[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect) [Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox region of Italy](/wiki/Template:Infobox_region_of_Italy) **Sicily** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:Lang-it](/wiki/Template:Lang-it) [Template:IPA-it](/wiki/Template:IPA-it), [Template:Lang-scn](/wiki/Template:Lang-scn)) is the [largest island](/wiki/List_of_islands_in_the_Mediterranean) in the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea). It constitutes an autonomous [Region of Italy](/wiki/Regions_of_Italy), along with surrounding minor islands, officially referred to as *Regione Siciliana* (in [Italian](/wiki/Italian_language), Sicilian Region) .

Sicily is located in the central Mediterranean Sea, south of the [Italian Peninsula](/wiki/Italian_Peninsula), from which it is separated by the narrow [Strait of Messina](/wiki/Strait_of_Messina). Its most prominent landmark is [Mount Etna](/wiki/Mount_Etna), the tallest active volcano in [Europe](/wiki/Europe),[[1]](#cite_note-1) The mines of the [Enna](/wiki/Enna) and [Caltanissetta](/wiki/Caltanissetta) districts were part of a leading [sulfur](/wiki/Sulfur)-producing area throughout the 19th century, but have declined since the 1950s.

Sicily and its surrounding small islands have some highly active volcanoes. Mount Etna is the largest active volcano in Europe and still casts black ash over the island with its ever present eruptions. It currently stands [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) high, though this varies with summit eruptions; the mountain is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) lower now than it was in 1981. It is the highest mountain in Italy south of the [Alps](/wiki/Alps). Etna covers an area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with a basal circumference of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). This makes it by far the largest of the three [active volcanoes in Italy](/wiki/Volcanism_in_Italy), being about two and a half times the height of the next largest, [Mount Vesuvius](/wiki/Mount_Vesuvius). In [Greek Mythology](/wiki/Greek_Mythology), the deadly monster Typhon was trapped under the mountain by [Zeus](/wiki/Zeus), the god of the sky. Mount Etna is widely regarded as a cultural symbol and icon of Sicily.

<gallery mode="packed" heights=275> File:Mt Etna and Catania1.jpg|Mount Etna rising over suburbs of Catania </gallery>

The [Aeolian Islands](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands) in the [Tyrrhenian Sea](/wiki/Tyrrhenian_Sea), to the northeast of mainland Sicily form a volcanic complex, and include [Stromboli](/wiki/Stromboli). The three volcanoes of [Vulcano](/wiki/Vulcano), [Vulcanello](/wiki/Vulcanello) and [Lipari](/wiki/Lipari) are also currently active, although the latter is usually dormant. Off the southern coast of Sicily, the underwater volcano of [Ferdinandea](/wiki/Ferdinandea), which is part of the larger [Empedocles volcano](/wiki/Empedocles_(volcano)), last erupted in 1831. It is located between the coast of [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento) and the island of [Pantelleria](/wiki/Pantelleria) (which itself is a dormant volcano).

The autonomous region also includes several neighboring islands: the [Aegadian Islands](/wiki/Aegadian_Islands), the Aeolian Islands, Pantelleria and [Lampedusa](/wiki/Lampedusa).

<gallery mode="packed" heights=265> File:Sicilian Landscape.jpg|Sicilian landscape </gallery>

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### Rivers[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The island is [drained](/wiki/Drainage) by several rivers, most of which flow through the central area and enter the sea at the south of the island. The [Salso](/wiki/Salso) flows through parts of Enna and Caltanissetta before entering the [Mediterranean Sea](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) at the port of [Licata](/wiki/Licata). To the east, the [Alcantara](/wiki/Alcantara_(river)) flows through the province of [Messina](/wiki/Messina) and enters the sea at [Giardini Naxos](/wiki/Giardini_Naxos), and the [Simeto](/wiki/Simeto), which flows into the [Ionian Sea](/wiki/Ionian_Sea) south of [Catania](/wiki/Catania). Other important rivers on the island are the [Belice](/wiki/Belice) and [Platani](/wiki/Platani_(river)) in the southwest.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **River** | **length in km (mi)** | | [Salso](/wiki/Salso) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Simeto](/wiki/Simeto) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Belice](/wiki/Belice) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Dittaino](/wiki/Dittaino) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | Platani | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Gornalunga](/wiki/Gornalunga) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Gela (river)](/wiki/Gela_(river)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | Salso Cimarosa | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | Torto | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Irminio](/wiki/Irminio) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Dirillo](/wiki/Dirillo) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Verdura](/wiki/Verdura) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Alcantara](/wiki/Alcantara_(river)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Tellaro](/wiki/Tellaro) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | | [Anapo](/wiki/Anapo) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | |

<gallery mode="packed" heights=120> File:Imera-meridionale-map-bjs.jpg|Location of the [Salso](/wiki/Salso) File:Simeto.jpg|[Simeto](/wiki/Simeto) River File:Simeto.JPG|The Simeto near Saraceni Bridge File:Fiume Alcantara piena dicembre 2003.jpg|[Alcantara](/wiki/Alcantara_(river)) River File:Gole dell'Alcantara-pjt1.jpg|Alcantara Canyon </gallery>

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Sicily has a typical [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) with mild and wet winters and hot, dry summers. On almost any average day, temperatures in Sicily may rise up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). According to the Regional Agency for Waste and Water, on 10 August 1999, the weather station of Catenanuova (EN) recorded a maximum temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), which is the highest temperature ever recorded in Europe by the use of reliable instruments. The official European record – measured by minimum/maximum thermometers – is held by Athens, Greece, as communications reported a maximum of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1977.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Total precipitation is highly variable, generally increasing with elevation. In general, the southern and southeast coast receives the least rainfall (less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)), and the northern and northeastern highlands the most (over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)).

## Flora and fauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Zingaro_063.jpg)[Zingaro Natural Reserve](/wiki/Riserva_naturale_dello_Zingaro) Sicily is an often-quoted example of man-made [deforestation](/wiki/Deforestation), which has occurred since Roman times, when the island was turned into an agricultural region.<ref name=frommers/> This gradually dried the climate, leading to a decline in rainfall and the drying of rivers. The central and southwest provinces are practically devoid of any forest.[[9]](#cite_note-9) In Northern Sicily, there are three important forests; near Mount Etna, in the [Nebrodi Mountains](/wiki/Nebrodi) and in the Bosco della Ficuzza's Natural Reserve near [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo). The Nebrodi Mountains Regional Park, established on 4 August 1993 and covering [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), is the largest protected natural area of Sicily; and contains the largest forest in Sicily, the Caronia. The [Hundred Horse Chestnut](/wiki/Hundred_Horse_Chestnut) (Castagno dei Cento Cavalli), in [Sant'Alfio](/wiki/Sant'Alfio), on the eastern slopes of Mount Etna, is the largest and oldest known [chestnut](/wiki/Chestnut) tree in the world at 2,000 – 4,000 years old.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Sicily has a good variety of fauna. Species include [Cirneco dell'Etna](/wiki/Cirneco_dell'Etna), fox, [least weasel](/wiki/Least_weasel), [pine marten](/wiki/Pine_marten), [roe deer](/wiki/Roe_deer), [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar), [crested porcupine](/wiki/Crested_porcupine), [hedgehog](/wiki/Hedgehog), [common toad](/wiki/Common_toad), [*Vipera aspis*](/wiki/Vipera_aspis), [golden eagle](/wiki/Golden_eagle), [peregrine falcon](/wiki/Peregrine_falcon), [hoopoe](/wiki/Hoopoe) and [black-winged stilt](/wiki/Black-winged_stilt).[[11]](#cite_note-11) Sicily is an important habitat for the survival of several species, an example being the subspecies of [hooded crow](/wiki/Hooded_crow) *Corvus cornix* which is only found in Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The [Zingaro Natural Reserve](/wiki/Riserva_naturale_dello_Zingaro) is one of the best examples of unspoiled coastal wilderness in Sicily.[[13]](#cite_note-13)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Ancient tribes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|Dolmen of](/wiki/File:Dolmen_di_Avola.JPG) [Avola](/wiki/Avola), east Sicily The original inhabitants of Sicily were three defined groups of the [ancient peoples of Italy](/wiki/List_of_ancient_peoples_of_Italy). The most prominent and by far the earliest of these was the [Sicani](/wiki/Sicani), who were said by [Thucydides](/wiki/Thucydides) to have arrived from the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula) (perhaps [Catalonia](/wiki/Catalonia)).[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15) Important historical evidence has been discovered in the form of cave drawings by the Sicani, dated from the end of the [Pleistocene](/wiki/Pleistocene) epoch around 8000 BC.[[16]](#cite_note-16) The arrival of the first humans on the island is correlated with the extinction of the [Sicilian Hippopotamus](/wiki/Sicilian_Hippopotamus) and the [dwarf elephant](/wiki/Elephas_mnaidriensis). The [Elymians](/wiki/Elymians), thought to be from the [Aegean Sea](/wiki/Aegean_Sea), were the next tribe to join the Sicanians on Sicily.[[17]](#cite_note-17) [thumb|Dolmen of](/wiki/File:Dolmenmontebubbonia.jpg) [Monte Bubbonia](/wiki/Monte_Bubbonia), south Sicily

Recent discoveries of [dolmens](/wiki/Dolmen) on the island (dating to the second half of the third millennium BC) seems to offer new insights into the culture of primitive Sicily. It is well known that the Mediterranean region went through a quite intricate prehistory, so much so that it is difficult to piece together the muddle of different peoples who have followed each other. The impact of two influences is clear, however: the European one coming from the Northwest, and the Mediterranean influence of a clear eastern heritage.<ref name=Piccolo-dolmens>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

There is no evidence of any warring between the tribes, but the Sicanians moved eastwards when the Elymians settled in the northwest corner of the island. The [Sicels](/wiki/Sicels) are thought to have originated in [Liguria](/wiki/Liguria); they arrived from mainland Italy in 1200 BC and forced the Sicanians to move back across Sicily and settle in the middle of the island.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Other minor [Italic groups](/wiki/Ancient_peoples_of_Italy) who settled in Sicily were the [Ausones](/wiki/Ausones) ([Aeolian Islands](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands), [Milazzo](/wiki/Milazzo)) and the [Morgetes](/wiki/Morgetes) of [Morgantina](/wiki/Morgantina). Studies of genetic records reveal that peoples from various parts of the [Mediterranean Basin](/wiki/Mediterranean_Basin) mixed with the ancient inhabitants of Sicily, including Egyptians and Iberians.[[18]](#cite_note-18)

