

on-Sicily - print version pages service, restaurants, activities and travel tips.

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1.a. Extras - service - Service in English

Not speaking Italian doesn't have to be an obstacle for enjoying and exploring the Sicilian culture, nature and cuisine. We are your English speaking reference point for touristic information and help. We can reserve a table in local restaurants, which can come in handy, especially if you are allergic to certain ingredients or when you prefer vegetarian dishes. We can also organize trips to several cultural locations and many other activities which you'll find listed on the culture and activities page.

1.b. Extras - service - Car rental and transfers

We work in collaboration with *Jumbo Rent-a-car* and can help with your rental car reservation. You can choose from several models such as the *Fiat Panda*, the *Fiat Grande Punto*, the *Volkswagen Golf*, and the *Fiat Scudo*. You can choose not to have a deductible by taking the *super cover* and the second driver is covered free of charge.

We also organize transfers to and from the airports of *Palermo* and *Trapani*. You will be picked up at the airport and driven to *Jumbo Rent-a-car* where your rental car will be waiting. Fast and convenient! Do not hesitate to contact us for a quotation.

2.a. Extras - restaurants - agriturismo tarantola

In the tranquility of *Alcamo's* countryside, in a valley surrounded by a hilly landscape dominated by vineyards, you will find *Agriturismo Tarantola*. Here you can enjoy *Alcamo's* traditional homemade cuisine with biological vegetables from *Tarantola's* vegetable garden. Wine made from a variety of grapes (*vino svuso*) is included in the menu but if you prefer bottled wine you can taste *Tarantola's* excellent white and red wines: the *Inzolia-Chardonnay*, the *Cabernet-Syrah* and the *Nero D'Avola*. *Tarantola* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

2.b. Extras - restaurants - la batia

Pizzeria Ristorante *La Batia* (local dialect for *abbey*) is a beautiful and characteristic restaurant in the nearby town of *Alcamo*. When the building was renovated all of the original charm was preserved. The owner has put together two special menus with typical Sicilian dishes (meat or fish). All meals come with *antipasti* (starters), a *primo piatto* (first course) a *secondo piatto* (main course), *dolci* (dessert), coffee, water and wine.

2.c. Extras - restaurants - il cavallino bianco

For a great pizza made in a wood burning oven, you can go to *Il cavallino bianco* ("the little white horse") in the coastal town of *Balestrate*. They have a wide range of pizzas and several delicious pasta dishes. You can also try the *risotto ai frutti di mare* or the handmade *gnocchi ai funghi porcini*. *Il cavallino bianco* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

2.d. Extras - restaurants - baglio carta

Azienda agrituristica Baglio Carta is located outside of *Balestrate* in a nicely renovated *baglio*. A

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baglio is a typical Sicilian construction where a house or a group houses is built in a square shape with a courtyard and one entrance gate. The courtyard is a great place to enjoy the Sicilian meat based menu, with lots of *antipasti*, *primi* and *secondi piatti*. *Baglio Carta* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

2.e. Extras - restaurants - al covo de' i beati paoli

Al covo de' I Beati Paoli ("in the cave of the *beati paoli*") is one of the most well known restaurants in *Palermo*. The establishment resembles a cave and is nicely lit and cozy. The restaurant offers typical Sicilian dishes and delicious pizzas made in the wood burning oven. The waiters are friendly and the restaurant has a wine list with many excellent Sicilian wines. You'll find *Al covo de' I Beati Paoli* at the *Piazza Marina*, the famous park close to *Palermo's* marina. In the summer period you can enjoy your meal sitting on the terrace overlooking the park. *Al covo de' I Beati Paoli* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

2.f. Extras - restaurants - la lampara

If you like fish dishes, then you will have to visit pizzeria ristorante *La Lampara* on the large sandy beach of *Castellammare del Golfo*! The fish is always fresh and prepared with care and passion. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner and, when possible, the tables are put outside on the terrace. After your meal you can walk along the beach listening to the calming sound of the waves and enjoying the fresh air. Pizzeria ristorante *La Lampara* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

