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Palermo

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Andreas Zerndl/Shutterstock.com

Capital of the beautiful region of Sicily, Palermo is a fascinating hidden gem awaiting to be discovered. This busy port city pulsates with vibrant energy, embodying a perpetual transformation that has firmly reinstated it among Europe's cultural hubs. Palermo is full of sights and treasures: from ornate Baroque churches and glorious Norman-Gothic architecture to elegant Art Nouveau villas and lively markets. Amidst the chaotic streets, the city's flamboyant spirit thrives, offering a delightful surprise at every turn.

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THE CITY



Roman Babakin/Shutterstock.com

The Phoenicians founded Palermo as a trade port in 700 BC, and a long string of rulers followed. Carthage was the first to conquer it, followed by the Romans, the Vandals, and Arabian rulers who transformed it into a magical city with mosques, minarets, and markets.

During the Crusades, the city was conquered by the Normans who continued building on the Arabian legacy of tolerance and enlightenment. That era is known as Palermo's "Golden Era".

Today, tourists are discovering a city with an exciting mix of medieval areas with clothes hung on lines between buildings and elegant residential districts with palm trees and palatial villas. Palermo is a city with stunning historical sights, a mouth-watering gastronomy tradition, crystal-clear waters, and an energetic atmosphere.

DO & SEE



lapas77/Shutterstock.com

Thanks to its rich and varied history, Palermo and its surrounding areas are full of architectural treasures just waiting to be discovered. Many of the sights are conveniently situated in the city centre: in the Old Town, you'll find treasures like Palazzo dei Normanni, as well as the beautiful Santa Caterina Church, and the spectacular Piazza Pretoria. For a getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city, the beautiful volcanic island of Ustica is a safe bet and will not disappoint you.

Norman Palace



The former royal palace of King Roger II in the 1100s, Palazzo dei Normanni is one of the most famous sights in Palermo. Dating back to the 9th century, the palace owes its current appearance to the embellishments realised by the Normans: covered in dazzling Byzantine mosaics, the Arab-Norman architecture is a symbol of the political and cultural union operated by the Normans. Be sure to check out the stunning Palatine Chapel.

Photo: Nadiia_foto/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza del Parlamento, 1, Palermo
Public Transport: Underground: station Orlenas. Bus: 304, 104, 108, 118, 105, 110

Opening hours: Mon–Sat 8:30am–4:30pm; Sun 8:30am–9:30am / 11:30am–12:30pm
Phone: +39 091 705 5611
Internet: www.federicosecondo.org
Email: fondazione@federicosecondo.org
More Info: Last admission one hour before closing time

Cappella Palatina



Located inside Normans Palace (Palazzo dei Normanni), the royal chapel of the Norman kings of Sicily, Cappella Palatina is the finest example of Arab-Norman art in the city. Every inch is a jubilation of craftsmanship, from the golden mosaics covering the walls to the marble floors and carved wooden ceilings.

Photo: Vaido Otsar/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Piazza del Parlamento, 1, Palermo
Public Transport: Underground: station Orleans. Bus: 304, 104, 108, 118, 105, 110
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 8:30am–4:30pm, Sun 8:30am–12:30pm
Phone: +39 091 705 5611
Internet: www.federicosecondo.org
Email: fondazione@federicosecondo.org
More Info: Last admission on hour before closing time

Piazza Pretoria



The grandiose Piazza Pretoria captivates with its fountain, spreading proudly in front of Palazzo Pretorio (City Hall) as one of the major symbols of Palermo. The Pretoria Fountain was sculpted by Francesco Camilliani in 1574 and initially placed in Florence for a few years. It was then bought by the municipality and transported to Palermo. The fountain is a true masterpiece and is considered one of the most beautiful fountains in Italy. The nude figures adorning the fountain have got the most prudish population in the city to nickname the square "Piazza della Vergogna", (Square of Shame).

Photo: lapas77/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Pretoria, Palermo

Palermo Cathedral



One of the major examples of Sicily's unique encounter of architectonic styles, the Palermo Cathedral is the result of centuries of additions, redecoration, and restorations. It was built in 1185 on the site of a former Byzantine church, which was used as a mosque during the 9th century and it encompasses Medieval, Gothic, Arabic, and Neoclassical styles. Climb up to the roof and enjoy a great view of the city.

Photo: Kirk Gulden/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele, 490, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7am–7pm, Sat & Sun noon–6pm
Phone: +39 091 334373
Internet: www.cattedrale.palermo.it
Email: tourcattedrale@diocesipa.it
More Info: Access to the roof: every 30 minutes from 10 am to 12:30 pm

Quattro Canti



Officially known as Piazza Vigliena, Quattro Canti is considered one of the most fascinating landmarks of Palermo. Located at the intersection of Via Maqueda and Corso Vittorio Emanuele, it has an octagonal structure shaped by the elegant facades of the buildings standing at its corners. During the day, the sun is always shining on at least one of the four facades: leading to this Baroque gem being nicknamed by

locals "il teatro del sole" ("the theatre of the sun").

Photo: Tamas Gabor/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Vigliena, Palermo

Teatro Massimo



A Neoclassical masterpiece, Teatro Massimo is one of the largest opera houses in Europe. Opened in 1897, it is the lyrical temple of the city, staging the opera and ballet official season. The flamboyant interiors can be visited with a 30-minute tour available daily in several languages.

Photo: Kiev.Victor/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Giuseppe Verdi, Palermo
Phone: +39 091 605 3580
Internet: www.teatromassimo.it/en

Majolica Museum "Stanze al Genio"



A hidden gem in Palermo, Stanze al Genio is a private collection of nearly 5,000 intricately crafted majolica tiles, spanning from 15th to 20th century Sicily and Campania. Adorning the walls and floors of the 16th-century Palazzo Torre Pirajno's piano nobile, these hand-painted tiles resonate with artistic history. On display is also a small collection of vintage stationery and Italian toys. Visits are possible only via guided tours that must be booked in advance.

Photo: Marco Ossino/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Giuseppe Garibaldi, 11, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 4pm–6:30pm, Sun 10am–noon, Mon closed
Phone: +39 380 367 3773
Internet: www.stanzealgenio.it/en
Email: stanzealgenio@yahoo.it

Church of Saint Catherine of Alexandria



The Chiesa di Santa Caterina d'Alessandria in Palermo attracts visitors from all corners of the globe with its remarkable Sicilian Baroque architecture and ornate decor: the walls are full of ornamental paintings and there are vibrant frescoes, intricately carved statues, and stunning colourful marble interiors. Don't miss out on the magnificent majolica cloister and the view from the rooftop terrace. The bakery located inside the complex sells sweet treats prepared with century-old recipes from Sicily's convents.

Photo: elesi/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Bellini, 1, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 10am–5:30pm
Phone: +39 091 271 3837
Internet: www.monasterosantacaterina.com
Email: info.monasterosantacaterina@gmail.com

Regional Archeological Museum Antonio Salinas



Housed in a Renaissance monastery, the Regional Archeological Museum Antonio Salinas boasts a rich collection of Roman and Ancient Greek artefacts including many items spanning most of Palermo’s history. The highlights of the exhibition are the decorative friezes from the temples at Selinunte.

