

Catania

Photo: Aleksandar Todorovic/shutterstock

Charismatic seaside Catania is a young, dynamic soul, inhabiting a body of narrow alleys and ornate Baroque buildings set atop well-preserved remains of ancient Greek and Roman settlements. Mount Etna defines the cityscape both in terms of the striking panorama and the building material — Catania is even referred to as the "grey city" for the colour of lava rocks used to construct many of its buildings.

Romas_Photo/shutterstock

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Leonard Zhukovsky/Shutterstock.com

K. Roy Zerloch/Shutterstock.com

THE CITY



Pandora Pictures/shutterstock

Catania is one of Sicily's nine provinces. It is bordered by Messina to the north, Siracusa and Ragusa to the south, Enna and Caltanissetta to the west, and the Ionian Sea to the east. The provincial capital of Catania was founded at the base of the volcano Etna in 729 BCE. It was one of the first Greek colonies on the island.

Like other Sicilian cities, it has been heavily influenced by its rulers — Romans, Arabs, and Normans to name a few. The largest impact came from its neighbour, the volcano Etna — when it erupted in 1669, it devastated the city and killed 12,000 inhabitants. Catania was rebuilt in the Baroque style preserved to this day, complete with large boulevards and squares.

Over the last few years, tourism has become one of the biggest sources of revenue. With the sixth-largest airport in Italy, Catania is a natural hub for tourists travelling to the island's east coast. It is easy to take day trips from here to the spectacular Mount Etna, to the ceramics centre of Caltagirone, and to the picturesque mountain villages like Randazzo and Linguaglossa. There is also Sicily's most glamorous tourist town, the Greco-Roman city of Taormina with its medieval city centre that inspired D.H. Lawrence to write "Lady Chatterley's Lover".

DO & SEE



unknown1861/Shutterstock.com

Catania boasts a plethora of incredible cultural sights. Pay a visit to Piazza del Duomo, marvel at the splendid Catania Cathedral, and walk down the historic Via dei Crociferi (named a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Catania's location by the warm sea makes it a perfect destination for holiday-makers, and hiking trips can be made to the (still active) Etna volcano. In the vicinity, small towns such as the beautiful Taormina or Caltagirone make for ideal day-trip destinations.

Duomo Square (Piazza del Duomo)



Duomo Square (Piazza del Duomo), encircled by impressive Baroque buildings in the heart of Catania, recently became a UNESCO World

Heritage Site. In the middle of the square is the Fontana dell' Elefante, Catania's most famous monument — the lava stone Elephant Fountain.

Photo: Gandolfo Cannatella/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza del Duomo, Catania

Opening hours: Open 24/7

Catania Cathedral



Piazza del Duomo is also home to the elaborate Baroque Cattedrale di Sant'Agata (or simply the Catania Cathedral).

Behind the marble walls is the final resting place of the city's patron saint, Agata. Every February processions are held in her honour.

Photo: luigi nifosi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele II 163, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-noon / 4pm-7pm, Sun 7:30am-12:30pm / 4:30pm-7pm

Phone: +39 095 320044

Internet: www.cattedralecatania.it

Email: info@cattedralecatania.it

Vincenzo Bellini Museum



Sicily's most famous composer is Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835), who was born in Catania. His operas 'Norma', 'La Straniera' and

'Sonnambula' are famous all over the world. Museo Civico Belliniano is claimed to be one of the nicest in Catania, exhibiting pianos and memorabilia.

Photo: Tatiana Popova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi 3, Catania

Phone: +39 095 715 0535

Internet: www.museovincenzobellini.it

Teatro Romano & Odeon



At Via Vittoria Emanuele you will find Catania's best kept ruins from Roman times. The Roman Theatre, including gladiator tunnels and the

circular auditorium Odeon are next to each other, surrounded by residential buildings dating to later centuries.

Photo: Lev Levin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele II 266, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +39 095 715 0508

Internet: parchiarcheologici.regione.sicilia.it/catania-valle-aci/siti-archeologici/teatro-romano-e-odeon-catania

Mount Etna



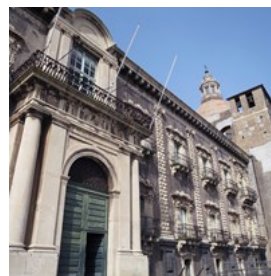
Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, stands about 3,330 metres high between Catania and Taormina. It erupts regularly and since 2002

visitors are not allowed to climb to the top of any of its four craters (hiking up is allowed). Regular buses depart for Etna from Catania.

Photo: mass911/Shutterstock.com

Address: 95031 Adrano, Province of Catania

Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena



Come here for a stroll in the beautiful surroundings or a guided tour. Monastery of San Nicolò l'Arena (16th century Monastero dei

Benedettini) is one of the biggest Benedictine monasteries in Europe and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today it hosts a part of the University of Catania.

Photo: IZZARD/Shutterstock.com

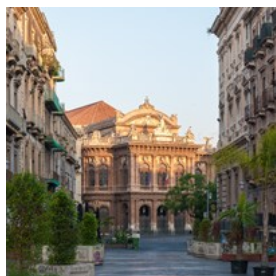
Address: Piazza Dante Alighieri 32, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +39 095 710 2767

Internet: www.monasterodeibenedettini.it/en

Massimo Bellini Theatre



Teatro Massimo Bellini is the musical heart of Catania. Different types of high-class performances are held here continuously — operas, ballets, concerts, Bellini's work and so on. If you don't find anything that attracts you, but you still want to see the insides of the Baroque-style building, join a guided tour.

Photo: Roberto Lo Savio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Giuseppe Perrotta 12, Catania
Phone: +39 095 730 6111
Internet: www.teatromassimobellini.it

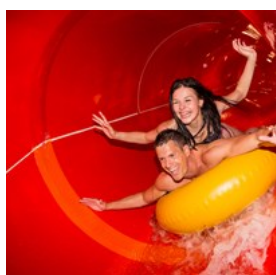
Marionettistica Fratelli Napoli



This theatre, only a 5-minute walk from the historical centre, tells the story behind the typical Sicilian puppet theatre. Visitors can both see and hold a puppet. If you wish to watch a show, bear in mind that there is a summer break.

Photo: Dziurek/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Reitano 55, Catania
Phone: +39 347 095 4526
Internet: www.fratellinapoli.it
Email: fratellinapoli@hotmail.com

Etnaland



Etnaland consists of three kinds of amusement parks: an aqua park with water slides and lots of different pools, a prehistoric park with replicas of dinosaurs and one theme park with roller coasters and rides. Here you can easily spend a whole day.

