

Country: Italy
Region: Sicily

Trapani

a new destination for cruises

*Magna Grecia & Sicily
flavours*



March 2008

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The port of Trapani: location

It is located in the middle of the Mediterranean routes

latitude 38° 01' 36" N - longitude 12° 30' 49" E

Trapani is a town on the west coast of Sicily, capital of the province of Trapani.

His position is baricentric in the Mediterranean sea, thanks to its equidistance from the Suez channel and the Straits of Gibraltar:

- 665 marine miles from Heraklion
- 526 marine miles from Barcelona
- 490 marine miles from Palma de Mallorca
- 472 marine miles from Marseille
- 248 marine miles from Civitavecchia
- 191 marine miles from Naples
- 178 marine miles from Malta
- 141 marine miles from Tunis

The port of Trapani is approximately

- 108 km far from Palermo, of which 97 km on fast motorways
- 369 km far from Taormina, of which 349 km on fast motorways
- 175 km far from Agrigento of which 81 km on fast motorways

Trapani is connected by railway to Palermo through 2 different traced, one to Marsala - Mazara del Vallo - Castelvetrano and a second one to Alcamo-Palermo

The nearest airport is the city airport "Vincenzo Florio", Birgi, 13 km south-west of Trapani. This airport hosts several flights, mainly for the minor Sicilian islands and a number of hubs in mainland Italy.

- Meridiana to/from Pantelleria
- Ryanair to/from Bergamo/Pisa /Girona/Birmingham/Bremen/Dublin/Dusseldorf
Frankfurt/London Luton/Stockholm
from 04/12/2008: also to/from Roma Ciampino
from 30/03/2009: also to/from Bologna

Far 80 km there is the "Falcone-Borsellino" of Punta Raisi/Palermo airport (A29 motorway).



The port of Trapani: territorial context

Trapani was founded by the ancient people of Elymians, presumed descendants of the Trojans. The legend says that, when Troy was destroyed, a group of Trojans escaped and, after a long journey across the sea, landed in Sicily. They intermarried with the native Sicani to establish a new race, the Elymians.

The Elymians shared western Sicily with the Sicani, the Phoenicians and later the Greeks.

Their three most important cities were Segesta, the political centre; Eryx (now Erice), the religious centre; and Entella.

Drepanon (now Trapani) was the port of Eryx, which overlooks it from Monte San Giuliano.

It was originally named Drepanon from the Greek word for "sickle", because of the curving shape of its harbour.

Carthage seized control of the city in 260 BC, but ceded it to Rome.

The town was reborn under the domination of the Arabs who began their occupation of Sicily in 827. The Arabs presence significantly marked the town in architecture, agriculture, art, language and culture. They built hydraulic-engineering works; revolutionised the fishing techniques, and brought the port back to its original splendour.

After them, Trapani was conquered by the Normans, Suevians and Angioinians, followed by the Aragonese domination, and the Bourbonist reign, who governed Sicily until 1860.

In this period the people of Trapani dedicated themselves to commerce and industry. Naval activity flourished, as well as the tuna and salt industries

The town made an important contribution to the unification of Italy and confirmed its importance in the sectors of agriculture and food.

It was badly damaged during World War II, when it was subjected to intense Allied bombardments. It has grown greatly since the end of the war, sprawling out virtually to the foot of Monte San Giuliano.

Tourism has grown in recent years due to the city's proximity to popular destinations such as Erice, Segesta and the Egadi Islands.

Much of Trapani's economy still depends on the sea. Fishing and canning are an important local industries, with fishermen using the mattanza technique to catch tuna. Coral is also an important export, along with salt, marble and marsala wine.



The port of Trapani: infrastructures and port services

The Port of Trapani is classed as commercial port of national interest (2nd Category - 1st Class); it is certified ISPS; it is structured:

- for the ferry passenger traffic to the Aegades Island, Tunis , Cagliari, Ustica, Pantelleria and Naples.
- for goods traffic



The port is well sheltered from all winds.

Use of tug can be necessary in case of very strong SE/SW/W winds (more than 20 knots)

Quays and breakwater barriers defend an extensive natural field with a mirror of water of about 921.000 mq.

The draft of the entrance channel is today 8mt, but the pier draft is 8,5 mt.

The actual docking and berthing areas of the port are 15, for a total of 2.000 linear mt and 150.000 square mt. **One of them is dedicated to the passenger traffic: the Garibaldi Quay** (165 mt, draft 8,5 mt) , 150 mts from the town. Largest ships that can be docked are max. LOA 230 mt.

Exclusively for cruise ships, there is also an **anchorage point**, far 1 mile from the port, protected by breakwater (N/NW) with 18 mt guaranteed draft.

In a few minutes, through the ship tenders or the port boats, the passengers can land and start the tourist tours. Anchorage point is well sheltered. Some difficulties could be caused by very strong SW/W/NW winds (more than 20 knots).

About safety, the pier where the cruise vessels berth, is closed with fences; security controls are operated by Trapani Cruises srl

The **Maritime Station** , even not very big, hosts bus area , ticket offices, security control services, public toilets, newspapers kiosk, a bar, Information Office, Internet Point, availables for both passengers and seamen.

