

CATANIA

Catania is a city located on the eastern coast of **Sicily** at the foot of **Mount Etna**, the biggest volcano in Europe. It is the second largest city in Sicily, a major transport hub, economic centre and a university city where you will enjoy a busy downtown and an active nightlife.

Catania is also well known for its particular baroque architecture and urban design (the downtown area is a **World Heritage Site**, along with all the Val di Noto), consequences of the great earthquake of 1693 after which the city had to be rebuild, like most of eastern Sicily.



The city has been buried by lava a total of seven times in recorded history, and in layers under the present day city are the Roman city that preceded it, and the Greek city before that. Many of the ancient monuments of the Roman city have been destroyed by the numerous seisms. Currently, remains of the following buildings can be seen:

- The Greek-Roman Theatre (2nd century)
- The Odeon (3rd century CE)
- The Catanian Amphitheatre (2nd century)
- The Greek Acropolis of Mountvirgin's Hill (Collina di Montevergine)
- The Roman Aqueduct's Ruins
- The Roman Forum in Piazza San Pantaleone
- Roman ruins in Cortile Archirotti
- Several Christian basilicas, hypogea, Roman burial monuments and Catacombs in some urban areas.
- The Roman Columns in Piazza Giuseppe Mazzini
- The Achillean Thermæ

Baroque and historical churches

The baroque city centre of Catania is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

- Basilica di San Nicola l'Arena • (Basilica of St.Nicholas the Arena).
- San Placido • (St.Placid's).
- Badia di Sant'Agata • (St. Agatha's Abbey).
- San Francesco d'Assisi all'Immacolata • (St. Francis of Assisi nigh The Immaculate)
- Sant'Agata alla Fornace or San Biagio • (St. Agatha by the Furnace or St. Blaise)
- Santa Maria dell'Aiuto • (Marian Sanctuary of St. Mary of Help)
- San Benedetto da Norcia • (St. Benedict of Nursia)

- San Francesco Borgia • (St. Francis Borgia)Saint Agatha's Cathedral • Duomo di Sant'Agata (1070-1093)
- Saint Agatha's Abbey • Badia di Sant'Agata (1620)
- Saint Placid • Chiesa di San Placido (1769)
- Saint Joseph by the Dome • Chiesa di San Giuseppe al Duomo
- Most Holy Sacrament by the Dome • Chiesa del Santissimo Sacramento al Duomo
- Saint Martin of the White Garbs • Chiesa di San Martino dei Bianchi
- Saint Agatha the Eldest • Chiesa di Sant'Agata la Vetere (254)
- Saint Agatha by the Furnace or Saint Blaise • Chiesa di Sant'Agata alla Fornace or San Biagio (1098, rebuilt in 1700)
- Saint Prison's Church or Saint Agatha in Jail • Chiesa del Santo Carcere or Sant'Agata al Carcere (1760).
- This temple phagocytates the ancient jail where Saint Agatha was imprisoned during her martyrdom.
- Saint Francis of Assisi nigh the Immaculate • Chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi all'Immacolata (1329).
- It still houses the mortal remains of Queen Eleanor of Sicily, the Sovereign who decided and promoted the construction of the principal Franciscan building of Catania on the same place of the once Roman Temple of Minerva.
- Saint Benedict of Nursia • Chiesa di San Benedetto di Norcia (1704-1713)
- Great Abbey and Little Abbey of Benedictine Nuns' Cloister • Badia Grande e Badia Piccola del Chiostro delle Monache Benedettine
- Benedictine Nuns' Arch • Arco delle Monache Benedettine
- Saint Mary of Alms' Collegiate Basilica (early 18th century).
- The Basilica Collegiata di Santa Maria dell'Elemosina is on the Latin cross plan with a nave and two aisles. The high altar has a Madonna icon, probably of Byzantine manufacture.
- Saint Mary of Ogninella • Chiesa di Santa Maria dell'Ogninella
- Saint Michael the Lesser • Chiesa di San Michele Minore
- Saint Michael Archangel or Minorites' Church • San Michele Archangelo or Chiesa dei Minoriti
- Saint Julian • Chiesa di San Giuliano
- Saint Julian's Monastery • Monastero di San Giuliano
- Saint Teresa • Chiesa di Santa Teresa
- Saint Francis Borgia or Jesuits' Church • San Francesco Borgia or Chiesa dei Gesuiti
- Convent of the Jesuits • Convento dei Gesuiti
- Saint Mary of Jesus • Chiesa di Santa Maria di Gesù (1465, restored in 1706)
- Saint Dominic or Saint Mary the Great • Chiesa di San Domenico or Santa Maria la Grande (1224)
- Dominicans Friary • Monastero dei Domenicani (1224)
- Saint Mary of Purity or Saint Mary of Visitation • Chiesa di Santa Maria della Purità or Chiesa della Visitazione (1775)
- Madonna of Graces' Chapel • Cappella della Madonna delle Grazie
- Saint Ursula
- Saint Agatha on the Lavic Runnels • Chiesa di Sant'Agata alle Sciare
- Saint Euplius Old Church Ruins • Ruderì della Vecchia Chiesa di Sant'Euplio
- Saint Cajetan by the Grottoes • Chiesa di San Gaetano alle Grotte (260)
- Basilica of the Most Holy Annunciated Mary of Carmel • Basilica di Maria Santissima Annunziata al Carmine (1729)