Photo: Ikonoklast Fotografie/Shutterstock.com
Address: Contrada Agnelleria, Belpasso, Catania
Phone: +39 095 791 3333
Internet: www.etnaland.eu

Monti Rossi Adventure Park

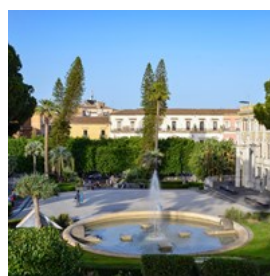


Located in the Red Mount pine woods close to Etna, this park is made up of bridges, wires and cables hooked in the treetops to create paths up in the air.

There are different levels of difficulty. Visitors can stay on the ground and join the workshops or explore nature trails and relaxation areas.

Photo: David Tadevosian/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Goethe, Nicolosi
Phone: +39 388 755 3812
Internet: www.montirossietnaadventurepark.it
Email: etnaparkmontirossi@gmail.com

Giardino Bellini



After a lot of walking in the bustling city, a break in a lush green park can be necessary. The Giardino Bellini park is located just off the Via

Etnea in the city centre, and here you can enjoy a quiet moment among plants, trees, statues and fountains.

Photo: ClaudiaMMImages/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Etnea 292, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 6am-10pm

Butterfly House (Casa delle Farfalle)



At Casa delle Farfalle, the Butterfly House, you can see some of the most beautiful butterflies and flowers in the world. If you want to learn more

about these spectacular creatures, join a complimentary lecture. The greenhouse is situated in the Monte Serra Park, just outside the city of Catania. Note that the Butterfly House closes during the winter season.

Photo: Behling/shutterstock

Address: Via Dietro Serra, 6, Viagrande, Catania

Phone: +39 095 78 90 768

Internet: www.casadellefarfallemonteserra.it

Email: info@parcomonteserra.it

San Benedetto



Monastero San Benedetto, situated on Crociferi street, is a symbol of Catania. It is identifiable by the arch which unites the

Monastery's main abbey and the Church of Saint Benedict — one of the most beautiful baroque churches in Sicily — to the little abbey, wherein the MacS museum is housed.

Photo: Duncan Andison/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Teatro Greco 2, Catania

Internet: www.monasterosanbenedettocatania.it

Orto Botanico



The little-known botanical garden is a true godsend on hot summer days when the asphalt melts with heat and shaded areas are few and far

between. There is a section of exotic plants and

one for Sicilian species, as well as a large greenhouse.

Photo: FPWing/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Etnea 397, Catania

Opening hours: October through March: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 8am-1pm. April through September Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 8am-1pm

Phone: +39 095 430901

Internet: www.ortobotanicoitalia.it/sicilia/catania

Museo del Cinema



Museo del Cinema, detailing the history of cinematography and featuring quite a few cinematic memorabilia and posters, is one of four

in the small museum complex (others include the ones dedicated to radio, maps of Sicily and WWII).

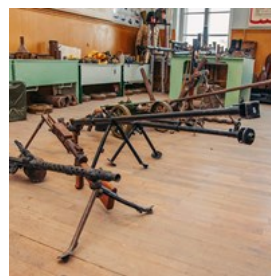
Photo: Fer Gregory/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazzale Rocco Chinnici, Catania

Phone: +39 095 401 1928

Internet: www.museionline.info/catania-musei-e-monumenti/museo-del-cinema-di-catania

Museum of the Landing in Sicily 1943



Sicily played an important role in the liberation from the German occupation during World War II. This museum (Museo Storico

dello Sbarco in Sicilia 1943) displays memories and history from that time, and often leaves its visitors emotionally concerned.

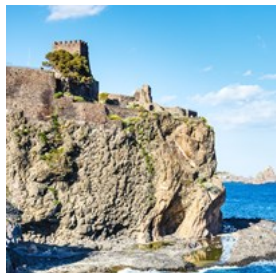
Photo: Andrew Glushchenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Le Ciminiere, Viale Africa, Catania

Phone: +39 095 401 1929

Email: corrado.rubino@email.it

Aci Castello



9 kilometres north of Catania, the small and picturesque town of Aci Castello is located right by the coastline. The castle, which you should not miss out during your visit, was built by the Normans in 1076. Today, it hosts a museum for those interested in its history. The town also offers breathtaking nearby beaches - perfect for a day trip. Per bus, it takes around 35 minutes from Catania to get to Aci Castello.

Photo: vvoe/Shutterstock.com

Address: Aci Castello, Province of Catania

San Giovanni Li Cuti

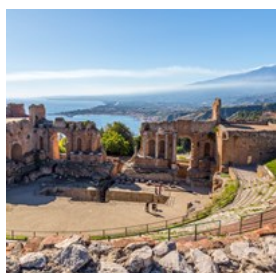


The curious beach not too far from downtown is made up of volcanic eruption remains. This results in a beach consisting of black stones - in contrast to the regular golden sands. The padding might not be ideal for sunbathing, but the water is certainly crystal-clear. San Giovanni Li Cuti is located in Catania's north.

Photo: Michal Zieba/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via San Giovanni Li Cuti, Catania

Taormina



Half-way between Catania and Messina lies the picturesque, waterside Town of Taormina. It's situated at an elevation, which makes for some splendid views over the water, and has a few pleasant beaches down below. A not-to-be-missed attraction is the ancient

Greco-Roman theatre.

Photo: K. Roy Zerloch/Shutterstock.com

Address: Taormina, Province of Messina

Caltagirone



The small town of Caltagirone, located 42 miles from Catania, is at the heart of Sicily's ceramic handicraft tradition. The town also offers beautiful architecture, so do not miss the richly decorated walls of the Scala dei Santa Maria steps. The stairs are lined with old historic buildings.

Photo: Angela Crimi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Caltagirone, Province of Catania

DINING



Lapina Maria/Shutterstock.com

The cuisine in the Catania region is just like in the rest of Sicily — a delectable combination of Italian and Mediterranean cooking. Fish and seafood are the dominant ingredients, complemented by olive oil and wine from the mountains around Etna. One unusual ingredient that has made its way into a variety of dishes and condiments is the local pistachio (the ultimate Catanese pizza is one topped with cream cheese and grated pistachios). In the pasta department, try the local speciality Pasta alla Norma — a

pasta dish cooked with aubergines, tomatoes, ricotta cheese and basil.

Scirocco Sicilian Fish Lab



With its location in the heart of the famous Catania fish market, it's no wonder this street-corner restaurant consisting of a counter

and three single tables on the street keeps patrons coming back for more fresh battered seafood cones time after time again. Try the boneless cone assortment.

