



Porti dello Stretto

Where culture meets the sea

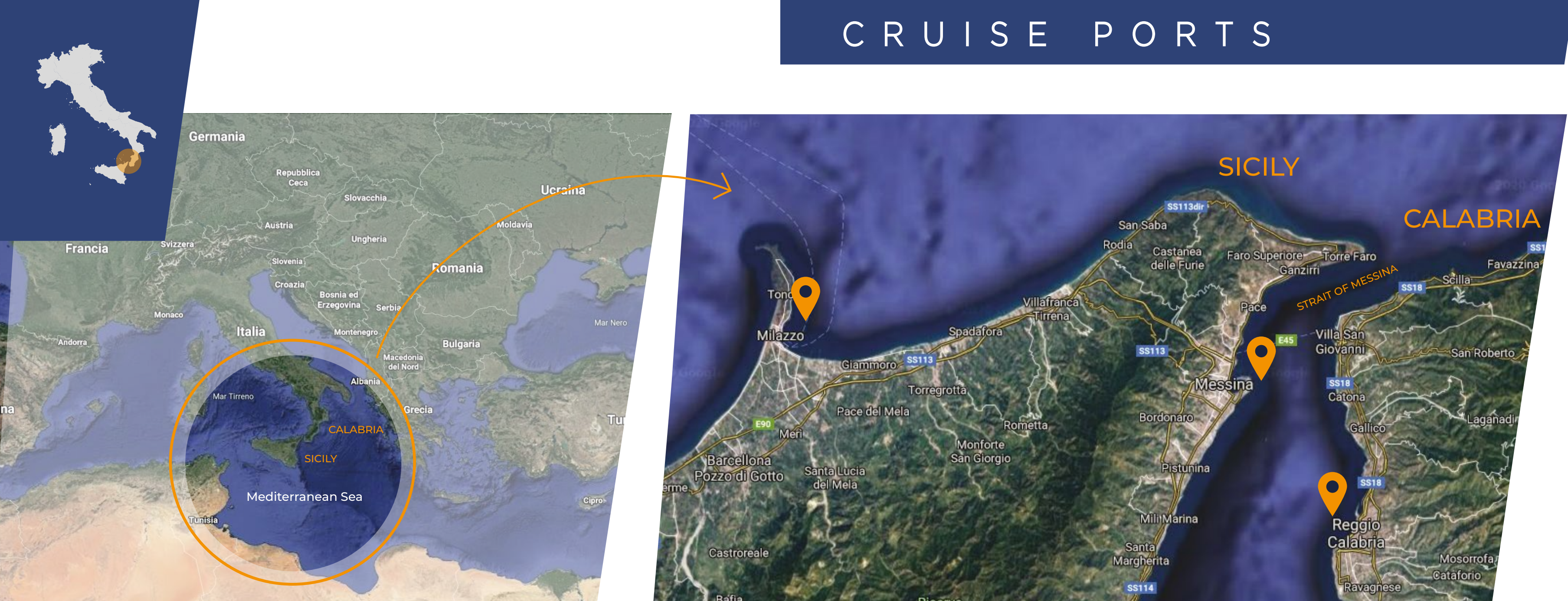
The **Ports of the Strait** include the geographic area that brushes against Sicily's ports of Messina, Milazzo and Calabria's port of Reggio Calabria; this area is known as 'Strait', which is a strategic inlet that connects Eastern Mediterranean with Western Mediterranean. It has been the subject of legends and myths since ancient times.



The area is mainly devoted to tourism, thanks to its rich culture, crystal-clear water and important cooking, religious and folk traditions.

THE PORTS OF THE STRAIT, *where culture meets the sea*

CRUISE PORTS



THE PORT OF MESSINA



THE PORT OF MILAZZO



THE PORT OF REGGIO CALABRIA



The Ports of Messina, Milazzo and Reggio Calabria, which are under surveillance by the Port Authority of the Strait of Messina, are mainly characterised by intense cruise shipping thanks to the tourist attractions of the area and their enviable locations.

CRUISE PORTS

The Ports are located near **the heart of the cities**, and therefore they give tourists the chance to reach on foot the most remarkable places from historical and cultural points of view and walk along the main streets, which are a few meters away from the landing area.

