



**ISTITUTO STATALE DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE**

**CICOGNINI-RODARI**

LICEO CLASSICO F. CICOGNINI

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# A teenage guide TO Sicily

## A TEENAGE GUIDE TO SICILY

Have you ever been to Italy? Would you like to have fun while learning about mysterious ancient cities? Well, Sicily is the place for you, a fascinating island full of history in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea! A great opportunity to relive what you have studied, to enjoy the crystal clear water, the local friendliness and the cherry on top is the chance to taste the delicious Sicilian flavours.



## Syracuse



### A little bit of history...

Situated on the south-east coast of Sicily, it has Greek origins; in fact, it is said to be the cradle of "Magna Grecia", with its five districts: Tiche, Ortigia, Epipoli, Acradina and Neapolis.



### Places to visit

There are plenty of things to do in Syracuse. You can visit Neapolis, an archeological site with a Greek theatre or Dionisio's ear, a breathtaking artificial cave in the ancient latomia of Paradise. Listen to the echo of your voice there! Interested in museums? Visit the Archeological Museum to admire the millions of remains found in the area or the Paolo Orsi Museum if keen on ancient coins. In the Papyrus Museum experience how to create a real papyrus (a sheet of writing paper used in ancient times, made from the papyrus plant).



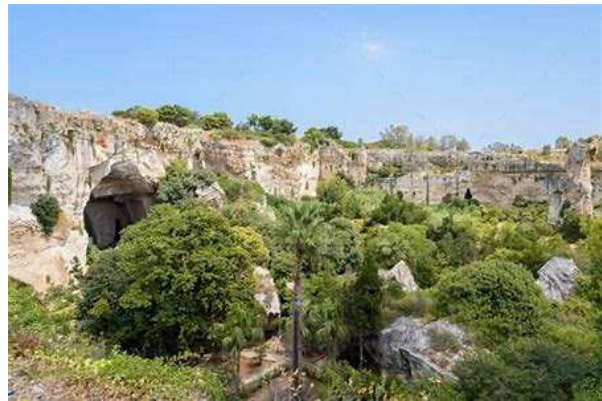
***Dionisio's ear***



*Paolo Orsi Museum*



*Papyrus Museum*



*Latomia of Paradise*

A walk through Ortigia with a visit to its colourful Jewish quarter will be something not easily forgotten, especially if you stroll around its market stalls to feel the local “vibe” and try the regional food: fish straight from the sea, fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs and street food such as the famous “Arancino” (a fried rice ball). Don’t miss Condorelli’s bar for a granita (a flavoured shaved ice drink) with a “brioche” (a sort of bun). Last but not least treat yourself to Sicily’s most famous sweet: cannoli (crispy shells filled with ricotta cheese).



*“Bagno ebraico” from the Jewish quarter*



*Granita with brioche*



*Arancino*



*Cannoli*

## Catania



*A little bit of history...*

Placed between the sea and Etna, the highest European volcano, Catania hosts millions of Greek remains thanks to its origin as a colony almost 3,000 years ago. Traces dating back to the Roman conquest are scattered throughout the city.

An example is the Amphitheater (unfortunately there is only a portion left) or the Roman Theater which is particularly astonishing because houses were built on part of its bleachers and moreover because a river, the Amenano, now runs through it! Visit some thermal baths, like Terme della Rotonda and Terme dell'Indirizzo, made up of lava stone, to get a complete picture.



*the Theater*



*the Amphitheater*



*Terme della Rotonda*



***Terme dell'Indirizzo***

Interested in medieval buildings? Catania has got them! Castello Ursino, a fortress in the heart of the city, and the huge, majestic Benedictine Monastery. Other landmarks are the University, the most ancient in Sicily, and the Cathedral of Saint Agatha, in front of which is the symbol of the city, “Liotru”, the sculpture of an elephant. Another fascinating place is “Villa Bellini”, one of the oldest and biggest gardens in Catania.



***Castello Ursino***



***The Cathedral and “Liotru”***



***Villa Bellini***

***Food***

Between one monument and another, you may need to make a pit-stop! Why not refuel yourself with something typical found only here? The horse meatballs are perfect for adventurous foodies.



*The typical horse meatballs*

### Marzamemi



#### A little bit of history...

Marzamemi is a fishing village where tuna was historically crucial to their livelihood. The men fished and the women canned it until 30 years ago when the supply greatly decreased. Nowadays many tourists come to see this old town and the historical tuna factory which is now even used as a wedding hall.



#### Places to visit



Marzamemi, with its wonderful alleys, workshops and breath-taking beach is definitely a magical place to chill out.

You can visit the San Francesco di Paola church, a small liberty neogothic building, or enjoy the crystal-clear water.



### Food

This little town is famous for its Pachino, which is a very sweet tomato, fish dishes and seafood you can taste in one of the many sea-front restaurants without breaking the bank.



## Akrai



### A little bit of history

Destroyed by the earthquake in 1963 and rebuilt in the eighteenth century, Palazzolo Acreide, formerly called Akrai by the Greeks, has been stacked with monuments, churches, castles and other valuable works of art.



### Places to visit

If you like archaeological sites and you're keen on history, visit its Greek theatre. Built in the third century B.C., it was used as a stage for comedies and tragedies. Since 1991, it has been the venue for the performances of the International Festival of Classical Youth Theater organized by the National Institute of Ancient Drama.



Food

Don't forget to bring a packed lunch, as you can't find cafes or bars in the archeological sites.

**CONCLUSION**

What are you waiting for? Go visit this wonderful island!