Photo: Patryk Kosmider/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Alonzo di Benedetto 7, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-11pm

Phone: +39 095 836 5148

Internet: www.sciroccolab.com

Email: info@sciroccolab.com

Le Tre Bocche



Le Tre Bocche really allows the marvellous seafood from the region to shine in its exquisite dishes, and the fact that the restaurant has its

own stand on the famous local seafood market is a testament to the quality of the ingredients like no other. Try the unusual, eerie-looking squid ink spaghetti.

Photo: svariophoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Ingegnere 11, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8pm-11:45pm; Sun 1pm-3:30pm / 8pm-11:45pm

Phone: +39 095 538 738

Internet: trebocche.it

Email: ristorante3bocche@hotmail.com

Gisira



Gisira is a popular pizza restaurant in Catania where you can choose from a wide array of toppings. For a different dining experience, order

your pizza by the metre. If you are into football — they offer to broadcast many national and international matches.

Photo: Andrey Grigoriev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Gisira 68, Catania

Internet: www.instagram.com/gisiracitta.food

Trattoria Catania Ruffiana



It can be a bit tricky to find this family-run gem, but do give it a try. In a rustic setting, guests can revel in typical Italian dishes at rather

reasonable prices. Their chocolate cake is said to be the best ever and a must to finish off your dinner in the best way possible.

Photo: qanatstudio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Aloï 50, Catania

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 12:30pm-2:30pm / 7:30pm-10:30pm; Mon closed

Phone: +39 095 216 2222

Internet: www.cataniaruffiana.it

Email: info@cataniaruffiana.it

Giglio Rosso



This small trattoria with checked tablecloths serves authentic Sicilian food for reasonable prices. Fish, seafood and the antipasto buffet are

popular choices among guests. Regulars come here to revel in the home-made dishes in a warm

and cosy atmosphere.

Photo: giovanni boscherino/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Sant'Anna 19, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-4pm / 6:30pm-11:30pm
Phone: +39 095 715 2492
Internet: www.trattoriagigliorossocatania.it
Email: trattoriagigliorosso@gmail.com

Me Cumpari Turiddu



Just a short walk from the Duomo, Me Cumpari Turiddu serves food made of regional products — top-notch dishes with meat, fish and pasta, and home-made bread. The restaurant is part of the Slow Food Foundation and spoils its guests with an authentic Sicilian atmosphere. As a "ristorò", Me Cumpari Turiddu is a combined restaurant, bistro, cafe and deli.

Photo: Francesco83/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Turi Ferro 36-38, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-1am
Phone: +39 095 715 0142
Internet: www.mecumparituriddu.it/en
Email: info@mecumparituriddu.it

Locanda Cerami



Located in a superb location, in a small courtyard in front of a beautiful baroque church, Locanda Cerami serves delicious pizzas, salads, and other Italian dishes. There is also an extensive list of beers and wines, and the friendly staff do their best to offer guests a lovely dining experience. Indulge your pizza and enjoy the view on Via Crociferi, part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

Photo: Camo24/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Crociferi 69, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 7pm-midnight
Phone: +39 095 224 6782
Internet: www.locandaceramicatania.it
Email: info@locandacerami.it

Sushi Live



For a break from the Italian food, though it's hard, try Sushi Live. The menu offers about 50 different rolls to choose from, along with sashimi, tempura and other hot dishes; great to take away or enjoy in the eatery. Sushi Live is located in the city centre, close to Giardino Bellini park.

Photo: Maksim Toome/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Etnea 318, Catania
Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12:30pm-2:30pm / 7:30pm-11:30pm, Sun 7:30pm-11:30pm
Phone: +39 095 311 272
Internet: www.sushilive.it
Email: info@sushilive.it

FUD — Bottega Sicula



The trendy eatery is known for its playful approach to dish naming (even "still water" turns into "stil uoter" on the label, light-heartedly poking fun at the Italian way of (mis)pronouncing English words). It serves a variety of succulent burgers and beers to go along.

Photo: NatashaPhoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Santa Filomena 35, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 12:30pm-1am
Phone: +39 095 715 3518
Internet: www.fud.it/location/catania
Email: info@fudcatania.it

Thai Princess



With little variety on the area's food scene, Thai Princess provides a nice alternative to the ubiquitous pizza, pasta, and seafood fare found all

throughout Catania and Sicily. The restaurant serves good quality, affordable Thai classics in a refined environment.

Photo: jutamas/Shutterstock.com
Address: Viale Africa 31, Catania
Opening hours: Daily from 7pm
Phone: +39 333 191 8404
Internet: www.thaiprincess.it
Email: info@thaiprincess.it

Ristorante Be Quiet



Tucked away in a small alley and yet very central is the Be Quiet restaurant and lounge bar. The establishment serves tasteful and flavorful

Italian fare. Pizza seems to be a standout in terms of popularity, but do try the seafood as well.

Photo: Denizo71/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Monte Sant'Agata 6, Catania
Opening hours: Mon & Wed-Fri 6pm-11:30pm; Sat & Sun 11:30am-11:30pm
Phone: +39 095 226 2180
Email: info@ristorantebequiet.it

Eat Pizzeria



The establishment serves remarkably good pizza (some may say the best, but the competition is big) - try one of the many topping combinations and

follow-up with a decadent dessert. They also serve pizzoli, a local speciality: Sicilian focaccia filled with various stuffings. The pizzeria is located in central Catania and enjoys great popularity with locals. The quality-to-price ratio is more than reasonable.

Photo: Prostock-studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Coppola 49/51, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 7:30pm-12:30am
Phone: +39 095 310 100
Internet: www.eatpizzeria.it
Email: info@eatpizzeria.it

La Siciliana



Do not let the simple interior fool you — La Siciliana is one of Catania's best restaurants. It has been around since 1968, owned and run by one family. The establishment specialises in local cuisine, and guests are welcome to select their seafood of choice from a display on ice.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Viale Marco Polo 52, Catania
Opening hours: Tue-Sat 12:30pm-3pm / 8pm-11pm; Sun 12:30pm-3pm; Mon closed
Phone: +39 095 376 400
Internet: www.instagram.com/ristorante_la_siciliana

Oxidiana



Oxidiana is located in the heart of the city and mainly specialises in fish - namely sashimi and sushi, but serves a selection of Japanese delights ranging from grilled meat and fish to dessert. Book in advance to ensure being seated, as the restaurant is quite popular.

