



Sicily

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Trattoria Ai Cascinari (p173)
- ➔ Ti Vitti (p178)
- ➔ Fattoria delle Torri (p209)
- ➔ Il Liberty (p208)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Pensione Tranchina (p221)
- ➔ Villa Athena (p213)
- ➔ Hotel Signum (p184)
- ➔ Hotel Villa Belvedere (p190)

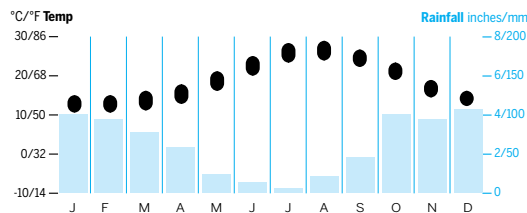
Why Go?

More of a sugar-spiked espresso than a milky cappuccino, Sicily rewards visitors with an intense, bittersweet experience. Overloaded with art treasures and natural beauty, under-supplied with infrastructure and continuously struggling against Mafia-driven corruption, Sicily's complexities sometimes seem unfathomable. To really appreciate this place, come with an open mind – and a healthy appetite. Despite the island's perplexing contradictions, one factor remains constant: the uncompromisingly high quality of the cuisine.

After 25 centuries of foreign domination, Sicilians are heirs to an impressive cultural legacy, from the refined architecture of Magna Graecia to the Byzantine splendour and Arab craftsmanship of the island's Norman cathedrals and palaces. This cultural richness is matched by a startlingly diverse landscape that includes bucolic farmland, smouldering volcanoes and kilometres of island-studded aquamarine coastline.

When to Go

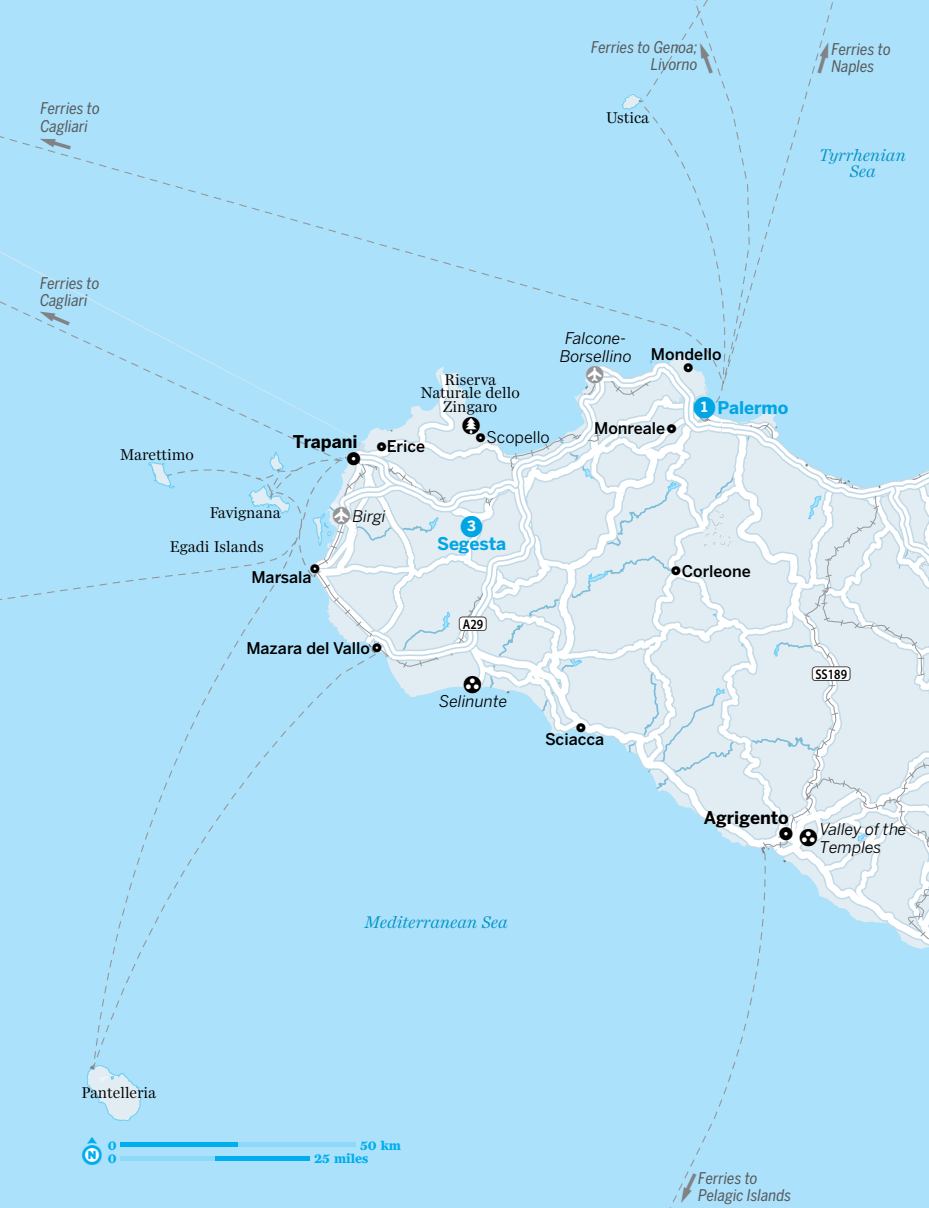
Palermo



Easter Colourful religious processions and marzipan lambs in every bakery window.

May Wildflowers, dreamy coastal walking and Syracuse's festival of classic drama.

Sep Prime diving off Ustica and other seaside fun without summer prices.



Sicily Highlights

- 1 Joining the ranks of opera-goers at elegant Teatro Massimo in **Palermo** (p165).
- 2 Bargaining with the fish vendors at dawn, climbing Europe's most active volcano

- in the afternoon and enjoying Sicily's nightlife in **Catania** (p192).
- 3 Marvelling at the majesty of **Segesta** (p222), where a Doric temple sits in splendid isolation on a windswept hillside.

- 4 Watching international stars perform against the breathtaking backdrop of Mt Etna at the summer performing arts festivals in **Taormina** (p187).