

ERICE

Driving Directions:

- Make a left from the NAS 1 gate. Drive about 3km
- Make a right at the Autostrada and take the A19 for Palermo.
- Continue onto E90 You will pass the Palermo exit.
- Continue onto A29 Racc Bis/E90
- Take the exit toward Trapani/Aeroporto Birgi.
- Merge onto A29dir and take the exit toward Trapani
- Keep on the A29dir and at the roundabout, take the 1st exit
- Continue straight onto Strada Provinciale Torrebianca
- Turn right to stay on Strada Provinciale Torrebianca an then take the first left onto Via delle Tremole
- Turn left onto SS187
- After 100 meters make a sharp right onto Strada Provinciale 3/SP3
- Sharp left to stay on Strada Provinciale 3/SP3 and follow signs for Erice.

Estimated driving time: 3 ½ hours

Coordinates: 38.0333° N, 12.5333° E



Information Tours & Travel

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ABOUT ERICE

Erice is a town within the Province of Trapani. It is absolutely breathtaking sitting at 751 meters above sea level, overlooking the city of Trapani, the Egadi Islands and the coastlines of Monte Cofano and San Vito Lo Capo. Like so many towns of importance in Sicily, Erice was conquered from one invader to another and each one left its architectural signature and cultural footprints. Originally named Eryx (by the Elymians were around before the Greeks came to Sicily), it has changed to Erice, to Gebal Hamed then to Monte San Giuliano before reverting back to Erice once again in the 1930's.



Erice

POINTS OF INTEREST

Castello Di Venere translated to The Castle of Venus is in the southeasterly area of a Mount Erice with a beautiful view over the sea. The look of the castle dates back to the Norman period. However its history is dated before that. Within the Castle lies the *The Sanctuary of the Venus of Erice* where it adapted to the different cultures in this area. There is a dedication in Phoenician to Astarte, one in Greek to Aphrodite, and fragments of another in Latin to Venus, written testimony to the ongoing cult and that the three divinities shared the same identity.

Church of Saint John There are reports of the existence of this church since 1339, but over the centuries it has undergone several expansions and tampering. It has a double-sided and high freeboard that characterizes severe intensity of light and shade, culminating with a wide and splendid dome.. The church was built in a panoramic position of exceptional beauty, which allows you, again, to admire the entire valley and the coast to Mount Hood. Today, no longer used for worship, is used as an auditorium. It has a portal of the fourteenth century and retains Renaissance sculptures.

ISOLE EGADI

Also known as The Aegadian Islands is a group of 3 main islands and two minor islands.

Favignana the largest and most important of the islands, it is a popular holiday destination in the summer months where people mostly come for the crystalline waters offering excellent swimming and good scuba-diving possibilities, especially in the sea caves such as Grotta Azzurra, Grotta dei Sospiri (sospiri means “sighs” – it is said that the cave moans during the winter), and Grotta degli Innamorati (the Lovers’ Grotto).

Levanzo is the smallest of the Egadis but no less inviting for that. Much of the coastline is made up of dramatic rocky cliffs, though there are a few lovely beaches. Everything is minimal: there is 1 village (Cala Dogana), 1 road, 2 shops, 2 hotels and 2 restaurants. Peace and quiet are ensured and stressful city life soon becomes a distant memory. There is wonderfully little to do except walking, going on boat trips, swimming, reading and eating.

Marettimo is the most isolated of the Egadi Islands, The small village of Marettimo houses a couple of restaurants serving sublimely fresh fish though little else. Some of the local fishermen will be happy to accompany you on a boat trip around the island to see the numerous caves one of which, the Grotta del Cammello, hosts a pebbly

beach and the remains of a Roman settlement.

INFORMATION

Sources:

<http://www.thinksicily.com/guide-to-sicily/towns-and-cities-in-sicily/erice.aspx>

http://www.comune.erice.tp.it/minisitocastello/santuario_en.html

<http://www.thinksicily.com/guide-to-sicily/islands-and-archipelagos/the-egadi-islands.aspx>

<http://sicily.italy-trip.org/aegadian-islands.php>