



★ *Destination* GUIDE ★

# The Coast of Sicily

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP

# SEAPORTS OF SICILY

- ① PALERMO
- ② SAN VITO LO CAPO
- ③ TRAPANI  
ERICE
- ④ SCIACCA  
AGRIGENTO
- ⑤ MARINA DI RAGUSA  
RAGUSA
- ⑥ CAPO PASSERO
- ⑦ SYRACUSE
- ⑧ CATANIA  
MT. ETNA
- ⑨ TAORMINA
- ⑩ AEOLIAN ISLANDS
- ⑪ CEFALÙ

Tantalize your senses on a yachting circumnavigation of Sicily. Discover an exquisite patchwork of mountains and medieval towns, a treasure trove of art and history woven throughout a breathtaking landscape. The cultural legacy of Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Spaniards flavors food, informs architecture and underscores tradition. Fragrant wisteria and vivid bougainvillea wrap medieval, cliff-hanging towns. Fishermen in wooden boats with handmade nets, wine pressed from ancient vines, prayer in churches built by knights, and the ever-present spirit of poets, painters, warriors and kings define Sicily today. Sicily beckons, with clear water and fragrant air, bold wine, bright pottery, and glorious sunsets that cloak brooding volcanos in purple and caste picture-postcard villages in bronze.





## *Palermo*

Sicily's greatest city is a repository of treasures; the mosaics of Monreale, the beloved Teatro Massimo, and Byzantine churches with inlaid marbles and golden icons. Palermo is an amalgamation of many cultures. Most visually distinctive is its Arab-Norman identity, an unlikely foundation that, overlaid with Byzantine and Jewish elements, inspired resplendent works of art. Dock at the Marina Villa Igiea, on a crescent bay at the foot of Monte Pellegrino. The city spreads out in all directions; markets, museums, piazzas, churches and cafés. Plunge into the splendid cacophony of urban life, the honking of horns, the rush of pedestrians, the aroma of coffee, and after dinner, Italy's most spectacular passeggiata.

Ai Tetti Dining — [www.centralepalacehotel.com/eng/palermo-restaurants.html](http://www.centralepalacehotel.com/eng/palermo-restaurants.html)

Bye Bye Blues Restaurant — [www.byebyeblues.it](http://www.byebyeblues.it)

“Palermo was recently elected the European Capital of Street Food, and *Forbes* ranks it in the top five worldwide, and first in Europe. Try arancini rice balls with meat or bacon, pannelle, fried, smashed chickpeas and herbs, sfincione pizza with tomato sauce, caciocavallo, onions, and anchovies and granita, a semi-frozen drink of crushed ice and almonds, or lemon, or other flavors.”

— Captain Tony Oliveri

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## *San Vito Lo Capo*

“Between Palermo and San Vito Lo Capo are many archeological and wreck dive sites, suitable for all skill levels, even children. There are also sites to snorkel and free dive, hiking trails and beautiful stretches of sandy beach in the untamed Riserva Naturale Zingaro.”

— Captain Greg Hines

Anchor off the dazzling white sand beach that wraps around the promontory overlooking the Gulf of Castellammare. Launch the yacht toys in the brilliant blue water and spend time relaxing in this low-key seaside town. San Vito Lo Capo is famous for North African couscous, elevated to haute cuisine during the International Couscous Competition and Festival held every September. The Riserva dello Zingaro stretches for about 5 miles along the coast. Birds of prey dramatically wiz overhead, horses, goats and sheep meditate in green pastures, and international adventurers scale the cliffs and probe the caverns. The mountain range descends into a coast of steep cliffs indented with small coves and pristine, often empty beaches.

Hotel Capo San Vito Restaurant & Spa — [www.caposanvito.it](http://www.caposanvito.it)

Il Ristorante, Zingaro Hotel — [www.zingarohotel.com/ristorante.html](http://www.zingarohotel.com/ristorante.html)

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## *Trapani, Erice*

Dock in Trapani's busy ferry port near the Baroque city center. Board the cable car and ascend 2,400 ft. Erice's mist enshrouded castles, fountains and cobbled streets, erected on a mountaintop, were dedicated in antiquity to Aphrodite, Astarte, Venus, and cults of love. The sacred village managed to repel centuries of invasions and descend through time with her medieval soul largely intact. In the main square, the steamy coffee machines of sidewalk cafés and Maria Grammatico's famous cake shop emit heady aromas. The market is an adventure in local crafts. The views are incomparable, the sunsets ablaze in color, and on a very clear day, you can see forever – or at least to Cape Bon and the Tunisian coast.

