



IONIAN COAST

3 PERFECT DAYS

♥ DAY 1 // TAORMINA'S GREEK RUINS & GREAT VIEWS

Wake up in Taormina (p168), the king of Sicily's Ionian resorts. After admiring the stunning setting of the Teatro Greco (p169) and its memorable views to Mt Etna, spend the rest of the morning exploring the town's medieval streets, browsing among the delis on Corso Umberto I (p169) and thrilling to the verdant delights of Villa Comunale (p171). After lunch head down to Isola Bella (p171) for some seaside fun.

♥ DAY 2 // ETNA'S FUMING HEIGHTS

You'll have seen it looming in the distance and now is the time to explore Mt Etna (p189). You can take a tour from Taormina (p172) or Catania, or, better still, pick up a car and go it alone. The easiest approach is the southern ascent via Rifugio Sapienza (p191) and a cable car, which takes you up to 2500m. From there you can follow with a guide or venture into the black wilderness on your own. Once back safely, decamp to Nicolosi (p314) for a comfortable and convenient overnight stay.

♥ DAY 3 // CATANIA'S VIVACIOUS STREET LIFE

Head to Catania (p176) for a shot of urban energy and gastronomic exercise. Start off by admiring the baroque churches on Via Crociferi (p179) and the grand palazzi (palaces or mansions) of Piazza del Duomo (p176) before ducking down to La Pescheria fish market (p177) and an unforgettable seafood lunch at Osteria Antica Marina (p182). Set the rest of the day aside for strolling along Via Etnea (p177) followed by a night out around Piazza Bellini (p184).



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SAVOCA

p168

Rummage around catacombs in the village location for *The Godfather*

MT ETNA

p189

Tread warily among the craters of Sicily's mythical and very volatile volcano

GOLA DELL'ALCANTARA

p175

Wade through icy waters in this deep river gorge

