



Western Sicily

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Il Veliero (p102)
- ➔ Al Solito Posto (p95)
- ➔ Syráh (p91)
- ➔ Da Vittorio (p110)
- ➔ San Lorenzo Osteria (p106)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pensione Tranchina (p254)
- ➔ Il Profumo del Sale (p256)
- ➔ Marettimo Residence (p256)
- ➔ Sicilia Cuore Mio (p256)
- ➔ Cas'almare (p256)

Why Go?

Sicily's windswept western coast has beckoned invaders for millennia. Its richly stocked fishing grounds, hilltop vineyards and coastal salt pans were coveted by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and Normans, all of whom influenced the province's landscape and culture. Even the English left their mark, with 18th-century entrepreneurs lured here and made rich by one of the world's most famous sweet wines, Marsala. Today, this part of the island is a largely unexploited tourism treasure, perfect for those who savour slow travel. There's an amazingly diverse range of experiences to be had here. Standout attractions include the ancient ruins of Segesta and Selinunte, the hilltop village of Erice and the Golfo di Castellammare, with its stunning juxtaposition of sea and mountain scenery. Adding to Western Sicily's appeal are its unique local cuisine and the region's proximity to both the Palermo and Trapani international airports.

Road Distances (KM)

Scopello	75			
Segesta	50	30		
Selinunte	45	70	60	
Trapani	30	35	30	95
	Marsala	Scopello	Segesta	Selinunte

Getting Around

Efficient train service links the coastal cities of Mazara del Vallo, Marsala and Trapani. Elsewhere you'll benefit from having your own vehicle. Bus schedules are limited and become virtually non-existent on Sundays. The north-south A29 autostrada and its east-west counterpart A29D (A29dir on road signs) make driving a breeze between Palermo, Selinunte, Segesta and Trapani. Smaller roads to San Vito Lo Capo, Scopello and Saline di Trapani – all linked by the Strada del Vino Erice wine route – are scenic if slow.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Hike the Zingaro

This 7km ramble dips in and out of several wild and gorgeous coves as it follows the rugged coastline north through Sicily's oldest nature reserve (p89). Museums, beaches and picnic tables along the way offer ample opportunities to catch your breath, catch some rays, or take a swim.

Commune with the Ancients

Start your day at ancient Segesta (p88), strolling down from the majestic hilltop amphitheatre to the site's star attraction, a perfectly preserved Doric temple on the edge of a precipitous gorge. In the afternoon, picnic under the trees at the Rocche di Cusa quarry, surrounded by half-finished columns abandoned by the Greeks over two millennia ago, then move on to Selinunte, where the remains of eight great temples sit in splendid isolation by the sea. After a last look at the ruins from the beach below, it's time for seafood and sunset at Da Vittorio (p110) just down the road.

Wine & Dine

Tour the famous cellars (p105) of Marsala in the morning, then head to Trapani for fish couscous or *pesto alla trapanese* (pasta with fresh tomatoes, basil, garlic and almonds). After lunch, climb through vineyards to the hilltop castle (p98) at Erice, snack on some of Sicily's most famous sweets at Maria Grammatico (p98) and admire the setting sun over the stunning promontory at San Vito Lo Capo.

DON'T MISS

The cinnamon- and saffron-infused fish couscous brought to this stretch of coast by the Saracens centuries ago. Prime venues for a taste-test include La Bettolaccia (p95) in Trapani, Eyem Zemen (p107) in Mazara del Vallo and the annual couscous festival (p91) in San Vito Lo Capo.

Best Historical Sites

- Segesta (p88)
- Selinunte ruins (p109)
- Museo del Satiro (p107)
- Museo Archeologico Baglio Anselmi (p104)
- Whitaker Museum (p103)

Best Beaches

- Spiaggia dei Faraglioni (p89)
- Cala Minnola (p101)
- Lido Burrone (p100)
- Castellammare del Golfo (p251)
- San Vito Lo Capo (p91)

Resources

- **Trapani Welcome** (www.trapaniwelcome.it) Detailed information about Trapani province.
- **EgadiWeb** (www.egadiweb.it) Guide to the Egadi Islands.
- **Selinunte On Line** (www.selinunte.net) Information about Selinunte's archaeological park.

Getting Away from It All

- **Explore Mozia** Once a thriving Phoenician settlement, this off-the-beaten-track island (p103) is now home to abundant bird life and an excellent archaeological museum.
- **Get marooned on Marettimo** The outermost of the Egadi Islands, Marettimo is as attractive for its lone whitewashed village as for its fabulous network of pine-shaded walking trails.