Photo: Bjs/CC0 1.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Museo Archeologico Regionale Antonino Salinas, Piazza Olivella, Palermo
Public Transport: Bus: 101 stop Roma, 102 or 103 stop Cavour

Opening hours: Tue–Sat 9am–6:30pm, Sun 9am–1pm, Mon closed
Phone: +39 091 611 6807
Internet: www.instagram.com/museoarcheosalinas_palermo
Email: museo.archeo.salinas@regione.sicilia.it

Ballarò Market



The Mercato di Ballarò is the oldest and largest market in Palermo where you can enjoy some exciting flavours and buy fresh produce. Resembling a colourful and buzzing souk, walking down the lanes of this busy street market will immediately show you how Sicily markets developed during the Arab occupation. Part of the experience is the jingles sung by the vendors to attract customers while offering samples to the passers-by.

Photo: Peter Wendt/Unsplash
Address: Via Ballaro, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 7am–7:30pm, Sun 7am–1pm

Galleria Regionale della Sicilia Palazzo Abatellis



Allegedly the best art gallery in Palermo, the Galleria Regionale della Sicilia Palazzo Abatellis exhibits artworks of Sicilian artists from the Middle Ages, artefacts from the Arab period, and paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Take your time to admire the stunning Palazzo Abatellis, built in the 15th century in the Gothic-Catalan style.

Photo: Bjs/CC0 1.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Via Alloro, 4, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 9am–6:30pm, Sun 9am–1pm, Mon closed
Phone: +39 331 658 1788
Email: galleria.abatellis@regione.sicilia.it

Church of Saint John of the Hermits



One of the finest examples of Medieval architecture in Palermo, the church of Saint John of the Hermits (Chiesa di San Giovanni degli Eremiti) is famous for its red domes and architectural design that was greatly influenced by the Arabs during the 12th century. This was originally a mosque that was later converted into a Christian church dedicated to Sicily's hermit monks. Walk along the pretty garden of regional plants and the ruins of the cloister.

Photo: Mario_K/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via dei Benedettini, 16, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9am–6:30pm, Sun 9am–1pm
Phone: +39 091 651 5019
More Info: Last admission 30 minutes before closing time

Botanical Garden



Founded in 1781, the Orto Botanico di Palermo is considered to be a prestigious open-air botanical museum that has enabled in-depth studies on fascinating plants for about 200 years. Walk down the shaded pathways lined with subtropical plants, fig trees, Mediterranean herb gardens, local cacti, and hibiscus but don't forget to also check out the beautiful historical buildings where this restful paradise is set in.

Photo: nikolpetr/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Lincoln 2, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9am–8pm, Sun 10am–8pm
Phone: +39 091 2389 1236
Internet: www.ortobotanico.unipa.it
Email: ortobotanico@unipa.it

Zisa Palace



Zisa Palace is a 12th century castle built for King William I of Sicily. Its name derives from the Arabic word "al-Aziz", which means splendid. The original Norman building underwent some changes during the years, especially with the decorations added during the Baroque period. The Islamic inspiration for the architecture is clearly visible in the decorations of the vestibule, where Arabic vaults and columns are interposed by Baroque frescoes and marble decorations. Today, the castle houses a museum of Islamic art.

Photo: Andreas Zerndl/Shutterstock.com
Address: Palazzo della Zisa, Piazza Zisa, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 9am–6:30pm, Sun & Mon closed
Phone: +39 091 652 0269
More Info: Last admission 30 minutes before closing time

Torre di San Nicolò di Bari



Torre di San Nicolò di Bari is a civic tower dating back to the 12th century and located near Mercato di Ballarò. Originally used for defensive purposes, this Medieval tower is today open to visitors who can enjoy a breathtaking view over Palermo's cityscape and its historical buildings.

Photo: Iapas77/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Nunzio Nasi, 18, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue & Thu 2pm–5pm, Fri–Sun 11am–4pm, Mon & Wed closed
Phone: +39 347 894 8459

Diocesan Museum



Housed in the Archbishop's Palace, the Museo Diocesano di Palermo boasts an impressive collection of sculptures from the 15th to 18th centuries. It also displays interesting artworks, such as religious silverware and textiles, frescoes and Italian and Flemish paintings from the 16th to 19th centuries.

Photo: Colsu/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Via Matteo Bonello 2, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 9am–6pm
Phone: +39 091 607 7303
Internet: www.museodiocesanopa.it
Email: museo@chiesadipalermo.it
More Info: Last admission 30 minutes before closing time

Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri



Built in the early 14th century in Norman Gothic style, Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri, one of the symbols of Palermo, bears witness to a multifaceted history as both a tribunal and prison under the Inquisition from 1600 to 1782. Today, it serves as the headquarters of the University of Palermo, offering visitors a glimpse into history through its marvellous lecture halls adorned with intricate 14th-century wooden ceilings. The Inquisition Museum within its walls unveils the poignant narratives of prisoners through haunting graffiti and artworks, etching their stories onto the very cells that once confined them.

Photo: Benjamín Núñez González/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia(image cropped)
Address: Piazza Marina, 60, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 9am–7pm

Phone: +39 091 2389 3780
Internet: www.musei.unipa.it/steri.html
More Info: Visits with one-hour guided tour only, available in English and Italian

Capuchin Catacombs



Located in the Capuchin Monastery since 1599, the Catacombe dei Cappuccini houses 8,000 mummified bodies and skeletons of former residents of Palermo who died between the 17th and 19th centuries. It's a somewhat macabre insight into the customs and traditions of the Palermitan society of the time, with gender, religion, profession, and social status rigidly applied to the disposition of the bodies.

Photo: BLITZ MC/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Cappuccini, 1, Palermo
Public Transport: Underground: Palazzo Reale-Orleans station. Bus: 109 or 118 to Piazza Indipendenza.
Phone: +39 091 652 7389
Internet: www.catacombefraticappuccini.com/en
More Info: From Piazza Indipendenza, it's a 15-min walk along Via Capuccina

Art Nouveau Kiosks



The three Art Nouveau kiosks by architect Ernesto Basile appear like unexpected gems along the buzzing streets of Palermo. Built about the end of the 19th century, the kiosks once hosted the traditional Sicilian vendors of soft drinks and refreshing beverages but are today converted into tobacconists.

Chiosco Ribaudo located in Piazza Verdi, the most famous one, is a crimson and wrought iron building adorned with golden letters. The second Ribaudo kiosk in Piazza Castelnuovo is decorated with colourful majolica and mosaics while the Chiosco Vicari, in front of the Teatro Massimo, is a triumph of Moorish, Islamic, and Colonial architecture.

Photo: simona flamigni/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Verdi and Piazza Castelnuovo, Palermo

Festa di Santa Rosalia



Festa di Santa Rosalia is a grand annual festival that takes place in July. The festival, which lasts six days, is dedicated to Saint Rosalia, also called La Santuzza (Little Saint) or Rusulia (in Sicilian dialect), Palermo's patron saint, and it commemorates the miraculous appearances of the saint in 1624 when the city was hit by the plague. This festival is full of dazzling fireworks, religious processions, live music, and sumptuous Sicilian delicacies.