Photo: funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Conte Ruggero 4A, Catania
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8pm-11:30pm, Fri & Sat
8:30pm-midnight
Phone: +39 095 532 585
Internet: www.oxidiana.it
Email: info@oxidiana.it

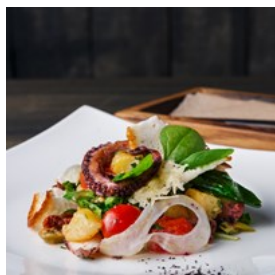
A Putia Dell'Ostello



The cavernous interior of this popular local restaurant is frequented by locals and renowned for the superb variety of vegetarian and vegan options (vegan lunch served on Sundays). On Wednesdays, the establishment hosts guest DJs, and Fridays are reserved for live jazz.

Photo: pixy_nook/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Currò 6, Catania
Phone: +39 095 723 3010
Internet: www.agorahostel.com
Email: agorahostel@gmail.com

Ristorante il Locandiere (Caltagirone)



If you pay a visit to the town of Caltagirone, Ristorante il Locandiere is a good choice for lunch or dinner. This relaxed fish restaurant is known for its delicious and creative seafood appetisers and mains. Enjoy a gourmet experience in an intimate setting for a reasonable price.

Photo: Prostock-studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Don Luigi Sturzo 59, Caltagirone
Opening hours: Mon 7:30pm-10pm; Tue-Sat 12:30pm-2pm /
7:30pm-10pm; Sun 12:30pm-2pm
Phone: +39 093 358 292
Email: dallocandiere@yahoo.it

CAFÉS



Family Business/Shutterstock.com

Italian coffee doesn't need a special introduction, and the variety of local sweets and pastries is truly mind-boggling. Many establishments in Catania serve mouthwatering Italian delights, from cream-stuffed cannoli to chocolate-filled croissants, and other alluring treats, notably granita, which is a semi-frozen dessert. In the savoury department, Sicily is known for its juicy arancini — stuffed rice balls, coated with bread crumbs and then deep-fried. They are usually filled with ragù, mozzarella, and peas.

Prestipino



One of the more well-known cafes in Catania, Prestipino is the place to go to indulge in a beautifully crafted, elegant dessert right in the heart of it all, the Duomo square. The cafe also serves savoury granita pastries, ice cream, cakes, and coffee.

Photo: Shebeko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza del Duomo 1, Catania
Phone: +39 095 320840
Internet: www.instagram.com/prestipinoalduomo

Pasticceria Savia



The historical Pasticceria Savia holds somewhat of a legendary status in the city and is said to be the place that serves some of the best arancini in the

area (multiple stuffings available to choose from). After the savoury treats, tuck into one of the airy pastries or decadent cakes.

Photo: Liudmyla Chuhunova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Etnea 302/304, Catania

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 7:45am-9:30pm, Mon closed

Phone: +39 095 322335

Internet: www.savia.it

Email: segreteria@savia.it

Chocofusion



Chocofusion is synonymous with chocolate haven. Some of their delights are caramel cakes, cookies, Sacher, flans, and many more

hits. Gelato is also available.

Photo: RICIfoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Viale Vittorio Veneto 52, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 7:30am-midnight, Fri 7:30am-1am, Sat 7:30am-2am, Sun 7:30am-1am

Phone: +39 095 216 3096

Internet: www.chocofusion.eu

Email: chocofusion.ct@gmail.com

Comis Ice Cafe



The cafe, located right by the Bellini Theatre, is known for the high quality and variety of its ice creams. Do give the pistachio a try! The offer

is not limited to Italy's most well-known dessert, however — the place also serves granita in

several flavours.

Photo: Luboslav Tiles/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Vincenzo Bellini 8/9, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 7am-9pm, Fri & Sun 7am-1am, Sat 7am-2am

Phone: +39 095 715 2499

Email: santocomis@hotmail.it

JAF



The cafe serves a selection of healthy and easy-on-the-taste-buds fruit smoothies and juices, as well as quite a few light meals – soups,

wraps, and bagels. The cafe uses fresh ingredients, and all food is prepared on-site. It is located in the north of the city centre.

Photo: Bochkarev Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Corso Italia 243, Catania

Phone: +39 095 722 3618

Internet: www.jafitalia.com

Pasticceria Quaranta



Sicilians and tourists flock to this traditional yet innovative bakery in the heart of Piazza Mancini Battaglia. The establishment serves a

large selection of both scrumptious sweets and savoury snacks to be enjoyed on the breezy terrace. Arancini and Cassatelle di Agira (pastries made of pistachio or chocolate) are both locals' and tourists' favorites.

Photo: [matteo fabbian/Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

Address: Piazza Mancini Battaglia 17/20, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 7am-12:30am

Phone: +39 095 712 4893

Internet: www.pasticceriaquaranta.it

Email: info@pasticceriaquaranta.it

Ciocolato Caffè



This waterfront café features one of the best gelatos on the island and is the best shelter from the dog days of July and August. Besides the gelato, coffee, granita, and freshly baked cakes are a must-try too.

Photo: JM Travel Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Viale Ruggero di Lauria 129, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-1:30am, Sat 8am-3am, Sun 8am-2am

Phone: +39 095 498640

Internet: www.ciocolatocafe.it

Email: dolcitantazionict@gmail.com

Bar Mazzini



Bar Mazzini is a window that goes out onto Sicily's culinary scene when it comes to cannoli (tube-shaped shells filled with ricotta) and cipollini (a puff pastry filled with cheese, ham, tomato, black olives, and roasted onion). Stop by and have a chat with the owner David (who speaks English) and discover authentic Sicilian recipes.

Photo: Wead/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Auteri 6, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 5am-8pm

Phone: +39 095 346 361

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Domakhina Mariia/Shutterstock.com

Catania is a student town, and as such, boasts quite a few hip bars and clubs frequented by the local youths. A regional speciality in terms of nightlife is the so-called "lido" — beach venues well-visited by tourists and locals for sunbathing, swimming and water sports during the day, and transforming into bars and beach clubs after sundown.

Afrobar



Afrobar is a beachfront venue with a dance floor that is set directly on the sand. It's located on premises of one of the many waterside "lido" spaces. During the day, the place is visited by beach-goers and families, but the night sees it transform into a night club with bonfires and fire dancers.

Photo: nd3000/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Presidente Kennedy 47, Catania

Opening hours: Daily noon-midnight

Phone: +39 345 713 3484

Internet: www.afrobar.it

Email: efarg@tiscali.it

Mercati Generali



Arguably the finest nightlife establishment in Sicily (and a solid contender for being in the top worldwide), Mercati Generali is located about 10 kilometres from the city centre, but is certainly worth the drive. The crowd it attracts is rather posh, but the vibe remains relaxed and party-like.

