Historic Palermo

Dense but compact, central Palermo is best explored on foot. This tour covers some of the city’s most enticing assets, from dazzling Byzantine mosaics and Arab-Norman domes, to baroque stuccowork and millennia-old treasures.

**Start** Cappella Palatina
**Distance** 4.2km
**Duration** Six to seven hours

1. Begin your walk at the extraordinary **Cappella Palatina** (p106) and adjoining **Palazzo dei Normanni**.

2. Head east through the Mannerist-style city gate of **Porta Nuova** to the architectural fusion that is the **Cattedrale di Palermo**.

3. Continue further east to **Quattro Canti**, Palermo’s most beautiful junction that divides the city’s four historic neighbourhoods.

4. Head south to **Piazza Pretoria** and its epic Tuscan fountain. Exit the square from its southeast corner to reach **Piazza Bellini**. It’s here that you’ll find 12th-century **La Martoranam**.

5. Continue east and cross busy Via Roma to Via Sant’Anna. Once on Via Alessandro Paternostro, stop and look into the 16th-century **Oratorio di San Lorenzo**, adorned with remarkable rococo stuccowork.

6. Continue north on Via Alessandro Paternostro to Corso Vittorio Emanuele. Head up Via Roma and end your saunter at the nearby **Museo Archeologico Regionale**.

**Take a break...** Stop in at **Bisso Bistrot** (p268) if you’re feeling peckish or thirsty.

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**Classic Photo** Capella Palatina

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**Distance** 0.25 miles

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