The most historically valuable **monuments** are located opposite the ports. Furthermore, the cruise wharfs are directly connected to **railway and bus stations**, from which it is possible to reach Catania and Reggio Calabria **airports** as well as the most impressive tourist places.

- Important cruise shipping ports
- Most of the attractive tourist areas of Sicily and Calabria
- Presence of the main cruise companies
- Ports in the heart of the cities
- Direct connections with Catania and Reggio Calabria airports and bus and railway stations





THE PORT OF MESSINA





THE PORT OF MESSINA

CRUISE TERMINAL



BERTH	Lenght(m)	Draft. (m)
Marconi	184	10
I Settembre	224	10,5-9
Vespri-Colapesce	450	12-7
Norimberga Sw*	165	8
Norimberga Ne*	137	7

* mixed used





THE PORT OF MESSINA

Available

- Tensile structure
- Opposite the historic and commercial area
- One floor surface of 550 m²
- Waiting room of 490 m²
- Services and accessibility for people with disability
- Air conditioning
- Other services: WC, Info point, Tourist Info Point, First Aid, Claims Office, Baggage Storage
- Passengers and baggage check-in
- Passengers and baggage security control
- Border Police, Customs, Guardia di Finanza (Finance Police)
- In compliance with ISPS code
- In compliance with anti-Covid rules



CRUISE TERMINAL



Under construction

- Free plan layout without supports
- Opposite the historical and commercial area
- One floor surface of 1,800 m²
- Flexible layout for 3/4 ships
- 2 check-in desks
- Baggage check-in
- Police, Customs, Guardia di Finanza (Finance Police), Shipping Companies Offices, Terminal Management Office
- WC
- First Aid Room
- Tourist Info Point
- Restaurant-café
- Window of the highest quality products of the area
- Souvenir and handcraft products shops
- Car rental desks
- City lobby





Porti
dello
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THE PORT OF MESSINA

- PILOTING
- TOW
- MOORING
- BUNKERING
- DRINKING WATER SUPPLY
- WASTE COLLECTION ON BOARD
- SHIPYARDS

SERVICES

- VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
- X-RAY BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEMS, BODY SCANNER, AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTORS
- SEPARATED LINES
- STERILE AREAS
- EXTERNAL BOUNDARY FENCES
- SECURITY OF PORT AREAS AND PORT GATES
- SUBMARINE DRONE FOR INSPECTIONS



SERVICES

COVID

- COVID-19 PROTOCOL AGREED WITH USMAF (the Italian Maritime, Aerial and Border Healthcare Office)
- SEPARATED AREAS FOR BAGGAGE STORAGE DURING BOARDING AND DISEMBARKING
- SEPARATED LINES
- MEDICAL ROOM
- COVID 19 AREA
- THERMOSCANNER FOR MEASURING TEMPERATURE
- DISINFECTION TUNNEL





THE PORT OF MILAZZO





THE PORT OF MILAZZO

CRUISE TERMINAL



BERTH

Foraneo

Ships up to (m)

220

Draft. (m)

9



Porti
dello
Stretto

THE PORT OF MILAZZO

- PILOTING
- TOW
- MOORING
- BUNKERING
- DRINKING WATER SUPPLY
- WASTE COLLECTION ON BOARD

SERVICES

- VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
- X-RAY BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEMS BODY SCANNER AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTORS
- SEPARATED LINES
- STERILE AREAS
- EXTERNAL BOUNDARY FENCES
- SECURITY OF PORT AREAS AND PORT GATES
- SUBMARINE DRONE FOR INSPECTIONS

COVID

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANTI-COVID NATIONAL RULES



SERVICES



Porti
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THE PORT OF REGGIO CALABRIA





THE PORT OF
REGGIO
CALABRIA

CRUISE
TERMINAL



BERTH	Ships up to (m)	Draft. (m)
Nuova di Levante	310	11
Vecchia di Levante	250	11
Margottini	110	11