Next to the Maritime Station there is a large short stay car parking offering 2 hours free parking as well as many long stay car parks and hydrofoil upset to the visitors direct to the Egadi islands, active during the summer period.

The port of Trapani allows supplies for storerooms and galleys, and bunkering using tank trucks.

Fresh water (not drinkable) available, supplied by truck through hoses.

All excursion buses can arrive directly at the pier and park very close to the ship gangways.





1: anchorage point 2: tender pier 3: Garibaldi pier

from 1 to 2: 5-7 min.

Trapani as embarkation port

Compared to the other ports of Sicily, Trapani

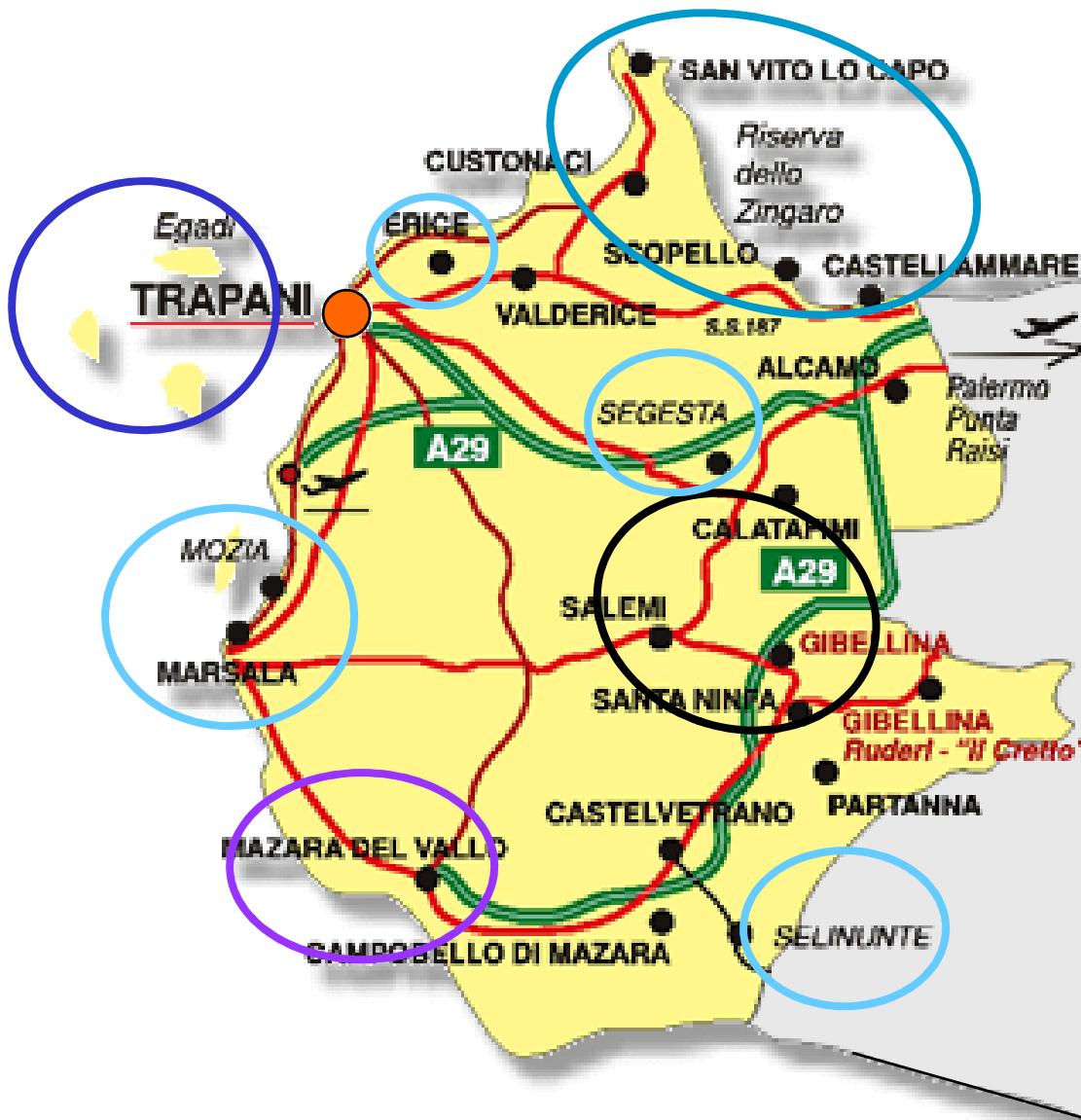
- is less interesting for a cruise company interested to the Italian public, because the Trapani province gathers less population than Palermo and Messina or Catania, with less economic possibilities
- It could be an interesting turnaround port for not-Italian embarking cruisers, due to
 - the already developed flights connection to Ireland and Spain (through Ryanair)
 - the possibility to combine the cruise with a local stay, on Aegades islands or on the coast

Trapani as tourist port: a new destination for cruises

Due to its barycentric position, the Trapani call offers excellent potentialities into different tourist destinations, both cultural-historical and naturalistic ones, mainly in half day trips:

