

INSIGHT GUIDES

EXPLORE SICILY



THE BEST ROUTES AROUND THE ISLAND



INSIGHT GUIDES

EXPLORE SICILY



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 large, textured yellow patch is on the cheek, with several black lines extending from it. Below the yellow patch, there are two parallel black lines with a red line in between. The person's eye is looking towards the camera. The background is blurred.



INSIGHT GUIDES

Inspiring your next adventure
www.insightguides.com

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
-  Chateau / Castle
-  Airport
-  Lighthouse
-  Monastery
-  Viewpoint
-  Ancient site
-  Peak
-  Crater
-  Cave
-  Cable car
-  Railway
-  Funicular railway
-  Urban area
-  Marsh
-  National park
-  International boundary
-  State / Province boundary

Table of Contents

How To Use This E-Book

Recommended Routes For...

- Baroque at its best
- Castles
- Island hoppers
- Markets
- Mosaic art
- Top museums
- Top temples
- Volcanoes and views

Explore Sicily

- Geography and layout
- Climate and when to visit
- The Sicilians
- The Mafia
 - The new Sicily

Food and Drink

- Local cuisine
- Where to eat and drink
- What to eat
 - Antipasti (starters)
 - Il primo (first course)
 - Il secondo (main course)
 - Contorni (vegetables)
 - Street food
 - Dolci (desserts)

Drinks

- Vino (wine)
- Soft drinks

Shopping

Shopping Hours

Antiques

Pottery and ceramics

Papyrus

Crafts

Food and Wine

Fashion

Anti-mafia shopping

Entertainment

Classical drama

Film

Festivals

Nightlife

Outdoor Activities

Beaches

Water Sports

Hiking

Skiing

Cycling

Golf

Culture and History

Early settlers

Romans, Arabs and Normans

Spanish rule

From Unification to the present

History: Key Dates

Early history

Medieval Sicily

Spanish rule to Unification

Modern Sicily

Western Palermo

Piazza Pretoria

La Martorana and San Cataldo

The Albergheria Quarter

San Giovanni degli Eremiti

Palazzo dei Normanni

Cappella Palatina

Royal Apartments

Cattedrale

Eastern Palermo

Oratorio di Santa Cita

Oratorio del Rosario di San Domenico

Around San Domenico

The Vucciria Market

La Kalsa

Piazza Marina

Galleria Regionale della Sicilia

The new seafront

Cefalù

Il Duomo

Mosaics

The Old Quarter

La Rocca

Parco Regionale delle Madonie

Monreale, Segesta and Zíngaro park

Monreale

Cathedral facade

Cathedral interior

Tower, terrace and cloisters

Segesta

Scopello

Zíngaro Nature Reserve

Trápani and Erice

Trápani

The centre

The modern town

Erice

The centre

Castello di Venere

Along the African Coast

The Salt Road (Trápani to Marsala)