Photo: Rene Hartmans/Shutterstock.com

Nature Reserve of Capo Gallo



A real hidden paradise easily reached with a few minutes walk from Mondello, Capo Gallo is a regional nature reserve encompassing the huge Mount Gallo, ending up in a rocky promontory towered by a lighthouse, some grottos, and hidden sandy beaches surrounded by wild vegetation. Among its inhabitants are falcons, buzzards, and owls, while the reserve beckons adventurers with opportunities for snorkelling, kayaking, and hiking adventures.

Photo: Roberto La Rosa/Shutterstock.com

More Info: Possible to reach from both Mondello and Sferracavallo, Palermo

Monreale



This little town with a population of nearly 40,000 lies in the mountains southwest of Palermo. Its postcard-perfect views are only rivalled by the UNESCO-listed Norman masterpiece that is the Monreale Cathedral, Italy's largest medieval building which holds 6,000 square metres of Byzantine art. One of the most important examples of Norman architecture in Europe, the cathedral is covered in shimmering golden mosaics and also encompasses Arab, Byzantine, and Classical elements.

Photo: Roman Babakin/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Guglielmo II, 1, Monreale
Internet: www.duomomonreale.com/en

Ustica



Ustica is a tiny volcanic island located 52 km from Palermo, which is linked by a regular ferry service. This heavenly retreat offers everything you may expect from a Mediterranean island: hiking trails alongside the stunning grottos of the shoreline, crystal clear waters with natural pools, and exciting snorkelling and scuba diving opportunities, including an underwater archaeological trail with Roman artefacts.

Photo: sbellot/Shutterstock.com
Address: Ustica

Mondello



Just a 30-minute bus ride from Palermo, Mondello is a small coastal resort boasting long beaches of white sand and blue waters. Dominated by the towering Art Nouveau pier pavilion, Mondello hosts many excellent seafood restaurants, hidden Liberty-style villas, and water sports opportunities. The area is popular with locals for its proximity to the city centre and can get crowded during the weekends. Nearby is also the mountainous nature reserve of Capo Gallo, ideal for hiking and kayaking.

Photo: elesi/Shutterstock.com
Address: Mondello
Public Transport: Bus: 806, 603, 544

DINING



lorenzo_graph/Shutterstock.com

Sicilian cuisine is rustic but exciting, thanks to the influence of the many cultures the island has had over the years. Eating at small neighbourhood trattorias is highly recommended, as is visiting the historical markets where the extraordinary street food tradition of Palermo can be enjoyed. From the glorious rotisserie products and Sicilian pizza to the freshest seafood specialities, Palermo won't leave any culinary desire unfulfilled.

Osteria dei Vespri



Set in the eighteenth-century Palazzo Valguarnera Gangi, in the heart of Palermo's historic centre, Osteria dei Vespri graces one of the city's most enchanting squares. Here, the essence of Sicilian cuisine unfolds, inviting diners to savour fish dishes, pasta, and an array of culinary delights. Amidst the stone-lined interior or alfresco at courtyard tables, this osteria offers not only an exquisite dining experience but also an extensive wine list, ensuring a journey through flavours that are both tasteful and atmospheric.

Photo: Marko Poplasen / Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Croce dei Vespri, 6, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 12:30pm–2:45pm / 7:30pm–10:45pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 617 1631
Internet: www.osteriadeivespri.it
Email: osteriadeivespri@libero.it

Gagini



Housed in the former studio of Renaissance sculptor Antonello Gagini, this Michelin-starred culinary haven offers tasting menus with modern twists on timeless Sicilian recipes in a cosy and rustic ambience with bare-stone interiors. Beyond the kitchen, a refined cellar awaits, boasting an extensive array of wines that perfectly complement the culinary artistry on display.

Photo: Stefan Johnson/Unsplash
Address: Via dei Cassari, 35, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue 7:30pm–10pm; Wed–Sun 12:30pm–2pm / 7:30pm–10pm; Mon closed
Phone: +39 091 589918
Internet: www.gaginirestaurant.com
Email: info@gaginirestaurant.com

Casa del Brodo dal Dottore



Casa del Brodo dal Dottore opened its doors in 1890, making it one of the city’s oldest restaurants. Since then, it has been synonymous with good Palermitan cuisine. Amidst its vast culinary offerings, traditional delights shine — from the sumptuous tortellini in broth to the boiled meat with potatoes to the distinctive Sicilian appetisers like sarde a beccafico and eggplant rolls.

Photo: denio109/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele, 175, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 12:30pm–3pm / 7:30pm–11pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 321655
Internet: www.casadelbrodo.it
Email: daldottore@casadelbrodo.it

Il Baro



Il Baro is located in a charming neighbourhood outside of the city centre. The restaurant is popular with locals and much appreciated by tourists. First and foremost, they serve artisan pizzas, but there are other options on the menu, like pasta and meat dishes.

Photo: majatoni/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Mario Rutelli, 26, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 7pm–11:30pm, Mon closed
Phone: +39 091 303110
Internet: www.ilbaro.net
Email: info@ilbaro.net

Aja Mola



Regarded as one of Palermo's premier seafood establishments, Aja Mola is a simple yet classy eatery serving the freshest fish, shellfish, and a curated array of special oyster selections from the Mediterranean. Complementing these exquisite dishes is a thoughtfully chosen collection of natural wines. The open-view kitchen with bar seating underscores the informal ambience that pervades this culinary haven.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via dei Cassari, 39, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 12:30pm–3pm / 7pm–11:30pm
Phone: +39 091 729 6599
Internet: ajamolapalermo.it
Email: info@ajamolapalermo.it
More Info: Booking is recommended

Trattoria Ai Cascinari



Behind its unassuming facade, Ai Cascinari unveils a culinary delight. This family-owned trattoria exudes authenticity, serving a delectable array of antipasti, pasta, seafood, and other Sicilian classics. The fare is characterised by its freshness, high quality, and tantalising flavours, all set against a backdrop of cosy and rustic charm.

Photo: artcomedy/Shutterstock
Address: Via D'Ossuna, 43/45, Palermo
Opening hours: Wed 7:30pm–10pm; Thu–Sun 12:30pm–2:30pm / 7:30pm–10pm; Mon & Tue closed
Phone: +39 091 651 9804
Internet: www.cascinari.com

FUD



A young, modern eatery serving delicious panini, pinsa, and burgers following the long Sicilian street food tradition. Panini with fresh cold cuts, cheeses and the best of local ingredients and assembled on the spot at the counter, while tasty burgers, hot dogs, and salads are prepared in the kitchen. There are also many vegan and vegetarian options to be enjoyed in the relaxed atmosphere of this contemporary deli.

Photo: Magdanatka/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Olivella, 4, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily noon–1am
Phone: +39 091 611 2184
Internet: www.fud.it
Email: info@fudcatania.it

A'Cuncuma



This cosy, family-run Sicilian restaurant combines tasty tradition with mighty modernity. Fresh ingredients and local products are used to create refined, gourmet dishes. A wide wine selection and an intimate yet unpretentious atmosphere are added values of this restaurant located just near the Cathedral of Palermo.