- **Trapani itself**, so close to the port, with its lovely churches and its famous Pepoli museum
- some notable historic-archaeological remains, that include the Greek **Segesta and Selinunte**, and the Phoenician **Mozia**
- the superb village of **Erice**, with its Punic walls and its fascinating medieval centre
- the **Aegades islands**, unchallenged kingdom of legends, the site of prehistoric settlement, and privileged location for tuna fishing, the tuna "mattanza"
- **Marsala** - famous for its artistic ceramic work - where Garibaldi and the "Thousand red shirts" disembarked, and the Arab **Mazara del Vallo**
- the villages of **Salemi** and **Gibellina**, art and culture after the earth quake
- the **natural reserves** and the salt-pans of Riserva dello Zingaro, Stagnone Lagoon, Trapani Orientated reserve
- beautiful beaches in **San Vito Lo Capo** or **Castellamare del Golfo** or **Marinella di Selinunte**
- **wine itineraries** (Marsala, Alcamo, Pantelleria) and gastronomy opportunities
- Last for distance, but not so much, the worldwide famous **Agrigento Temples Valley**





**Agrigento
Temple
Valley**

Trapani , a town between 2 seas

Total inhabitants: approx. 70.000

It can be visited in 3 hours

Trapani, the ancient Drepanum, extends along a curving tongue of land that ends in two horns – one occupied by the *Torre di Ligny*, the other by the *Lazzaretto*.

To visit:

Santuario dell'Annunziata – in *Via Pepoli* at the far eastern end of town (in the direction of Palermo) stands the large Carmelite institution known as the *Annunziata*. The actual church adjoins the former convent which now houses the town's main museum (*Museo Pepoli*). The church, although built in the early 14C, was transformed and enlarged in the course of the 18C. The original front elevation is ornamented with a Chiraramonte Gothic portal, surmounted by an elaborate rose-window above.

Museo Pepoli – The ex-Carmelite convent provides a magnificent setting for the museum and its fine collections of historic artefacts from prehistoric times to the 19C. It is famous for the collection of jewels, ex vota donated to Madonna di Tyrapani, marble sculptures, coral jewellery.

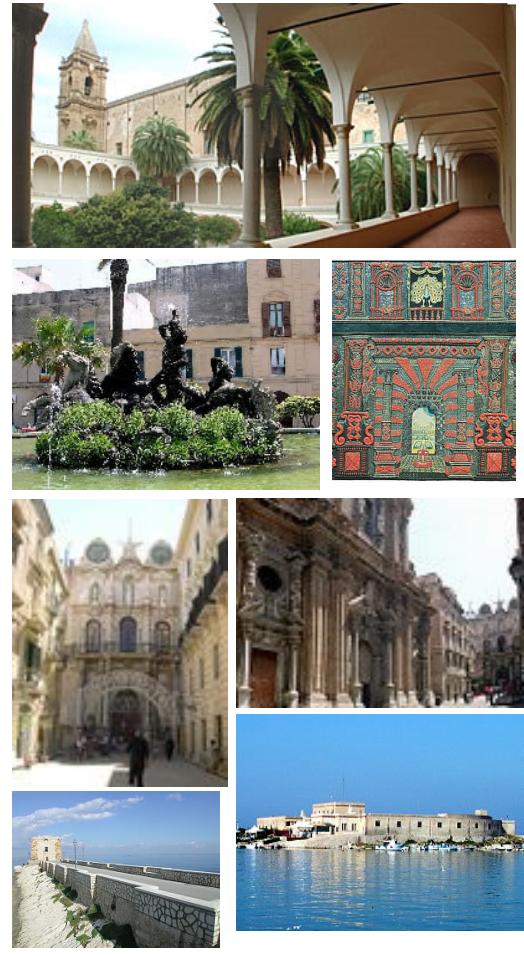
The Centro storico (historical center): the medieval districts of the old part of town are situated on the headland pointing out to sea. The tip was developed by the Spanish in the 14C (*Quartiere Palazzo*) and remodelled in the Baroque style later. The oldest section built in true Moorish fashion around a tight network of interconnecting narrow streets, stretches back along the peninsula; this would originally have been enclosed by walls.

Palazzo Ciambra (della Giudecca) , Church of Santa Maria del Gesù , Biblioteca Fardelliana

Church of Sant'Agostino, Rua Nova – Rua Grande, The cathedral, dedicated to St. Lawrence

Chiesa del Collegio , the lovely Palazzo Senatorio (Cavarella)

Before to leave the "old town" is to see the Ligny Tower, built in 1671 as protection of the town, today housing the Museum of Prehistory and of the Sea. From the terrace at the top of the tower extends a fine view over the town and across to the Egadi Islands



One of Trapani's most typical dishes is the fish ***cous cous*** : a dish brought from North Africa, improved, so the Sicilians claim, by the addition of locally-caught fish.



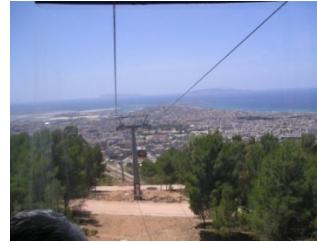
Erice , Punic and Medieval with beautiful view

Distance: 12 km from Trapani

Total time by cableway: 15 min

Total inhabitants (considering only the top of the mountain): 1000

It can be visited in 2,5 hours



Erice is situated on the top of the homonymous mountain, at 752 m a.s.l. and from there is possible to admire the panoramic view on the Tirreno sea, Trapani, salt-pans, Egadi Islands, the western coast and the inland toward south.