### Phoenician, Carthaginian, Greek and Roman period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|left|Ruins of the ancient](/wiki/File:Sicily_2008_082_Mozia.jpg) [Phoenician](/wiki/Phoenicia) city of [Motya](/wiki/Motya). [thumb|Temple of](/wiki/File:Sicily_Selinunte_Temple_E_(Hera).JPG) [Hera](/wiki/Hera) at [Selinunte](/wiki/Selinunte) (Temple E) The [Phoenician](/wiki/Phoenicia) settlements in the western part of the island predates the [Greeks](/wiki/Greek_people).[[19]](#cite_note-19) From about 750 BC, the [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks) began to live in Sicily (Σικελία – *Sikelia*), establishing many important settlements. The most important colony was in [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily); others were located at [Akragas](/wiki/Agrigentum), [Selinunte](/wiki/Selinunte), [Gela](/wiki/Gela), [Himera](/wiki/Himera) and [Zancle](/wiki/Messina).[[20]](#cite_note-20) The native Sicani and Sicel peoples were absorbed into the [Hellenic culture](/wiki/Ancient_Greece) with relative ease, and the area became part of *Magna Graecia* along with the rest of [southern Italy](/wiki/Southern_Italy), which the Greeks had also colonised. Sicily was very fertile, and the successful introduction of [olives](/wiki/Olive) and [grape vines](/wiki/Grape_vine) created a great deal of profitable trading;[[21]](#cite_note-21) a significant part of [Greek culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Greece) on the island was that of the [Greek religion](/wiki/Religion_in_ancient_Greece), and many temples were built throughout Sicily, including several in the *Valley of the Temples* at [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento).[[22]](#cite_note-22) Politics on the island was intertwined with that of Greece; [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) became desired by the [Athenians](/wiki/Athenian) who set out on the [Sicilian Expedition](/wiki/Sicilian_Expedition) during the [Peloponnesian War](/wiki/Peloponnesian_War). Syracuse gained [Sparta](/wiki/Sparta) and [Corinth](/wiki/Ancient_Corinth) as allies and, as a result, the Athenian expedition was defeated. The Athenian army and ships were destroyed, with most of the survivors being sold into slavery.[[23]](#cite_note-23) [thumb|left|Greco-Roman theatre at](/wiki/File:Taormina_BW_2012-10-05_16-05-05.jpg) [Taormina](/wiki/Taormina).

Greek Syracuse controlled much of Sicily, though there were a few [Carthaginian](/wiki/Carthage) colonies in the far west of the island. The two cultures began to clash, leading to the [Greek-Punic wars](/wiki/Greek-Punic_wars). Greece had begun to make peace with the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic) in 262 BC, and the Romans sought to [annex](/wiki/Annexation) Sicily as their republic's first province. Rome intervened in the [First Punic War](/wiki/First_Punic_War), crushing Carthage, so that Sicily had become the first Roman province outside of the [Italian Peninsula](/wiki/Italian_Peninsula) by 242 BC.[[24]](#cite_note-24) [Archimedes](/wiki/Archimedes) was murdered in the [Second Punic War](/wiki/Second_Punic_War), which saw Carthage again trying to take Sicily from the Roman Republic. They failed, and Rome was even more unrelenting in its annihilation of the invaders this time; [Roman consul](/wiki/Roman_consul) M. Valerian told the [Roman Senate](/wiki/Roman_Senate) in 210 BC that "no Carthaginian remains in Sicily".[[25]](#cite_note-25) Sicily served a level of high importance for the Romans, as it acted as the empire's [granary](/wiki/Granary). It was divided into two [quaestorships](/wiki/Quaestor), in the form of Syracuse to the east and [Lilybaeum](/wiki/Lilybaeum) to the west.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Some attempt was made under [Augustus](/wiki/Augustus) to introduce the [Latin language](/wiki/Latin_language) to the island, but Sicily was allowed to remain largely Greek in a cultural sense.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The once prosperous and contented island went into sharp decline when [Verres](/wiki/Verres) became governor of Sicily. In 70 BC, noted figure [Cicero](/wiki/Cicero) condemned the misgovernment of Verres in his oration [*In Verrem*](/wiki/In_Verrem).[[27]](#cite_note-27) The island was used as a base of power numerous times, being occupied by slave insurgents during the [First](/wiki/First_Servile_War) and [Second Servile Wars](/wiki/Second_Servile_War), and by [Sextus Pompey](/wiki/Sextus_Pompey) during the [Sicilian revolt](/wiki/Sicilian_revolt). Christianity first appeared in Sicily during the years following AD 200; between this time and AD 313, [Constantine the Great](/wiki/Constantine_I) finally lifted the prohibition on Christianity, and a significant number of Sicilians became [martyrs](/wiki/Martyr), including [Agatha](/wiki/Agatha_of_Sicily), [Christina](/wiki/Saint_Christina_of_Bolsena), [Lucy](/wiki/Saint_Lucy), and [Euplius](/wiki/Euplius).[[28]](#cite_note-28) Christianity grew rapidly in Sicily over the next two centuries. The period of history during which Sicily was a Roman province lasted for around 700 years.[[28]](#cite_note-28)

### Early Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

#### Germanic[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

As the [Western Roman Empire](/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire) was falling apart, a [Germanic](/wiki/Germanic_peoples) tribe known as the [Vandals](/wiki/Vandals) took Sicily in AD 440 under the rule of their king [Geiseric](/wiki/Geiseric). The Vandals had already invaded parts of [Roman France](/wiki/Roman_Gaul), Spain, and Portugal, asserting themselves as an important power in Western Europe.[[29]](#cite_note-29) However, they soon lost these newly acquired possessions to another [East Germanic tribe](/wiki/Germanic_peoples) in the form of the [Goths](/wiki/Goths).[[29]](#cite_note-29) The [Ostrogothic](/wiki/Ostrogoths) conquest of Sicily (and Italy as a whole) under [Theodoric the Great](/wiki/Theodoric_the_Great) began in 488. The Goths were Germanic, but Theodoric sought to revive Roman culture and government and allowed freedom of religion.[[30]](#cite_note-30)

#### Byzantine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|Historic map of Sicily by](/wiki/File:Sicily_by_Piri_Reis.jpg) [Piri Reis](/wiki/Piri_Reis) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Palermo-San-Giovanni-bjs-2.jpg)[San Giovanni degli Eremiti](/wiki/San_Giovanni_degli_Eremiti), red domes showing elements of Byzantine architecture

In the 6th century, the [Gothic War](/wiki/Gothic_War_(535–554)) took place between the Ostrogoths and the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire). Sicily was the first part of Italy to be taken by general [Belisarius](/wiki/Belisarius), who was commissioned by [Eastern Emperor](/wiki/Eastern_Emperor) [Justinian I](/wiki/Justinian_I) as part of an ambitious attempt to restore the whole Roman Empire, thereby uniting the Eastern and the Western halves.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Sicily was used as a base for the Byzantines to conquer the rest of Italy, with [Naples](/wiki/Naples), Rome, [Milan](/wiki/Milan), and the Ostrogoth capital [Ravenna](/wiki/Ravenna) falling within five years.[[32]](#cite_note-32) However, new Ostrogoth king [Totila](/wiki/Totila) drove down the Italian peninsula, plundering and conquering Sicily in 550. Totila, in turn, was defeated and killed in the [Battle of Taginae](/wiki/Battle_of_Taginae) by Byzantine general [Narses](/wiki/Narses) in 552.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In 535, Emperor Justinian I made Sicily a Byzantine province and, for the second time in Sicilian history, the Greek language became a familiar sound throughout the island. As the power of the Byzantine Empire waned, Sicily was invaded by the [Arab forces](/wiki/Rashidun_army) of [Caliph Uthman](/wiki/Uthman_Ibn_Affan) in 652. The Arabs failed to make any permanent gains and returned to Syria after gathering some booty.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Byzantine Emperor [Constans II](/wiki/Constans_II_(Byzantine_Empire)) decided to move from the capital [Constantinople](/wiki/Constantinople) to [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) in Sicily during 660. The following year, he launched an assault from Sicily against the [Lombard](/wiki/Lombardy) [Duchy of Benevento](/wiki/Duchy_of_Benevento), which then occupied most of southern Italy.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Rumors that the capital of the empire was to be moved to Syracuse probably cost Constans his life, as he was assassinated in 668.[[34]](#cite_note-34) His son [Constantine IV](/wiki/Constantine_IV) succeeded him, a brief usurpation in Sicily by [Mezezius](/wiki/Mezezius) being quickly suppressed by the new emperor. Contemporary accounts report that the Greek language was widely spoken on the island during this period.[[35]](#cite_note-35) By 826, [Euphemius](/wiki/Euphemius_(Sicily)), the Byzantine commander in Sicily, had apparently killed his wife and forced a nun to marry him. Emperor [Michael II](/wiki/Michael_II) caught wind of the matter and ordered general Constantine to end the marriage and cut off Euphemius' head. Euphemius rose up, killed Constantine, and then occupied Syracuse; he in turn was defeated and driven out to North Africa.[[36]](#cite_note-36) He offered the rule of Sicily to [Ziyadat Allah](/wiki/Ziyadat_Allah_I_of_Aghlabids), the [Aghlabid](/wiki/Aghlabid) Emir of [Tunisia](/wiki/Tunisia), in return for a position as a general and a place of safety. A [Muslim army](/wiki/Muslim_conquests) was then sent to the island consisting of [Arabs](/wiki/Arab), [Berbers](/wiki/Berber_people), Spaniards of [Al-Andalus](/wiki/Al-Andalus) (which was then an Islamic region), [Cretans](/wiki/Cretans), and [Persians](/wiki/Persian_people).[[36]](#cite_note-36) The [Muslim conquest of Sicily](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Sicily) was a [see-saw](/wiki/See-saw) affair and met with much resistance. It took over a century for Byzantine Sicily to be conquered; Syracuse held out for a long time and [Taormina](/wiki/Taormina) fell in 902. It was not until 965 that all of Sicily was conquered by [Berbers](/wiki/Berber_people) and [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs).[[36]](#cite_note-36)