Photo: Nykonchuk Oleksii/Shutterstock.com

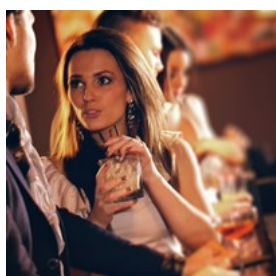
Address: Strada Statale 417, Catania

Phone: +39 334 919 7095

Internet: www.mercatigenerali.org

Email: info@mercatigenerali.org

Zō



The Zō cultural space frequently serves host to various events and happenings, such as music and dance shows, various performances, and movie screenings. There are an on-site restaurant and a bar, which is an intimate, candle-lit space with an extensive selection of wines from the cellar.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazzale Rocco Chinnici 6, Catania

Phone: +39 095 816 8912

Internet: www.zoculture.it

Bar Cuore



The cosy Bar Cuore is a great place for both a coffee and an evening drink in a young, dynamic environment. The eclectic interior invites for a very casual evening pastime inside or in the outdoor

seating area. Drinks served range from draft beer to cocktails.

Photo: bogdanhoda/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Penninello 35, Catania

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 5pm-2am

Phone: +39 347 609 5021

Razmataz Wine Bar



Wine, beer and cocktails are all served in the beautiful outdoor square of this evening venue. This one is the ultimate place to be for an aperitivo and onwards. Several food options are always available and vary daily (these are listed on the board).

Photo: JM Travel Photography/Shutterstock.com

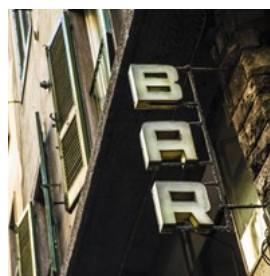
Address: Via Montesano 17/19, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-2am

Phone: +390 95 311 893

Internet: www.instagram.com/winebar_razmataz

Nievski



Nievski's clearly left-leaning interior is popular for pre-party drinks amongst the local artsy and alternative crowds, as well as the student population. The stairs in front of the establishment are a buzzing hang out spot as well, favoured by the younger generations.

Photo: maradon 333/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Alessi 15/17, Catania

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 5:30pm-2am, Mon closed

Phone: +39 095 313792

Internet: www.nievski.it

Email: nievski@hotmail.com

Le Capannine



Le Capannine is a beach club by day and a pumping party venue at night, when its relaxed cafes and fitness spaces transform into busy dance floors (DJs spin different genres depending on the spot) and bars. The venue follows a Caribbean theme, complete with palm trees and tropical cocktails.

Photo: Rawpixel/Shutterstock.com
Address: Viale Kennedy 93, Catania
Phone: +39 095 735 7235
Internet: www.lecapannine.com

Etnea Roof Bar & Restaurant

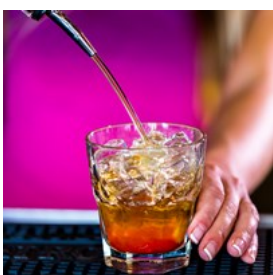


The stunning views over Mount Etna aren't the only reasons to pay a visit to this rooftop establishment: the evening "aperitivo" buffet

is varied and generous and includes a drink in the price. During the daytime, it is a high-quality restaurant that serves elevated Italian and Mediterranean food.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Etnea 218, Catania
Internet: www.unaitalianhospitality.com/it/ristoranti/etnea-roof-bar-and-restaurant
More Info: Located in Palace Catania | UNA Esperienze

Mezzaparola



Currently, a popular watering hole, Mezzaparola is a tiny bar with some seating in the upstairs lounge area, but patrons often opt to

simply chill outside by the entrance when it gets

too packed (which it increasingly does near midnight).

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Landolina 48, Catania
Phone: +39 333 691 3266
Internet: www.instagram.com/mezzaparolacatania

Boheme Mixology Bar



A bar with a great ambience, Boheme Mixology has no set menu, but rather offers guests the option of getting something very

special crafted for them based on individual preferences. The bar is centrally located, with a mixed crowd of locals and international visitors.

Photo: Maksym Fesenko/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Montesano 27/29, Catania
Phone: +39 095 250 3340
Internet: www.instagram.com/boheme_mixologybar

First Lounge Bar



The tucked-away bar in a small central square isn't a place a wandering visitor would just stumble upon. It's a hidden gem of a spot with seating

outside and a distinctly bohemian feel to it, much due to the past-century-looking buildings encircling the square.

Photo: xmee/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Martinez 13, Catania
Internet: www.instagram.com/first_food_and_more

Glamour Hoppe Bier Cafe



The casual eatery and bar isn't one of the places to go for those party vibes, but it's certainly great for a leisurely evening with a cocktail following an

abundant aperitivo. Music nights are hosted here on the regular, which includes both contemporary and jazz tunes.

Photo: alexpro9500/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Carcaci 11, Catania

Phone: +39 095 218 0579

Internet: www.instagram.com/glamourhoppe

Rix Catania



The classy yet laid-back Rix is a place where cocktails are serious business. The mixologists exhibit true professionalism, and craft

both vintage and contemporary drinks of a very decent quality. Food is served for those looking to grab a bite, and the pizza seems to be much favoured.

Photo: Tarik Kaan Muslu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Enrico Adolfo Pantano 54, Catania

Phone: +39 095 836 2922

Internet: www.rixcatania.it

A Putia Dell'Ostello



The cavernous interior of this popular local restaurant is frequented by locals and renowned for the superb variety of vegetarian and vegan

options (vegan lunch served on Sundays). On Wednesdays, the establishment hosts guest DJs, and Fridays are reserved for live jazz.

Photo: pixy_nook/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Piazza Curro, Catania

Phone: +39 095 723 3010

SHOPPING



Artens/Shutterstock.com

Catania is sometimes referred to as the Milan of Sicily — not so much for the fashion, but for the enterprising spirit. There are countless craftsmen, artists and small business owners who sell their wares all over the city, one example being the typical 53-inch Sicilian Pupi puppets that can be bought on Via Etnea. The elaborately carved wooden candelabras on sale in the historic quarters are another speciality of the region, and so are the colourful local ceramics.

One must-visit local attraction is the open-air fish market La Pescheria — a bustling, loud, smelly locale where some of the finest seafood restaurants go to stock up on dish ingredients. Brand name shopping can be had along expensive Corso Italia and around Via Pacini, Via Umberto I, and Via Etnea.

La Pescheria



The bustling, smelly market La Pescheria (next to the cathedral), is worth a visit even if you are not buying any fish. It's a cultural experience

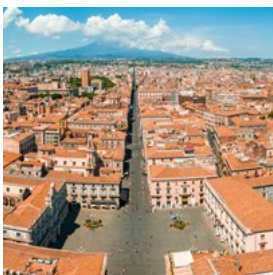
in its own right – seeing the busy vendors display all sorts of curious marine creatures is quite the uncommon sight.