In this small medieval town founded by Elimians, probably of Trojan origin, was venerated the Goddess of fertility, recognized by various Mediterranean people.

All the town, built with stones, even today preserves a charming medieval aspect with characteristic court-yards and winding streets.

To visit:

After the ascent to Monte Erice through cableway, are to be visited:

- The **Porta Trapani** (Trapani Gate), ancient gate in the Elyminian-Punic walls
- the **Chiesa Madre** (Mother Church)
- The **Balio Garden**, with fantastic view
- The **Castle of Venus**
- The **Cordici Museum**
- The **San Giuliano church**

Following the main street you arrive to the ex-monastery of San Rocco, now housing the **"Scientific Centre Ettore Majorana"**, one of the most important scientist researches centre in the world



Along the winding streets of the village, several characteristic shops of local handcrafts: coloured rugs made using a typical loom, skeins of cotton and tissue remnants, or ceramic with ancient decorations.

One of Erice's most typical food are **cookies with almonds**, once made by nuns in local monasteries



Segesta , the mystery of the "Elimians"

Distance: 35 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 40 min.

It can be visited in 2 hours

Archaeological area located on Mount Barbaro (430 m) , in a charming position between green hills and fields, dominated by the view of the Doric temple and the Roman theatre.

It was (together with Erice) one of the most important settlements of the Elymians on 1st millennium BC.

It is also interesting the visit to the new excavations of a medieval Segesta (called at that time Calatabarbaro)

Legend tells us that it was founded by Alceste, son of the Trojan Egesta, who hosted Aeneas during his voyage after the fall of Troy.

To visit:

- the **Temple**, built in Doric-style in 420-430 BC, with 36 columns made with local "travertino" marble.
- on the summit of Monte Barbaro (by small shuttle), there is the ancient city, with
 - the **Greek Theatre** built in Hellenistic style (II century BC)
 - The **medieval Castle**
 - the ruins of an ancient mosque.



Tasting wine possibility near Segesta.



Selinunte, once a powerful State

Distance: 95 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 70 min.

It can be visited in 2 hours



It is the greatest European Archaeological Park (270 hectares)

The town was founded by Greek settlers, in 650 BC, on a splendid hill, close to the sea, protected by 2 rivers.

Thanks to its position and the fertile soil, it became rich, exporting its products in all Mediterranean areas.

To visit:

In the Archaeological Park:

- 3 large temples; one having been re-erected in 1957. The **Temple C** has 14 columns lifted up to show the splendour of the construction.
- **the acropolis** (south of the actual town)
- **a sacred precinct** complete with temples and sanctuaries.

To complete the picture, it is well worth visiting the quarries from where the stone was brought (quarries of Cusa):

Quarries of Cusa (distance almost 12 km from Selinunte)

the visit of this area gives the impression that the stones extraction stopped only yesterday. It is possible to see different stages of work to obtain columns for the Temple G.

Tasting **Extra Virgin Olive Oil (Nocellara del Belice)** possibility near Selinunte

Mozia, Phoenician corner in the Stagnone lagoon

Distance: 25 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 30 min + a small or big tourist boats from the coast

It can be visited in 2,5 hours

The Stagnone Lagoon

The Stagnone Lagoon covers an area of 2,000 hectares between Punta San Teodoro and Capo Lilibeo. It consists of a small archipelago composed of four islands, namely Longa, Scuola, Mozia (or San Pantaleo) and Santa Maria. In 1984, in order to preserve its precious ecosystem, the lagoon was designated as a Natural Reserve.

Mozia

This tiny island (today named San Pantaleo) was chosen by the Phoenicians as a suitable site for a vital and later prosperous colony, mainly for its strategic position, surrounded by the shallow waters of the Lagoon and naturally protected by Isola Longa on the seaward side.

After its destruction in the following century, it was rediscovered at the end of the 19C. Its rediscovery is associated to Joseph Whitaker, living in the 1880s (owner of a Marsala wine export business); now his house is the Mozia Museum.

To visit:

- The Museum
- The House with Mosaic
- The Tophet (an ancient sanctuary with tombs of small children)
- The ancient industrial area
- The Necropolis
- The Northern Gate
- The Cothon (maybe a small harbour)

It is also interesting to visit some **local salt -pans**, till now in activity, with traditional methods that leave to the salt a lot of minerals (magnesium, fluorine etc)



Marsala, history and wine

Distance: 31 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 45 min

Total inhabitants: approx. 55.000

It can be visited in 2,5 hours

The ancient town Lilybaeum was founded in the III cent. BC by survivors, that escaped from the Phoenician colony Motia, after its total destruction.

The actual name comes from "Marsah el Ali" – a harbour of Ali – underlining the portual importance of the town.