Maria Grammatico Pastries, Erice — [mariagrammatico.it/en](http://mariagrammatico.it/en)

Natural Reserve Saline, Trapani — [www.wwfsalineditrapani.it](http://www.wwfsalineditrapani.it)

“There is a great dive site about 10 minutes off Biscione where you will be able to see almost all the Mediterranean species of sea plants and animals, huge red gorgonians, small red coral trees and many kinds of fish. The Cristo di Mazara del Vallo, an undersea sculpture, is also a very popular dive.”

— Captain Greg Hines

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## *Sciacca, Agrigento*

“Sciacca's coastline is beautiful, with crystal-clear, turquoise water and long sandy beaches. Capo San Marco and Sovareto are as nice as any beach in the Caribbean. If it's not a beach day, Piscine Molinelli, a thermal pool complex near Sovareto, or the warm, sulphuric pool at Grand Hotel delle Terme is awesome.”

— Captain Chris Salerno

The picturesque harbor in Sciacca, crowded with fishing boats and sharp-eyed seabirds, has changed little over time. Climb the 173 steps for charming views of the seaport. The upbeat village is full of artists and art, especially ceramic and papier-mache art, which plays a role in the town's carnival tradition. Ancient Greeks and Romans journeyed from Agrigento to soak in the steamy, curative cave waters of Sciacca. Midway to Argigento, tender in to the Verdura Golf and Spa Resort to indulge in luxury spa facilities, which include thalassotherapy pools, or play a round of golf. Yacht a bit further south to reach Agrigento and the astonishing archeology ruins of Akregas, or Valle dei Templi. Avoid crowds at this UNESCO World Heritage Site by arriving in late afternoon.

Verdura Golf & Spa Resort — [www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/verdura-golf-and-spa-resort](http://www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/verdura-golf-and-spa-resort)

Grand Hotel delle Terme — [www.grandhoteldelletermesciacca.com](http://www.grandhoteldelletermesciacca.com)

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## *Marina di Ragusa, Ragusa*

By day, nature reserves and sun drenched beaches please an international crowd. At night the city comes alive in the restaurants, clubs and bars that line the broad, waterfront promenade. From Marina di Ragusa travel inland to the town of Ragusa, with 18 buildings on the UNESCO World Heritage list. A devastating earthquake in 1693 leveled much of southeastern Sicily. Subsequent rebuilding resulted in impressive and architecturally coherent towns. Ragusa's core is a display of churches and mansions in the Late Sicilian Baroque style, linked by many lanes so narrow they can only be travelled on foot. Sit at a sidewalk café. Order a bottle of the local Cerasuolo di Vittoria wine, paired with a plate of Ragusano and aged Cacciocavallo cheeses. Salute the scenery and savor the moment.

Caffe Delle Rose, Marina di Ragusa Beach — [www.caffedellerose.net](http://www.caffedellerose.net)

Locanda Don Serafino Restaurant, Ragusa — [www.locandadonserafino.it](http://www.locandadonserafino.it)

Duomo Restaurant, Ragusa — [www.cicciosultano.it](http://www.cicciosultano.it)

“The two most challenging and exciting spots in Sicily for wind and kite surfing are Marina di Ragusa and nearby Marina di Modica. These beaches are best for expert “wave” windsurfers because it's a place where you can find a lot of big waves you can ride with a big pleasure.”

— Captain Chris Salerno

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## *Portopalo di Capo Passero*

Italy's southernmost point is an arc of windswept sandy beaches, gentle dunes and calm surf. Steady winds attract windsurfers, sailors, and kite boarders with parti-colored kites that fill the sky with color. Tender to the tiny island just off the mainland, which can be reached on foot at low tide. There are castle ruins, swirling with rumors of a future luxury resort. More spectacular are the migratory birds, including flamingos, at rest en route from Africa. About five miles north, anchor at the 18th century fishing village of Marzamemi with distinctly Moorish architecture, sea view restaurants and seaside breezes. La Cialoma is a classic waterfront trattoria, from the sisters cooking in the kitchen to the hand embroidered cloths on the tables.

Scialai Beach Café, Capo Passero — [www.scialai.it](http://www.scialai.it)

Taverna La Cialoma, Marzamemi — [www.lacialoma.it](http://www.lacialoma.it)

“Our crew likes to set up all the beach games and spread out a picnic on the island. There's lots to see inland on the nature trails and along the shore. Everyone can do an easy snorkel in the shallow water around the island, through many little grottos and rock ledges with a variety of marine life.”

— Captain Tony Katsonis



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## *Syracuse*

The Romans conquered Sicily at the siege of Syracuse in 212 BC. Syracuse native son, Archimedes, novel war inventions included the “Archimedes’s claw,” a crane that was able to lift Roman ships out of the water and sink them, and giant mirrors that deflected sunrays to burn the sails of rival ships. Despite Sicilian ingenuity, the Romans won and Archimedes was killed.