Photo: Marco Ossino/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Alonzo di Benedetto, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-2pm, Sun closed

Via Etnea



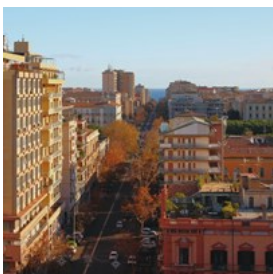
One of the city's main arteries and its busiest shopping street, Via Etnea stretches all the way from the Duomo square towards Etna

(hence the telling name). The street is lined with all manner of shops and department stores, as well as a variety of eateries to suit any taste.

Photo: Pandora Pictures/shutterstock

Address: Via Etnea, Catania

Corso Italia



The Corso Italia street, running from the seaside up towards Mount Etna, is one of the most elegant streets in the city. It is the place to go for

upscale brand name shopping — the street is lined with world-famous brand name stores and boutiques and breathes a sophisticated air.

Photo: photobeginner/shutterstock

Address: Corso Italia, Catania

Mercato di Piazza Carlo Alberto



The busy morning market in Carlo Alberto square is a vibrant shopping venue where anything and everything from fresh produce to clothes and

spices can be found. Come with time, as there are a lot of stalls to browse through. It can get a bit loud in peak hours, but the bustle decreases after 1pm.

Photo: Sabino Parente/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Carlo Alberto, Catania

Wine & Charme



The cavernous shop holds a host of treasures, it seems – the store's curious insides hold a selection of local products and wines from

Etna and all over Sicily (prices range from several euros per bottle to a couple of hundred euros), as well as charming souvenirs (such as the famous local ceramics).

Photo: Christian Delbert/Shutterstock.com

Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele II 143, Catania

Opening hours: Daily 9am-9pm

Phone: +39 095 4194395

Internet: www.wineandcharme.com

Email: info@wineandcharme.com

Menza



A celebrated store is known throughout Catania, Menza specialises in Italian deli products. One side of the

store is given over to savoury foods such as meats, cheeses, and even

entire meals (there is a seating area for those looking to dine on-site), while the other is packed with sweets and pastries.

Photo: Natasha Breen/Shutterstock.com
Address: Viale Mario Rapisardi 143/145, Catania
Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm
Phone: +39 095 350 606
Internet: www.menza.it
Email: info@menza.it

Mizzica



For traditional Sicilian souvenirs, try the centrally located Mizzica boutique. It sells hand-made crafts and decor items, bags, jewellery and accessories. The store offers good value for money and is a good find for those looking to bring local souvenirs to loved ones.

Photo: hookmedia/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Garibaldi 13, Catania
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 9am-7pm
Phone: +39 393 988 9214
Internet: www.mizzicasouvenir.it
Email: bechidaniela@gmail.com

Porte di Catania



The Porte di Catania shopping mall is located outside the city centre, close to the airport. The large Auchan supermarket occupies the ground floor (great for groceries and deli foods); the second floor is packed with shops and stores of major local and international brands.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Gelso Bianco, Catania
Phone: +39 0955 78717
Internet: www.portedicatania.it

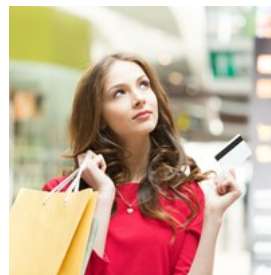
Etnapolis



Etnapolis, a major shopping destination in Sicily, offers a unique shopping experience complete with a multiplex cinema, kids entertainment area and dining venues. There is a large affordable supermarket inside, as well as a great selection of local and international brand stores and boutiques.

Photo: gpointstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Contrada Valcorrente 23, Belpasso
Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-9pm
Phone: +39 095 7867432
Internet: www.centroetnapolis.it
Email: info@centroetnapolis.com

I Portali



One of the largest shopping centres in the south of Italy, I Portali is right for those looking to do some major shopping. It is located about an hour's drive outside of Catania but is certainly worth the trip if upscale international clothing, accessories and beauty brand stores are what you're after.

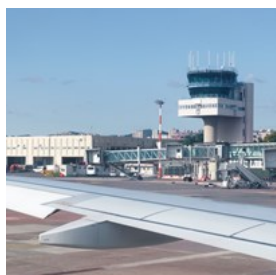
Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com
Address: Viale Cristoforo Colombo 6, San Giovanni La Punta
Opening hours: Daily 9am-9pm
Phone: +39 095 741 5534
Internet: www.iportaliweb.it
Email: info@iportali.net

TOURIST INFORMATION



lapas77/Shutterstock.com

Catania-Fontanarossa Airport (CTA)



Catania's airport, known as Fontanarossa or Vincenzo Bellini Airport (CTA), is located 7 kilometres south-west of the city and handles both domestic and international flights.

Buses (AMT Alibus) connect the airport to Catania city centre and leave every 20 minutes from 5am to midnight. There are also several other bus companies, operating other cities on Sicily such as Etna Trasporti to Taormina. The journey takes 50 minutes. Sais Autolinee takes travellers to Palermo in 2-3 hours. Bus tickets can be bought at the currency exchange office or at a newspaper shop inside the airport terminal.

A taxi from the airport to the city takes about 15 minutes. There are taxi ranks outside the airport.

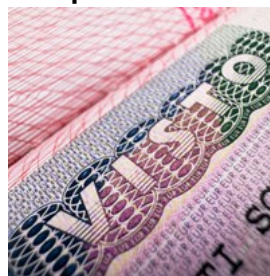
Photo: Roberto Lo Savio/shutterstock

Address: Aeroporto di Catania-Fontanarossa, Via Fontanarossa, Catania

Phone: +39 0957 239 111

Internet: www.aeroporto.catania.it

Passport & Visa



Citizens of European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries do not need a visa to enter Italy, only a valid ID. Many other countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand, benefit from visa-free entry for short stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

Visitors from visa-exempt countries must hold a valid passport and, starting in late 2025, will need to apply for an ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) authorisation online before travelling.

For those requiring a visa, such as travellers from some Middle-East, African or Asian nations, a Schengen visa must be obtained prior to arrival. All travellers should ensure their passport is valid for at least three months beyond their intended stay.

Photo: Vardanyan Karen/shutterstock

Internet: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-policy_en

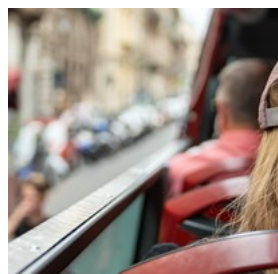
Best Time to Visit



May to June and September to October are the best months to visit the ancient port city of Catania on Sicily's eastern coast. Spring and fall offer pleasant weather with temperatures reaching a maximum of 19° to 26° C and a less crowded city. July and August are the hottest and draw in sun worshippers.