Photo: marco mayer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Judica, 21, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 7:30pm–11pm, Sun closed
Phone: +39 392 521 4219
Internet: www.acuncumarestaurant.com
Email: restaurantacuncuma@gmail.com

Trattoria al Vecchio Club Rosanero



A cheap, traditional eatery where to sample some genuine Palermitan fare. The portions are generous but you can choose to order only half a portion so as to try more of the savoury dishes from the menu. At Trattoria al Vecchio Club Rosanero, they focus on fish but serve many different dishes from Sicilian tradition and good regional wines. Try the swordfish (pesce spada) and spaghetti with urchins and red shrimp.

Photo: Andrei Molchan/Shutterstock.com
Address: Vicolo Caldomai, 18, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Wed 1pm–3:30pm; Thu–Sat 1pm–3:30pm / 8pm–11pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 251 1234
Internet: restaurantguru.it/Al-Vecchio-Club-Palermo
More Info: Book a table in advance, especially on weekends

Pizzeria Niagara



A cheap eating option in Palermo, Pizzeria Niagara is a no-frills neighbourhood restaurant that has been serving great pizzas for decades. They also offer much appreciated traditional panini made with pizza dough.

Photo: JustClaudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Montepellegrino, 201, Palermo
Phone: +39 091 543133
Internet: pizzeria-niagara.business.site

Ferro di Cavallo



Nestled in the heart of Palermo, Trattoria Al Ferro di Cavallo is a historic gem that has been serving typical Palermo and Sicilian specialities since 1944. Within its rustic embrace, the restaurant presents classic Sicilian pasta and seafood dishes that capture the essence of the region's flavours, with the option to dine al fresco at outdoor tables.

Photo: vvoe/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Venezia, 20, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon & Tue noon–3:30pm; Wed–Sat noon–3pm / 6:30pm–11pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 331835
Internet: www.ferrodicavallopalermo.it/it

L'Ottava Nota



Located in the historic neighbourhood near the port, L'Ottava Nota is an epitome of culinary artistry. Here, the aim is to craft an experience that harmonises scent, presentation, and flavour in the best way possible. With its minimalist setting, the restaurant unveils inventive and meticulously plated Sicilian cuisine, complemented by thoughtfully curated wine pairings, all culminating in an exceptional dining adventure.

Photo: matteo fabbian/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Butera, 55, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 7:30pm–11pm, Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 616 8601
Internet: www.ristoranteottavanota.it
Email: info@ristoranteottavanota.it

Cagliostro Ristorante



Cagliostro captures the essence of innovation within a sleek setting, reimagining traditional Sicilian fare with contemporary flair — think modern pasta creations, massive burgers, and imaginative pizzas.

Photo: JM Travel Photography/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele, 150, Palermo
Opening hours: Thu–Sat 7pm–11pm; Sun noon–3pm / 7pm–11pm; Mon & Tue 7pm–11pm; Wed closed
Phone: +39 091 332818
Internet: cagliostroristorante.it
Email: info@cagliostroristorante.it

Pizzeria Frida



Set in a modern venue inspired by Frida Kahlo's paintings, Pizzeria Frida is popular for its pure tasty pizzas that come in many different styles, prepared with quality ingredients and cooked in a wood oven. Try their squared pizza, with the fluffy crust filled with the same ingredients topping the pizza.

Photo: Pfeiffer/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Sant'Onofrio, 37/38, Palermo
Opening hours: Wed–Mon 7pm–midnight, Tue closed
Phone: +39 091 550 5440
Internet: www.fridapizzeria.it
Email: fridapizzeria@gmail.com

CAFÉS



FPWing/Shutterstock.com

Besides the excellent espresso, Palermo has some peculiar coffee-based alternatives of its own, like granita al caffè (frozen ice with coffee and whipped cream) or gran caffè (a cappuccino without milk).

To complement your coffee, choose among plenty of delicious patisserie products: try the famous dessert cassata (a sponge cake moistened with fruit juices or liqueur and layered with ricotta cheese and candied fruit) or the Sicilian cannoli stuffed with ricotta cheese and pistachio.

I Segreti del Chiostro



I Segreti del Chiostro, born as a project to safeguard secret recipes of convent bakeries from all over Sicily, finds its home in the Santa Caterina convent. Within these historic walls, this establishment showcases exceptional and rare sweet treats crafted from the finest ingredients. From biscuits to cassata, cannoli, fritters, and Sicilian slush, the offerings celebrate the legacy of these secret recipes, capturing the essence of Sicilian culinary heritage.

Photo: vincenzo scarantino/Shutterstock.com

Address: Piazza Bellini, 33, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 10am–5:30pm
Phone: + 39 327 588 2302
Internet: isegretidelchiostro.shop
Email: isegretidelchiostro18@gmail.com

Pastificio Graziano



Pastificio Graziano is a historic and beloved grocery store that captures the essence of Sicilian culinary delights. Once inside, a multitude of delicacies graces the window display, ranging from arancini and panelle to ravazzate and rustici. A true highlight is the sfincione — a Sicilian pizza with tomato sauce, caciocavallo cheese, anchovies, onions, and oregano.

Photo: Scott Wiener/CC BY 2.0/Flickr.com(image cropped)
Address: Via del Granatiere, 35/37, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sat 9am–2pm / 4:30pm–8pm; Sun 9am–1:30pm; Mon closed
Phone: +39 091 347094
Internet: restaurantguru.com/Pastificio-Graziano-Tortellino-Accardo-Palermo

Pasticceria Cappello



A haven for those with a sweet tooth, Pasticceria Cappello stands as a renowned name in Palermo's chocolate scene. Celebrated for its delectable creations, this pastry shop boasts an array of delights that cater to every craving. From the iconic Setteveli cake to the Kenya cake infused with chocolate and coffee to Sicilian classics like cassata and cannoli. Pralines and an assortment of chocolate bars complete the enchanting repertoire, making Pasticceria Cappello a paradise for indulgence in all forms of cocoa confections.

Photo: a9photo/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Colonna Rotta, 68, Palermo
Opening hours: Thu–Tue 7am–9:30pm, Wed closed
Phone: +39 091 489601
Internet: www.pasticceriacappello.it
Email: info@pasticceriacappello.it
More Info: There's another branch at Via Nicolò Garzilli 19

Gelateria La Kala



At La Kala, the essence of homemade ice cream comes to life through the use of fresh, seasonal ingredients and an unwavering commitment to traditional, natural methods. Among a wide spectrum of flavours, their speciality lies in fruit-infused delights, with the tre veli — a harmonious blend of three distinct fruit ice creams — being a standout recommendation. This haven of indulgence extends to Sicilian ice cream-filled brioche and the refreshing granita (slush).

Photo: jajaladdawan/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Fonderia, 8, Palermo
Phone: +39 389 636 2740
Internet: www.gelaterialakala.it

Pasticceria Oscar 1965



Pasticceria Oscar 1965 is a culinary gem in Palermo, renowned for its unwavering commitment to freshness and an extensive assortment of tasty offerings. From sumptuous chocolate eclairs to iconic cannoli, cheesecake, and other pastries, the selection also extends to savoury temptations like pizzette and arancini — deep-fried rice balls filled with an array of fillings. The latter are considered the best in town by many locals.