To visit:

the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in the Anselmi "Baglio", an old wine cellar that today preserves a part of Carthaginian war ship from the III cent BC, found near the coast of Stagnone

The town Historical center:

Piazza Repubblica

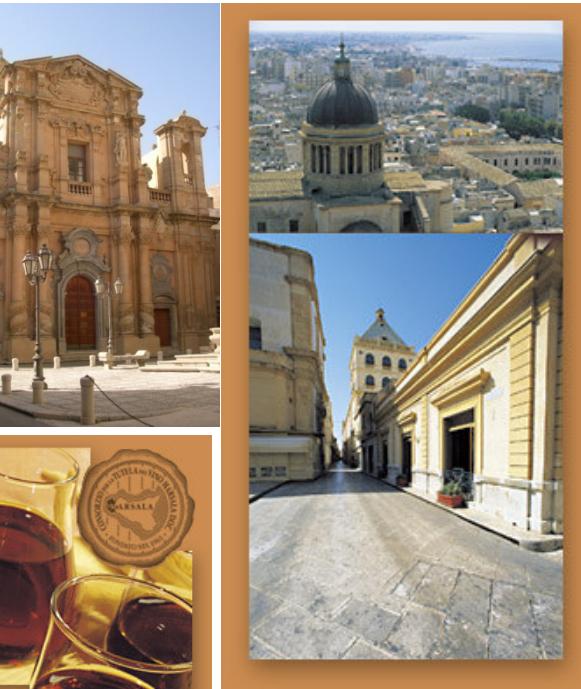
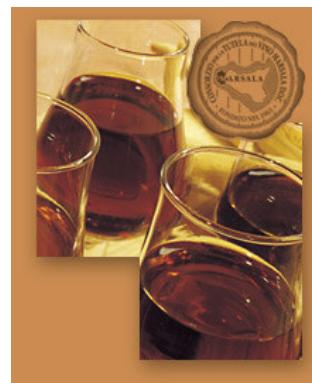
Palazzo Senatorio (XVII Cent)

The St Thomas of Canterbury Cathedral, built in the XVII-XVIII cent over a Norman edifice

The Monastery of San Pietro

The local fish market

It is impossible to leave Marsala without tasting its **famous Marsala wine**, and not visiting one of wineries



Mazara del Vallo, the town of "The Satiro"

Distance: 52 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 55 min

Total inhabitants: approx. 60.000

It can be visited in 2,5 hours

Ancient Phoenician site near the estuary of the river Mazaro, called a "harbour-canal", chosen because very close to Africa, Mazara lived its maximum splendour under Arabian and Normans.

Today it is a lively maritime town, possessing an important fishing activity and industry, with several historic buildings, from XI to XVIII C.

To visit:

-- Città vecchia (old town):

- The Cathedral, built by Normans on a previous Great Mosque
- The Bishop Palace and the Seminary
- The Museo Diocesano
- The ex-Collegio dei Gesuiti
- The oldest part of the town, similar to an Arabian Kasbah, as Mazara was in IX-XI C.
- Several Norman and Baroque Churches

-- The Norman Castle ruins (XII C.), surrounded by gigantic trees

-- The fluvial port

The new wonders of the world : Il SATIRO.

The "Museo del Satiro" has been created to expose the famous "Satiro danzante" (dancing Satiro) statue, masterpiece of 4th century B.C., made probably by Prassitele. Tall approx. 3 mt, it was found in the waters of the Sicily Channel in 1998.

Still now the monastery of San Michele sells its **typical almond cookies** through a wheel-plate, not a shop.



Gibellina and Salemi, art and culture after the earthquake

Distance: 30 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 40 min

They can be visited in 2,5 hours,



Todays these the new part ruins has been transformed in works of art, unique in the world.

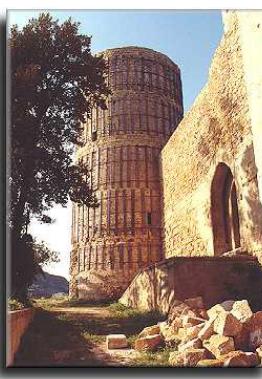


Gibellina

Total Inhabitants: 14.000

In only one night, the "Valle del Belice" (Belice River Valley) was destroyed by a terrible earthquake in 1968. Gibellina was destroyed as well, and its reconstruction (15 km far from the old town) was made in order to become a museum of Modern Art "en plein air".

The ruins of the old town were covered by a big white sheet of cement by the artist Alberto Burri; in the new town, everywhere, sculptures or works of great artistic importance.



Salemi

Total Inhabitants: 10.000

Small town perched on a summit in the hilly area among vineyards, badly damaged by the earthquake, with an old historical center restored , that show its Arabian influence.

To visit:

- Chiesa del Collegio (XVII C.)
- Ex-Collegio dei Gesuiti
- The Museum of Sicilian Traditions
- The Norma Castle

Peculiarity of Salemi is the preparation, for St Joseph Day, of a **decorative bread**, representing flowers, animals, fruits, stars, tools, with symbolic meanings hoping for a good season)

The Nature Reserve of "Lo Zingaro"

Distance: 50 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 1 hour

It can be visited in 3,5 hours, by walking

From Scopello to San Vito Lo Capo, the Riserva dello Zingaro incorporates 7 km of splendid coasts.

It is the first Nature Reserve set up in Sicily, and has an extension of 1650 hectares.

The main path offers an incredible view on rugged promontories, magnificent inlets, golden beaches and crystal colour sea waters.

