



TRAPANI

SICILY

At the tip of the Italian boot, where the waters of the Mediterranean, Ionian and Tyrrhenian Seas meet, there you will find an island which has been inhabited for tens of thousands of years. It is a crossroads of cultural and conquest. It is the island of Sicily.

This is the ancient home of a people known as the Sicilii. Some historians are of the opinion that this is where the island got its name. However, Greek explorers and traders arrived on Sicily around 750 BC and named it “Trinacria”.

Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean. Beautifully rugged, the island stretches approximately 170 miles east to west and a little over 100 miles north to south. Sicily's most dramatic physical feature is the towering (nearly 11,000 feet) active volcano known as Mount Etna. The island's rich soil produces a wonderful crop of fruit and vegetables, olives for oil and grapes for wine. The waters around Sicily continue to supply the island, Italy and even far away Japan with a wide variety of fish.

On the far western tip of Sicily, on a slender finger of land which curves out into the Mediterranean Sea, you will find the ancient port city of Trapani. With Mount San Giuliano to its back and the beautiful Egadi Islands just off shore, this town continues to serve, as it has for centuries, as one of Sicily's gateways to the sea. The island's capital of Palermo is 40 miles to the east. The city of Messina and door to mainland Italy is 160 miles to the east, on the far side of the island.

Trapani, with a population a little over 70,000, is the capital of the province which shares the name. Many of the buildings and churches, especially those in the “Old City” date back to the 15th, 16th and 17th century. Beautiful buildings in the Baroque style are common.

The pace of life in Trapani is relaxed. The fishermen return with their catch. Ferries may be slowly pull up to the dock. Locals share a coffee and a visit at their favorite café. The narrow streets of the Old City are easily explored on foot, but take your time. The palm lined boulevards are wide and the park is spacious and inviting. Relax and enjoy them.