THE PORT OF REGGIO CALABRIA

- **PILOTING**
- **MOORING**
- **BUNKERING**
- **DRINKING WATER SUPPLY**
- **WASTE COLLECTION ON BOARD**

SERVICES

- VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
- X-RAY BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEMS BODY SCANNER AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTORS
- SEPARATED LINES
- STERILE AREAS
- EXTERNAL BOUNDARY FENCES
- SECURITY OF PORT AREAS AND PORT GATES
- SUBMARINE DRONE FOR INSPECTIONS

COVID

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANTI-COVID NATIONAL RULES



SERVICES



Porti
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Excursions





Excursions



DESTINATION	ACTIVITY	DISTANCE FROM MESSINA (KM)	DISTANCE FROM MILAZZO (KM)	DISTANCE FROM REGGIO CALABRIA (KM)
TAORMINA	shopping, archaeological visit, natural interest	52	85	
MOUNT ETNA	interes tadventure & biking, visit to Etna combined with a local winery and the vineyards	107	140	
MESSINA CITY AND REGIONAL MUSEUM	historical and cultural interest, shopping		39	20 mn by hydrofoil
BEACHES ON THE STRAIT OF MESSINA	relaxation and natural interest		39	
PELORITANI MOUNTS	natural interest	12	34	
MILAZZO	archeological, historical and cultural interest, shopping	39		
AEOLIAN ISLANDS	archeological, historical, cultural and natural interest, shopping	2 hr by hydrofoil	45 mn by hydrofoil	
TINDARI	interest archaeological	60	35	
THE WINE EXPERIENCE CASTIGLIONE	sightseeing and nature	80	112	
SAVOCA	historical, artistic and cultural interest	44	76	
ALCANTARA GORGES	natural interest	67	100	

DESTINATION	ACTIVITY	DISTANCE FROM MESSINA (KM)	DISTANCE FROM MILAZZO (KM)	DISTANCE FROM REGGIO CALABRIA (KM)
CASTROREALE E VILLA ROMANA A S. BIAGIO	archaeological and historical interest	53	20	
GIARDINI NAXOS	archaeological and historical interest, shopping	56	88	
CATANIA	historical and cultural interest, shopping	97	130	
ACIREALE	historical and cultural interest	85	118	
CEFALÙ	historical and cultural interest, beaches	167	142	
VISIT REGGIO CALABRIA AND NATIONAL MUSEUM	archaeological,historical and cultural interest, shopping	20 mn by hydrofoil		
BAGNARA CALABRA	historical and cultural interest food and wine	32		30
SCILLA	historical and cultural interest, food and wine, relax	23		28
GAMBARIE	natural interest, relax sightseeing	41		40
BORGHI GRECANICI	historical and cultural interest food and wine	70		60



Messina



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Excursions

Messina

Messina was built around its harbour, which has always played a decisive role in the Mediterranean Sea. Having been a theatre of wars and natural cataclysms, Messina has been destroyed and rebuilt several times. This bright city offers a lot of itineraries and places to visit: one of them is the Cathedral, built in 1200 and destroyed several times. It is internationally renowned for its astronomical clock, the largest in the world. The Museum of Messina hosts a rich collection of portraits, sculptures and some masterpieces by Antonello da Messina and Caravaggio. There are also many Norman churches and several beautiful medieval fountains to see as well as the 16th-century forts, sophisticated Art Nouveau monuments (known in Italy as Liberty style), one of the few Italian monumental cemeteries and much more. Besides its historical and artistic attractions, the city of Messina offers the sea and naturalistic sites (such as the Peloritani and the artificial lake of Ganzirri) scattered all around the famous Strait connecting Sicily to the rest of Italy. This is one of the most important strategic areas in the whole Mediterranean and contributed significantly to the growth of the city.

ACTIVITIES: historical and cultural interest, shopping

TOUR DURATION: half day or full day if combined with another tour





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Messina

THE BEACHES AND THE STRAIT OF MESSINA

Along the Strait of Messina, in the northern coast up to Capo Peloro (one of the three corners of Sicily's triangle square), there are many beautiful beaches equipped with resorts that offer a lot of services from beach activities to restaurants, so that people can relax and enjoy the unique scenery of the Strait of Messina. The inhabitants of Messina love spending their summer holidays there. The relationship between humans and nature has a millenary tradition in the Strait of Messina, where marine biodiversity is rich and unique.