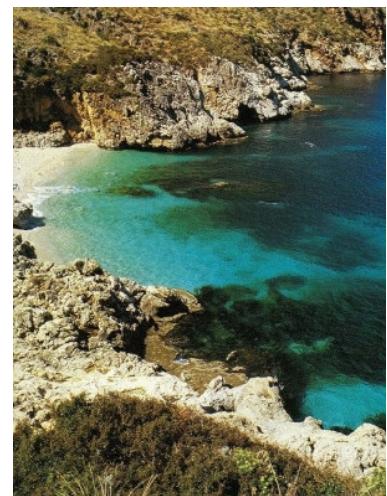
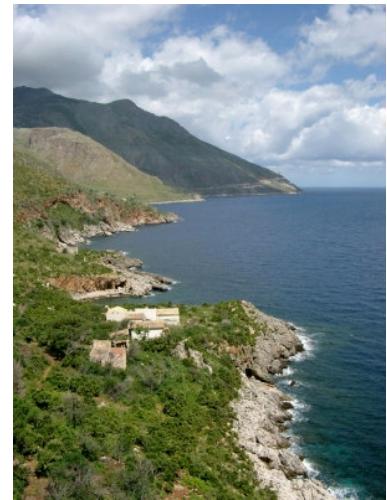
The rich Mediterranean vegetation is represented by dwarf palms, lentisk, carobs, manna trees, asphodels.

Regarding the fauna, Zingaro is very interesting, because over forty species of birds nest and reproduce there, like the peregrine falcon, Bonelli's eagle, buzzard and kestrel.

In the middle of the Reserve the prehistoric Cave Uzzo attests the first human settlements in this area, 8000-6000 years BC.

Everything is described with pictures and panels in the small Museum of the Reserve.

During the visit is recommended to stop in small inlets (like Cala Capreria) and have a swim in the crystalline waters



The Nature Reserve of "Salt-Pans of Trapani and Paceco"

Distance: 5 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 10 min

It can be visited in 2 hours, by walking & birdwatching

Sun, sea and wind, guided by man through centuries of work and talent, are the natural ingredients for the production of salt, in the beautiful scenery of the Trapani and Paceco Salt-works Nature Reserve.

Looking down from Erice towards the Egadi Islands, the huge extension of water below presents a geometrical design of darker intersecting lines that give the salt-works their unique aspect.

The reserve, created to protect the last wetlands of western Sicily, with their botanical peculiarities and richness of fauna (flamingos, spoonbills, ducks..), protects also the salt works from the actual risks of urban and industrial expansion, dumps and illegal building that, despite the pre-existing bans, have never really stopped. Although surrounded by roads, factories and closed between the port of Trapani and the summer houses of Nubia, the salt-works of Trapani and Paceco maintain their unique beauty and charm.

Part of the old tools used for producing salt are kept in the **Salt Museum** in the "A" zone of the reserve. Shovels, baskets, Archimede's coils, stone and wooden rollers are set in a beautiful windmill, close to the sea, while illustrated panels explain also the function and the structure of the salt-works.

Shop possibility:

- Marine salt
- Garlic from Nubia



Beaches

San Vito Lo Capo

40 km from Trapani - 40 min by bus - it can be visited in 1,5 hours

Holiday resort in a sandy hollow, with white houses developed around an old Saracen fortress (now the San Vito church). The visit to the Museo del Mare is recommended, for its Arab-Normans relicts from underwater excavations. Beautiful beaches.

Tourist visit or beach stay, to be combined with Riserva dello Zingaro visit or Erice's visit. or Segesta's visit.



Castellamare del Golfo and Scopello

40 km from Trapani - 40 min by bus - it can be visited in 2 hours

It is a characteristic seaside resort in the beautiful Gulf of Castellamare. In the ancient times it was a harbour and "emporium" of Segesta, and today is a tourist port. The medieval Castle, in a fantastic position, gave name to the town.

On the way to Scopello, stop in Belvedere to admire the Gulf view, Scopello is a little fishing village with a "Baglio" (XVIII C) built for the Borboni dynasty when they hunted there. Noe, here, taste the "granita" kind of ice-cream, and visit ceramic laboratories.

Tourist visits or beach stays, to be combined with Riserva dello Zingaro visit or Erice's visit. or Segesta's visit.



Marinella di Selinunte

60 km from Trapani - 1,5 hours by bus

Beach stay (on a beach under the Era Temple) to be combined with Selinunte archaeological park visit.

The Aegades Islands

Distance: 6 marine miles from Trapani

Total time by hydrofoil: 15 min to Levanzo, 25 min to Favignana, and approx. 1 hour to Marettimo.

It can be visited : in 3 hours (for Levanzo and Favignana) or in 1 day ("all islands tour")

The three islands of Favignana, Levanzo and Marettimo are a "mini-archipelago" off Trapani ; they count some 4,600 inhabitants.

Everyone is blessed with lovely coastlines immersed in glorious crystal-clear water.

In Palaeolithic age, Levanzo and Favignana belonged to the main island of Sicily, as it is supposed. Nowadays they keep prehistoric remains, and other witnesses of Antiquity. In these waters was signed the end of the First Punic War (241 BC), whereby Carthage assigned Sicily to the Roman Empire.