Mozia

Marsala

Archaeological Park of Lilybaeum

Mazara del Vallo

Selinunte

Parco Archeologico

The temples

Marinella

Valley of the Temples, Agrigento

Valle dei Templi

Eastern Zone

Tempio di Ercole

Tempio della Concordia

Tempio di Giunone

The Western Zone

Tempio di Giove

Tempio di Dioscuri

Giardino della Kolymbetra

Museo Archeologico

Modern Agrigento

Enna and Villa Romana

Enna

Aidone

Piazza Armerina

Villa Romana

Mosaics

Siracusa

Parco Archeologico della Neapolis

Teatro Greco

Latomie

Basilica and catacombs of San Giovanni

Museo Archeologico

Ortigia

The centre

Piazza del Duomo

Papyrus Museum

South of Piazza del Duomo

The waterfront

The Val Di Noto

Noto

Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Piazza Municipio

Palazzo Villadorata

Cava d'Íspica

Módica

Corso Umberto I

Módica Alta

Scicli

Ragusa

Ragusa Ibla

Catania

Taormina

The Centre

Palazzo Corvaja

The Greek Theatre

Naumachie and Piazza IX Aprile

Piazza del Duomo

Giardino Pubblico

Taormina by night

Mazzarò and Bella Isola

Castelmola

Exploring Etna: Foothills and Ascent

Ascent of Etna

Southern approach – Rifugio Sapienza

By foot

Northern approach – Piano Provenzana

What to see

The Aeolian Islands

Lípari

The Citadel

Archaeological Museum

Marina Corta

Vulcano

Panarea and Strómboli

Strómboli

Salina

Accommodation

Palermo

Mondello

Cefalù

Scopello

Trápani

Erice

Mazara del Vallo

Selinunte

Agrigento

Piazza Armerina

Siracusa

Noto

Módica

Ragusa

Chiaramonte Gulfi

Catania

Taormina

Aeolian Islands

Restaurants

Palermo

Mondello

Cefalù

Monreale

Castelbuono

Alcamo

Trápani

Erice

Mazara del Vallo

Marinella di Selinunte

Agrigento

Licata

Piazza Armerina

Siracusa

Noto

Ragusa

Chiaramonte Gulfi

Catania

Taormina

Capri Leone (Messina)

Aeolian Islands

Nightlife

Palermo

Taormina

Catania

A-Z

A

Age restrictions

B

Budgeting for your trip

C

Children

Climate

Clothing

Crime and safety

Customs

D

Disabled travellers

E

Electricity

Embassies and consulates

Emergencies

Etiquette

G

Gay and lesbian travellers

Green issues

H

Health

Pharmacies and hospitals

I

Internet facilities

L

Left luggage

Lost property

M

Media

Money

Currency

Changing money

Credit cards

Cash machines

Taxes

Tipping

O

Opening hours

P

Police

Post

Public holidays

Major holidays and festivals

R

Religion

S

Smoking

T

Telephones

Mobile (Cell) phones

Time zones

Toilets

Tourist information

Transport

Arriving by air

Arriving by rail

Arriving by sea

Arriving by car

Transport around Sicily

V

Visas and passports

W

Wine resort tours

Websites

Women

Language

Useful phrases

General

At a bar/restaurant

Numbers

Getting around

Online

Social media

Books and Film

Books

History and culture

Crime and society

Travel and general

Films

RECOMMENDED ROUTES FOR...



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.

Neil Buchan-Grant/Apa Publications



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.

