



Syracuse & the Southeast

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Best Places to Eat

- Ristorante Duomo (p215)
- Don Camillo (p200)
- Le Vin De L'Assasin Bistrot (p198)
- Il Liberty (p207)
- Trattoria del Crocifisso da Baglieri (p207)

Best Places to Sleep

- Villa dei Papiri (p265)
- Hotel Gutkowski (p264)
- B&B dei Viaggiatori, Viandanti e Sognatori (p264)
- La Corte del Sole (p265)
- Villa Quartarella (p265)

Why Go?

With its outstanding classical ruins, beautiful baroque towns and sandy beaches, this is Sicily's top draw. The temptation is to stay in Syracuse, hanging out in the piazzas and sunning yourself on the seafront, but drag yourself away and you'll be rewarded with some of Sicily's most charming towns. Noto, Modica and Ragusa are the star performers with their baroque treasures and gastronomic delights – ice cream in Noto, chocolate in Modica and one of Sicily's finest restaurants in Ragusa – but the countryside is also worth exploring. Prehistoric tombs stud huge rocky ravines while birdwatchers and seekers of peaceful beaches can find paradise at the Riserva Naturale Oasi Faunistica di Vendicari.

Road Distances (KM)

Noto	40			
Pachino	40	25		
Ragusa	15	50	55	
Syracuse	75	40	55	85
	Modica	Noto	Pachino	Ragusa

Getting Around

Public transport for this area is pretty poor, so it's best if you have your own wheels. There are good train connections between Syracuse and Noto. It's hard to generalise about buses, which can be convenient or very slow, depending on where you are.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Classical to Baroque

Before the sun gets too hot head up to the Parco Archeologico della Neapolis (p193) to explore Syracuse's superb classical ruins. Afterwards, visit the Museo Archeologico Paolo Orsi (p195), one of Sicily's top archaeological museums, and then lunch in Ortygia. Spend the afternoon strolling Ortygia's baroque lanes, before winding down with a drink on Piazza del Duomo (p192) and a late seafood dinner.

Heading South

Pick up a car and head south to search out Sicily's great baroque towns. First stop is Noto and its unforgettable main street, Corso Vittorio Emanuele. Whilst here make sure to get an ice cream from Corrado Costanzo (p208), arguably Sicily's best gelateria (ice-cream shop). From Noto push on to Modica, where you can lunch with the locals at the Osteria dei Sapori Perduti (p210). The last leg leads to Ragusa, or more specifically Ragusa Ibla (p213). The stunning cathedral here is a masterclass in baroque architecture.

Coasting

Take the time to explore the area's lovely, low-key coastline. You could spend a very pleasant day birdwatching, walking and sunbathing at the Riserva Naturale Oasi Faunistica di Vendicari (p209), but if you want to see a bit more continue south to the Cape Area's Marzamemi, a good spot for a seafood lunch and a drop of local wine. The end of the road, literally, is Portopalo di Capo Passero, a summer resort with beautifully transparent waters.

DON'T MISS

Ortygia, Syracuse's historical centre, is one of Sicily's finest places to get lost in, and find yourself again at the magnificent Piazza Duomo.

Best Foodie Nibbles

- ➔ Dolceria Bonajuto (p210)
- ➔ Caffè Sicilia (p208)
- ➔ Cantina Rudini (p209)

Best Baroque Treasures

- ➔ Chiesa di San Giorgio (p209), Modica
- ➔ Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Noto (p205)
- ➔ Duomo (p192), Syracuse
- ➔ Piazza Duomo (p213), Ragusa

Resources

- ➔ **Istituto Nazionale Dramma Antico** (www.indafondazione.org) For details of Syracuse's classical-drama season.
- ➔ **Modica Comune** (www.comune.modica.rg.it) Accommodation and restaurant listings.
- ➔ **Noto Comune** (www.comune.noto.sr.it) Info about monuments, events and transport.
- ➔ **Ragusa Comune** (www.comune.ragusa.it) Comprehensive information on Ragusa and its environs.
- ➔ **Syracuse Comune** (www.comune.siracusa.it/essereturista/turismo/home.htm) Listings, transport information and details of the main sights.

Getting Away from It All

- ➔ **Akrai** Little known and little publicised, the remains of classical Akrai (p203) sit in grassy solitude overlooking Palazzolo Acreide.
- ➔ **Cava d'Ispica** Explore the rocky catacombs and cave dwellings of Cava d'Ispica (p212).
- ➔ **Necropoli di Pantalica** You're sure to find peace walking among the Bronze Age tombs at the Necropoli di Pantalica (p203).