The Strait is home to many different types of fish. For example, near Torre Faro there is the “Fossa dei sugarelli” where the dark blue, cylindrical shaped sugarello fish may be found. This fish is only found off the Sicilian coasts. Messina is famous for the spectacular fishing of swordfish, for which a special boat called “feluca” is used. It holds a central tower-like structure for sighting swordfish and a protruding deck from which the swordfish is harpooned. The fishing season is from April to August. On these typical fishing boats, you can truly experience the world of the fishermen's tradition, culture and wisdom. This is one of the most original experiences you can have in Sicily, together with discovering the most beautiful sites of the Ionian shoreline, having a lunch of fresh fish on the boat, swimming into the sea, listening to the fishermen explaining their techniques, and trying your hand at them.

ACTIVITIES: relax, sport, cultural and natural interest

TOUR DURATION: half day or full day if combined with another tour



Carla Bonomo Photographer



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Taormina



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Excursions

Taormina

Taormina stands 200 metres above sea level and looks down onto the Ionian Sea like a terrace, the prettiest you have ever seen. Over the centuries, this place has fascinated poets, writers and restless painters who decided to put down roots here, maybe so they could purify themselves by being in contact with such beauty and nature or attracted by the unique, refreshing climate that makes it seem like it is always springtime. The first sight of the Greek-Roman Theatre is a breathtaking experience. This unbelievable work of mankind stands on the mountain, and offers views down to the deep blue sea and over Etna, an unsettling presence that manages to stay in harmony with the landscape.

ACTIVITIES: shopping, archaeological visit, natural interest

TOUR DURATION: half day or full day. Also full day combined with another tour, i.e. Mount Etna





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Etna

Sicily's greatest natural attraction is also its highest mountain. To the ancient Greeks, Mount Etna was the realm of Vulcan, god of fire, and the home of the one-eyed monster known as the Cyclops. At approximately 3350 meters, it is Europe's highest active volcano. The height of its summit changes with each eruption, and over the centuries a few lava flows have reached the coast. Over 1200 square metres of Etna's surface is covered with solidified lava. Etna offers skiing in the Winter months and breathtaking hikes in the woods during the Summer. There are also a number of smaller peaks on the slopes of Etna, and some interesting caverns. Neat vineyards, ancient olive groves, hardy almond orchards and endless wheat fields complete the picture.

ACTIVITIES: natural interest, adventure in 4x4, adventure & biking, visit to Etna combined with a local winery and the vineyards

TOUR DURATION: half day or full day visit





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Excursions

Castiglione di Sicilia Alcantara Gorges

Nearby Mount Etna, there is a great winery tradition: many vineyards and wineries are located in this area. If you are interested in visiting one of them, we recommend going to Castiglione di Sicilia, which is a town of 5,000 people placed on a 621 m a.s.l. fortress overlooking the Alcantara Gorges Valley. Castiglione di Sicilia is called "the city of wine" because it is rich in large cultivated lands and wineries that you can visit to learn how to produce and bottle Sicilian wine.

The town is an example of medieval architecture characterized by narrow streets around the main square 'Lauria'. The bridge that crosses the Alcantara river dates back to the same period as the town: for this reason it is called Medieval Bridge. It is worth visiting Saint Peter's Cathedral, the Church of the Benedictine Nuns, Saint Anthony's Church and the 18th-century Church dedicated to Madonna della Catena.

Alcantara Gorges are located in Sicily, inside the Botanical and Geological Park. Their name comes from the Alcantara river, which flows through Eastern Sicily. They have a volcanic formation and reach a height of 25 m. The channel is 6 km long and 5 km large. The uncontaminated beauty of Alcantara Gorges as well as the chance to do guided tours make them one of the most visited attractions, especially by nature lovers.

