

Sicily

TRAVEL GUIDE



The largest island in the Mediterranean might be part of Italy, but Sicily has carved out its own distinct personality over the centuries. Today, it is an open-air museum of incredible archaeological sites nestled among staggering and oh-so-dramatic nature. Snow-dusted Mount Etna looms over a coast of twinkling bays, sandy beaches and offshore islets where the water is vodka-clear, while the island's interior is packed with soaring mountains, lush vineyards and intriguing UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

SICILY 101

CURRENCY	EURO	TIME ZONE	GMT + 1
ELECTRICAL	TWO PIN	HIGHEST TEMP.	26° C
LANGUAGE	SICILIAN	LOWEST TEMP.	5° C
EMERGENCY	112	PEAK SEASON	MAY-SEPT





TRANSPORT TALK



BY WHEELS

Hiring a car is the best way to get better acquainted with Sicily's hidden gems. It is also a good option for time-tight travellers as public transport can be limiting.



BY BIKE

The hilly and picturesque landscape of Sicily is perfect for any keen cyclist, with beautiful scenic routes from coastal towns such as Balestrate to Trappeto.



BY TAXI

Taxi rates in Sicily vary from town to town but in general tend to be rather pricey. They can be found at taxi ranks in towns, at bus/train stations and are also available on call.



BY WATER

There are 7 ferry companies offering a total of 43 ferry routes. The fastest route between Italy and Sicily is Favignana to Trapani, which has a crossing time of around 20 minutes.



BY AIR

Flights from the UK go directly into Palermo airport on a regular basis. You can also easily get to Catania on a direct flight through major and budget airlines. Airports include Trapani and Comiso.



BY BUS OR TRAIN

Trenitalia offers a fairly comprehensive rail service that connects the main cities on the island. There is also a pretty good network of buses connecting the smaller towns and villages.

HIDDEN GEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Lo Stagnone lagoon

Today, mounds of blindingly white salt – some of the oldest salt marshes in Europe – dot the **Lo Stagnone lagoon** just outside of Trapani.

Capuchin Catacombs

You'll find them in the limestone corridors under the Capuchin Church, where over 8,000 mummies are – each dressed in their finest clothes.

Caltagirone

The entire town is ablaze with vivid colour and vibrant patterns crafted onto ceramic tiles.

Cavagrande del Cassibile

One of Sicily's best kept secrets. A vast, 10 kilometre-long gorge has been carved by the Cassibile River.



- ★ Hidden Gems
- ★ Picks for Kids
- ★ Best Activities
- ★ Foodie Delights



TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

Etna Donkey Trekking



If you like your volcanoes with a side of cute, check out [Etna Donkey trekking](#) who will take everyone on a steady but fun trek in the foothills of the great volcano. An activity the kids are sure to love!



Piccolo Teatro dei Pupi



Do as the Sicilian children do and take in a puppet show. Puppetry is an art-form kids here have enjoyed for generations. [Piccolo Teatro dei Pupi](#) is a great family-run theatre to take your kids to.



Monti Rossi Adventure



Sicily's parks and forests offer all sorts of outdoor fun and adventures to be had. Be Tarzan for a day on the rope swings, nets and treetop obstacles at [Monti Rossi Adventure Park](#).



Sicily Bike Routes



The hugely varied landscape of Sicily really lends itself to being explored on two wheels. [Sicily Bike Routes](#) run tours to suit all levels and also rent bikes if you'd rather pedal at your own pace.



Sicily Horse Riding



The roads less travelled in Sicily are actually best travelled on horseback, or so they say at [Sicily Horse Riding](#). Led by guides, discover the rich cultural and natural heritage of the island.



EtnaLand



With the great volcano in the background, kids can enjoy hair-raising amusement rides in the theme park or slosh their way down waterslides in the aqua park at [EtnaLand](#).



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS



Palermo

Taormina

Etna Donkey Trekking ★

Sicily Horse Riding★

Monti Rossi Adventure ★

EtnaLand ★

Agrigento

Syracuse

Piccolo Teatro dei Pupi★

★ Sicily Bike Routes

CROWD-PLEASERS: BEST ACTIVITIES

Go Taormina



If you're a team of ski-bums and are visiting Sicily between December and March head to [Go Taormina](#) to organize downhill and cross-country ski days on the great volcano.



Go Etna



For the more sun-loving, [Go Etna](#) run hair-raising tours of Etna's ancient forests and lava streams by Jeep, with civilised pit stops at vineyards along the way making a perfect group activity.



Etna Tribe



Saddle up for some two-wheeled fun with a bike excursion from [Etna Tribe](#). You can hire bikes only to explore under your own steam or sign yourselves up for a mountain bike tour.



Tour of Sicily



[Tour of Sicily](#) offer luxurious coach tours of Mount Etna where you can take in all the impressive sights in total comfort. If culture is more your bag, they also offer city-based tours.



Buena Vida Catamarano



When you're on an island, surrounded by beautiful coastline, the best way to see it is by boat. [Buena Vida Catamarano](#) run catamaran tours, where you can help with the sailing or snorkel around.



Teatro Massimo



To get a real feel for Sicilian high-class society of old, take in a show at [Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele](#). The baroque architecture of the theatre creates a stunning setting to take in a ballet or an opera.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS





BEST FOODIE DELIGHTS



Ristorante La Madia

For fine dining, why not try two Michelin star restaurant, [Ristorante La Madia](#)? Here you'll find local and seasonal ingredients used to create traditional dishes with a modern twist.



I Cuochini



Kids and adults alike will love the local institution that is [I Cuochini](#). This teeny hole-in-the-wall has been there for decades, serving up delicious traditional snack foods.



Locanda del Colonnello

Modest, but intensely flavourful food awaits you at [Locanda del Colonnello](#). Their ever-changing menu is a testament to the chef's dedication to using only the freshest ingredients.



Anna Tasca Lanza



[The Anna Tasca Lanza Cooking School](#) offers a wonderful, immersive experience where the landscape, ingredients and history of Sicilian food play as big a role as the cooking techniques.



Dishes to try

While you're out and about, **arancine** (fried risotto balls), are the perfect snack food. For dinner, give the local specialities like aubergine stew, **caponata** and **pasta with sardines** a try!

StrEAT Palermo



Eat as the locals do with a guided street food tour from [StrEAT Palermo](#), where you'll sample local coffee, wine, snacks and more from the hidden gems around the city.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





We'd like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched [Oliver's Travels](#) in 2003 it's been essentially all we've talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From [family chateaux in France](#) and [large holiday homes in the UK](#), to [luxury villas in Sicily](#) and [Caribbean beach rentals](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



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