2.g. Extras - restaurants - il corallo

Ristorante *Il Corallo* is located in the four star hotel *Costa Azul*. Cooking is the chef's passion which is clearly visible from the way the dishes are prepared. We can recommend the "menu degustazione" where with every course the friendly waitresses will bring you a new Sicilian wine, specially chosen by the restaurant's chef. *Il Corallo* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

3.a. Extras - activities - pizza workshop

We organize pizza workshops in a small pizzeria on the holiday terrain of *Valle dorata* in the town of *Balestrate*. We will start off enjoying some antipasti, after which a real Sicilian *pizzaio* will explain how to make a tasty pizza and give all participants the chance to make their own pizza! All pizzas will be made in the wood burning oven. When everybody has enjoyed their self prepared pizza and a glass of wine, beer, water etc., it's time to enjoy the typical Sicilian *dolci* (dessert). Martijn or Laura will be present to translate into English so you don't have to speak Sicilian / Italian to enjoy this workshop.

3.b. Extras - activities - sfincione workshop

The *sfincione* is a kind of a Sicilian pizza. The base is soft and thicker than the one used for a pizza and is covered with a mixture of tomatoes, anchovies, cheese (*caciocavallo*), olive oil and oregano. If you'd like to learn how to make the *sfincione*, you can participate in the *sfincione* workshop held at *Agriturismo Tarantola*.

3.c. Extras - activities - cooking course and workshop

Have you always wanted to know how typical Sicilian dishes, like the *caponata*, the *peperonata*, the *parfait di mandorle* or the *sarde a beccafico* are prepared? Then the cooking workshop is something for you! The workshop takes place in the afternoon in *Agriturismo Tarantola* after which you can enjoy a lovely meal, prepared by you, the other participants and the cook. If you'd like to learn how to prepare more dishes, then we can organize a cooking course. In a couple of afternoons, you will be taught how to make several dishes, allowing you to prepare a complete Sicilian meal from the *antipasti*, *primi* and *secondi piatti* to the Sicilian *dolci*.

3.d. Extras - activities - ceramics workshop and course

During the ceramics workshop you will learn how ceramics are made after which you can paint your own plate in the atelier of *Beatriz Silva Orta* in *Alcamo*. The painting of ceramics is a real Sicilian tradition and *Beatriz* makes both traditional drawings and personal designs. The plates can be picked up after two days (they have to be baked in an oven).

If we have enough participants we can organize a more elaborate course. Do not hesitate to contact us for additional information.

3.e. Extras - activities - trekking in lo zingaro

The area around *Castellammare del Golfo* is known for its beautiful nature. If you'd like to explore the area on foot, we can organize trips with an English speaking guide. You will get a packed lunch with the typical local *pani cunzatu* (bread prepared in a wood burning oven with cheese, tomatoes, anchovies and olive oil), so you can enjoy both Sicilian nature and a typical Sicilian dish.

3.f. Extras - activities - wine tasting

We organize wine tastings in several locations throughout the area, including *Winebar Aurelia* in *Castellammare del Golfo* and *Agriturismo Tarantola* in the *Alcamo* countryside. When held at *Agriturismo Tarantola* it is possible and recommended to combine the wine tasting with a lovely meal with many traditional Sicilian dishes.

3.g. Extras - activities - boat trips in Scopello

In collaboration with the professional scuba diving center *Cetaria*, in *Scopello*, we organize boat trips, allowing you to see the beautiful coast line from the sea (*Golfo di Castellammare*). You will start at the famous *Tonnara* in *Scopello*, after which the captain will show you the most beautiful beaches, caves and rock formations. You will have every opportunity to take pictures or film the beautiful landscape, passing the *Faraglioni* (cliffs), *Punta Leone*, *Cala Disa*, and much more.

You will also have the possibility to take a dive in the azure blue water of the *Golfo di Castellammare*. On board there will be wine or fruit juice. *Cetaria's* personnel all speak English.