Photo: saiko3p/shutterstock

Public Transport



A rental car is the best way to explore Sicily. The road network is well maintained, especially the toll roads (autostrade). To drive in the city of

Catania can be quite tricky though. A majority of the city centre is for pedestrians and parking lots are difficult to find.

An alternative to driving is travelling by train to Messina, Syracuse, Palermo and other cities from the station at Piazza Giovanni XXIII.

A cheaper mode of transport is the bus, which departs from the depot at Via d'Amico close to the train station. To get around in the city, the company AMT serves a number of lines. Bus tickets must be validated upon entering the bus (get them punched in the orange machine onboard).

Photo: vidiot/shutterstock

Address: Piazza Giovanni XXIII, Catania

Internet: www.amt.ct.it

Taxi



Taxi fares vary, and the rate increases after 10pm. The 10% tip is sometimes included in the overall price (check with the driver). The

licensed taxis are often yellow or white and have a meter.

Radio Taxi Catania

+39 095 330 966

www.radiotaxicatania.org

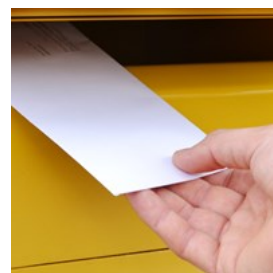
Distefano Taxi

+39 360 968 390

www.taxi-catania.com

Photo: Bernhard Richter/shutterstock

Post



The post office in Catania is situated at Via Etnea 215 and can be recognised by the yellow "PT" sign. Stamps can be bought at tobacconists

that either carry the blue and white "Tabacchi" sign or are simply marked by the "T" sign.

Photo: igra design/shutterstock

Address: Via Etnea 215, Catania

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:20am-7:05pm, Sat 8:20am-12:35pm

Phone: +39 095 7478151

Internet:

www.poste.it/cerca/index.html#/risultati-cerca-up/catania

Pharmacy



Pharmacies in Italy are usually open every day, with a lunch break. One shop per area covers the shift during the weekend and by night (by

rotation). You can discover which one is open on a notice outside any pharmacy or on the government website. Pharmacies are marked with a flashing green cross sign.

Photo: StasiaLuch/shutterstock

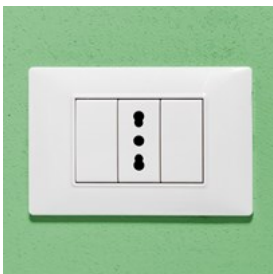
Telephone



Country code: +39 Area code: 095 (also dialled in Catania). If you call Italy from abroad, you must always dial zero in the area code (do not omit it as is the general practice when making international telephone calls), e.g. +39 095 + the number.

Photo: Oleg Krugliak/shutterstock

Electricity



Italy uses the Type F electrical sockets with two round holes, the same as in many countries in Continental Europe. You will also encounter Type L sockets with three round holes arranged in a line. A “universal” socket, that accepts Type C, E, F and L plugs, is commonly used in Italy.

The standard voltage is 230 volts, but some hotels have special plugs for 110 or 120-volt shavers.

Photo: Mauro Carli/shutterstock

Population

297,517

Currency

1 Euro = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops are open from Monday to Friday 8:30am–1pm and 3:30pm–7pm. Some stores open at 9am and close at 8pm. A few of them stay open also on Saturdays. Some supermarkets stay open 24/7.

Newspapers

La Gazzetta di Catania: catania.gds.it

La Sicilia: www.lasicilia.it

Cataniaoggi: cataniaoggi.it

Emergency numbers

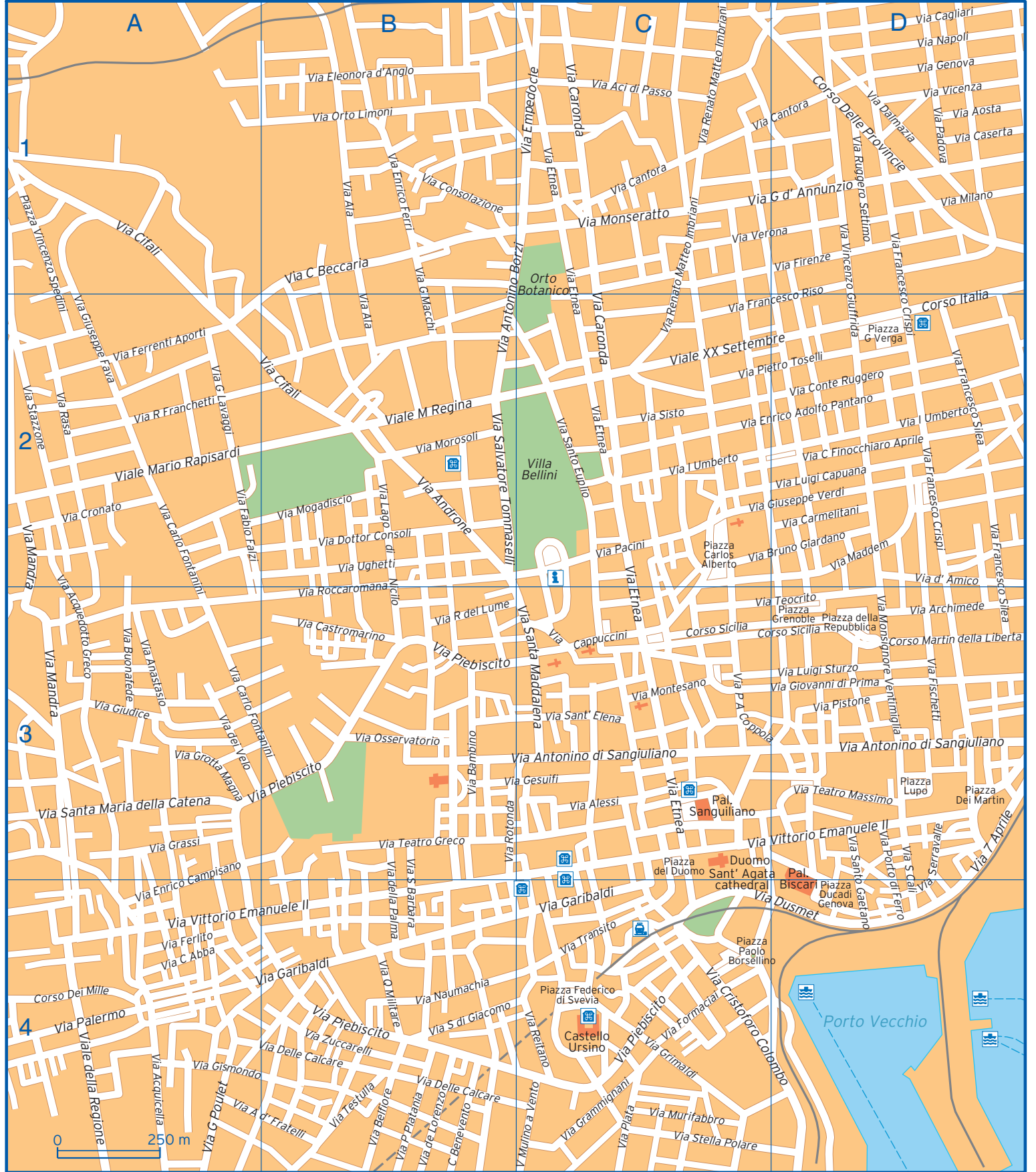
Police: 112
Fire Brigade: 115
Ambulance: 118
Coast Guard: 1530

