

INSIGHT GUIDES

EXPLORE SICILY



THE **BEST** ROUTES AROUND THE ISLAND



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How To Use This E-Book

This **Explore Guide** has been produced by the editors of Insight Guides, whose books have set the standard for visual travel guides since 1970. With top-quality photography and authoritative recommendations, these guidebooks bring you the very best routes and itineraries in the world's most exciting destinations.

Best Routes

The routes in this book provide something to suit all budgets, tastes and trip lengths. As well as covering the destination's many classic attractions, the itineraries track lesser-known sights. The routes embrace a range of interests, so whether you are an art fan, a gourmet, a history buff or have kids to entertain, you will find an option to suit.

We recommend reading the whole of a route before setting out. This should help you to familiarise yourself with it and enable you to plan where to stop for refreshments – options are shown in the 'Food and Drink' box at the end of each tour.

Introduction

The routes are set in context by this introductory section, giving an overview of the destination to set the scene, plus background information on food and drink, shopping and more, while a succinct history timeline highlights the key events over the centuries.

Directory

Also supporting the routes is a Directory chapter, with a clearly organised A–Z of practical information, our pick of where to stay while you are there and select restaurant listings; these eateries complement the more low-key cafés and restaurants that feature within the routes and are intended to offer a wider choice for evening dining. Also included here are some nightlife listings, plus a handy language guide and our recommendations for books and films about the destination.

Getting around the e-book

In the Table of Contents and throughout this e-book you will see hyperlinked references. Just tap a hyperlink once to skip to the section you would like to read. Practical information and listings are also hyperlinked, so as long as you have an external connection to the internet, you can tap a link to go directly to the website for more information.

Maps

All key attractions and sights mentioned in the text are numbered and cross-referenced to high-quality maps. Wherever you see the reference [map] just tap this to go straight to the related map. You can also double-tap any map for a zoom view.

Images

You'll find lots of beautiful high-resolution images that capture the essence of the destination. Simply double-tap on an image to see it full-screen.



A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye and cheek area. The person has traditional body paint applied to their face. A prominent feature is a large, textured yellow patch on the cheek, bordered by black lines. Below this, there are several parallel lines in black, red, and black. The person's eye is dark and looking slightly to the right. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a white garment.



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The new travel website from Insight

Legend

-  Start of tour
-  Tour and route direction

-  Recommended sight
-  Recommended restaurant or café

City Maps

-  Place of interest
-  Tourist information
-  Statue / monument
-  Main post office
-  Bus station
-  Theatre
-  Cathedral or church
-  Main library
-  Beach
-  Ferry route
-  City wall
-  Urban area
-  Notable building
-  Hotel
-  Pedestrian area
-  Shop / market
-  Park
-  Transport hub

Regional Maps

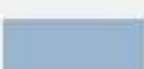

-  Place of interest
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-  Airport
-  Lighthouse
-  Monastery
-  Viewpoint
-  Ancient site
-  Peak
-  Crater
-  Cave
-  Cable car
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BAROQUE AT ITS BEST

Succumb to Sicilian Baroque in Noto, Ragusa and other cities of the Val di Noto Unesco World Heritage site ([Route 10](#)), and see splendid restored Baroque churches and palaces in the centre of Catania ([Route 11](#)).

Neil Buchan-Grant/Apa Publications



CASTLES

Sweep away the cobwebs by visiting great medieval castles, including those in Erice ([Route 5](#)), Enna ([Route 8](#)), Siracusa ([Route 9](#)) and Catania ([Route 11](#)), built by the Normans or Swabians.

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ISLAND HOPPERS

Sail on ferries or hydrofoils to the stunningly beautiful Aeolian Islands ([Route 14](#)) off the northeast coast, popular for volcano-climbing and viewing, wallowing in mud baths, hiking, sailing and swimming.