This is a spellbinding city to arrive in by yacht, with a harbor usually crowded by head-turning vessels. Cicero called Syracuse “the greatest and most beautiful Greek city”, which was expanded and adorned by Roman, Medieval and Baroque rulers. Ortigia is both the ancient city center of Syracuse and a modern mecca for internationally successful artists, fashion designers, architects and entrepreneurs. After 27 centuries of urban evolution, the splendidly baroque Piazza del Duomo has emerged as a chic center of modern galleries, edgy boutiques, and fusion restaurants. The Duomo itself spans two millennia of island history. Plan a private tour of the underground tunnels. Rendezvous at the Grand Hotel Villa Politi’s Bar Winston (Churchill) for a classic Italian aperitivo; a Spumante or Prosecco. Join locals at Don Camillo’s.

Grand Hotel Villa Politi — [www.villapoliti.com](http://www.villapoliti.com)

Don Camillo Restaurant, Syracuse — [www.ristorantedoncamillosiracusa.it](http://www.ristorantedoncamillosiracusa.it)

Domus Marrae Benessere Spa — <http://www.domusmarraebenessere.com/en/domus-mariae-wellness-center.htm>

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## *Catania, Mt. Etna*

Dock in Porto Dell'Etna for perfect sundeck views of Europe's most frequently erupting volcano. Catania is a metropolis of grand palaces, churches, monuments and mansions, the stage set of this major transport, economic and university center at Etna's base. Walk from the Piazza Duomo down Via Etnea, the busy high street that hosts the evening promenade. Dramatic architecture rich in columns, garlands, gold, and gargoyles leads to famous fish, food and clothing markets. Rejuvenate at the Grand Hotel Excelsior's clubby bar, or indulge in the seven course tasting menu with exceptional wine pairings at the restaurant. Depending on her temper, visit Mount Etna up close to trek across the eerily moonlike surface of dead craters and enormous lava dunes.

The Grand Hotel Excelsior — [www.excelsiorcatania.com](http://www.excelsiorcatania.com)

Cafe del Duomo — [www.caffedelduomo.com](http://www.caffedelduomo.com)

“Guests who prefer not to hike, or take the ski lift up the slopes of Mount Etna, should have the chef prepare a basket of Italian finger foods, bottles of water and wine, for a picnic aboard the Circumetnea Railway. The single-track train goes on a three and a half hour scenic trip through lava fields at the volcano's base.”

— Captain Tony Oliveri

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“The hydrothermal resort of Ali Terme is north of Taormina on the coast between Scaletta Zanclea and Nizza di Sicilia. Granata Cassibile and Marino are famous spas that provide water and mud therapies. This is a great dive destination with a lovely beach, restaurants, and bars, so there are activities here that please every guest.”

— Captain Chris Salerno

## *Taormina*

Overlooking the Bay of Naxos, this elegant, Old World resort town is fondly referred to as the Sicilian Monte Carlo – sans casino. For thousands of years Taormina has been adored; by Greeks and Romans, Maupassant and Goethe, the darlings of Hollywood’s Golden Age, the privileged and the spoiled. At the Grand Hotel Timeo, a familiar name to travelers of taste, Oscar Wilde, D.H. Lawrence, Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote found their muse. The pedestrian promenade, Corso Umberto, challenges restraint. Store windows display everything from art to antiques to almond wine. This sophisticated city of culture, history and entertainment, is best appreciated in the company of partners and friends. Young children prefer the Nature Reserve, River Park and most of all, the sundrenched, sandy beaches on the extremely warm Ionian Sea.

Grand Hotel Timeo, The Restaurant & Spa, Taormina — [www.grandhoteltimeo.com](http://www.grandhoteltimeo.com)

Ristorante Principe Cerami, Taormina (Dinner only) — [www.san-domenico-palace.com](http://www.san-domenico-palace.com)

Taormina News — [www.taormina.it](http://www.taormina.it)

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## *Aeolian Islands*

Your panoramic view of the volcanic Stromboli and Vulcano islands is one of dramatically shifting colors. When night falls, take your glasses of sweet Malvasia on the sundeck and anticipate a show of clouds and sparks shooting skyward. Lipari's pretty pastel houses descend to shores of silvery pumice beach. High on the plateau, the ancient castle and cathedral bring fairytales to mind. Cruise around Giafante rock, Punta Zotta and craggy coves that end in cavernous caves, like the Grotta del Blue Marino with spectacular light effects. Visit the vast Museo Archeologico Eoliano, with a collection dating back to 4000 BC. On the terrace at Filippino's, order the zuppa di pesce, the seafood antipasto, and cassata siciliana for dessert. Join in the party-fueled nightlife on Panarea.