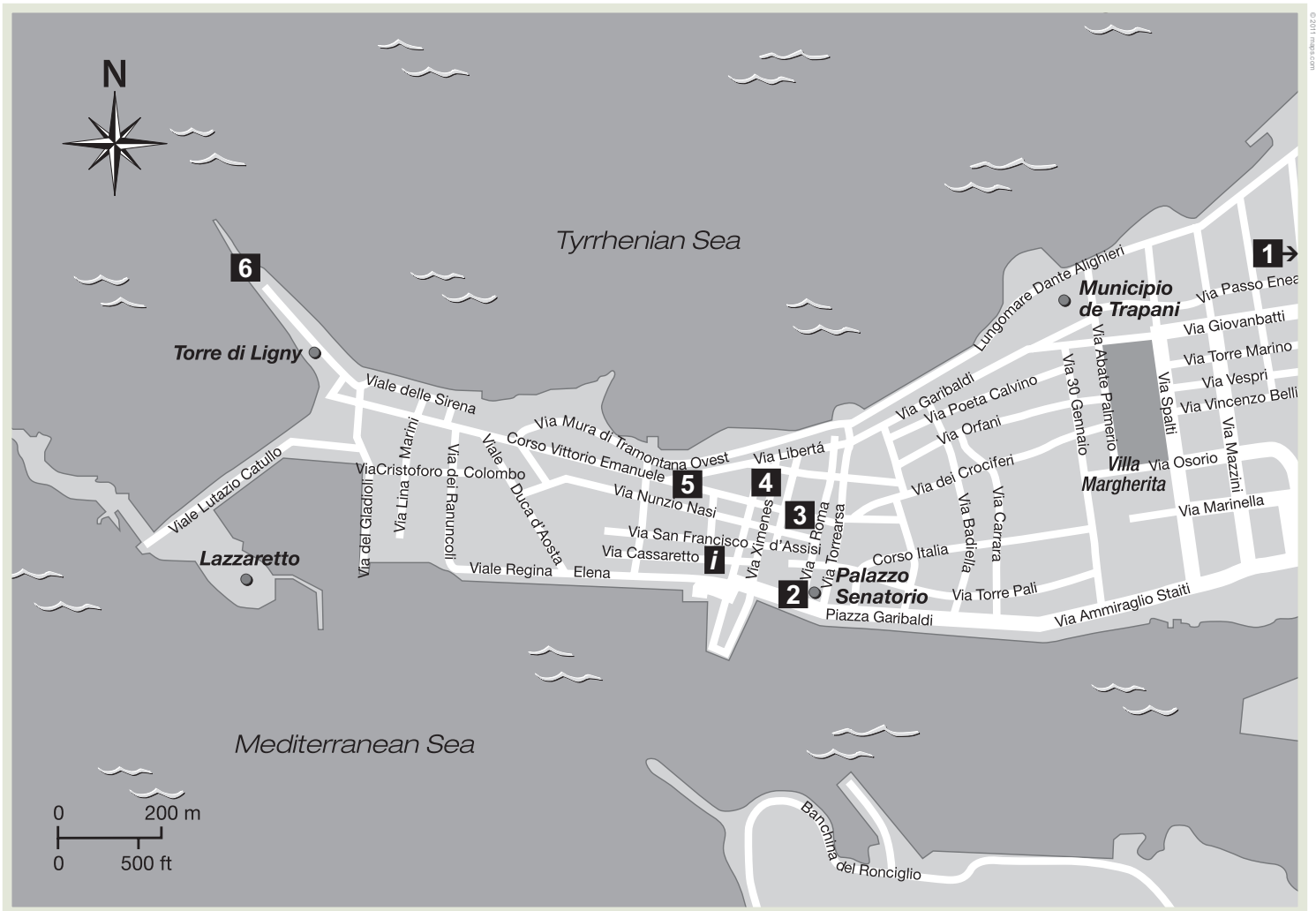


Though you may not have the opportunity to see it, perhaps the best way to portray the people of Trapani is to describe their annual Catholic festival during their Easter Holy Week. It is known as the “Processione dei Misteri di Trapani” (The Mysteries of Trapani). Dating to the early 1600s, this is one of the oldest continually held religious celebrations in Europe. The festival shows the people's passion for their Catholic faith, their devotion to their families, their inner reserve, capacity to endure and their desire to hold firm to their cherished traditions. Passion, devotion, reserve, endurance and tradition; these are good qualities found in good people in a good town on a fine island. That's Trapani, Sicily.

HISTORY

Three identifiable tribes lived on Sicily for thousands of years prior to the arrival of the first Greek sailors and colonists around 750 BC. Among the indigenous people was a group known as the Elymians. High on a mountain which today is called San Giuliano, the Elymians built a city. The site of modern day Trapani was their port and access to the sea. The Greeks built a trading colony on the foundation of the Elymians port. The Greeks named their town Drépanon.

Over the following centuries Drépanon came under the direct control or influence of a virtual revolving door of Mediterranean and European powers, princes and potentates. The Carthaginians gave up the city to the newly emerging Roman Empire in 241 BC. Peace and prosperity eventually followed until the Roman Empire was overrun by the Vandals and the Goths. The Byzantine drove the Vandals out of Sicily but they



in turn were displaced by the Muslims. Islam ruled over Sicily until the Norman knights were able to restore the entire island to Catholic rule in 1087. Trapani again prospered and grew as a vital port city.

From 1282 until 1798 Spain, in one form or another ruled over Sicily. Finally, on May 11, 1859 the famous Giuseppe Garibaldi came ashore on Sicily. His victory on the island soon led to the unification of Italy as a nation.

TRAPANI PLACES OF INTEREST

1 The **Basilica dell'Annunziata** is home to a famous marble statue known as the "Madonna di Trapani". Following long years of tradition the venerated statue is brought out annually and taken through the town to receive the adoration of the people. Within the former convent for Carmelite nuns visitors will also find the **Museo Nazionale Pepoli**. The museum has an interesting collection of historic artifacts and religious art.

2 The **Church of Sant'Agostino** dates to the 1300s. The Gothic church had to be restored after suffering damage during an Allied bombing raid in World War II. The church is renowned for its ornately decorated rose-window.

3 The **Chiesa del Collegio** (Church of the Jesuit College) dates to the 1600s. The façade of the church is in the Ba-

roque style and there a number of hand-carved marble alters within the sanctuary.