Favignana

The island – with butterfly shape - is the largest in the archipelago of the Aegades islands, and is a popular tourist destination because of its wonderful sea, characterised by many coves. The island is rich in history too (the famous naval battle between the Romans and the Carthaginians was fought here). Favignana is also famous all over the world for its "mattanza" tradition (slaughter of tuna fish). In the area of San Nicola, is possible to visit archaeological sites containing remains of prehistoric period, and a necropolis VIII century BC, and the Boasco district sites with remains of Punic era.

Diving and snorkelling – Best places : Punta Marsala, Secca del Toro, the submerged cave between Cala Rotonda and Scoglio Corrente, and the rocks off Punta Fanfalo and Punta Ferro.

What to take home? – The most popular locally-made goodies available on Favignana are of the edible kind: *bottarga* (dried tuna-fish roe) and *fish-bresaola* (cured or smoked tuna or swordfish).



Levanzo

The smallest of the Aegades Islands, it is an ideal place for trekking, thanks to its numerous paths. Do not miss: the visit to the **Genovese Cave**, on foot or by boat, where to admire prehistoric graffiti. A boat trip around the island enables to reach many coves for swimming and snorkelling.



Marettimo

Among the Aegades Islands, Marettimo is the furthest from Trapani: therefore it still is a real natural paradise, with a rugged and enchanting landscape and a crystal sea. It is also well known for its archaeological sites, characterised by caves which can be reached by a ride on a fisherman's boats. It is an ideal place for those who want holidays in close contact with nature and with traditions, with ways of life and customs that no longer exist in urban environments.

Caves to see : the "Grotta del Cammello", the "Grotta del Tuono", the "Grotta Perciata", the "Grotta del Presepio", similar to a Nativity scene due to rocks crafted by the wind and the waves.

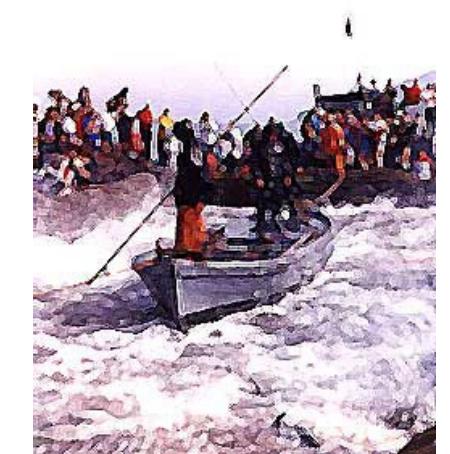


Tuna "factories"

Distance: 20 km from Trapani

Total time by bus : approx. 25 min

It is possible to visit the Tonnara di Bonagia, where there is a museum about tuna fishing. This visit can be combined to a tour in the actual tuna factory, ending with tasting



La mattanza

The complex and ritual method of catching tuna fish follows – or rather used to follow – very precise rules, timings and strictly disciplined practices established by the Rais, the head of the tuna fishermen and, at one time also the head of the village: a sort of shaman who specified when it should begin and what procedure should be followed. The methods by which the tuna used to be hunted and killed date back to ancient times, indeed possibly even to the Phoenicians, although, it was not until the islands came under Arab domination that the most fundamental elements of the “rite” that underpin the fishing practises of today were firmly established. For the Mattanza is a ritual it is in its own right, complete with propitiatory and superstitious songs (the scialome), concluding in a cruel struggle with these powerful creatures at very close quarters. The outcome, however, is always a foregone conclusion and rarely, if ever, in the tuna’s favour. In late spring, the tuna collect in great shoals off the west coast of Sicily where the conditions are conducive to breeding. The fishing boats put out to sea to lay the nets in a long corridor which the tuna are forced to follow. The last nets are dropped like barriers to form antechambers that will prevent too many fish from being gathered in a single unit, thus averting the risk of the nets being torn and the fish escaping. Beyond these antechambers is laid the *camera della morte*, an enclosure provided by tougher netting and often closed along the bottom. When an appropriate number of fish are deemed to be trapped in the chamber, Rais orders the mattanza to begin. And so the killing of the fish is initiated: what is cruel is that, by now, the fish are exhausted after trying vainly to find a means of escape and panicked after being injured by inevitably knocking into others of their own kind crowded together. One by one they are speared or hooked and heaved aboard.

The term mattanza comes from the Spanish word “matàr”, to kill, which derives from the Latin mactare, meaning to glorify or immolate.

The Agrigento Temple Valley

Distance: 175 km from Trapani

Total time by bus: approx. 2 hrs

It can be visited in 1,5 hours



The Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, **is one of the most important archeological sites in the world**, and a **Unesco world heritage site since 1998**.

Along a long rocky scarp, chosen as the southern limit of the town, are still sited the great temples of ancient Akragas:

**Hera (Juno) Lacinia,
Concordia
Heracles (Hercules)
Olympian Zeus (Jupiter)
Castor and Pollux (Dioscuri)
Hephaistos (Vulcan)**

Further down, on the bank of the Akragas river, near a medical spring, stood the Temple dedicated to **Asklepius (Eusculapius)**, the god of medicine. At the mouth of the river there was the harbour and *emporion* (trading-post) of the ancient city.

Ancient **Akragas**, in its hey-day, the city was a flourishing cultural centre: it gave the world Empedocles, the pre-socratic philosopher, and attracted poets like Simonides and Pyndar, who described it as "*the most beautiful of mortal cities*". In Roman times, Agrigento was visited by Cicero and later described by Virgil in the "Eneid".