### Arab Sicily (827–1091)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:MadridSkylitzesFol100vDetail.jpg)[Saracens](/wiki/Saracens) [capture Syracuse](/wiki/Siege_of_Syracuse_(877–878)) in 878 The [Arabs initiated land reforms](/wiki/Arab_Agricultural_Revolution), which increased productivity and encouraged the growth of [smallholdings](/wiki/Smallholding), undermining the dominance of the [latifundia](/wiki/Latifundium). The [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs) further improved [irrigation](/wiki/Irrigation) systems. The language spoken in Sicily under Arab rule was [Siculo-Arabic](/wiki/Siculo-Arabic) and [Arabic influence](/wiki/Influence_of_Arabic_on_other_languages) is still present in some Sicilian words today. Although the language is extinct in Sicily, it has developed into what is now the [Maltese language](/wiki/Maltese_language) on the islands of [Malta](/wiki/Malta) today. A description of [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) was given by [Ibn Hawqal](/wiki/Ibn_Hawqal), an [Arab merchant](/wiki/History_of_Islamic_economics) who visited Sicily in 950. A walled suburb, called the Al-Kasr (the palace), is the center of Palermo to this day, with the great Friday mosque on the site of the later Roman cathedral. The suburb of al-Khalisa (modern [Kalsa](/wiki/Kalsa)) contained the [Sultan's](/wiki/Sultan) palace, baths, a mosque, government offices, and a private prison. [Ibn Hawqal](/wiki/Ibn_Hawqal) reckoned 7,000 individual butchers trading in 150 shops. Palermo was initially ruled by the [Aghlabids](/wiki/Aghlabids); later it was the centre of Emirate of Sicily under the nominal suzerainty of the [Fatimid Caliphate](/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate).

Throughout this reign, revolts by Byzantine Sicilians continuously occurred, especially in the east, and parts of the island were re-occupied before being quashed. Agricultural items such as oranges, lemons, [pistachio](/wiki/Pistachio) and [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane) were brought to Sicily.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Under the Arab rule, the island was aligned in [three administrative regions](/wiki/Three_valli_of_Sicily), or "vals", roughly corresponding to the three "points" of Sicily: [Val di Mazara](/wiki/Val_di_Mazara) in the west; [Val Demone](/wiki/Val_Demone) in the northeast; and [Val di Noto](/wiki/Val_di_Noto) in the southeast. As [dhimmis](/wiki/Dhimmi), the native [Eastern Orthodox Christians](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox_Church) were allowed [freedom of religion](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion), but had to pay a tax, the [jizya](/wiki/Jizya), and experienced some limitations to actively participate in public affairs.

The [Emirate of Sicily](/wiki/Emirate_of_Sicily) began to fragment as intra-dynastic quarreling fractured the Muslim regime.[[36]](#cite_note-36) During this time, there was also a minor Jewish presence.[[37]](#cite_note-37)

### Norman Sicily (1030–1198)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|200px|](/wiki/File:Calabria,_trifollaro_di_ruggieri_I_d'altavilla,_1072-1101.JPG)[Roger I](/wiki/Roger_I_of_Sicily) conqueror and first count of Sicily, depicted on a Trifollaris [thumb|left|200px|Viking ship in Palermo](/wiki/File:Viking_ship_in_palermo.jpg)

By the 11th century, mainland southern Italian powers hired [Norman](/wiki/Normans) mercenaries, who [conquered Sicily](/wiki/Norman_conquest_of_southern_Italy) from the Arabs under [Roger I](/wiki/Roger_I_of_Sicily).[[38]](#cite_note-38) After taking [Apulia](/wiki/Apulia) and [Calabria](/wiki/Calabria), he occupied [Messina](/wiki/Messina) with an army of 700 knights. In 1068, Roger was victorious at [Misilmeri](/wiki/Misilmeri), but the most crucial battle was the siege of Palermo, which led to most of Sicily coming under Norman control in 1072.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The Normans finished their conquest in 1091, when they captured [Noto](/wiki/Noto), which was the last Arab stronghold.

Roger died in 1101 and was succeeded by his son [Roger II](/wiki/Roger_II_of_Sicily), who was the first King of Sicily. The elder Roger was married to [Adelaide](/wiki/Adelaide_del_Vasto), who ruled until her son came of age in 1112.[[38]](#cite_note-38) The Norman [Hauteville family](/wiki/Hauteville_family) came to appreciate and admire the rich and layered culture in which they now found themselves. Many Normans in Sicily adopted some of the attributes of Muslim rulers in dress, language, literature, and even in the presence of palace [eunuchs](/wiki/Eunuch) and, according to some accounts, a harem.[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) The court of Roger II became the most luminous center of culture in the Mediterranean, both from Europe and the Middle East, like the multi-ethnic [Caliphate of Córdoba](/wiki/Caliphate_of_Córdoba), then only just eclipsed. This attracted scholars, scientists, poets, artists, and artisans of all kinds. Laws were issued in the language of the community to whom they were addressed in Norman Sicily, still with heavy Arab influence.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The governance was by the rule of law, so there was justice. Muslims, Jews, Byzantine Greeks, Lombards, and Normans worked together to form a society that historians have said created some of the most extraordinary buildings that the world has ever seen.[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### Kingdom of Sicily[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:MonrealeCathedral-pjt1.jpg) [Cathedral of Monreale](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Monreale)

Palermo continued on as the capital under the [Normans](/wiki/Normans). Roger's son [Roger II of Sicily](/wiki/Roger_II_of_Sicily) succeeded his brother [Simon of Sicily](/wiki/Simon_of_Sicily) as Count of Sicily, and was ultimately able to raise the status of the island to a kingdom in 1130, along with his other holdings, which included the [Maltese Islands](/wiki/Maltese_Islands) and the Duchies of [Apulia](/wiki/Duchy_of_Apulia) and [Calabria](/wiki/Duchy_of_Calabria).[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[43]](#cite_note-43) During this period, the Kingdom of Sicily was prosperous and politically powerful, becoming one of the wealthiest states in all of Europe—even wealthier than the [Kingdom of England](/wiki/Kingdom_of_England).[[44]](#cite_note-44) Significantly, immigrants from [Northern Italy](/wiki/Northern_Italy) and [Campania](/wiki/Campania) arrived during this period. Linguistically, the island became [Latinised](/wiki/Latinised). In terms of the church, it became completely Roman Catholic; previously, it had been more Eastern Christian under the Byzantines.[[45]](#cite_note-45)

### Germanic Holy Roman Emperor[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

After a century, the Norman [Hauteville](/wiki/Hauteville_family) dynasty died out; the last direct descendant and heir of Roger, [Constance](/wiki/Constance_of_Sicily), married [Emperor Henry VI](/wiki/Henry_VI,_Holy_Roman_Emperor).[[46]](#cite_note-46) This eventually led to the crown of Sicily being passed on to the [Hohenstaufen Dynasty](/wiki/Hohenstaufen_Dynasty), who were Germans from [Swabia](/wiki/Swabia). The last of the Hohenstaufens, [Frederick II](/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), the only son of [Constance](/wiki/Constance_of_Sicily), was one of the greatest and most cultured men of the Middle Ages. His mother's will had asked [Pope Innocent III](/wiki/Pope_Innocent_III) to undertake the guardianship of her son. The pope gladly accepted the role, as it allowed him to detach Sicily from the rest of [The Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/The_Holy_Roman_Empire), thus ending the specter of the [Papal States](/wiki/Papal_States) being surrounded. Frederick was four when, at [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo), he was crowned [King of Sicily](/wiki/King_of_Sicily) in 1198. Frederick received no systematic education and was allowed to run free in the streets of [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo). There he picked up the many languages he heard spoken, such as Arabic and Greek, and learned some of the lore of the Jewish community. At age twelve, he dismissed Innocent's deputy regent and took over the government; at fifteen he married [Constance of Aragon](/wiki/Constance_of_Aragon), and began his reclamation of the imperial crown. Subsequently the Muslims rebellions Frederick II destroyed Arab presence in Sicily and between 1221 and 1226 he moved all the Muslims of Sicily to the city of Lucera in Apulia.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Conflict between the Hohenstaufen house and the [Papacy](/wiki/Papacy) led, in 1266, to [Pope Innocent IV](/wiki/Pope_Innocent_IV) crowning the [French prince](/wiki/Capetian_House_of_Anjou) [Charles](/wiki/Charles_I_of_Naples), [count of Anjou](/wiki/Count_of_Anjou) and [Provence](/wiki/List_of_rulers_of_Provence), as the king of both Sicily and Naples.[[46]](#cite_note-46)

### Sicilian Vespers and Aragonese Sicily[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|left|Depiction of the](/wiki/File:Francesco_Hayez_023.jpg) [Sicilian Vespers](/wiki/Sicilian_Vespers)

Strong opposition to French officialdom due to mistreatment and taxation saw the local peoples of Sicily rise up, leading in 1282 to an [insurrection](/wiki/Insurrection) known as the [War of the Sicilian Vespers](/wiki/War_of_the_Sicilian_Vespers), which eventually saw almost the entire French population on the island killed.[[46]](#cite_note-46) During the war, the Sicilians turned to [Peter III of Aragon](/wiki/Peter_III_of_Aragon), son-in-law of the last Hohenstaufen king, for support after being rejected by the Pope. Peter gained control of Sicily from the French, who, however, retained control of the [Kingdom of Naples](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Naples). A crusade was launched in August 1283 against Peter III and the Aragon Kingdom by [Pope Martin IV](/wiki/Pope_Martin_IV) (a pope from [Île-de-France](/wiki/Île-de-France)), but it failed. The wars continued until the [peace of Caltabellotta](/wiki/Peace_of_Caltabellotta) in 1302, which saw Peter's son [Frederick III](/wiki/Frederick_III_of_Sicily) recognised as king of the Isle of Sicily, while [Charles II](/wiki/Charles_II_of_Naples) was recognised as the king of Naples by [Pope Boniface VIII](/wiki/Pope_Boniface_VIII).[[46]](#cite_note-46) Sicily was ruled as an independent kingdom by relatives of the kings of Aragon until 1409 and then as part of the [Crown of Aragon](/wiki/Crown_of_Aragon).[[21]](#cite_note-21) In October 1347, in Messina, Sicily, the [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death) first arrived in Europe.[[48]](#cite_note-48) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Catania_BW_2012-10-06_11-23-47.JPG)[Sicilian Baroque](/wiki/Sicilian_Baroque) in [Catania](/wiki/Catania)