ACTIVITIES: cultural and historical interest

TOUR DURATION: half day or a whole day if the program includes another trip (Alcantara Gorges, Taormina, Savoca)

* foto web copyright free





Milazzo



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Excursions

Milazzo

Milazzo, the ancient Mylae, the sea town, sits at the base of the neck of Capo Milazzo, a sickle-shaped promontory that juts into the Tyrrhenian Sea, pointing like a finger towards the Aeolian Islands, only few miles offshore. Milazzo's origin is rooted in the remotest times. Due to its highly strategic position, it was a site suitable for settlement since antiquity. It was the scene of many battles, and its fortress has seen a succession of rulers over the centuries. The Borgo is the oldest part of the town, and consists of the medieval quarter stretching along the slope of the hill and the fortified citadel towering above it. Cittadella and Castello, the main fortification of the city, was built by the Arabs in the 10th century on what had been the site of an ancient Greek acropolis that was repeatedly modified over the centuries. This, together with the church of Sant'Antonio, is the major local attraction.

ACTIVITIES: archaeological, historical and cultural interest

TOUR DURATION: half day





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Aeolian Islands

If you want a longer excursion, you cannot miss a visit to the Aeolian Islands, that can be reached by from Milazzo (40 minutes by bus from Messina to Milazzo and 40 minutes by hydrofoil from Milazzo to the islands) and from the port of Messina (90 minutes by hydrofoil). In the Aeolian archipelago you can still admire uncontaminated waters from which emerge “The Seven Sisters”. They have different landscapes, some still wild, amazing colours, beautiful coasts, interesting archaeological sites and volcanic phenomena. The islands are surrounded by a warm, deep sea in an out-of-time atmosphere recalling a history of sea-adventures going back 5000 years. The Seven Sisters are one of the most beautiful places in Italy.

ACTIVITIES: natural interest

TOUR DURATION: full day





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Tindari

At the top of a 280m/920ft high cliff on the north coast of Sicily lies Tindari, the ancient Tyndaris, and at its feet the Mare Secco, a sandy beach reaching far out into the sea. Many people come to Tindari to visit the Zona Archeologica, with its interesting finds from ancient Tyndaris, as well as the pilgrimage to the church of the Black Madonna.

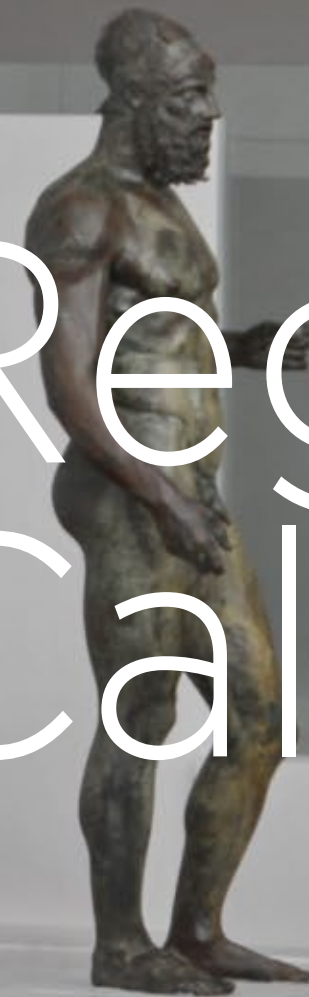
ACTIVITIES: archaeological interest

TOUR DURATION: half day





Reggio Calabria





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Excursions

Reggio Calabria

The **National Archaeological Museum** of Reggio Calabria, also known as the Museum of Magna Graecia, which is one of the most prestigious Italian museums, hosts the marvellous Riace Bronzes, as well as an exceptional archaeological collection that tells the history of Calabria from Prehistory to Late Roman Empire. The **Civic Art Gallery** of Reggio Calabria hosts a series of valuable XV-XX-century paintings, some of which were done by Antonello da Messina, Luca Giordano and Mattia Preti.

The **Archeological Hypogeum area of Piazza Italia** - Piazza Italia, which is the administrative and political heart of the city, is also one of the most impressive archaeological areas of the city centre.

The Falcomatà promenade gives you the chance to see the remains of the remarkable Hellenistic city walls and the Roman thermae (hot springs), such as the mosaics that decorate the floors and the remains of some building structures.