Photo: Wead/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Marino Migliaccio, 39, Palermo
Opening hours: Sun–Fri 7am–9pm, Sat 7am–midnight
Phone: +39 091 682 2381
Internet: www.oscar1965.com
Email: info@oscar1965.com

Bar Alba Pasticceria



A timeless fixture since 1955, Bar Alba stands as an unwavering beacon for Palermitans, intertwining tradition with innovation. A cherished local patisserie offering an array of yummy pastries in all forms, plus refreshing gelato, freshly made rotisserie, and some of the best arancini (deep-fried rice balls) to be found in Palermo.

Photo: ChiccoDodiFC/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Don Bosco, 7c, Palermo
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 7am–11pm, Fri 7am–midnight, Sat 7am–1am
Phone: +39 091 309016
Internet: www.baralbadonbosco.it
Email: infoapr@pasticceriaalba.it

Bar Marocco



Located just across the Cathedral of Palermo, Bar Marocco has earned the trust of many of its guests through the years thanks to its fresh and delicious treats, including the famous iris: a traditional Sicilian deep-fried dessert filled with ricotta cream and chocolate flakes.

Photo: Gandolfo Cannatella/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele, 494, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 6am–8pm
Phone: +39 091 651 1904

Bar Pasticceria La Preferita Gelateria



A real local gem, this venue is as much of an ice cream parlour as a café, serving traditional Sicilian desserts and rotisserie products. Try the cream puff filled with coffee cream and the chocolate cake.

Photo: GiuseppeCrimeni/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Valerio Villareale, 49, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 6:30am–8pm
Phone: +39 091 976 3032

Antico Caffè Spinnato



Founded in 1860, Spinnato epitomises the essence of a classic Italian café, standing as one of Palermo's finest patisseries. Revered for its range of traditional Sicilian deli specialities and a light lunch menu, this establishment offers a culinary journey through time. Delight in the ice cream-filled brioche or savour the rich flavors of the cassata, a traditional cake from Sicily composed of a round sponge cake moistened with fruit juices or liqueur and layered with ricotta cheese and candied fruit.

Photo: Fabio Balbi/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Castelnuovo, 12, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7:30am–9:30pm, Sat & Sun 7:30am–11pm
Phone: +39 091 329220
Internet: www.spinnato.it
Email: info@spinnato.it

Casa Stagnitta



Nestled within the historic heart of Palermo, Casa Stagnitta is well worth a stop during a long day of sightseeing. From early morning, delight in breakfast delights such as croissants, brioches, and the quintessential Palermo rotisserie. The allure continues with freshly stuffed cannoli and cakes, as well as granita, a typical Sicilian cold, sweet treat made from water, sugar, and fruit.

Photo: Ailisa/Shutterstock.com
Address: Discesa dei Giudici, 46, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 6:30am–6:30pm, Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 617 2819
Internet: www.casastagnitta.it/en
Email: info@casastagnitta.it

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



mary416/Shutterstock.com

The nightlife in Palermo follows the same pattern as in other Mediterranean cities: much of the gathering happens before dinner, and when the meal is over — sometimes not until midnight — it’s time to head back to the bars. The nightclubs don’t fill up until late in the night, and thanks to the student population, Palermo has a vibrant nightlife. As always, the trendiest nightclubs of the moment can be found by asking the locals.

Bottiglieria Massimo



For over five decades, this family-run bar has shone as a beacon of excellence, offering a diverse range of champagne, top-notch cocktails, craft beer, and fine spirits. Now, Bottiglieria del Massimo boasts an added gem: the Lievitoteca-Oyster Bar, a haven for gourmet delights.

Photo: Krilerg saragorn/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Salvatore Spinuzza, 59/61/63, Palermo
Opening hours: Sun–Thu 9:30am–1am, Fri & Sat 9:30am–2am
Phone: +39 091 335730
Internet: www.bottiglieriadelmassimo.it
Email: info@bottiglieriadelmassimo.it

Cantavespri Vini e Vinili



Housed within a 16th-century palace in the heart of Palermo's city centre, Cantavespri is an Italian restaurant, wine bar, and nightclub. It offers special cocktails, aperitifs and typical Italian and Sicilian cuisine, as well as live music and DJ acts, plus a wide array of vinyl to choose from.

Photo: Andrey Grigoriev/Shutterstock.com
Address: Vicolo Valguarnera, 10, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 6pm–2am

Il Siciliano



Il Siciliano is one of the best places to have aperitifs in Palermo, boasting a blend of cocktails, regional wines, and a rich selection of Italian tapas. The venue's colourful and cosy

ambience draws crowds, particularly during late afternoons in the summer. They frequently host live music gigs.

Photo: Goskova Tatiana/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Orologio, 37, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 6pm–2am, Mon closed
Phone: +39 339 666 2121
Internet: ilsicilianopalermo.it

Igiea Terrazza Bar



Located at the Villa Igiea Hotel, Igiea Terrazza Bar welcomes guests into an inviting space graced by charming frescoes painted in the 1950s by Palermo's revered local artist, Eugenio Morici. The bar boasts a stylish games room and evening live music during the summer months, as well as an exclusive outdoor terrace that gazes upon the glimmering Gulf of Palermo, creating a magical setting for enjoying drinks or dancing the night away. Within this setting, the bar crafts a menu embracing Sicilian flavours along with an expertly crafted cocktail selection.

Photo: Ale_Koziura/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Belmonte, 43, Palermo
Phone: +39 091 631 2111
Internet: www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/villa-igiea

Malox Cult



Malox is a no-frills pub offering a wide selection of beers and cocktails at reasonable prices, plus bar bites and occasional live music evenings. A favourite among local youth and students, its allure is heightened by a leafy terrace — an ideal spot to unwind and socialise.

Photo: PopTika/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via San Biagio, 8/9, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 6pm–2am
Phone: +39 331 396 7119

Botteghe Colletti



Nestled at a picturesque corner in Palermo, Botteghe Colletti offers the perfect spot for mingling with the locals over a drink. Embark on a sensory journey through flavours and aromas, guided by the expertise of the bartenders. With both street and indoor seating options, its rustic yet refined interior exudes charm, complete with exposed brick walls and antiques that resonate with a captivating retro vibe.

Photo: Peter Kim/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Alessandro Paternostro, 77, Palermo
Opening hours: Wed–Mon 5pm–2:30am, Tue closed
Phone: +39 349 124 3563
Internet: www.instagram.com/botteghe_colletti_

Nautoscopio



Located right at the beach, Nautoscopio offers a stunning view of the ocean and the harbour. This outdoor venue is open from June to September and features street food, as well as cultural activities like music, art, and theatre. Enjoy drinks and a relaxing atmosphere at one of Palermo’s gems.

Photo: Daria Nor/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazzetta Capitaneria di Porto, Palermo
Opening hours: Wed–Mon 9am–2am, Tue 5pm–2am
Internet: www.nautopalermo.it
Email: info@nautopalermo.it

Alchimia Salotto Arabo



Famous for its delicious fusion of cocktails and drinks, Alchimia is a cosy hookah bar in Palermo that plays soft music with some belly dancing performances in a typically Arab atmosphere.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Sant'Onofrio, 39, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 6:45pm–1:15am
Phone: +39 351 892 4299
Internet: www.instagram.com/alchimia.salottoarabo
Email: alchimia.salottoarabo@gmail.com

SHOPPING



lapas77/Shutterstock.com

Shopping in Palermo is a true delight: a city where you'll find a little bit of everything, from boutiques of high fashion to colourful markets selling fresh fruits, vegetables, and fish, as well as clothes and crafts. At the street markets, you'll find great bargains and experience the unique Palermitan atmosphere. The largest historical markets are La Vucciria, Capo, and Ballarò. If you're looking for famous Italian fashion brands instead, head over to Via Libertà, a street lined with both Italian and European high fashion labels.

