



Mediterranean Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- Ristorante La Madia (p248)
- La Lampara (p245)
- Hostaria Del Vicolo (p246)
- Trattoria Al Faro (p245)
- M.A.T.E.S (p246)
- Kalòs (p240)

Best Places to Sleep

- Camere a Sud (p267)
- Villa Athena (p267)
- Al Moro (p268)
- Vecchia Masseria (p268)
- B&B Da Lulo e Gagà (p268)

Why Go?

Sicily's Mediterranean coast is a mixed bag. The main attraction of the area, the spectacular ruins of the Valley of the Temples – unparalleled across the island for their significance, expanse and beauty – are overlooked by ranks of unsightly tower blocks, giving the city of Agrigento an odd air. West of Agrigento, the development soon peters out and the landscape takes on a wilder, less contaminated aspect. Here you'll find some wonderful sandy beaches, particularly at the Riserva Naturale Torre Salsa and Eraclea Minoa, and tracts of beautiful, unspoilt countryside. The chalk hills of the Scala dei Turchi are a spectacular sight and there's a great beach too. Further west, the pretty spa town of Sciacca is well worth a day or two for its excellent seafood restaurants and handsome historic streets. Don't miss Favara's art neighbourhood, Farm Cultural Park, an innovative and vibrant art project that has revived a town.

Road Distances (KM)

Caltabellotta	60			
Gela	75	130		
Licata	45	100	30	
Sciacca	60	20	130	100
	Agrigento	Caltabellotta	Gela	Licata

DON'T MISS

Retrace the glories of Sicily's Greek past at Agrigento's Valley of the Temples. The temples, the best outside Greece, are what's left of ancient Akragas, once the Western world's fourth-largest city.

Best Beaches

- ◆ Spiaggia dei Conigli (p248)
- ◆ Torre Salsa (p243)
- ◆ Scala dei Turchi (p243)
- ◆ Eraclea Minoa (p243)
- ◆ Falconara (p248)

Best Museums

- ◆ Museo Archeologico (p239), Agrigento
- ◆ Museo Archeologico (p249), Gela

Resources

- ◆ **Grand Hotel delle Terme** (www.grandhoteldelleterme.com) Details on the spa treatments (plus costs) available in Sciacca.
- ◆ **Servizio Turistico Regionale Sciacca** (www.servizioturisticoregionalesciacca.it) Sciacca carnival programs, accommodation listings, histories and itineraries.
- ◆ **Valle dei Templi** (www.lavalledeitempli.it) Up-to-date information on the Valley of the Temples' guides, opening hours etc.

Getting Around

You can get around from Agrigento to the Valley of the Temples on public transport quite easily, and there are buses between most of the main towns in the region, but to fully explore the beaches and the coast in general, you'll need your own wheels.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Valley of the Temples

Sicily's most popular archaeological site, Agrigento's Valley of the Temples is well worth an entire day – in fact, nothing less does it the justice it deserves. Start in the eastern zone (p235) where you'll find the two most famous temples, the Tempio di Hera and the outstanding Tempio della Concordia, before crossing to the western zone (p238) and a picnic lunch in the Giardino della Kolymbetra (p238). Afterwards, if you have any strength left, head up to the Museo Archeologico (p239).

Sciacca

Sciacca is a spa town famous for its carnival celebrations. Treat yourself to a massage and mudpack at the Nuovo Stabilimento Termale (p245) and a fish feast at the port, then head out to the Castello Incantato (p245) to pore over its collection of weird sculpted heads. Spend the rest of the day strolling through the attractive historic centre and perusing the characteristic ceramic shops.

Beach Beauties

The coastal stretch between Agrigento and Sciacca offers great swimming and pockets of unspoilt nature. Join the local sunseekers at the Scala dei Turchi, a celebrated beauty spot near Realmonte, or push on to the lovely sandy beach at the Riserva Naturale Torre Salsa (p243), where there's also some fine coastal walking. Further west, you can explore the ruins of Eraclea Minoa (p243) before heading down to the beach, one of the best on this stretch of the coast.

Getting Away from It All

- ◆ **Riserva Naturale Macalube di Aragona** This reserve is famous for its pint-size mud volcanoes.
- ◆ **Caltabellotta** The towering hilltop town of Caltabellotta commands huge panoramic views.
- ◆ **Mazzarino** Visit the baroque churches in sleepy Mazzarino, many of which are decorated by the Tuscan artist Filippino Paladino.