3.h. Extras - activities - boat rental in Castellammare del Golfo

It is also possible to rent a boat yourself to explore the gulf area of the *Golfo di Castellammare*. You can rent a motorboat for a morning, an afternoon or for the whole day at *Nautiservice*, which is located in *Castellammare's* harbor. From *Castellammare del Golfo* you can follow the coastline, passing the beautiful bays, cliffs, rock formations and view the nature reserve *Lo Zingaro* and *San Vito lo Capo*. *Nautiservice* offers on-Sicily guests a special discount.

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3.i. Extras - activities - scuba diving in Scopello

Sicily and the *Golfo di Castellammare* in particular is a great place for scuba diving. We offer you the possibility to participate in several diving activities for a special on-Sicily price, organized by diving center *Cetaria (Scopello)*. You can dive with a buddy, follow an underwater course, or visit the underwater museum, an area in which all sea treasures were left untouched instead of taken to a traditional museum.

When scuba diving is something you have never done before, you should try the “*sea baptism*”. With an English speaking instructor you will have your first diving experience in full gear (and shallow water). The sea baptism is suitable for everyone, even for children (7 years and older).

If you are already an experienced scuba diver you can rent diving gear at *Cetaria*.

All Sicilian instructors speak English.

4.a. Extras - travel tips - by plane

As you will see, Sicily is easily reachable by plane. There are several direct flights from airports all over Europe, but you can also choose an indirect flight through many major European airports. You can fly into both *Palermo* and *Trapani*, and from both airports you can quickly reach *Balestrate* or *Castellammare del Golfo*.

Several low cost companies, such as, *Ryanair* and *Easyjet* have very affordable ticket prices!

The direct flights from Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, England, France, Spain are:

Departure	Arrival	Company
Germany		
Weeze	Trapani	Ryanair
Frankfurt	Trapani	Ryanair
Bremen	Trapani	Ryanair
Bonn	Palermo	TUIFly
Hannover	Palermo	TUIFly
Stuttgart	Palermo	TUIFly
Munich	Palermo	TUIFly
Belgium		
Brussels	Palermo	Jetairfly

The Netherlands

Amsterdam Palermo Transavia

Amsterdam Palermo KLM

England

London STN Palermo Ryanair

London LGW Palermo Easyjet

Birmingham Trapani Ryanair

Luton Trapani Ryanair

Ireland

Dublin Trapani Ryanair

France

Paris Trapani Ryanair

Paris CDG Palermo Meridiana

Spain

Girona Trapani Ryanair

Sweden

Stockholm Trapani Ryanair

Norway

Oslo Trapani Ryanair

Start your holiday completely relaxed! Contact us for further information about a transfer to and from the airport in combination with car rental. See also our service page.

If you choose a indirect flight, you can add another destination city to your Sicilian holiday by spending a day in *Pisa* (visit the leaning tower), *Milan* (visit the beautiful cathedral), or *Rome* (among other things, the *Vatican*, *Colosseum*, and *Forum Romanum*)!

Some examples of *indirect flights* from airports in Europe:

Departure	Layover	Arrival	Company
Eindhoven	Milan / Pisa	Palermo	Ryanair
Eindhoven	Milan / Pisa	Trapani	Ryanair
Brussel s	Milan / Pisa	Trapani	Ryanair
Brussels	Milan / Pisa	Palermo	Ryanair
Frankfurt	Milan / Pisa	Trapani	Ryanair

Frankfurt	Milan / Pisa	Palermo	Ryanair
Amsterdam	Milan	Palermo	Easyjet

If you are coming from outside of Europe you might have the possibility to fly directly to *Palermo*. If not, you can fly via *Rome* or *Milan*.

A lot of low cost airlines don't (just) fly in the weekend to Sicily. This is no problem whatsoever because we don't use fixed check-in or check-out days. This allows you to create the perfect holiday to fit your schedule and travel needs!