- Saint Agatha by the Borough • Chiesa di Sant'Agata al Borgo. (1669, destroyed in 1693 and rebuilt in 1709). The "Borough" (il Borgo) is an inner district of Catania.
- Saint Nicholas by the Borough • Chiesa di San Nicola al Borgo
- Most Holy Sacrament by the Borough • Chiesa del Santissimo Sacramento al Borgo
- Saint Mary of Providence by the Borough • Chiesa di Santa Maria della Provvidenza al Borgo
- Chapel of the Blind's Hospice • Cappella dell'Ospizio dei Ciechi
- Saint Camillus of the Crucifers • Chiesa di San Camillo dei Crociferi
- Catanian Benedictine Monastery of Saint Nicholas the Arena • Monastero Benedettino di San Nicola l'Arena (1558)
- Basilica of Saint Nicholas the Arena • Chiesa di San Nicola l'Arena (1687)
- Saint Mary of Guidance • Chiesa di Santa Maria dell'Indirizzo (1730)
- Saint Clare • Chiesa di Santa Chiara (1563)
- Convent of the Poor Clares • Monastero delle Clarisse (1563)
- Saint Sebastian Martyr • Chiesa di San Sebastiano Martire (1313)
- Saint Anne • Chiesa di Sant'Anna
- Marian Sanctuary of Saint Mary of Help • Santuario di Santa Maria dell'Aiuto
- Madonna of Loreto • Chiesa della Madonna di Loreto
- Church of Saint Joseph at Transit • Chiesa di San Giuseppe al Transito
- Immaculate Conception of Little Minorites • Chiesa dell'Immacolata Concezione dei Minoritelli
- Saint Agatha by Little Virgins' Boarding Convent • Chiesa di Sant'Agata al Conservatorio delle Verginelle
- Our Lady of Itria or Saint Mary Hodigitria • (Chiesa di Santa Maria dell'Itria or Odigitria). Hodigitria is a Greek word meaning "She who shows the Way". The Holy Virgin Hodigitria is the Patroness of Sicily[33]. Itria is a simple diminutive widely utilized in numberless Sicilian churches throughout the island.
- Saint Philip Neri (Chiesa di San Filippo Neri)
- Saint Martha • Chiesa di Santa Marta
- Holy Child • Chiesa del Santo Bambino
- Our Lady of Providence • Chiesa di Santa Maria della Provvidenza
- Saint Beryllus (or Birillus) inside Saint Mary of the Sick • Chiesa di San Berillo in Santa Maria degli Ammalati
- Our Lady of the Poor • Chiesa della Madonna dei Poveri
- Saint Vincent de Paul • Chiesa di S.Vincenzo de'Paoli
- Saint John the Baptist • Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista in the suburb of San Giovanni di Galermo
- Saint Anthony Abbot • Chiesa di Sant'Antonio Abate
- Little Saviour's Byzantine Chapel • Cappella Bizantina del Salvatorello
- Saint Augustine • Chiesa di Sant'Agostino
- Church of the Most Holy Trinity • Chiesa della Santissima Trinità
- Church of the Little Virgins • Chiesa delle Verginelle
- Our Lady of the Rotunda • Chiesa di Santa Maria della Rotonda

Touristic Urban Spots

Squares, roads, lanes, parkways

- Piazza del Duomo • Cathedral's Square

- Via Etna • Etnean Street
- Piazza Università • University Square
- Quattro Canti • Four Quoins
- Piazza Stesicoro • Stesichorus Square
- Via Vittorio Emanuele II
- Via Giuseppe Garibaldi
- Via Crociferi • Crucifers Street
- Via Caronda
- Viale Regina Margherita
- Lungomare di Ognina • Ognina's Lavic Promenade
- Piazza Europa • Europe Square

Parks & Gardens

- "Villa Bellini" or "Giardini Vincenzo Bellini".
- The Vincenzo Bellini's Gardens, more commonly known as Villa Bellini, are the "Main Park" of the city.
- Orto Botanico dell'Università di Catania • Catania's Botanical garden
- Villa Pacini



INFORMATION

Tourism Office of Catania

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