From the Middle Ages up to modern times, its remains, landscapes, flora, colours and the echo of lost civilizations have inspired poets, writers and painters

In February, the Temple Valley hosts the "**Festa del Mandorlo in Fiore**", an international very known happening with International folk dancing groups



Food and wines

Food

The local cuisine is represented and well known for its fish-based various and tasty dishes, that are expertly prepared here.

The cuisine, based on local fish, has been favoured not only by the closeness of the sea, but also by the Arabs' influence that maintained through history consistent exchanges across the sea with local inhabitants.

Here the most famous dishes are based on **tuna**, but we should also remind the cuscus and the "cannoli di tuma".

Examples of starters: vegetables conserved in olive oil, raw minced shrimps, the "pitaggio", a mixture of fresh broad beans, peas and artichokes, mussels in breadcrumbs spiced with chilli, olive pâté and crushed fennel.

First courses :pasta with anchovies (mixed with toasted breadcrumbs), the 'cavatelli', with tomato and aubergine sauce, the "maccu", a broad bean and cabbage soup, pasta with broad beans and ricotta, spaghetti with green tomatoes and baked pasta rings.

Main courses: locally-caught fresh fish, cooked in a variety of ways, for example, roasted on "canali" (red-hot tureens), fried "scataddizzi" (small snails), "alose in camicia", fish dressed with olive oil, salt and chilli pepper and then wrapped in puff pastry and baked, sausages flavoured with sesame, wild fennel and chilli, sweet and sour rabbit, roast kid, and "farsu magru", a slice of lean veal covered with hard-boiled egg, cheese, ham, sausage and herbs and baked as a roulade.

Other dishes are also excellent, stewed vegetables, fried and flavoured with olive oil, anchovies and capers, then there are the fried broccoli, citrus fruit salads, tomatoes, mozzarella, ham and artichokes conserved in olive oil.

The sweets are insuperable: "cannoli" (filled pastry), "cassata" (ice-gateau) and "mostaccioli" (rich fruit cake) above all, and then ricotta baked in paper, croissant with ricotta, baked carob, sweet couscous with cacao and pistachio, marzipan and candied fruit.

Concerning the local productions, one of the most important is the **Extra Virgin Olive Oil** , mostly coming from the area of Castelvetrano, where "Novellara of Belice" olive oil dominates. The Valli Trapanesi olive oil production is now DOP (Denomination of Protected Origin)

Other typical food-activities in the area are the **ice cream production**, the **coffee roasting**, the **marine salt**, and **vegetables conserved in olive oil**.



Wines

Sicily has always been a perfect place for social and cultural exchange since ancient times, and for this reason its wine tradition has such great roots. The wine area around Trapani is called **Sicily Wine Valley**, and is one of the biggest and most important wine district in the world.

Some figures:

- Total area: 2460 km² Vineyard area: 67000 hectares, over 50% of to the total Sicilian vineyard area
- Annual medium production: 4-5 million hectoliters of wine Number of wineries: over 100
- Number of DOC appellation: 5 (Marsala, Alcamo, Moscato and Passito of Pantelleria, Erice, Salaparuta)
- Wine roads: 4

Alcamo is the heart of the production of the **Bianco d'Alcamo (White of Alcamo)**, one of first Sicilian wine to have obtained the Denomination of Controlled Origin (DOC) in far away 1972. Produced in the areas of Calatafimi, Castellammare del Golfo, Gibellina.

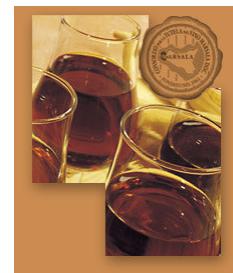
Alc. Dgrs: 11,5°C; for Fish dishes.

The territory of Marsala is one of the most famous of the world for its wine productions; it is situated in an ideal zone for the exposure to the solar radiation and for the wealth of lands, much to be defined "Zone of the Sun". **Wine symbol of the territory is the Marsala**, the oldest DOC of the Sicily (1969), rich of history and culture. The Marsala wine was casually discovered in 1771. Englishmen were first producers, built wineries and started to export all over the world in competition with Porto and Sherry. The secret of 18-19° Marsala wine DOC consists in ageing in oaks barrels from 1 to 10 years, or even more

Alc. Dgrs: from 17°C; for Dessert

The production region of **Doc Erice wines** falls back in the province of Bottoming drills and includes inner lands to the territory of Buseto Palizzolo and the part of the territories of Erice, Valderice, Custonaci, Castellammare of the Gulf and Trapani. The DOC has been recognized recently, in the 2004. Erice DOC autochthon vineyards are: Catarratto, Nero d'Avola, Grillo, Insolia, Frappato, Perricone and Zibibbo, with more "international" wine yards like Chardonnay, Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet-Sauvignon.

The last DOC in the Trapani area comes from the **Salaparuta** hills. Different kinds of grapes belong to it: Rosso and Rosso Riserva, Bianco, Inzolia, Grillo, Chardonnay, Catarratto, Nero d'Avola and Nero d'Avola Riserva, Merlot and Merlot Riserva, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah.





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