The onset of the [Spanish Inquisition](/wiki/Spanish_Inquisition) in 1492 led to [Ferdinand II](/wiki/Ferdinand_II_of_Aragon) decreeing the expulsion of all Jews from Sicily.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The eastern part of the island was hit by very destructive earthquakes in 1542 and 1693. Just a few years before the latter earthquake, the island was struck by a ferocious [plague](/wiki/Plague_(disease)).[[46]](#cite_note-46) The [earthquake in 1693](/wiki/1693_Sicily_earthquake) took an estimated 60,000 lives.[[49]](#cite_note-49) There were revolts during the 17th century, but these were quelled with significant force, especially the revolts of Palermo and Messina.[[21]](#cite_note-21) [North African](/wiki/Barbary_pirates) [slave raids](/wiki/Barbary_slave_trade) discouraged settlement along the coast until the 19th century.[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51) The [Treaty of Utrecht](/wiki/Treaty_of_Utrecht) in 1713 saw Sicily assigned to the [House of Savoy](/wiki/House_of_Savoy); however, this period of rule lasted only seven years, as it was exchanged for the island of [Sardinia](/wiki/Sardinia) with [Emperor Charles VI](/wiki/Charles_VI,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) of the Austrian [Habsburg Dynasty](/wiki/House_of_Habsburg).[[52]](#cite_note-52) While the Austrians were concerned with the [War of the Polish Succession](/wiki/War_of_the_Polish_Succession), a [Bourbon](/wiki/House_of_Bourbon) prince, [Charles](/wiki/Charles_III_of_Spain) from Spain was able to conquer Sicily and Naples.[[53]](#cite_note-53) At first Sicily was able to remain as an independent kingdom under [personal union](/wiki/Personal_union), while the Bourbons ruled over both from Naples. However, the advent of [Napoleon's](/wiki/Napoleon_I) [First French Empire](/wiki/First_French_Empire) saw Naples taken at the [Battle of Campo Tenese](/wiki/Battle_of_Campo_Tenese) and Bonapartist [King of Naples](/wiki/King_of_Naples) were installed. [Ferdinand III](/wiki/Ferdinand_I_of_the_Two_Sicilies) the Bourbon was forced to retreat to Sicily which he was still in complete control of with the help of [British naval](/wiki/Royal_Navy) protection.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Following this Sicily joined the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), after the wars were won Sicily and Naples formally merged as the [Two Sicilies](/wiki/Two_Sicilies) under the Bourbons. Major [revolutionary](/wiki/Revolutionary) movements occurred in 1820 and 1848 against the Bourbon government with Sicily seeking independence; the second of which, the [1848 revolution](/wiki/Sicilian_revolution_of_independence_of_1848) resulted in a short period of independence for Sicily. However, in 1849 the Bourbons retook the control of the island and dominated it until 1860.[[55]](#cite_note-55)

### Italian Unification[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[300px|thumb|The beginning of the](/wiki/File:Partenza_da_Quarto.jpg) [Expedition of the Thousand](/wiki/Expedition_of_the_Thousand), 1860.

The [Expedition of the Thousand](/wiki/Expedition_of_the_Thousand) led by [Giuseppe Garibaldi](/wiki/Giuseppe_Garibaldi) captured Sicily in 1860, as part of the [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang).[[56]](#cite_note-56) The conquest started at [Marsala](/wiki/Marsala), and native Sicilians joined him in the capture of the southern Italian peninsula. Garibaldi's march was completed with the [Siege of Gaeta](/wiki/Siege_of_Gaeta_(1861)), where the final [Bourbons](/wiki/Bourbons) were expelled and Garibaldi announced his dictatorship in the name of [Victor Emmanuel II](/wiki/Victor_Emanuel_II_of_Italy) of [Kingdom of Sardinia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sardinia).[[57]](#cite_note-57) Sicily became part of the Kingdom of Sardinia after a referendum where more than 75% of Sicily voted in favor of the annexation on 21 October 1860 (but not everyone was allowed to vote). As a result of the [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy_(1861–1946)) proclamation, Sicily became part of the kingdom on 17 March 1861.

The Sicilian economy (and the wider [*mezzogiorno*](/wiki/Mezzogiorno) economy) remained relatively underdeveloped after the [Italian Unification](/wiki/Italian_Unification), in spite of the strong investments made by the [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy) in terms of modern infrastructure, and this caused an unprecedented [wave of emigration](/wiki/Italian_diaspora).[[56]](#cite_note-56) In 1894, organizations of workers and peasants known as the [*Fasci Siciliani*](/wiki/Fasci_Siciliani) protested against the bad social and economic conditions of the island, but they were suppressed in a few days.[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59) The [Messina earthquake](/wiki/1908_Messina_earthquake) of 28 December 1908 killed more than 80,000 people.[[60]](#cite_note-60)This period was also characterised by the first contact between the [Sicilian mafia](/wiki/Sicilian_mafia) (the crime syndicate also known as Cosa Nostra) and the Italian government. The Mafia's origins are still uncertain, but it is generally accepted that it emerged in the 18th century initially in the role of private enforcers hired to protect the property of landowners and merchants from the groups of [bandits](/wiki/Bandits) (*briganti*) who frequently pillaged the countryside and towns. The battle against the Mafia made by the Kingdom of Italy was controversial and ambiguous. The [Carabinieri](/wiki/Carabinieri) (the military police of Italy) and sometimes the [Italian army](/wiki/Regio_Esercito) were often involved in terrible fights against the mafia members, but their efforts were frequently useless because of the secret cooperation between mafia and local government and also because of the weakness of the Italian judicial system.[[61]](#cite_note-61) [thumb|left|Private Roy W. Humphrey of](/wiki/File:Private_Roy_W._Humphrey_of_Toledo,_Ohio_is_being_given_blood_plasma_after_he_was_wounded_by_shrapnel_in_Sicily_on_8-9-43_-_NARA_-_197268.jpg) [Toledo, Ohio](/wiki/Toledo,_Ohio) is being given [blood plasma](/wiki/Blood_plasma) after he was wounded by shrapnel in Sicily on 9 August 1943.

In the 1920s, the [Fascist](/wiki/Italian_fascism) regime began a stronger military action against the Mafia, which was led by [prefect](/wiki/Prefect) [Cesare Mori](/wiki/Cesare_Mori) who was known as the "Iron Prefect" because of his iron-fisted campaigns. This was the first time in which an operation against the Sicilian mafia ended with considerable success.[[56]](#cite_note-56) There was an [allied invasion of Sicily](/wiki/Allied_invasion_of_Sicily) during World War II starting on 10 July 1943. In preparation for the invasion, the Allies revitalised the Mafia to aid them. The invasion of Sicily contributed to the [25 July crisis](/wiki/25_Luglio); in general, the Allied victors were warmly embraced by Sicily.<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

[300px|thumb|The city of](/wiki/File:Palermo_panorama.JPG) [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) in 2005

Italy [became a Republic](/wiki/Birth_of_the_Italian_Republic) in 1946 and, as part of the [Constitution of Italy](/wiki/Constitution_of_Italy), Sicily was one of the five [regions](/wiki/Regions_of_Italy) given special status as an [autonomous region](/wiki/Autonomous_region).[[62]](#cite_note-62) Both the partial Italian [land reform](/wiki/Land_reform) and special funding from the Italian government's [*Cassa per il Mezzogiorno*](/wiki/Cassa_per_il_Mezzogiorno) (Fund for the South) from 1950 to 1984 helped the Sicilian economy. During this period, the economic and social condition of the island was generally improved thanks to important investments on infrastructures such as [motorways](/wiki/Motorways) and [airports](/wiki/Airports), and thanks to the creation of important industrial and commercial areas.[[63]](#cite_note-63) In the 1980s, the Mafia was deeply weakened by a second important campaign led by magistrates [Giovanni Falcone](/wiki/Giovanni_Falcone) and [Paolo Borsellino](/wiki/Paolo_Borsellino).[[64]](#cite_note-64) Between 1990 and 2005, the [unemployment rate](/wiki/Unemployment_rate) fell from about 23% to 11%.[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

Sicily is a melting pot of a variety of different cultures and ethnicities, including the original [Italic people](/wiki/Italic_people), the [Greeks](/wiki/Ancient_Greeks), [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Empire), [Byzantines](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), [Saracens](/wiki/Saracens), [Normans](/wiki/Normans), [Swabians](/wiki/Swabians), [Aragonese](/wiki/Aragonese_people), [Lombards](/wiki/Lombards), [Spaniards](/wiki/Spaniards), French, and [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians), each contributing to the island's culture and genetic makeup. About five million people live in Sicily, making it the [fourth most populated region in Italy](/wiki/List_of_regions_of_Italy#List_of_regions). In the first century after the [Italian Unification](/wiki/Italian_Unification), Sicily had one of the most negative [net migration rates](/wiki/Net_migration_rate) among the regions of Italy because of the emigration of millions of people to other European countries, North America, South America and Australia. Like the South of Italy and Sardinia, immigration to the island is very low compared to other regions of Italy because workers tend to head to [Northern Italy](/wiki/Northern_Italy) instead, due to better employment and industrial opportunities. The most recent [ISTAT](/wiki/Istituto_Nazionale_di_Statistica) figures[[67]](#cite_note-67) show around 175 thousand immigrants out of the total of almost 5,1 million population (nearly 3,5 percent of the population)**;** [Romanians](/wiki/Romanians) with more than 50 thousand make up the most immigrants, followed by [Tunisians](/wiki/Tunisians), [Moroccans](/wiki/Moroccans), [Sri Lankans](/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Tamil_diaspora), [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians), and others mostly from Eastern Europe[Template:Not in citation given](/wiki/Template:Not_in_citation_given). As in the rest of Italy, the official language is Italian and the primary religion is [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism).[[68]](#cite_note-68)[[69]](#cite_note-69)