4 The **Cathedral of San Lorenzo** was built in the early 1400s. The great church was constructed on the orders of Alfonso V (The Magnanimous). The church and its beautiful interior was refurbished and expanded in the mid-1700s.

5 The **Chiesa del Purgatorio** (Church of Purgatory) dates to the 1600s. The church is home to a venerated collection of life size, highly decorated wooden statues which relate the story of Christ.

6 The **Museo di Preistoria e del Mare** (Prehistory and Sea Museums) are in the same location. There is an interesting collection of prehistoric implements. The Sea Museum has artifacts dating to the time of the Phoenician and Romans.

Beyond Trapani

Erice is an ancient mountaintop town which overlooks Trapani. The view of the sea and surrounding countryside is spectacular. This was an important religious site for the Carthaginians, Greeks and Romans. The main Catholic church in Erice dates to the early 1300s. A cable-car goes from the outskirts of Trapani up to the top of the mountain.

Segesta is an amazing archeological site about 20 miles east of Trapani. The large amphitheater dates to the middle of the 3rd century BC. The impressive Doric Temple sits on the top of a hill and faces out over the rolling countryside. The temple dates to the late 5th century BC.

Selinunte was an important city in the 5th and 6th century BC. It is located about 35 miles southeast of Trapani. Today, with the Acropolis and ruins of the massive temples, Selinunte is one of the largest and most interesting archeological sites in Sicily.

Marsala is located on the coast, 15 miles south of Trapani. This is an ancient port city. The Archaeological Museum has a fine collection of artifacts which date from pre-history through Roman times and on into the Middle Ages.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Trapani and the surrounding island we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Attire: If you are planning to visit any of the local churches please keep in mind, modest attire is required. Ladies are requested to wear dresses and gentlemen are requested to wear pants.

Bargaining: In shops and boutiques prices are usually set. Vendors in the open markets might bargain with visitors.

Tipping: A 10% tip is standard for taxis, restaurants and cafés.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

The cuisine of Sicily can vary from region to region but the basic rule is to use fresh ingredients and keep it simple. Seafood is abundant and wonderfully prepared in a variety of ways. Here are some popular Sicilian dishes: Filetto al Forno is a fish fillet. It is often served with a light sauce which combines sun-dried tomatoes, basil, onions and local white wine. Pasta con Sarde combines homemade pasta and fresh sardines. Polpo is fresh octopus. It can be boiled, grilled or sautéed. Calamari all'insalata is a boiled squid salad which combines lemon juice, olive oil, pepper, fresh garlic and parsley. Zucchini alla Siciliana is sliced fresh zucchini with chopped onions and potatoes, drizzled with olive oil, sprinkled with salt and pepper, Romano cheese and bread crumbs then baked

till golden brown. Cannoli Siciliani is a small pastry tube which has been fried to a delicate crunch. It is then filled with a mixture of chocolate and fresh ricotta cheese.

Limoncello is a liqueur which is usually served chilled at the end of a meal. It originally comes from the lemons grown along Italy's Amalfi Coast, south of Naples. It is popular in Sicily and throughout much of Italy.

Vineyards have been tended and wine has been produced in Sicily for thousands of years. Today Sicily is proud of the fact they produce some of the best wines in all of Italy.

SHOPPING

Shops and stores are scattered throughout Trapani. On Via Torrearsa visitors will find many high-end boutiques. Some of the more popular items include locally made crafts, ceramics, jewelry and fine embroidery.

A Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to reclaim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change and RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Euro (€ - EUR). Major credit cards may be accepted. Some smaller establishments may accept cash only.

POST OFFICE, TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

A Post Office is located at # 23 Via Virgilio.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 800.172.444

MCI: 800.90.5825

There are a couple of internet cafés in Old Town and a book bar which offers free WiFi.

TOURIST INFORMATION

In "Old Town" there is a Tourist Information Center located at #29, Via San Francesco d'Assisi.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are generally available on the Pier. It is important to negotiate a fare prior to departing.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

The language of Sicily is Italian. There are various dialects spoken throughout the island

Yes - Si

No - No

Good Day - Buon Giorno

Good-bye - Ciao

Thank-you - Grazie

You're Welcome - Prego