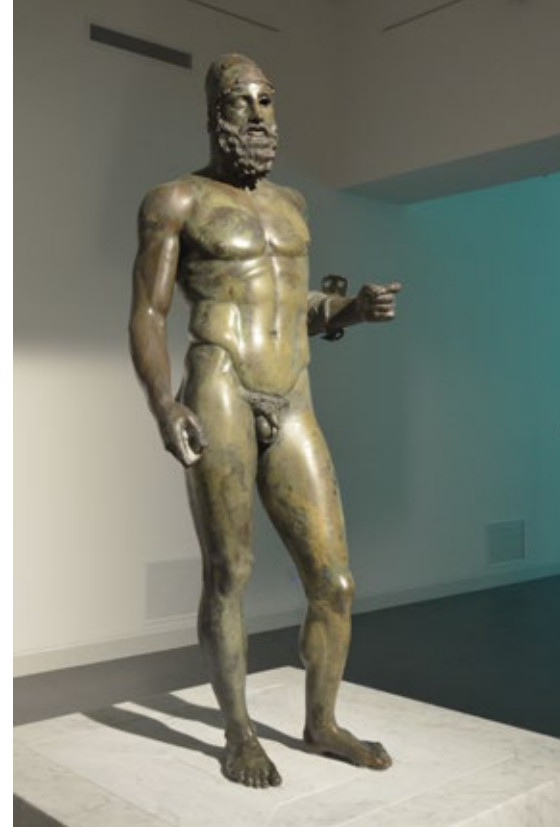
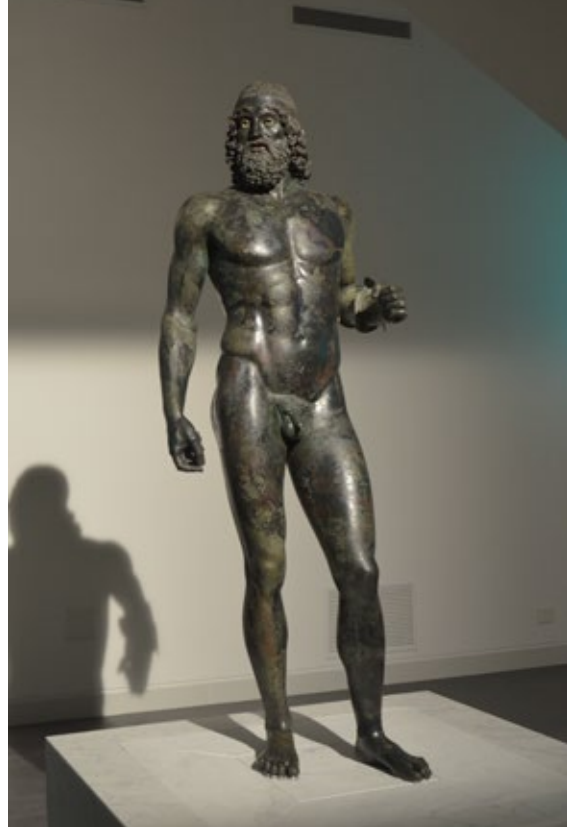
The **Diocesan Museum** hosts an important series of silverware produced by Italian handcraft workshops, as well as important paintings and sacred vestments made of high-quality local silk.

Nearby, there is the main Cathedral, which was rebuilt during 1920s, after the damage caused by 1908 earthquake. Inside the Duomo there is the precious Baroque Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament. From the bastions of the Aragonese Castle you will admire a beautiful view of the city and of the Strait of Messina.

The **City Promenade** is on three levels, and is characterized from a very rich and monumental **Arboreal Heritage** with ornamental and exotic trees; along the route, about 1.5 km, it is possible to admire the splendid panorama of the Strait, with Etna and the Sicilian coast, ancient and prestigious period buildings and works of contemporary art including "Opera" created by Edoardo Tresoldi.

ACTIVITIES: archaeological, historical and cultural interest

TOUR DURATION: full day





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Excursions

Violet Coast

There are plenty of trips to take along the coast of Calabria. For example, you could visit Scilla, Ruffo Castle, the fisherman's village of Chianalea, as well as The Violet Coast with its terracing of grape varieties, its beautiful beaches, caves and breath-taking landscapes.

On the other hand, Bagnara Calabria is perfect if you want to taste traditional sweets, such as Torroni.