When in Palermo, bring a typical, hand-craft souvenir back home that can remind you of your trip: painted pottery, coral jewellery, copper-ware or food delicatessen.

Mercato Vucciria



Palermo's vibrant outdoor markets beckon exploration, and among them, the renowned Mercato Vucciria, affectionately known as La Vucciria, stands out. For seven centuries, Palermo's oldest market has been a fixture in the historic heart of Piazza San Domenico, offering a kaleidoscope of activity as vendors offer everything from seafood, fruits, and vegetables to a diverse mix of handcrafted creations. Opening its doors every day except Sunday, the morning hours unveil the market's vibrant energy, making it the prime time for exploration.

Photo: elxeneize/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Caracciolo, Palermo

Mercato del Capo



To truly experience Palermo, do not miss a stroll down the colourful and bustling Mercato del Capo. It is a food and flea market that imbibes the culture in Palermo with local delicacies, fruits, and vegetables, as well as souvenirs and houseware goods. Check out the beautiful mosaic of A Pupa ru Capu (Capo's sweetheart) at the entrance of Panificio Morello, too.

Photo: Rino Porrovecchio/CC BY-SA 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)
Address: Via Cappuccinelle, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon, Tue & Thu–Sat 7am–8pm; Wed & Sun 7am–1pm

Centro Commerciale Forum



With 120 stores, the Centro Commerciale Forum is the biggest shopping mall in Palermo. It features many luxurious boutiques, restaurants, services and other establishments making it a favourite shopping destination for many tourists. Shops such as Guess, H&M, Timberland, United Colors of Benetton, Pandora, Swarovski and Adidas, are all included here.

Photo: Dmitry Kalinovsky/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Filippo Pecoraino, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 9am–9pm
Phone: +39 091 621 8353
Internet: www.forum-palermo.it

La Coppola



Symbolic of the island's rich heritage, the Sicilian coppola — the iconic flat hats of the region — is a cherished emblem, echoing the resonance of ancient traditions that have withstood the test of time. And at La Coppola, the art of crafting modern Sicilian coppola comes to life. These meticulously crafted pieces serve as perfect souvenirs to bring back home.

Photo: ARCANGELO/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Di Stefano, 14, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 9am–8:30pm
Phone: +39 320 701 3044
Internet: lacoppolapunto.com
More Info: There's another branch at Via Bara All'Olivella 103

Cittacotte di Vincenzo Vizzari



Looking for a great and unique memento from Palermo? Come and visit Cittacotte for creative handmade miniatures of renowned monuments and buildings from the city. Every piece is made in terracotta and shaped by the Italian architect Vincenzo Vizzari, using innovative and exceptional techniques to create an extremely detailed and elaborate design.

Photo: M.sajeva/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia
Address: Via Vittorio Emanuele, 120, Palermo
Internet: www.instagram.com/cittacotte

Torregrossa



Torregrossa is one of the first Italian prêt-à-porter multi-brand boutiques. boasting an impressive assortment of stylish clothing and accessories hailing from globally acclaimed luxury brands. A haven for fashion enthusiasts, this destination emerges as the perfect choice for those seeking to satiate their style cravings with a diverse range of offerings from the world of haute couture and sophistication.

Photo: TZIDO SUN/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via della Libertà, 43, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon 4pm–7:45pm; Tue–Sat 10am–1pm / 4pm–7:45pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 329100
Internet: www.torregrossablu.com
Email: info@torregrossablu.com
More Info: There's another branch at Via della Libertà 5

Enoteca Picone



Enoteca Picone, a delightful fusion of a wine bar and shop, beckons wine enthusiasts seeking an exceptional experience. Boasting an impressive collection of over 7000 wine labels and a diverse array of premium beers and spirits, it is a haven for both connoisseurs and novices. A visit here not only offers the chance to indulge in regional wines and liquors but also to expertly pair them with high-quality cold cuts, cheeses, and sausages.

Photo: Amy Johansson/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Guglielmo Marconi, 36, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 9:30am–1:30pm / 5pm–11:30pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 331300
Internet: www.enotecapicone.com/en
Email: Info@enotecapicone.com

Soldano Shoes & Accessories



With a legacy dating back to 1911, Soldano has established itself as a reputable name in Palermo for sophisticated yet affordable footwear and accessories. Distinguished by their commitment to quality, each product is meticulously crafted from high-quality materials, offering a testament to timeless elegance. A diverse range of designs awaits, ensuring that discerning shoppers can find their perfect match amidst a plethora of choices.

Photo: milanzeremski/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Petrarca, 10, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon 4pm–8pm; Tue–Sat 9am–1pm / 4pm–8pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 626 1071
Internet: https://soldano.eu
Email: soldano@soldano.eu
More Info: There's another branch at Via Terrasanta 78

Ciatualab



Ciatualab was founded by three young and creative Sicilian craftsmen selling leather products and recycled inner tube bags. Today, they offer a wide selection of uniquely designed leather bags, backpacks, briefcases, pochettes, and sandals made by several Sicilian designers.

Photo: ngoc tran/Shutterstock.com
Address: Piazza Aragona, 3, Palermo
Phone: +39 331 871 7394
Internet: www.elenaefabriziohandmade.com
Email: elenaefabriziohandmade@gmail.com

Ceramiche Tre Erre



Ceramiche Tre Erre is a famous pottery shop and showroom in Palermo founded in 1979. The colourful, handmade Sicilian ceramics fill up the place, varying from platters and vases to decorative items. This is a great place to look for rare and fabulous pieces of majolica art and ceramics. The prices are not the cheapest, but the quality is top-notch.

Photo: J2R/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Roma, 358, Palermo
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 10am–1:30pm / 3:30pm–7:30pm; Mon closed
Phone: +39 091 327757
Email: info@treerreceramiche.com

Fiorentino Milestone



When it comes to trendy jewellery, Fiorentino is considered one of the most trusted places in the city. They have a great collection of classy and luxurious watches, charms, silverware, and jewels with classic and contemporary designs. The products are either from prestigious brands or made especially for Fiorentino.

Photo: Kondor83/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via XII Gennaio, 4, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon 4pm–7:30pm; Tue–Sat 9:30am–1pm / 4pm–7:45pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 786 5691
Internet: www.fiorentino1890.it
Email: m.messina@fiorentino1890.it

Archigiana per Alab



The owner of Archigiana, Morena, has devoted her passion to the creation of unique accessories through the combination of design and craftsmanship. Made of various materials like leather, faux leather and wood, the bags and purses have a distinctive style and can also be customised upon request.

Photo: olgakim93/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Alessandro Paternostro, 69, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–1pm / 5pm–7:30pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 328 325 7268
Internet: www.archigiana.it
Email: archigiana@gmail.com

Rinascente



Rinascente is a popular department store that can be found all over Italy. The one in Palermo is a five-storey building that has various shops selling different kinds of products, from clothing and apparel to cosmetics, jewellery and home decor.