### Major settlements[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

In Sicily, there are only two [*metropolitan areas*](/wiki/Metropolitan_area), [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) that has a [Larger Urban Zone](/wiki/Larger_Urban_Zone) of 1,044,169 people and [Catania](/wiki/Catania) whose [LUZ](/wiki/Larger_Urban_Zones) is of 801,280 people.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Overall on the island there are fifteen cities and towns which have a population above 50,000 people, these are: [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) (677,854), [Catania](/wiki/Catania) (315,576), [Messina](/wiki/Messina) (242,121), [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) (123,248), [Marsala](/wiki/Marsala) (82,812), [Gela](/wiki/Gela) (77,295), [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy) (73,756), [Trapani](/wiki/Trapani) (70,642), [Vittoria](/wiki/Vittoria,_Sicily) (63,393), [Caltanissetta](/wiki/Caltanissetta) (60,221), [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento) (59,190), [Bagheria](/wiki/Bagheria) (56,421), [Modica](/wiki/Modica) (55,294), [Acireale](/wiki/Acireale) (53,205) and [Mazara del Vallo](/wiki/Mazara_del_Vallo) (51,413).[[71]](#cite_note-71)

### Population genetics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Y-Dna haplogroups](/wiki/Human_Y-chromosome_DNA_haplogroup) were found at the following frequencies in Sicily: [R1](/wiki/Haplogroup_R1_(Y-DNA)) (30.09%), [J](/wiki/Haplogroup_J_(Y-DNA)) (29.65%), [E1b1b](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b_(Y-DNA)) (18.21%), [I](/wiki/Haplogroup_I_(Y-DNA)) (7.62%), [G](/wiki/Haplogroup_G_(Y-DNA)) (5.93%), [T](/wiki/Haplogroup_T_(Y-DNA)) (5.51%), [Q](/wiki/Haplogroup_Q-M242_(Y-DNA)) (2.54%).[[72]](#cite_note-72) R1 and I haplogroups are typical in West European populations while J and E1b1b consist of lineages with differential distribution within Middle East, North Africa and Europe. In Sicily further migrations from the Vandals, Normans and Saracens have affected the ethnic composition of the Sicilian people. Norman civilization proliferated for several centuries on the island, with a strong impact on the culture of the place and different populations as Normans, Bretons, Anglo-Saxons, Swabians and especially mainland Italians have repopulated the island with a male contribution around 8% (Haplogroup I). The Norman Kingdom of Sicily was created in 1130, with Palermo as capital, and would last until the 19th century. Nowadays it is in north-west Sicily, around Palermo and Trapani, that Norman Y-DNA is the most common, with 8 to 15% of the lineages belonging to haplogroup I. In the thirteenth century [Frederick II](/wiki/Frederick_III_of_Sicily) destroyed Arab presence in Sicily and between 1221 and 1226 he moved all the Arabs of Sicily to the city of [Lucera](/wiki/Lucera) in Italy. A new recent genetic study about Southern Italian and Sicilian population has shown that Sicilians are very close with mainlander Italians from the adjacent regions like Calabria, Basilicata and Apulia.[[73]](#cite_note-73)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Frequencies (in %) of Y-chromosome (n=236)**[**[72]**](#cite_note-72) **and mtDNA (n=313)**[**[73]**](#cite_note-73) **haplogroups** | | |
| *Y-chromosome* | *mtDNA* |  |
| 1.27% [E-V12](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b1a_(Y-DNA)#E1b1b1a1a_(E-V12)) | 0.64% [L3](/wiki/Haplogroup_L3_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 5.93% [E-V13](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b1a_(Y-DNA)#E1b1b1a1b_(E-V13)) | 1.92% [M](/wiki/Haplogroup_M_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 3.81% [E-V22](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b1a_(Y-DNA)#E1b1b1a1c_(E-V22)) | 3.52% [N](/wiki/Haplogroup_N_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 0.42% [E-V65](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b1a_(Y-DNA)#E1b1b1a1d_(E-V65)) | 2.56% [I](/wiki/Haplogroup_I_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 2.12% [E-M81](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b1b_(Y-DNA)) | 0.96% [W](/wiki/Haplogroup_W_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 4.66% [E-M123](/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b1_(Y-DNA)#E1b1b1c_(E-M123)) | 4.47% [X](/wiki/Haplogroup_X_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 5.93% [G](/wiki/Haplogroup_G_(Y-DNA)) | 1.28% [R](/wiki/Haplogroup_R_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 7.62% [I](/wiki/Haplogroup_I_(Y-DNA)) | 4.79% [HV](/wiki/Haplogroup_HV_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 3.81% [J1](/wiki/Haplogroup_J1_(Y-DNA)) | 38.02% [H](/wiki/Haplogroup_H_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 25.84% [J2](/wiki/Haplogroup_J2_(Y-DNA)) | 1.60% [V](/wiki/Haplogroup_V_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 5.51% [T](/wiki/Haplogroup_T_(Y-DNA)) | 13.10% [T](/wiki/Haplogroup_T_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 0.42% [L](/wiki/Haplogroup_L_(Y-DNA)) | 9.90% [J](/wiki/Haplogroup_J_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 2.54% [Q](/wiki/Haplogroup_Q-M242_(Y-DNA)) | 12.47% [U\*](/wiki/Haplogroup_U_(mtDNA)) |  |
| 5.51% [R1a](/wiki/Haplogroup_R1a_(Y-DNA)) | 0.64% [U6](/wiki/Haplogroup_U6) |  |
| 24.58% [R1b](/wiki/Haplogroup_R1b_(Y-DNA)) | 4.15% [K](/wiki/Haplogroup_K_(mtDNA)) |  |

### Ethno-linguistic minorities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

In Sicily there are two historical ethno-linguistic minorities, the [Lombards of Sicily](/wiki/Lombards_of_Sicily) and the [Arbëreshë](/wiki/Arbëreshë_people).

* **Lombards of Sicily** are a linguistic minority living in northern-central Sicily who speak an isolated variety of Gallo-Italic dialects, the so-called [Gallo-Italic of Sicily](/wiki/Gallo-Italic_of_Sicily). The Lombards of Sicily, who came from Northern Italy, settled the central and eastern part of Sicily about 900 years ago, during the [Norman conquest of Sicily](/wiki/Norman_conquest_of_Sicily). Because of linguistic differences among the Gallo-Italic dialects of Sicily, it is supposed that there were independent immigration routes. From [Piedmont](/wiki/Piedmont), Liguria, [Emilia](/wiki/Emilia-Romagna), Lombardy they began to spread south between the 11th and 14th centuries. [Aidone](/wiki/Aidone), [Piazza Armerina](/wiki/Piazza_Armerina), [Nicosia](/wiki/Nicosia_(Italy)), [San Fratello](/wiki/San_Fratello), [Novara di Sicilia](/wiki/Novara_di_Sicilia) are the most important communities.
* [**Arbëreshë**](/wiki/Arbëreshë_people) settled in Southern Italy in the 15th to 18th centuries in several waves of migrations. They are the [Albanian](/wiki/Albanians) Catholics who fled to Italy after Albania was conquered by the [Ottoman Turks](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire). There are three Arbëreshë communities identified within the [province of Palermo](/wiki/Province_of_Palermo), which have maintained unchanged, with different aspects together, the ethnic, linguistic and religious origins. The countries are: [Contessa Entellina](/wiki/Contessa_Entellina), [Piana degli Albanesi](/wiki/Piana_degli_Albanesi) and [Santa Cristina Gela](/wiki/Santa_Cristina_Gela). The largest center is [Piana degli Albanesi](/wiki/Piana_degli_Albanesi), which, besides being the hub [religious](/wiki/Eparchy_of_Piana_degli_Albanesi) and socio-cultural communities, has guarded and defended their peculiarities intact over time. There are two other communities with a strong historical and linguistic heritage.

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The politics of Sicily takes place in a framework of a [presidential](/wiki/Presidential_system) [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy), whereby the President of Regional Government is the [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government), and of a pluriform [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system). [Executive power](/wiki/Executive_power) is exercised by the Regional Government. [Legislative power](/wiki/Legislative_power) is vested in both the government and the Sicilian Regional Assembly. The capital of Sicily is [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo).

Traditionally, Sicily gives centre-right results during election.[[74]](#cite_note-74) From 1943 to 1951 there was also a [separatist](/wiki/Separatism) political party called [Sicilian Independence Movement](/wiki/Sicilian_Independence_Movement) (*Movimento Indipendentista Siciliano*, MIS). Its best electoral result was in the [1946 general election](/wiki/Italian_general_election,_1946), when MIS obtained 0.7% of national votes (8.8% of votes in Sicily), and four seats. However, the movement lost all its seats following the [1948 general election](/wiki/Italian_general_election,_1948) and the 1951 regional election. Even though it has never been formally disbanded, today the movement is no longer part of the [politics of Sicily](/wiki/Politics_of_Sicily). After [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) Sicily became a stronghold of the [Christian Democracy](/wiki/Christian_Democracy_(Italy)), in opposition to the [Italian Communist Party](/wiki/Italian_Communist_Party). The [Communists](/wiki/Italian_Communist_Party) and their successors (the [Democratic Party of the Left](/wiki/Democratic_Party_of_the_Left), the [Democrats of the Left](/wiki/Democrats_of_the_Left) and the present-day [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(Italy))) had never won in the region until [2012](/wiki/Sicilian_regional_election,_2012). Sicily is now governed by a center-left coalition between [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(Italy)) and the center-party [Union of Christian and Centre Democrats](/wiki/Union_of_Christian_and_Centre_Democrats). [Rosario Crocetta](/wiki/Rosario_Crocetta) is the current President since 2012.[[75]](#cite_note-75)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[thumb|400px|Provinces of Sicily](/wiki/File:Provinces_of_Sicily_map.png) Administratively, Sicily is divided into nine provinces, each with a capital city of the same name as the province. Small surrounding islands are also part of various Sicilian provinces: the [Aeolian Islands](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands) (Messina), isle of [Ustica](/wiki/Ustica) (Palermo), [Aegadian Islands](/wiki/Aegadian_Islands) (Trapani), isle of [Pantelleria](/wiki/Pantelleria) (Trapani) and [Pelagian Islands](/wiki/Pelagian_Islands) (Agrigento).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Area (km2)** | **Population**[**[76]**](#cite_note-76) | **Density (inh./km2)** |
| [Province of Agrigento](/wiki/Province_of_Agrigento) | 3,042 | 453,594 | 149.1 |
| [Province of Caltanissetta](/wiki/Province_of_Caltanissetta) | 2,128 | 271,168 | 127.4 |
| [Province of Catania](/wiki/Province_of_Catania) | 3,552 | 1,090,620 | 307.0 |
| [Province of Enna](/wiki/Province_of_Enna) | 2,562 | 172,159 | 67.2 |
| [Province of Messina](/wiki/Province_of_Messina) | 3,247 | 652,742 | 201.0 |
| [Province of Palermo](/wiki/Province_of_Palermo) | 4,992 | 1,249,744 | 250.3 |
| [Province of Ragusa](/wiki/Province_of_Ragusa) | 1,614 | 318,980 | 197.6 |
| [Province of Siracusa](/wiki/Province_of_Siracusa) | 2,109 | 403,559 | 191.3 |
| [Province of Trapani](/wiki/Province_of_Trapani) | 2,460 | 436,240 | 177.3 |