Tourist information

Tourist Information Catania
Via Vittorio Emanuele II 172, Catania
+39 095 742 5573
Open Mon–Sat 8am–7pm, Sun 8:30am–1:30pm

International Airport "Vincenzo Bellini"
Via Fontanarossa, Catania
+39 095 723 96 82
Mon–Sat 8am–7:15pm, Sun 8:30am–1:30pm





Corso Dei Mille	A4	Via Cronato	A2	Via Monsignore Ventimiglia	D3
Corso Delle Provincie	D1	Via Dalmazia	D1	Via Montesano	C3
Corso Italia	D2	Via de Lorenzo	B4	Via Morosoli	B2
Corso Martin della Liberta	D3	Via dei Velo	A3	Via Mulino a Vento	C4
Corso Sicilia	C3 D3	Via della Palma	B3 B4	Via Murifabbro	C4
Cortile Benevento	B4	Via Delle Calcare	A4 B4	Via Napoli	D1
Piazza Carlos Alberto	C2	Via Dottor Consoli	B2	Via Naumachia	B4
Piazza Dei Martin	D3	Via Dusmet	C4 D4	Via Orto Limoni	B1
Piazza del Duomo	C3	Via d' Amico	D2	Via Osservatorio	B3
Piazza della Repubblica	D3	Via Eleonora d'Anglo	B1	Via P A Coppola	C3
Piazza Ducadi Genova	D4	Via Empedocle	C1	Via Pacini	C2
Piazza Federico di Svevia	C4	Via Enrico Adolfo Pantano	C2 D2	Via Padova	D1
Piazza G Verga	D2	Via Enrico Campisano	A3 A4	Via Palermo	A4
Piazza Grenoble	D3	Via Enrico Ferri	B1	Via Piebiscito	A3 B3 C4
Piazza Lupo	D3	Via Etnea	C1 C2 C3	Via Pietro Platania	B4
Piazza Paolo Borsellino	C4	Via Fabio Falzi	A2	Via Pietro Toselli	C2 D2
Piazza Vincenzo Spedini	A1 A2	Via Ferlito	A4	Via Pistone	D3
Via 7 Aprile	D3	Via Ferrenti Aporti	A2	Via Plata	C4
Via Aci di Passo	C1	Via Firenze	D1	Via Porto di Ferro	D3 D4
Via Acquedotto Greco	A2 A3	Via Fischetti	D3	Via Q Militare	B4
Via Acquicella	A4	Via Formaciai	C4	Via R del Lume	B3
Via Ala	B1 B2	Via Francesco Crispi	D1 D2	Via R Franchetti	A2
Via Alessi	C3	Via Francesco Riso	C2 D1	Via Rasa	A2
Via Anastasio	A3	Via Francesco Silea	D2 D3	Via Reitano	C4
Via Androne	B2	Via G d' Annunzio	C1 D1	Via Roccaromana	B3
Via Antoni d' Fratelli	A4 B4	Via G Lavaggi	A2	Via Rotonda	B3
Via Antonino Borzi	B2 C1	Via G Macchi	B1 B2	Via Ruggero Settimo	D1
Via Antonino di Sangiuliano	B3 C3 D3	Via Garibaldi	A4 B4 C4	Via S Cali	D3 D4
Via Aosta	D1	Via Genova	D1	Via S di Giacomo	B4
Via Archimede	D3	Via Gesuifi	B3 C3	Via Salvatore Tommaselli	B2
Via Bambino	B3	Via Giovanni di Prima	C3 D3	Via Santa Barbara	B3 B4
Via Belfiore	B4	Via Gismondo	A4	Via Santa Maddalena	C3
Via Bruno Giardano	C2 D2	Via Giudice	A3	Via Santa Maria della Catena	A3
Via Buonafede	A3	Via Giuseppe Fava	A2	Via Santo Euplio	C2
Via C Abba	A4	Via Giuseppe Poulet	A4	Via Santo Gaetano	D3 D4
Via C Beccaria	B1	Via Giuseppe Verdi	C2 D2	Via Sant' Elena	C3
Via C Finocchiaro Aprile	D2	Via Grammignani	C4	Via Serravalle	D3 D4
Via Cagliari	D1	Via Grassi	A3	Via Sisto	C2
Via Canfora	C1 D1	Via Grimaldi	C4	Via Stazzone	A2
Via Cappuccini	C3	Via Grotta Magna	A3	Via Stella Polare	C4
Via Carlo Fontanini	A2 A3 B3	Via I Umberto	C2 D2	Via Teatro Greco	B3
Via Carmelitani	D2	Via Lago di Nicilo	B2	Via Teatro Massimo	D3
Via Caronda	C1 C2	Via Luigi Capuana	D2	Via Teocrito	C3 D3
Via Caserta	D1	Via Luigi Sturzo	D3	Via Testulla	B4
Via Castromarino	B3	Via Maddem	D2	Via Transito	C4
Via Cifali	A1 A2 B2	Via Mandra	A2 A3	Via Ughetti	B2
Via Consolazione	B1	Via Milano	D1	Via Verona	C1 D1
Via Conte Ruggero	D2	Via Mogadiscio	B2	Via Vicenza	D1
Via Cristoforo Colombo	C4 D4	Via Monseratto	C1	Via Vincenzo Giuffrida	D1 D2

Via Vittorio Emanuele II
Via Zuccarelli

A4 B4 C3 D3 Viale della Regione
B4 Viale M Regina

A4 Viale Mario Rapisardi
B2 Viale XX Settembre

A2
C2 D2