Photo: MJTH/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Roma, 289, Palermo
Opening hours: Daily 10am–8pm
Phone: +39 02 9138 7388
Internet: www.rinascente.it/en

Magazzini Anita



For vintage enthusiasts, a visit to Palermo is not complete without exploring Magazzini Anita. This treasure trove offers an array of vintage treasures, spanning from branded clothing and accessories to shoes and bags. Beyond fashion, the shop boasts antique lamps, home decor, and delicate porcelain pieces, making it a haven for those seeking unique finds from the past.

Photo: Lolostock/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Maqueda, 263, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11am–8pm, Sun closed
Phone: +39 347 987 2142
Internet: www.instagram.com/magazzinianita.vintage
Email: magazzini.anita@libero.it

La Fabbrica della Ceramica



La Fabbrica della Ceramica is a delightful pottery shop offering beautiful collections of artistic ceramics. Everything from colourful

cups to plates, bowls and other home decor is created by the owner herself. The themes of the decorations are related to Sicilian landscape and traditions, conveyed in plenty of bright colours.

Photo: Helen Sushitskaya/Shutterstock.com
Address: Via Massimo D'Azeglio, 21, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9:30am–1pm / 4:30pm–7:30pm; Sat 10am–1pm; Sun closed
Phone: +39 916 251 997
Internet: www.lafabbricadellaceramica.it
Email: info@lafabbricadellaceramica.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Palermo Airport (PMO)



The Falcone Borsellino Airport or simply Palermo Airport (PMO), formerly Punta Raisi Airport, is an international airport located at Cinisi, about 35 kilometres from Palermo.

With the bus company Prestia e Comandè, you have a convenient option for reaching Palermo's city centre from the airport. The travel time from the airport to the central rail station in Palermo takes approximately 50 minutes. Among the final stops is Piazza Ruggiero Settimo / Via Emerico Amari, with a travel time of 40 minutes. This stop is strategically situated near the northern harbour and city centre hotels in Palermo. For those seeking access to the Old Town, the nearest bus stop is Via Roma, requiring a 45-minute journey.

The bus operates from 5am to 12:15am. Tickets are available for purchase online, onboard the bus, and at the ticket office situated at the airport, adjacent to the Arrivals area and the bus stop.

An alternative transportation option is the Trinacaria Express train, connecting Palermo's Central Station directly to Punta Raisi, where the airport is situated. The train journey takes about 1 hour to reach the main railway station, Palermo Centrale.

Airport taxi services can be found in the Arrivals Area exit and are synchronised with the arrival flight schedule.

Photo: JoaoCachapa/shutterstock
Address: Aeroporto Falcone Borsellino, Cinisi
Phone: +39 800 541 880
Internet: www.aeroportodipalermo.it/en
More Info: www.prestiaecomande.it/en

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



The best time to visit Palermo is during spring and autumn, when the temperatures are still pleasantly warm and tourist flows decrease, leading to more affordable accommodation rates. The best months are from April to June, as well as September and October.

Photo: Michele Bitetto/Unsplash

Public Transport



Use the AMAT network of buses and trams to get around Palermo. Tickets are valid for 90 minutes and can be bought from tobacco vendors, select newsagents, the AMAT kiosks at Piazza Ruggero Séttimo and at the central station.

There are also two free shuttles to get to the historic centre quickly:

- 'Free Centro Storico', which connects Piazza del Cavalluccio Marino with Piazza Indipendenza by passing some important places such as la Cala, Quattro Canti, Stazione Centrale, Palazzo Reale, la Cattedrale, and the Teatro Massimo. The orange bus passes every 11 minutes. You can take this free bus every day between 6:35am and 9pm.

- 'Free Express' connects the Basile parking lot to Piazza Indipendenza. This bus runs every day between 6:20am and 9:10pm.

Upon boarding, remember to validate your ticket using the machines positioned near the vehicle entrances.

Photo: Ant Rozetsky/Unsplash

Taxi



When taking a taxi in Palermo, make sure it is run by an official taxi company and always check if there's a taximeter before boarding the taxi. Taxi ranks are located at the train station, Piazza Politeama, Teatro Massimo, and Piazza Independenza.

Taxi Palermo
+39 091 8481

Radio Taxi Trinacria
+39 091 6878

Photo: Maik Winnecke/Unsplash

Post



Stamps can be purchased at the post office as well as tobacconists that carry either the blue and white "Tabacchi" sign or are simply marked with a "T". Besides the main post office, small branches can be found around the city, including one at the central station.

Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/Unsplash

Address: Palazzo delle Poste - Via Roma, 320, Palermo
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 8:20am–7:05pm, Sat 8:20am–12:30pm, Sun closed
Phone: +39 091 753 5392
Internet: www.poste.it

Pharmacy



Palermo’s pharmacies have alternating opening hours during weekends and nights. Antica Farmacia Cavour, located in the city centre, is open 24/7.
Via Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour, 96
+39 091 611 9419

Photo: Dima Mukhin/Unsplash

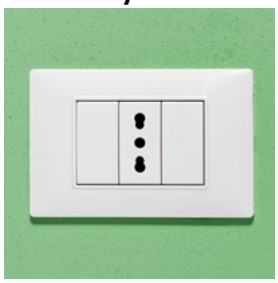
Telephone



Country code: +39 Area code: 091 (do not omit the zero)

Photo: Miryam León/Unsplash

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
850,000 (2023)

Currency
1 Euro = 100 cents

Opening hours
Shops in Palermo are usually open from 9am to 1pm and from 3pm to 8pm. Large department stores are usually open all day.

Internet
www.visitsicily.info/en/localita/palermo

Newspapers
La Repubblica: www.repubblica.it
La Sicilia: www.lasicilia.it
Giornale di Sicilia: www.gds.it

Emergency numbers
European emergency number: 112
Ambulance: 118
Police: 113
Fire brigade: 115

Tourist information
Tourist Information Office
Via Principe di Belmonte, 92, Palermo
+39 091 585172
Open Mon–Fri 8:30am–1:30pm; Thu 8:30am–1:30pm / 2:30pm–5:30pm; Sat & Sun closed