4.b. Extras - travel tips - by car and boat

If your holiday is two weeks or longer, you could consider traveling by car and/or boat to Sicily. Please keep in mind that from many European countries it will take two days by car to arrive at the harbor from where you can take the ferry to Sicily.

By car:

There are several good routes that will take you to Italy. There's no particular route better than another, it all depends on what you prefer. For example: Do you prefer to enjoy the countryside and take it slow, or do you want the fastest way of getting there? Do you want to avoid toll roads or does it not matter?

Some helpful hints and things to consider: Should you pass through *Switzerland* or *Austria*, you will need a sticker. In *Switzerland*, it is called *Autobahnvignette*, an can be ordered online and most likely via the tourist information centers in your country. The *Autobahnvignette* is valid for a year and one month.

In *Austria*, the sticker is called *Mautvignette*, which can be ordered most likely via the tourist information centers in your country. *Austria* has a slightly different system where you can buy stickers that are valid for 10 days, 2 months or one year (and one month).

If you have not placed the *Autobahnvignette* or *Mautvignette* on the inside of your windshield, you can purchase one at the border. This however, can take a lot of time, so it would be more convenient to purchase one in advance.

By boat:

From the harbors of *Genova*, *Livorno*, *Civitavecchia*, and *Naples* you can take a ferry (*nave*) to Sicily. Once in the harbor, you will have to check in at the company's office. Here you will be directed to the location of the company where you've booked by several signs in the harbor area.

The time it takes to arrive in Sicily depends on the harbor you've chosen. We prefer the port of *Civitavecchia*, where you embark in the evening and arrive in Palermo the next morning.

These are the options if you want to travel by boat:

Harbor	Departure time	Traveling time	Company
Genua	22:00	20 hours	GNV
Livorno	23:00	17 hours	GNV

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Civitavecchia	20:00	12 hours	GNV
Napels	20:00	10,5 hours	SNAV / Tirrenia

4.c. Extras - travel tips - traveling with your pet

If you'd like to bring your pet on your holiday, please consider the following:

Before you leave:

Your pet needs a (European) passport, which is provided by your Vet. He or she can also tell you which vaccinations your pet needs. Your dog, for instance, has to be vaccinated against rabies. In addition, an identification chip or tattoo is obligatory.

In the car:

In Italy, if you transport your dog, you are allowed to keep him/her in the back seat. If you are traveling with two or more dogs however, they have to be kept behind a gate or in a pet carrier. Do think about the general safety as this gate will prevent the dog from flying through the car should you need to brake quickly. Therefore, also consider using one, if you are travelling with just one dog. Keep in mind that the rules for transporting animals will be different in other countries, so please check the rules for the countries you will be passing through before your departure.

The temperature in Italy and especially in Sicily, is clearly warmer than in the north of Europe. So never leave your pet in the car when you are parked in the sun, not even for a couple of minutes! Besides this, make sure your dog or cat always has enough water to drink.

Hotels:

Pets are welcome in several hotels close to the highway. Check for instance the website of *Accor hotels*.

On the ferry:

Once on board, your dog or cat is not allowed in your cabin, which is why the ferries have special dog and cat cabins with several cages containing padlocks. You have to go to the reception to ask for a key to one of these locks. After paying a deposit of 5-10 Euros, you can take your pet to the upper deck where the cages are located.

There are only a few large cages, so if you are travelling with a big dog, ask for the key to the biggest cage they have!

There is no personnel to watch your pet, so you have to take care of the food and water.

Dogs can be walked on the upper deck, or parts of the upper deck identified by several signs.

Officially, your dog has to wear a muzzle. If you are like us and don't want to use the muzzle, at least bring one along. Normally the ferry's personnel is rather flexible when it comes to dogs not wearing muzzles, unless your dog is showing signs of unsocial behavior, of course...

Before leaving the boat you have to return both key and padlock to the reception, after which you will get your deposit back.

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Unfortunately, pets are not welcome in every accommodation on our website, so please contact us if you are considering bringing your pet.