

Itinerary 3

Rituals And Traditions

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(Version English)

The Florence Abbey of San Giovanni in Fiore was built in 1215-1230 and was founded by Abbot *Gioacchino da Fiore*. Initially, the Church-Monastery was a complex of numerous laboratories, carpenter's shops and kitchens. The Church is made up of a single nave. The main façade presents a rose windows symbolizing the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) that summarizes Abbot's thought.

In the anthropological culture, the Abbey is strictly linked to the tradition of the Patron Saint John Baptist's Novena celebrated on June 24.

The Mother Church of San Giovanni in Fiore was built in 1530 (rebuilt in 1770). It is composed of three naves and four entryways and the front door is in baroque style. In this Church it happened and still happens the "Novena" in honour of Saint John Baptist, the protector of the town. At the end of this "novena" there was and also today there is a procession during which people sing a carol. The anthropological and cultural tradition will that when the protector move through the town, the balconies are adorned with embroider blankets, which are symbol of marriage, bed, fertility and protection.

In the ancient time the date of celebration of Saint coincided with one of the local fair, but today this celebration is on June 24.

In front of this church there is the abbot Joaquin's Square where, in the Christmas period, on December 24, it lights a fire, called traditionally "focera", which illuminates the night of Jesus Christ's Birth.

Casa Lopez is a palace dating back to 1700. Initially, it arises as private house and also today it is to the centre of a debate according which the palace must be designed as Museum and instead it is used as restaurant (fig.2). In the ancient time the palace is connected with Risorgimento's revolutionary revolts and it became famous because were shut in it Bandiera brothers: it has a symbolic meaning of prison.

According to the anthropological and cultural tradition the palace is strictly with the wedding's rite because in the house happened familiar life, marriage and procreation.

The Norman Arch is in San Giovanni in Fiore and dates back to XIII century. It is a pointed arch and it was studied by Architect Pietro Lopetrone. It was part of monastic complex and it had both a religious function

for the presence of the abbey and a cultural function because it was composed of numerous other buildings as laboratories, carpenter's shops and Kitchens.

According to the anthropological tradition the Arch is strictly linked to the killing of the pig.