A
B
C
D
1
2
3
4
Piazza Mordini
Piazza Ucciardone
Staz. Maritima
La Cala
Via Costantino Nigra
Via G La Farina
Via Caltanissetta
Via Catania
Via Agrigento
Via Sammartino
Via Siracusa
Via Turrisi
Via R G Riolo
Via G Marconi
Via F Ferrara De Spuches
Via Malaspina
Via Giacomo Cusmano
Via Nicolo Garzilli
Via XX Settembre
Via Messina
Via F Parisio
Via XII Gennaio
Via G Carducci
Via Principi di Villafranca
Viale della Liberta
Via Corleo
Via E Albanese
Via Archimede
Via Isidoro La Lumia
Via Isodoro Carini
Via Gaetano Daita
Via Dalia
Via Domenico Scina
Via della Spezziale
Via Principe di Scordia
Via B Gravina
Via Amm. Gravina
Via Principe di Belmonte
Via Francesco Crispi
Via G Bonomo
Via Emerico Amari
Piazza L Sturzo
Galleria d' Arte Moderna
Piazza R Settimo
Piazza Castelnuovo
Via Dante
Piazza Stazione Lolli
Piazza S Oliva
Via S Oliva
V G Gemellaro
Via Houel
V P Paternostro
Via Mariano Stabile
Via R Settimo
Via Roma
Via F Ortega
Via F Guardione
Piazza XIII Vittime
Via Filippo Patti
Via del Bastai
Via Re Federico
Via Vito La Mantia
Via Giovanni Pacini
Piazza S Francesco di Paolo
Via S Spinuzza
Museo Arch.
Via A Gagini
Via Valverde
Via Goethe
Teatro Massimo
Via Volturno
Via Maqueda
Piazza V Emanuele Orlando
Via G Meli
Via della Cala
Corso Camillo Finocchiaro
Via Marco Polo
Via Imera
Via P Ranzano
Via Argisto Giuffredi
Via Sant' Agostino
Piazza Marina
Via Butera
Foro Umberto I
Corso Vittorio Emanuele
Via del Cassaro
Piazza Noviziato
Via Cappuccinelle
Via del Carrettieri
Via Venezia
Piazza S Onofrio
Via del Candelai
Via del Celso
Piazza Borsa
Via A Paternostro
Via Torremuzza
Piazza della Kalsa
Via Alloro
Via della Vetriera
Via d' Ossuna
Corso Alberto Amedeo
Piazza S di Carlo V Bologni
Piazza D Spasimo
Piazza Magione
V Schiavuzzo
Via della Magione
Via Colonna Rotta
Via Gabriele Vulpi
Via Danisinni
Cattedrale
Porta Nuova
Capella Palatina
Via del Bastione
Via Porta di Castro
Via Antonio Mongitore
Via G Via Albergheria
Via G Cristina
Via Avolio
Via G Grasso
Via Maqueda
Via Divisi
Via Roma
Via Garibaldi
Via Abramo Lincoln
Via del Bosco
Via Fiume
Via Torino
Via Milano
Orto Botanico
Via Cappuccini
Corso Calatafimi
Corso Re Ruggero
Corso Tukory
Via Rosario Gregorio
Via Archirafi
Via Antonio Ugo
Via Michele Cipolla
Corso dei Mille
Piazza Guilio Cesare
Via Francesco Paolo Perez
Via Paolo Emiliani Giudici
Via Antonio Marmuzzi
Via Filippo Corazza
Via dei Vespro
Via Oreto
Via Silvio Buccone
Via Salamone Marino
Via G Arcoleo
Via Petro d'Aragona
Corso Pietro Pisani
0
250 m

Corso Alberto Amedeo	A3 A4	Via Catania	A1	Via Giovanni Pacini	A2
Corso Calatafimi	A4	Via Colonna Rotta	A3 A4	Via Giuseppe Cristina	B4
Corso Camillo Finocchiaro	A3	Via Corleo	B1	Via Goethe	A2
Corso dei Mille	D4	Via Costantino Nigra	A1	Via Houel	A2
Corso Pietro Pisani	A4	Via Dalia	B1	Via Imera	A3
Corso Re Ruggero	A4 B4	Via Danisinni	A4	Via Isidoro La Lumia	B1
Corso Tukory	B4 C4	Via Dante	A2 B2	Via Isodor Carini	B1
Corso Vittorio Emanuele	A4 B3 C3 D3	Via del Barilai	C2	Via Malaspina	A2
Foro Umberto I	D3	Via del Bastione	B4	Via Maqueda	B2 C3 C4
Piazza Borsa	C3	Via del Bosco	C4	Via Marco Polo	A3
Piazza Castelnuovo	B2	Via del Candelai	B3	Via Mariano Stabile	B2
Piazza D Spasimo	D3	Via del Carrettieri	B3	Via Messina	A1 B1
Piazza della Kalsa	D3	Via del Cassari	C3	Via Michele Cipolla	D4
Piazza Guilio Cesare	C4	Via del Celso	B3	Via Milano	C4
Piazza L Sturzo	B1	Via del Vespro	C4	Via Nicolo Garzilli	A1
Piazza Magione	D3	Via della Cala	C2 D2	Via Oreto	C4
Piazza Marina	D3	Via della Magione	C3	Via P Paternostro	A2 B2
Piazza Mordini	A1	Via della Speziale	B1 C1	Via Paolo Emiliani Giudici	C4
Piazza Noviziato	A3	Via della Vetriera	D3	Via Papireto	A3
Piazza R Settimo	B2	Via Divisi	C3	Via Petro d’Aragona	B4
Piazza S di Carlo V Bologni	B3 C3	Via Domenico Scina	B1	Via Pietro Ranzano	A3
Piazza S Francesco di Paolo	A2 B2	Via d’ Ossuna	A3	Via Porta di Castro	B4
Piazza S Oliva	B2	Via E Albanese	B1	Via Principe di Belmonte	B2 C1
Piazza S Onofrio	B3	Via E Pariso	A1 B1	Via Principe di Scordia	B1 C2
Piazza Stazione Lolli	A2	Via Emerico Amari	B1 B2	Via Principi di Villafranca	A1 A2
Piazza Ucciardone	B1	Via F Ferrara	A1 A2	Via R Riolo	A1
Piazza V Emanuele Orlando	A2	Via F Guardione	C2	Via R Settimo	B2
Piazza XIII Vittime	C2	Via F Ortega	C2	Via Re Federico	A2
Via A Gagini	C2	Via Filippo Corazza	C4	Via Roma	B2 C2 C3 C4
Via Abramo Lincoln	D3 D4	Via Filippo Patti	C2	Via Rosario Gregorio	C4 D4
Via Agrigento	A1	Via Fiume	C4	Via S Oliva	A2 B2
Via Albergheria	B4	Via Francesco Crispi	C1	Via S Spinuzza	B2
Via Alessandro Paternostro	C3	Via Francesco Paolo Perez	C4	Via Salamone Marino	B4 C4
Via Alloro	D3	Via G Bonomo	C1	Via Sammartino	A1
Via Amm. Gravina	B1 C1	Via G Carducci	A2 B1	Via Sant’ Agostino	B3
Via Antonio Marinuzzi	C4	Via G De Spuches	A1 A2	Via Schiavuzzo	C3 D3
Via Antonio Mongitore	B4	Via G Gemellaro	A2	Via Silvio Buccone	C4 D4
Via Antonio Ugo	D4	Via G La Farina	A1	Via Siracusa	A1
Via Archimede	B1	Via G Marconi	A1	Via Torino	C4
Via Archirafi	D4	Via G Meli	C2	Via Torremuzza	D3
Via Argisto Giuffredi	A3	Via G Turrisi	A1	Via Valverde	C2
Via Avolio	B4	Via Gabriele Vulpi	A4	Via Venezia	C3
Via B Gravina	B1 C1	Via Gaetano Daite	B1	Via Vito La Mantia	A2
Via Butera	D3	Via Garibaldi	C3 C4	Via Volturno	B2
Via Caltanissetta	A1	Via Giacomo Cusmano	A1	Via XII Gennaio	A1 B1
Via Cappuccinelle	A3 B3	Via Giorgio Arcoleo	B4 C4	Via XX Settembre	A1
Via Cappuccini	A4	Via Giovanni Grasso	C4	Vialle della Liberta	A1 B1