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Thanks to the regular growth of the last years, Sicily is the eighth richest region of Italy in terms of total GDP (see [List of Italian regions by GDP](/wiki/List_of_Italian_regions_by_GDP_(PPP))). A series of reforms and investments on agriculture such as the introduction of modern irrigation systems have made this important industry competitive.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In the 1970s there was a growth of the [industrial sector](/wiki/Industrial_sector) through the creation of some factories.[[78]](#cite_note-78) In recent years the importance of the [service industry](/wiki/Service_industry) has grown for the opening of several shopping malls and for a modest growth of financial and telecommunication activities.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Tourism is an important source of wealth for the island thanks to its natural and historical heritage. Today Sicily is investing a large amount of money on structures of the [hospitality industry](/wiki/Hospitality_industry), in order to make tourism more competitive.[[80]](#cite_note-80) However, Sicily continues to have a GDP per capita below the Italian average and more unemployment than the rest of Italy.[[81]](#cite_note-81) This difference is mostly caused by the negative influence of [Mafia](/wiki/Mafia) that is still active in some areas although it is much weaker than in the past.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[thumb|right|upright|A sample of](/wiki/File:Buffa_Vergine_Marsala_Wine.jpg) [Marsala](/wiki/Marsala_wine), a [DOC](/wiki/Denominazione_di_origine_controllata) wine produced in the city of [Marsala](/wiki/Marsala). Sicily has long been noted for its fertile soil due to the volcanic eruptions in the past and present. The local agriculture is also helped by the pleasant climate of the island. The main agricultural products are wheat, [citrons](/wiki/Diamante_citron), oranges *(*[*Arancia Rossa di Sicilia IGP*](/wiki/Blood_orange)*)*, lemons, tomatoes *(*[*Pomodoro di Pachino IGP*](/wiki/Pomodoro_di_Pachino)*)*, [olives](/wiki/Olive), [olive oil](/wiki/Olive_oil), [artichokes](/wiki/Artichoke), [Opuntia ficus-indica](/wiki/Opuntia_ficus-indica) *(Fico d'India dell'*[*Etna*](/wiki/Mount_Etna) *DOP)*, [almonds](/wiki/Almond), [grapes](/wiki/Grape), [pistachios](/wiki/Pistachio) *(Pistacchio di* [*Bronte*](/wiki/Bronte,_Sicily) *DOP)* and wine. Cattle and sheep are raised. The cheese productions are particularly important thanks to the [Ragusano DOP](/wiki/Ragusano_cheese) and the [Pecorino Siciliano DOP](/wiki/Pecorino_Siciliano). [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy) is noted for its [honey](/wiki/Honey) (*Miele Ibleo*) and chocolate ([*Cioccolato di Modica*](/wiki/Cioccolato_di_Modica) *IGP*) productions.[[83]](#cite_note-83)[[84]](#cite_note-84)[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87) Sicily is the third largest wine producer in Italy (the world's largest wine producer) after [Veneto](/wiki/Veneto) and [Emilia Romagna](/wiki/Emilia_Romagna).[[88]](#cite_note-88) The region is known mainly for fortified [Marsala wines](/wiki/Marsala_wine). In recent decades the wine industry has improved, new winemakers are experimenting with less-known native varietals, and Sicilian wines have become better known.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The best known local varietal is [Nero d'Avola](/wiki/Nero_d'Avola), named for a small town not far from [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily); the best wines made with these grapes come from [Noto](/wiki/Noto), a famous old city close to Avola. Other important native varietals are [Nerello Mascalese](/wiki/Nerello) used to make the [Etna Rosso DOC wine](/wiki/Etna_DOC), [Frappato](/wiki/Frappato) that is a component of the [Cerasuolo di Vittoria DOCG wine](/wiki/Frappato), [Moscato di Pantelleria](/wiki/Muscat_of_Alexandria) (also known as *Zibibbo*) used to make different [Pantelleria](/wiki/Pantelleria) wines, [Malvasia di Lipari](/wiki/Malvasia#Italian_varieties) used for the [Malvasia di Lipari DOC wine](/wiki/Malvasia#Italian_varieties) and [Catarratto](/wiki/Catarratto) mostly used to make the white wine [Alcamo DOC](/wiki/Alcamo_wine). Furthermore, in Sicily high quality wines are also produced using non-native varietals like [Syrah](/wiki/Syrah), [Chardonnay](/wiki/Chardonnay) and [Merlot](/wiki/Merlot).[[90]](#cite_note-90) Sicily is also known for its liqueurs, such as the [Amaro Averna](/wiki/Amaro_Averna) produced in [Caltanissetta](/wiki/Caltanissetta) and the local [limoncello](/wiki/Limoncello).

Fishing is another fundamental resource for Sicily. There are important [tuna](/wiki/Tuna), [sardine](/wiki/Sardine), [swordfish](/wiki/Swordfish) and [European anchovy](/wiki/European_anchovy) fisheries. [Mazzara del Vallo](/wiki/Mazzara_del_Vallo) is the largest fishing centre in Sicily and one of the most important in Italy.[[91]](#cite_note-91)

### Industry and manufacturing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Palermo-Harbour-bjs-3.jpg)[Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) shipyards[thumb|Oilfields near](/wiki/File:TrivelleRagusaS1.jpg) [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy). Improvements in Sicily's road system have helped to promote industrial development. The region has three important [industrial districts](/wiki/Industrial_district):

* [*Catania*](/wiki/Catania) *Industrial District*, where there are several [food industries](/wiki/Food_industries) and one of the best European [electronics industry](/wiki/Electronics_industry) centres called *Etna Valley* (in honour of the best known [Silicon Valley](/wiki/Silicon_Valley)) which contains offices and factories of international companies such as [STMicroelectronics](/wiki/STMicroelectronics) and [Numonyx](/wiki/Numonyx);[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92)\*[*Syracuse*](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) *Petrochemical District* with [chemical industries](/wiki/Chemical_industry), [oil refineries](/wiki/Oil_refineries) and important [power stations](/wiki/Power_stations) (as the innovative [Archimede solar power plant](/wiki/Archimede_solar_power_plant));[[93]](#cite_note-93)\*the latest [*Enna*](/wiki/Enna) *Industrial District* in which there are [food industries](/wiki/Food_industries).[[94]](#cite_note-94)In [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) there are important [shipyards](/wiki/Shipyards) (such as [Fincantieri](/wiki/Fincantieri)), [mechanical](/wiki/Mechanical_engineering) factories of famous Italian companies as [Ansaldo Breda](/wiki/Ansaldo_Breda), publishing and textile industries. [Chemical industries](/wiki/Chemical_industry) are also in the [Province of Messina](/wiki/Province_of_Messina) ([Milazzo](/wiki/Milazzo)) and in the [Province of Caltanissetta](/wiki/Province_of_Caltanissetta) ([Gela](/wiki/Gela)).[[86]](#cite_note-86)There are petroleum, natural gas and [asphalt](/wiki/Asphalt) fields in the Southeast (mostly near [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy)) and massive deposits of [halite](/wiki/Halite) in Central Sicily.[[95]](#cite_note-95) The [Province of Trapani](/wiki/Province_of_Trapani) is one of the largest [sea salt](/wiki/Sea_salt) producers in Italy.[[96]](#cite_note-96)

### Statistics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

#### GDP growth[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

A table showing Sicily's different GDP (nominal and per capita) growth between 2000 and 2008:[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **| 2000** | **| 2002** | **| 2004** | **| 2006** | **2008** |
| **Gross Domestic Product** (Millions of Euros) | 67,204 | 70,530 | 72,855 | 75,085 | 77,327 | 80,358 | 82,938 | 88,328 |
| **GDP (PPP) per capita** (Euro) | 13,479 | 14,185 | 14,662 | 15,053 | 15,440 | 16,023 | 16,531 | 17,533 |

#### Economic sectors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

After the table which shows Sicily's GDP growth,[[97]](#cite_note-97) this table shows the sectors of the Sicilian economy in 2006:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Economic activity** | **GDP (mil. €)** | **% sector (region)** | **% sector (Italy)** |
| Agriculture, farming, fishing | 2,923.3 | 3.52% | 1.84% |
| Industry | 7,712.9 | 9.30% | 18.30% |
| Constructions | 4,582.1 | 5.52% | 5.41% |
| Commerce, hotels and restaurants, transport, services and (tele)communications | 15,159.7 | 18.28% | 20.54% |
| Financial activity and real estate | 17,656.1 | 21.29% | 24.17% |
| Other economic activities''' | 24,011.5 | 28.95% | 18.97% |
| VAT and other forms of taxes | 10,893.1 | 13.13% | 10.76% |
| **GDP of Sicily** | **82,938.6** |  |  |

## Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

### Roads[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A20_Torregrotta.jpg) [A20 Messina-Palermo motorway](/wiki/Autostrada_A20_(Italy)) near [Torregrotta](/wiki/Torregrotta) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Alstom_Cityway_Tram_Messina_06T.jpg)[Messina Tramway System](/wiki/Trams_in_Messina) Highways have recently been built and expanded in the last four decades. The most prominent Sicilian roads are the motorways (known as [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) running through the northern section of the island. Much of the motorway network is elevated by columns due to the mountainous terrain of the island.[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100)[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) Other main roads in Sicily are the *Strade Statali* like the SS.113 that connects [Trapani](/wiki/Trapani) to Messina (via Palermo), the SS.114 Messina-[Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) (via Catania) and the SS.115 Syracuse-Trapani (via [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy), [Gela](/wiki/Gela) and [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento)).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sign** | **Motorway** | **Length** | **Toll** | **Services** |
| [25px](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A18_Italia.svg) | [A18 Messina-Catania](/wiki/Autostrada_A18_(Italy)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | [20px](/wiki/File:Italian_traffic_signs_-_stazione.svg) Yes | [20px](/wiki/File:Zeichen_361-51.svg) Yes |
| [40px](/wiki/File:Italian_traffic_signs_-_raccordo_autostradale_15.svg) | [RA15 Catania's By Pass (West)](/wiki/Autostrada_RA15_(Italy)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | free | [20px](/wiki/File:Zeichen_361-51.svg) Yes |
| [40px](/wiki/File:Italian_traffic_signs_-_Autostrada_CT-SR.svg) | [Motorway Catania-Siracusa](/wiki/Autostrada_Catania-Siracusa) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | free | No |
| [25px](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A18_Italia.svg) | [A18 Siracusa-Rosolini](/wiki/Autostrada_A18_(Italy)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | free | No |
| [25px](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A19_Italia.svg) | [A19 Palermo-Catania](/wiki/Autostrada_A19_(Italy)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | free | [20px](/wiki/File:Zeichen_361-51.svg) Yes |
| [25px](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A20_Italia.svg) | [A20 Palermo-Messina](/wiki/Autostrada_A20_(Italy)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | [20px](/wiki/File:Italian_traffic_signs_-_stazione.svg) Yes | [20px](/wiki/File:Zeichen_361-51.svg) Yes |
| [25px](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A29_Italia.svg) | [A29 Palermo-Mazara del Vallo](/wiki/Autostrada_A29_(Italy)) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | free | No |
| [25px](/wiki/File:Autostrada_A29dir_Italia.svg) | [A29dir Alcamo-Trapani/Marsala](/wiki/Autostrada_A29_(Italy)#A29dir_Diramazione_Alcamo-Birgi) | [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) | free | No |

### Railways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[thumb|Two trains inside](/wiki/File:Punta_Raisi_staz_ferr_treni.jpg) [Punta Raisi railway station](/wiki/Punta_Raisi_railway_station) within [Palermo International Airport](/wiki/Palermo_International_Airport).

The first railway in Sicily was opened in 1863 (Palermo-Bagheria) and today all of the Sicilian provinces are served by a network of railway services, linking to most major cities and towns; this service is operated by [Trenitalia](/wiki/Trenitalia). Of the [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of railway tracks in use, over 60% has been [electrified](/wiki/Railway_electrification_system) whilst the remaining [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are serviced by [diesel](/wiki/Dieselisation) engines. 88% of the lines (1.209 km) are single-track and only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) are double-track serving the two main routes, Messina-Palermo ([Tyrrhenian](/wiki/Tyrrhenian_Sea)) and Messina-Catania-Syracuse ([Ionian](/wiki/Ionian_Sea)). Of the [narrow gauge railways](/wiki/Narrow_gauge_railway) the [Ferrovia Circumetnea](/wiki/Ferrovia_Circumetnea) is the only one that still operates, going round [Mount Etna](/wiki/Mount_Etna). From the major cities of Sicily, there are services to [Naples](/wiki/Naples) and Rome; this is achieved by the trains being loaded onto [ferries](/wiki/Ferries) which cross to the mainland.[[103]](#cite_note-103) In [Catania](/wiki/Catania) there is an [underground railway](/wiki/Rapid_transit) service ([metropolitana di Catania](/wiki/Metropolitana_di_Catania)); in [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) the national railway operator [Trenitalia](/wiki/Trenitalia) operates a [commuter rail](/wiki/Commuter_rail) ([Palermo metropolitan railway service](/wiki/Palermo_metropolitan_railway_service)); Messina is served by a [tramline](/wiki/Trams_in_Messina).

### Airports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Aeroporto_di_Catania_-_Catania_Airport.JPG)[Catania International Airport](/wiki/Catania–Fontanarossa_Airport) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Mainland Sicily has several airports which serve numerous Italian and European destinations and some extra-European;

* [Catania-Fontanarossa Airport](/wiki/Catania-Fontanarossa_Airport), located on the east-coast is the busiest on the island (and one of the busiest in all of Italy).
* [Palermo International Airport](/wiki/Palermo_International_Airport), which is also a substantially large airport with many national and international flights.
* [Trapani-Birgi Airport](/wiki/Trapani-Birgi_Airport), a military-civil joint use airport (third for traffic on the island). Recently the airport has seen an increase of traffic thanks to a [low-cost carrier](/wiki/Low-cost_carrier).
* [Comiso-Ragusa Airport](/wiki/Comiso_Airport), has recently been refurbished and re-converted from military use to civil airport. It was opened to commercial traffic and general aviation 30 May 2013.
* [Palermo-Boccadifalco Airport](/wiki/Palermo-Boccadifalco_Airport) is the old airport of Palermo and is currently used for [general aviation](/wiki/General_aviation) and as a base for the [Guardia di Finanza](/wiki/Guardia_di_Finanza) and [Police helicopters](/wiki/Police_helicopter).
* [NAS Sigonella Airport](/wiki/Naval_Air_Station_Sigonella), it is an Italian Air Force and U.S. Navy installation. Between the NATO Bases, Sigonella, is called "The Hub of the Med".[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)
* [Lampedusa Airport](/wiki/Lampedusa_Airport) and [Pantelleria Airport](/wiki/Pantelleria_Airport) are also two small airports on smaller islands which are considered part of Sicily.

### Ports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[thumb|right|The port of](/wiki/File:Archimarina.JPG) [Catania](/wiki/Catania) By sea, Sicily is served by several ferry routes and cargo ports, and in all major cities, cruise ships dock on a regular basis.

* Mainland Italy: Ports connecting to the mainland are [Messina](/wiki/Messina) (route to [Villa San Giovanni](/wiki/Villa_San_Giovanni) and [Salerno](/wiki/Salerno)), the busiest passenger port in Italy, [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) (routes to [Genoa](/wiki/Genoa), [Civitavecchia](/wiki/Civitavecchia) and [Naples](/wiki/Naples)) and [Catania](/wiki/Catania) (route to [Naples](/wiki/Naples)) .
* Sicily's small surrounding islands: The port of [Milazzo](/wiki/Milazzo) serves the [Aeolian Islands](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands), the ports of [Trapani](/wiki/Trapani) and [Marsala](/wiki/Marsala) the [Aegadian Islands](/wiki/Aegadian_Islands) and the port of [Porto Empedocle](/wiki/Porto_Empedocle) the [Pelagie Islands](/wiki/Pelagie_Islands). From Palermo there is a service to the island of [Ustica](/wiki/Ustica) and to [Sardinia](/wiki/Sardinia).
* International connections: From Palermo and Trapani there are weekly services to [Tunisia](/wiki/Tunisia) and there is also a daily service between [Malta](/wiki/Malta) and [Pozzallo](/wiki/Port_of_Pozzallo).[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105)\* Commercial/Cargo Ports: The port of [Augusta](/wiki/Augusta,_Sicily) is the 5th largest cargo port in Italy which handles tonnes of goods. Other major cargo ports are Palermo, Catania, Trapani, [Pozzallo](/wiki/Port_of_Pozzallo) and [Termini Imerese](/wiki/Termini_Imerese).
* **Touristic Ports:** Several "Touristic ports" along the Sicilian coast are in the service of private boats that need to moor on the island. The main ports for this traffic are in [Marina di Ragusa](/wiki/Marina_di_Ragusa), [Riposto](/wiki/Riposto), [Portorosa](/wiki/Portorosa), [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily), [Cefalù](/wiki/Cefalù) and [Sciacca](/wiki/Sciacca). In Sicily, Palermo is also a major center for the **Boat Rental l** with or without crew in the Mediterranean. Is the home of some of the charter companies such as Velasud Yachting Italy, with the nautical base in Palermo Marina Arenella Yachting Club with a fleet of 10 yachts including sailboats and catamarans up to 52 feet. In Palermo, and in general in Sicily, there are a number of boat rental companies, many of these do not have the ownership. Most of them are just simply brokers. Other companies well known in Palermo and Portorosa (Messina) are Best Charter and Jonio Yachting.
* Fishing ports: As all islands, Sicily also has many fishing ports. The most important is in [Mazara del Vallo](/wiki/Mazara_del_Vallo) followed by [Castellamare del Golfo](/wiki/Castellamare_del_Golfo), [Licata](/wiki/Licata), [Scoglitti](/wiki/Scoglitti) and [Portopalo di Capo Passero](/wiki/Portopalo_di_Capo_Passero).

### Planned bridge[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Plans for a bridge linking Sicily to the mainland have been discussed since 1865. Throughout the last decade, plans were developed for a road and rail link to the mainland via what would be the world's longest [suspension bridge](/wiki/Suspension_bridge), the [Strait of Messina Bridge](/wiki/Strait_of_Messina_Bridge). Planning for the project has experienced several false starts over the past few years. On 6 March 2009, [Silvio Berlusconi's](/wiki/Silvio_Berlusconi) government declared that the construction works for the Messina Bridge will begin on 23 December 2009, and announced a pledge of €1.3 billion as a contribution to the bridge's total cost, estimated at €6.1 billion.[[106]](#cite_note-106)The plan has been criticised by environmental associations and some local Sicilians and Calabrians, concerned with its environmental impact, economical sustainability and even possible infiltrations by organised crime.[[107]](#cite_note-107)[[108]](#cite_note-108)

## Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Spiaggia_Isola_dei_Coniglio_Lampedusa.JPG)[Lampedusa](/wiki/Lampedusa), [Pelagie Islands](/wiki/Pelagie_Islands) Sicily's sunny, dry climate, scenery, cuisine, history and architecture attract many tourists from mainland Italy and abroad. The tourist season peaks in the summer months, although people visit the island all year round. [Mount Etna](/wiki/Mount_Etna), the beaches, the archeological sites, and major cities such as [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo), [Catania](/wiki/Catania), [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) and [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Sicily) are the favourite tourist destinations, but the old town of [Taormina](/wiki/Taormina) and the neighbouring seaside resort of [Giardini Naxos](/wiki/Giardini_Naxos) draw visitors from all over the world, as do the [Aeolian Islands](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands), [Erice](/wiki/Erice), [Cefalù](/wiki/Cefalù), [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento), the [Pelagie Islands](/wiki/Pelagie_Islands) and [Capo d'Orlando](/wiki/Capo_d'Orlando). The last features some of the best-preserved temples of the ancient Greek period. Many Mediterranean cruise ships stop in Sicily, and many wine tourists also visit the island.