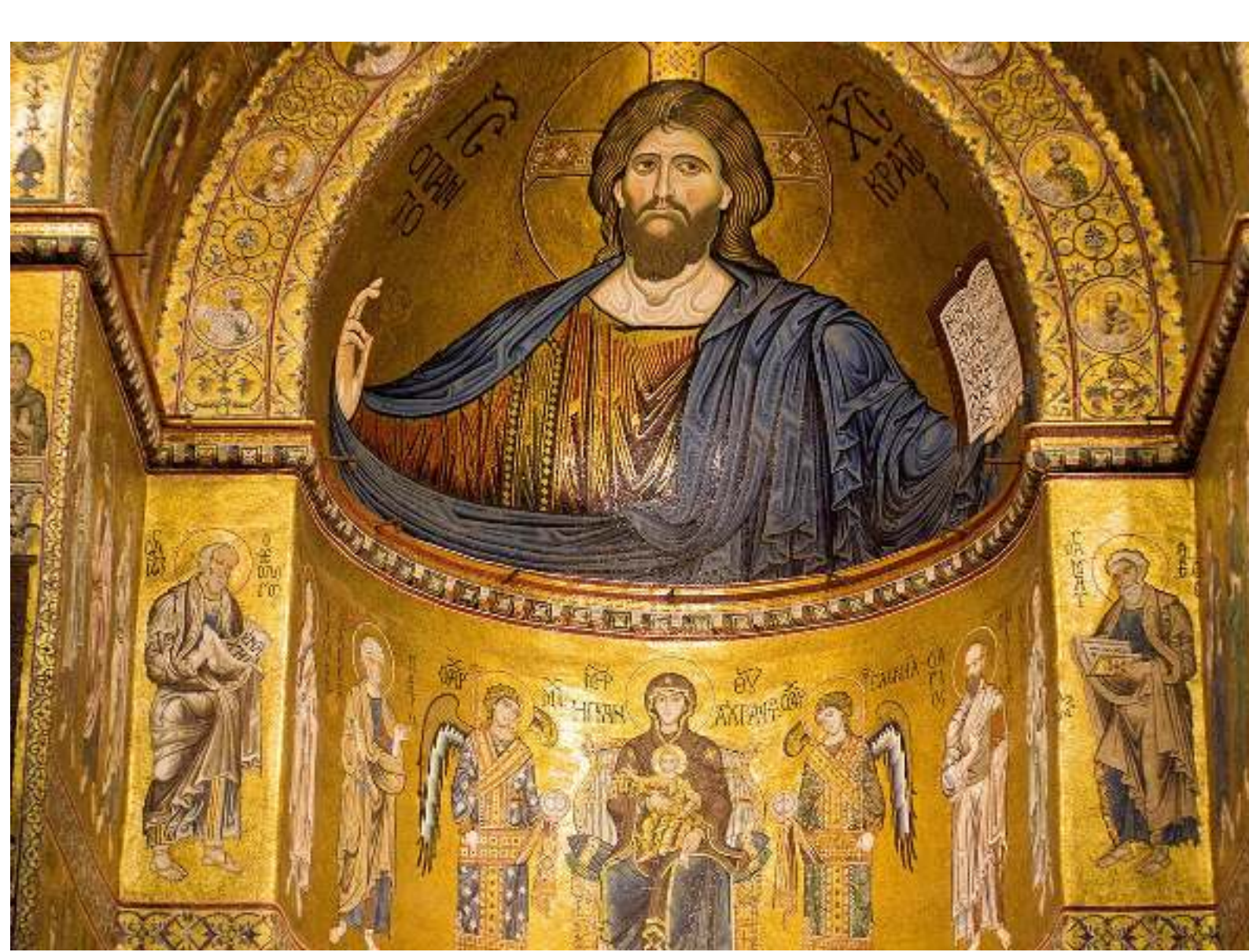
Neil Buchan-Grant/Apa Publications



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.

Insight Guides



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](#)).

Insight Guides



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.

Neil Buchan-Grant/Apa Publications



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](#)).

Insight Guides

sample content of Explore Sicily: The best routes around the island

- [read *The Once and Future World: Nature As It Was, As It Is, As It Could Be* pdf, azw \(kindle\), epub](#)
- [click *The Book of Ruth*](#)
- [download online *War and Peace* \(Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition\)](#)
- [Clinical Radiation Oncology \(3rd Edition\) pdf, azw \(kindle\), epub, doc, mobi](#)
- [read online *Polish Sausages: Authentic Recipes and Instructions*](#)
- [*Yoga Abs: Moving from Your Core* \(Rodmell Press Yoga Shorts\) online](#)

- <http://yachtwebsitedemo.com/books/Island-of-Shame--The-Secret-History-of-the-U-S--Military-Base-on-Diego-Garcia.pdf>
- <http://www.uverp.it/library/The-Book-of-Mormon.pdf>
- <http://www.freightunlocked.co.uk/lib/Machiavelli--A-Very-Short-Introduction--Very-Short-Introductions-.pdf>
- <http://kamallubana.com/?library/Shalako.pdf>
- <http://studystrategically.com/freebooks/Dictionary-of-Furniture--3rd-Edition-.pdf>
- <http://www.khoi.dk/?books/Career-Counseling--Holism--Diversity--and-Strengths--4th-Edition-.pdf>