

## ATESSA

### 1) The Church of Saint Leucio

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The Church of Saint Leucio, is full of history, art and legend. It is the main attraction in this town and represents its religious identity. A local legend reveals that the Bishop of Brindisi killed a ferocious dragon which caused many deaths and prevented the inhabitants of two suburbs Ate e Tixa meeting each other. The death of the dragon, with the evidence of the tail of a huge prehistoric monster gave way to the process of joining the two suburbs and the meeting point between them was marked by the building of the church dedicated to Saint Leucio in the X and XI century. During the XIII and XIV centuries the church underwent radical building work, visible even in a fresco showing a Eucharistic procession dating back to the XIII century. It is an impressive sight and beautifully decorated with niches containing the four evangelists, the lamb of God and Saint Leucio and three pointed gateways. On the middle one there is a spectacular rosette, full of arches and perforations, designed by the Pertini school in Lanciano.

Originally the church had a nave and two aisles - which then became double aisles in 1852 - is decorated in noninvasive tones such as red-brown, gold, beige and grey to imitate marble with veins. Thirteen marble altars line the side wall. The frescos by the painter Trentino are exquisite but also take note of the remarkable wood furniture, the pulpit, the wooden choir place, the provostal chair and the wind chest, works of the Mascio brothers from Atezza in the eighteenth century.

It is hard to select particular items with all these artistic treasures on show, although it is worth seeing a renaissance terracotta statue, a choir book and cross from the thirteenth century

# Abruzzo Audioguide