ACTIVITIES: historical and cultural interest. food and wine

TOUR DURATION: full day

Griko villages

In this area there are many little villages, such as Bova, which is one of the 'Borghi più Belli d'Italia' (it has been awarded one of the most beautiful Italian ancient villages) and one of the most important parts of Magna Graecia, where the ancient Calabria dialect grecanico is still spoken, and Pentadattilo, which is one of the most famous and nearly inhabited Griko villages.

ACTIVITIES: historical and cultural interest

TOUR DURATION: full day



Aspromonte

The Sea and the Mountain have never been so close. The 'Aspromonte' is a section of the Apennines with steep slopes from which Montalto, one of the highest mountain peaks in Calabria, soars. Gambarie is a 1,956 m high AMSL mountain town, and represents the main tourist centre of the area, offering wonderful woods, the inner and wildest landscapes, the Tyrrhenian coasts, in winter it is possible to ski admiring the sea, Mount Etna and the Aeolian Islands. From here you can take simple routes such as the path of Brigante up to the Mausoleum of Garibaldi, or the 'Schicciu da spana', better known as Maesano Waterfalls. Here, you can taste traditional food and tasty delicatessens.

ACTIVITIES: natural and cultural interest

TOUR DURATION: full day

Living the essence of areas

You have plenty of trips to take to discover the bergamot orange, which is used as a fundamental natural flavour by perfume international factories. However, today it is especially chosen thanks to its culinary and healthy qualities or as part of vineyards. You can learn more about grapevine farming techniques on terracing; maintenance and restoring techniques of dry stones; the handcraft workshops of Seminara, and admire the century-old olive groves with their olive presses and the traditional pottery manufacturing.





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Excursions

Food experience

The cuisine of Messina is justly famous, especially for its pastry and unbeatable ice cream. Indeed, after having visited the city to discover its unique thousand-year-old culture, you will probably end up tasting traditional local dishes, desserts and ice creams. The typical breakfast of Messina, especially in summer months, is called 'granita', and consists in a glass of frozen fruit or coffee usually eaten with fluffy brioches. At lunchtime, you could start your meal with 'pasta 'ncaciata' - a Sicilian dish made of pasta, meat, melted cheese and hard-boiled eggs. Then, try swordfish, or the poorer but equally tasty 'ghiotta di piscistoccu', that is stockfish fillets cooked on low heat with tomato sauce, potatoes, capers and flavourings. Fried Atlantic sauries, scabbardfish and seafood are other less sophisticated alternatives to swordfish, which is considered as the king of the Straits. This delicious fish may be served as the main course if cooked as delicate rolls stuffed with breadcrumbs. The meat version of this dish is known as 'bracirole', and is usually served with green salad.



Vegetable dishes, such as '**caponatina**' (aubergines, tomatoes, olives, onions and vinegar) and fritters, are mainly made of aubergines. However, desserts and pastries certainly constitute the excellent cuisine of Messina, and you are really spoilt for choice. The most traditional desserts are 'cannoli' (pastry tubes filled with ricotta and candied fruit) and 'pignolata' (fried in lard sweet made of eggs, sugar, lemon and chocolate).

Moreover, why don't you try a delicious homemade ice cream while wandering around the city?

Tip: ask your local agent for a tour which includes a visit to a typical pastry shop to see how 'granita' and the other pastries are made.

In Calabria, local wine and food represent an explosion of excellent flavours. The secret hides in traditional products, such as high-quality extra-virgin olive oil, and the table olives, which come from the olive trees of the plain of Gioia Tauro and Locride. Equally tasty are the different varieties of meat, such as goat and wild boar meat, but above all high-quality local black pork. The sea offers European anchovies, garfish, Atlantic sauries, sarda fish, silver scabbardfish, and swordfish, which comes mainly from Bagnara and Scilla, but also stockfish, which is known in Italian as 'stocco'. Furthermore, Calabria produces two unique high-quality varieties of fruit: bergamot orange and annona. Finally, desserts such as traditional ice cream, 'mostaccioli', 'susumelle', and 'stomatico', which are traditional Calabria biscuits, will be a real treat.

Don't miss the local wine tasting: from traditional IGT (Indication of geographical typicality) red wines that are produced along the whole coast, to the 'Greco di Bianco', a DOC (Controlled designation of origin) straw wine which has been passed down from ancient Magna Graecia.





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