Archeology Museum of Lipari — [www.regione.sicilia.it/beniculturali/museolipari](http://www.regione.sicilia.it/beniculturali/museolipari)

Restaurant Filippino, Lipari — [www.filippino.it](http://www.filippino.it)

Therasia Resort & Spa, Vulcano — [www.therasiaresort.it](http://www.therasiaresort.it)

“Snorkeling along vertical rock faces, in ocean caves, and off the beaches is an unforgettable experience. The unique sea floor, sculpted and shaped by eons of volcanic activity, emits hot gas bubbles from the white pumice sand. Twisted black basalt is home to species of colorful fish. The best sites include La Franata dell'Arcipelago and around Lipari and Vulcano.”

— Captain Greg Hines



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“The shrine of Gibilmanna is on a peak high above Cefalu. This is a pilgrimage center with a miraculous Virgin Mary statue that restored sight and hearing to two blind and one deaf person on its consecration in 1760. You have to arrange transportation to get there, but views along the way make the drive exciting.”

— Captain Tony Oliveri

## *Cefalù*

The coast between Messina and Palermo is a tapestry of idyllic seaside villages. Tindari and Laghetti di Maranello are worth a visit, but Cefalù is the jewel of the coast. As your yacht approaches the harbor, the Norman castle on the huge, cavern-riddled rock looms high above your bow. The town, positioned at the foot of the bluff, is perhaps one of the most atmospheric in all of Sicily. Narrow, multi-story fishermen's houses, built wall to wall around the old harbor, transport you back in time. Some of Sicily's oldest Byzantine art adorns the cathedral. Hike up La Rocca to explore cliff-top ruins with spectacular views, or enjoy the beach scene. At sundown, promenade along the passeggiata to be a part of Sicilian culture, and to spot the perfect place for an aperitivo.

Al Porticciolo Restaurant — [www.alporticcioloristorante.com](http://www.alporticcioloristorante.com)

Duomo Norman Cathedral — [www.chiesadicefalu.it](http://www.chiesadicefalu.it)

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# WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN:

## Regional Guide

**TIME ZONE:** UTC (GMT) +1

**ECONOMY:** Tourism, Banking, Agriculture, Industry

**DRESS CODE:** During the day casual resort wear is appropriate. Men wear pants in the evening. Jackets and ties are sometimes required. In churches, everyone should wear clothing that covers knees, shoulders, and upper arms. Wear soft-soled walking shoes on cobblestones.

**DRIVING:** Motorists drive on the right side of the road as in the U.S. and Canada. Remember that in most cities drivers are already very, very late for an engagement of immense importance and you are in their way.

**GOVERNMENTS:** France and Italy: Republic; Monaco: Constitutional Monarchy; Spain: Parliamentary Monarchy.

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:** French, Italian, Spanish

**OFFICIAL CURRENCY:** Euro

**EXHIBIT TICKETS:** For special rates and to avoid the lines, look for ticket packages to cultural exhibits. Packages are available online and on-site.



## When to visit:

The yachting season gets underway in mid-May with the Cannes Film Festival, followed by the Monaco Grand Prix in late May, and concludes at the end of September. During the summer the region is quite crowded, but there are delightful festivals and celebrations everywhere, and warm water temperatures mean enjoying water sports without a wetsuit.

| CLIMATE DATA FOR THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
|  | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | YEAR |
| Average High °F                            | 52  | 52  | 56  | 60  | 66  | 72  | 80  | 80  | 75   | 67  | 59  | 54  | 64   |
| Average Low °F                             | 47  | 46  | 49  | 52  | 58  | 64  | 72  | 70  | 66   | 60  | 53  | 49  | 57   |
| Average Rainfall (in)                      | 3.5 | 3   | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 0.7 | 1.2  | 2.6 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 2.6  |

## Climate:

Summers are hot and dry with rather light winds that are a drawback to sailing. At sea level afternoon temperatures can get uncomfortably hot. Winters are wet and mild, with the most precipitation in October. Winter temperatures average about 50 degrees, rarely going below freezing except at high elevations. Skiers enjoy heavy snow on the slopes of Mount Etna.

Most computers, cell phones, chargers, cameras and computer tablets automatically convert the voltage. If your device heats, cools, or has a motor, you may need a converter. These add weight to your luggage. Check with your crew about your converter needs.



ELECTRIC

### POWER GUIDE

| COUNTRY | VOLTAGE   | PLUG                      |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| France  | 230 V     | Euro 2-pin                |
| Italy   | 230 V     | Euro 2-pin, Italian 3-pin |
| Monaco  | 127/220 V | Euro 2-pin                |
| Spain   | 230 V     | Euro 2-pin                |



Passports are required, except EU nationals holding a national ID card that is valid for the duration of stay.

### VISA INFORMATION

[www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)



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