The arrival is expected on Sunday 9;** rooms will generally be available after 17:00 of Sept. 9. **The departure is expected on Sunday 16,** with rooms generally to be left before 10:00. Stays shorter than one full week are subject to higher room rates, as indicated on the accommodation page.

Accommodation pre-payment. You will be asked by the Resort **to pre-pay your full stay** about one month before the Workshop. You will receive an email from commerciale@ostunirosamarinaresort.com with a notification of the total amount due, and with detailed information about how to pay such amount by credit card or bank transfer within a deadline. Note that such amount does not include the Ostuni city tax (2 Euro/day/person), which must be paid cash on site.

Note: You can ask for specific forms of accommodation receipts, but please inform the Hotel well in advance, and definitely not at check-out.

Meals: Typical meal times might be approximately: breakfast ~7:15-10:00; lunch ~12:30-14:00; dinner ~19:30-21:00 (to be more precisely communicated on site). Note that after the excursions on Sept. 11 and 13 (see below) dinner will start later, around 20:30 or 21:00.

If you have special dietary or accommodation needs, please inform us at now2018@ba.infn.it (if you have not already done so) and we shall transfer the info to the Hotel staff.

4 – Arrival

There are three ways to reach the Ostuni Rosa Marina Resort:

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 Ostuni Rosa Marina 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 45', 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 2018” sign, and bring you to the shuttle. In case of flight delays or other unexpected events at your arrival, please refer to the NOW 2018 emergency numbers at the end of this Bulletin.

ii) By train. The most practical railway station is Brindisi. In principle you might also reach Ostuni, but only by regional trains. In any 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 Rosa Marina Resort (which may take up to 45' from Brindisi and 15' from Ostuni, 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 main exit of the Brindisi (or Ostuni) Railway Station: at the scheduled pick-up time, the driver or a Workshop staff person will show up with a “NOW 2018” sign, and bring you to the shuttle. In case of train delays or other unexpected events at arrival, please refer the NOW 2018 emergency numbers at the end of this Bulletin.

iii) By car. You can find a map with the Ostuni Rosa Marina Resort location and with entrance gate information on the NOW workshop home page ("Venue" link). In any case, if you drive towards South along the Bari-Brindisi expressway (Strada Statale SS16): take the exit "Rosamarina - Monticelli", then follow the signs (written in black over white) to the Ostuni Rosa Marina Resort. Upon arrival: proceed towards the sliding gate on the left, buzz the intercom on the column without leaving your car, then continue to the Reception. (Do not take the gate on the right, with a bar and guard box, that leads to a private village instead).

Note: Parking in the Hotel area (for customers) is free of charge in a dedicated area at ~150 m from the Reception. The guarded parking lot facing the Reception is instead charged with 7 Euro/day.

5 – Departure

Please inform us well in advance about your return travel plans (if you have not already done so), so that we can organize your transfer by shuttle from Rosa Marina to the Brindisi airport or to Brindisi (or Ostuni) railway station. If you want to extend your stay after Sept. 16, you must arrange both lodging and transfer by yourself.

6 – Conference Fee

The conference fee is 400 euros, to be paid to “Comitato PHYS2018”. 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 10), 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 there is no ATM or any banking facility at the Resort, and it is not easy to change money in Ostuni, where exchange rates may be not so convenient. *[Note: Workshop 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 PHYS2018". (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 – Internet Connection

Wireless connection for the Workshop will be provided (via Eduroam) in the Resort Hall and in the Conference areas. Please check your eduroam credentials in your home institution, if available. Participants without eduroam credentials can obtain local credentials at the Secretariat desk. Do not expect to have wifi connection in the rooms (although some of them might catch the signal).

8 – Presentations and talk files

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. All speakers are invited to show up well before their session starts, in order to upload their files and to check possible technical issues.

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.**

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 – Proceedings

All NOW 2018 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) and endowed with d.o.i. numbers. The Proceedings will be edited by A. Mirizzi, A. Marrone, and D. Montanino. Further instructions will be given to the speakers and the 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 Rosa Marina di Ostuni, 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. Note that the Ostuni Rosa Marina Resort is located very close to the seaside, at walking distance (~300 m) from the Resort private beach, which can also be reached by means of a small "train" commuting frequently between the Resort premises and the beach area. The seaside alternates sand and rocks and is thus suitable for everybody, from kids to expert swimmers. You can freely access the beach umbrellas/chairs/beds (*except for the first 4 rows, that are reserved to other Resort guests*). The Resort area also offers a large pool + solarium and various sport facilities free of charge, plus other charged services. See also the Resort webpage for further info: <http://www.ostunirosamarinaresort.com/home/?lang=en>

Do not forget to bring your own swimsuit and beach/pool shoes!

With regards to your lunch, there is the possibility to have a meal at the restaurant facing the private Resort beach, instead that in the main Resort area; however, this option must be booked in the morning (at breakfast).

Of course, the Workshop participants and/or the accompanying persons may also spend their free time outside the Resort property, e.g., towards farther public beaches or towards the inland town of Ostuni, which are favorite destinations for tourists. Driving to Ostuni or to other towns by yourself will, however, require a car at your own cost.

12 – Excursions

There will be a **brief guided excursion on Tuesday 11 (late afternoon) in Ostuni, the famous "White City"**. The excursion will include a walking tour of the Old Town and its lovely streets, starting downhill from its main historical square, and proceeding uphill towards the Cathedral and the panoramic terrace.

For the **full excursion day on Thursday 13**, we will propose you to join one of two alternatives tours, with tentative itinerary as follows:

a) Southern tour. You leave the Resort in the south direction. The main stops will include the beautiful city of Lecce, the Zinzulusa grottos on the seaside, and the old town of Otranto with its Cathedral. Lunch will be provided at a Restaurant during the tour.

b) Northern tour. You leave the Resort in the north direction. The main stops will include Trani with its Cathedral, the world-renowned Castel del Monte, and the scenic city of Polignano on the seaside. 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 full-day excursions (or none) in advance, in the first two days of the Workshop.

13 – Tours for accompanying persons

We have not organized additional tours for the accompanying persons. In general, the stay at the Resort can be rather pleasant for the whole Workshop week. However, you may contact by yourself (or with the help of the Resort Reception) some travel agencies for tours of various kinds (e.g., inland or by boat) at your own expenses.

14 – Emergency contacts

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

- either the reception of the Ostuni Rosa Marina Resort at the telephone number **0831 350411**; the reception will then transfer your message to the NOW organizers;
- or directly the NOW 2018 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 now2018@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 Rosa Marina di Ostuni!