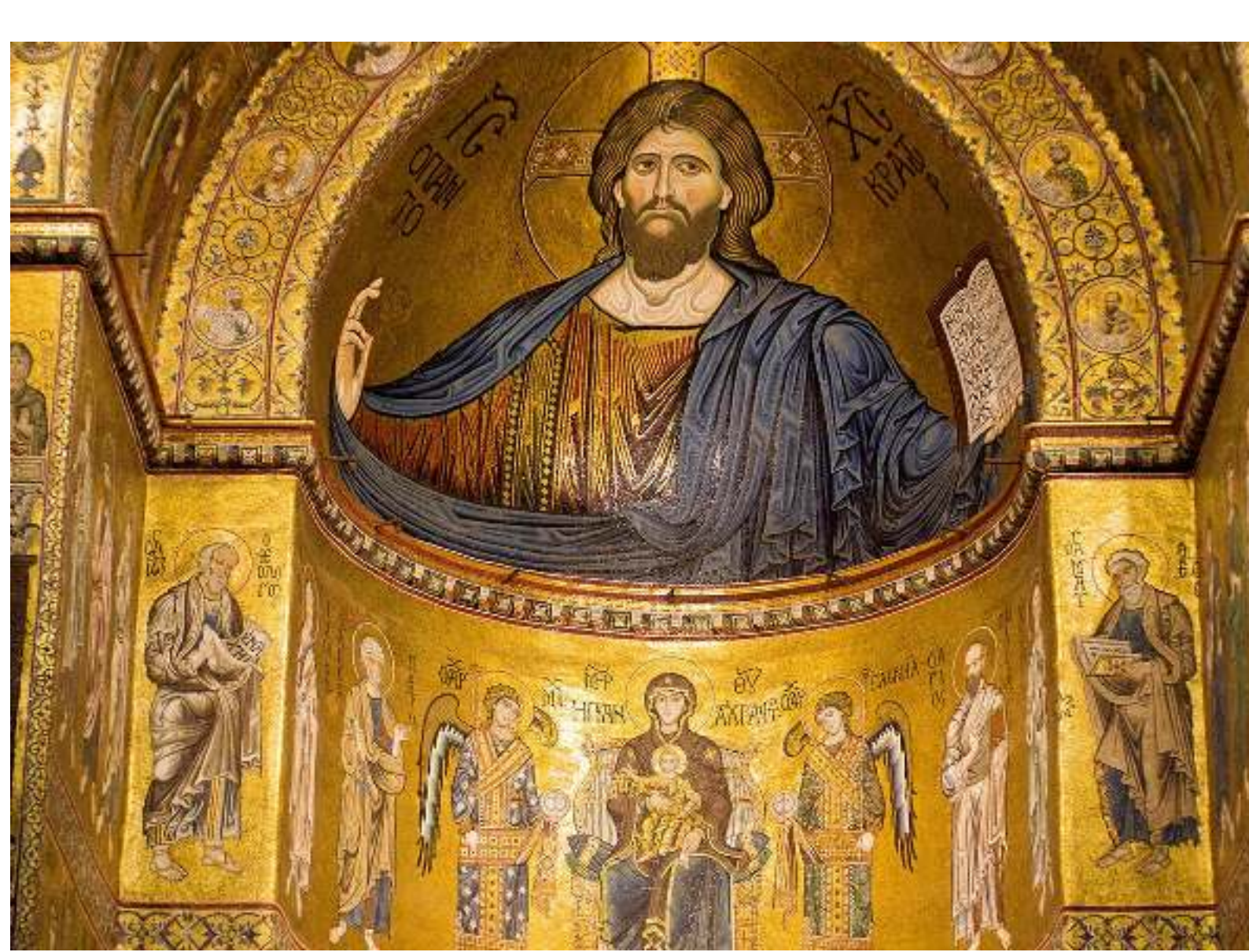
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MARKETS

The teeming markets of Palermo ([Routes 1 and 2](#)) and Catania ([Route 11](#)), with mountains of glistening fresh produce and raucous street life, are riveting spectacles. Dive in early to see them at their best.

Neil Buchan-Grant/Apa Publications



MOSAIC ART

Admire the Byzantine Norman mosaics in Palermo's Cappella Palatina ([Route 1](#)), the cathedrals of Cefalù ([Route 3](#)) and Monreale ([Route 4](#)), then visit Villa Romana del Casale ([Route 8](#)) for superb Roman floor mosaics.

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TOP MUSEUMS

Discover outstanding collections of prehistoric and classical archaeological remains in the museum of Agrigento ([Route 7](#)), Siracusa ([Route 9](#)), Palermo ([Route 1](#)) and L ipari ([Route 14](#)).

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TOP TEMPLES

Sicily has more ancient Greek temples than Greece. Track down the most splendid at Agrigento ([Route 7](#)), Segesta ([Route 4](#)) and Selinunte ([Route 6](#)), and in summer stay for Greek drama under the stars.

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VOLCANOES AND VIEWS

Explore Sicily's dramatically active volcanoes: a cable car, trail-bashing jeep tour or climb up Etna ([Route 13](#)), a hike up smouldering Vulcano or a view of the exploding cone of Strómboli from the sea ([Route 14](#)).

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