Some scenes of famous Hollywood and [Cinecittà](/wiki/Cinecittà) films were shot in Sicily. This increased the attraction of Sicily as a tourist destination.[[109]](#cite_note-109)[[110]](#cite_note-110)

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[One of the mosaics in Villa Romana del Casale|thumb](/wiki/File:Mosaic_in_Villa_Romana_del_Casale,_by_Jerzy_Strzelecki,_13.jpg)

There are seven [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Sites) on Sicily. By the order of inscription:

* [**Valle dei Templi**](/wiki/Valle_dei_Templi) (1997) is one of the most outstanding examples of [Greater Greece](/wiki/Magna_Graecia) art and architecture, and is one of the main attractions of Sicily as well as a national monument of Italy. The site is located in [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento).[[111]](#cite_note-111)\*[**Villa Romana del Casale**](/wiki/Villa_Romana_del_Casale) (1997) is a [Roman villa](/wiki/Roman_villa) built in the first quarter of the 4th century and located about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) outside the town of [Piazza Armerina](/wiki/Piazza_Armerina). It contains the richest, largest and most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world.[[112]](#cite_note-112)\*[**Aeolian Islands**](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands) (2000) are a [volcanic](/wiki/Volcano) [archipelago](/wiki/Archipelago) in the [Tyrrhenian Sea](/wiki/Tyrrhenian_Sea), named after the demigod of the winds [Aeolus](/wiki/Aeolus). The Aeolian Islands are a popular tourist destination in the summer, and attract up to 200,000 visitors annually.[[113]](#cite_note-113)\* [**Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto**](/wiki/Val_di_Noto) (2002) "represent the culmination and final flowering of [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) art in Europe".[[114]](#cite_note-114) It includes several towns: [Caltagirone](/wiki/Caltagirone), [Militello in Val di Catania](/wiki/Militello_in_Val_di_Catania), [Catania](/wiki/Catania), [Modica](/wiki/Modica), [Noto](/wiki/Noto), [Palazzolo Acreide](/wiki/Palazzolo_Acreide), [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy) and [Scicli](/wiki/Scicli).

[thumb|Cathedral of San Giorgio in Modica](/wiki/File:Cathedral_of_San_Giorgio_in_Modica.JPG)

* [**Necropolis of Pantalica**](/wiki/Necropolis_of_Pantalica) (2005) is a large [necropolis](/wiki/Necropolis) in Sicily with over 5,000 tombs dating from the 13th to the 7th centuries BC. [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) is notable for its rich Greek history, culture, amphitheatres and architecture. They are situated in south-eastern Sicily.
* [**Mount Etna**](/wiki/Mount_Etna) (2013) is one of the most active volcanoes in the world and is in an almost constant state of activity and generated myths, legends and naturalistic observation from Greek, Celts and Roman classic and medieval times.[[115]](#cite_note-115)\* **Arab-Norman** [**Palermo**](/wiki/Palermo) **and the cathedral churches of** [**Cefalù**](/wiki/Cefalù) **and** [**Monreale**](/wiki/Monreale); includes a series of nine civil and religious structures dating from the era of the Norman kingdom of Sicily (1130–1194)[[116]](#cite_note-116)

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Sicilia_Taormina4_tango7174.jpg)[Taormina's](/wiki/Taormina) central square at sunset.

#### Tentative Sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

* [Taormina and Isola Bella](/wiki/Taormina);[[117]](#cite_note-117)\*[Motya](/wiki/Motya) and [Libeo Island](/wiki/Marsala): The Phoenician-Punic Civilisation in Italy;[[118]](#cite_note-118)\*[Scala dei Turchi](/wiki/Scala_dei_Turchi);[[119]](#cite_note-119)\*[Strait of Messina](/wiki/Strait_of_Messina). [[120]](#cite_note-120)

### Archeological sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

Because many different cultures settled, dominated or invaded the island, Sicily has a huge variety of [archeological sites](/wiki/Archeological_sites). Also, some of the most notable and best preserved temples and other structures of the Greek world are located in Sicily.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed). Here is a short list of the major archeological sites:

* Sicels/Sicans/Elymians: [Segesta](/wiki/Segesta), [Eryx](/wiki/Eryx_(Sicily)), [Cava Ispica](/wiki/Ispica), [Thapsos](/wiki/Thapsos), [Pantalica](/wiki/Pantalica).
* Greeks: [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily), [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento), [Selinunte](/wiki/Selinunte), [Gela](/wiki/Gela), [Kamarina](/wiki/Kamarina,_Sicily), [Himera](/wiki/Himera), [Megara Hyblaea](/wiki/Megara_Hyblaea), [Naxos](/wiki/Naxos_(Sicily)), [Heraclea Minoa](/wiki/Heraclea_Minoa),
* Phoenicians: [Motya](/wiki/Motya), [Soluntum](/wiki/Soluntum), [Marsala](/wiki/Marsala).
* Romans: [Piazza Armerina](/wiki/Piazza_Armerina), [Centuripe](/wiki/Centuripe), [Taormina](/wiki/Taormina).
* Arabs: [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo), [Mazara del Vallo](/wiki/Mazara_del_Vallo).

The excavation and restoration of one of Sicily's best known archeological sites, the [Valley of the Temples](/wiki/Valle_dei_Templi) in Agrigento, was at the direction of the archaeologist [Domenico Antonio Lo Faso Pietrasanta](/wiki/Domenico_Lo_Faso_Pietrasanta), Fifth Duke of [Serradifalco](/wiki/Serradifalco), known in archeological circles simply as *"Serradifalco"*. He also oversaw the restoration of ancient sites at [Segesta](/wiki/Segesta), [Selinunte](/wiki/Selinunte), [Siracusa](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) and [Taormina](/wiki/Taormina).

### Castles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

In Sicily there are hundreds of castles, the most relevant are: [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:CastelloUrsino1CT.JPG)[Castello Ursino](/wiki/Castello_Ursino) in [Catania](/wiki/Catania) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Palermo-Zisa-bjs2007-01.jpg)[Zisa Castle](/wiki/Zisa,_Palermo) in [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo). [thumb|right|Castello di Donnafugata near](/wiki/File:Castello_Donnafugata,_Ragusa.JPG) [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Castles** | **Commune** |
| [Caltanisetta](/wiki/Province_of_Caltanissetta) | Castello Manfredonico | [Mussomeli](/wiki/Mussomeli) |
| U Cannuni | [Mazzarino](/wiki/Mazzarino,_Sicily) |
| Castelluccio di Gela | [Gela](/wiki/Gela) |
| [Catania](/wiki/Province_of_Catania) | [Castello Ursino](/wiki/Castello_Ursino) | [Catania](/wiki/Catania) |
| Castello Normanno | [Adrano](/wiki/Adrano) |
| Castello Normanno | [Paternò](/wiki/Paternò) |
| Castello di Aci | [Aci Castello](/wiki/Aci_Castello) |
| [Messina](/wiki/Province_of_Messina) | Forte dei Centri | [Messina](/wiki/Messina) |
| Castello di Milazzo | [Milazzo](/wiki/Milazzo) |
| Castello di Sant'Alessio Siculo | [Sant'Alessio Siculo](/wiki/Sant'Alessio_Siculo) |
| Castello di Pentefur | [Savoca](/wiki/Savoca) |
| [Castello di Schisò](/wiki/Schisò_Castle) | [Giardini Naxos](/wiki/Giardini_Naxos) |
| [Palermo](/wiki/Province_of_Palermo) | [Zisa, Palermo](/wiki/Zisa,_Palermo) | [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) |
| [Castello di Caccamo](/wiki/Castello_di_Caccamo) | [Caccamo](/wiki/Caccamo) |
| Castello di Carini | [Carini](/wiki/Carini) |
| Castello dei Ventimiglia | [Castelbuono](/wiki/Castelbuono) |
| [Ragusa](/wiki/Province_of_Ragusa) | Castello di Donnafugata | [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy) |
| Torre Cabrera | [Pozzallo](/wiki/Pozzallo) |
| Castello Dei Conti | [Modica](/wiki/Modica) |
| [Syracuse](/wiki/Province_of_Syracuse) | [Castello Maniace](/wiki/Castello_Maniace) | [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) |
| [Trapani](/wiki/Province_of_Trapani) | Castello di Venere | [Erice](/wiki/Erice) |

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Antonello_da_Messina_-_Virgin_Annunciate_-_Galleria_Regionale_della_Sicilia,_Palermo.jpg)[*Virgin Annunciate*](/wiki/Virgin_Annunciate_(Antonello_da_Messina,_Palermo)), [Antonello da Messina](/wiki/Antonello_da_Messina) Sicily has long been associated with [the arts](/wiki/The_arts); many poets, writers, [philosophers](/wiki/Philosophy), intellectuals, architects and painters have roots on the island. The history of prestige in this field can be traced back to Greek philosopher [Archimedes](/wiki/Archimedes), a [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) native who has gone on to become renowned as one of the greatest mathematicians of all time.[[121]](#cite_note-121) [Gorgias](/wiki/Gorgias) and [Empedocles](/wiki/Empedocles) are two other highly noted early Sicilian-Greek philosophers, while the Syracusan [Epicharmus](/wiki/Epicharmus_of_Kos) is held to be the inventor of comedy.[[122]](#cite_note-122)[[123]](#cite_note-123)

### Art and architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[thumb|left|Majolica painting art of](/wiki/File:Ceramic_Art_Pottery_Agatino_Caruso_Caltagirone_2.jpg) [Caltagirone](/wiki/Caltagirone)

[Terracotta](/wiki/Terracotta) [ceramics](/wiki/Ceramics_(art)) from the island are well known, the art of ceramics on Sicily goes back to the original ancient peoples named the [Sicanians](/wiki/Sicani), it was then perfected during the period of Greek colonisation and is still prominent and distinct to this day.[[124]](#cite_note-124) Nowadays, [Caltagirone](/wiki/Caltagirone) is one of the most important centres in Sicily for the artistic production of ceramics and terra-cotta sculptures. Famous painters include [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance) artist [Antonello da Messina](/wiki/Antonello_da_Messina), [Renato Guttuso](/wiki/Renato_Guttuso) and Greek born [Giorgio de Chirico](/wiki/Giorgio_de_Chirico) who is commonly dubbed the "father of [Surrealist art](/wiki/Surrealist_art)" and founder of the [metaphysical art](/wiki/Metaphysical_art) movement.[[125]](#cite_note-125) The most noted architects are [Filippo Juvarra](/wiki/Filippo_Juvarra) (one of the most important figures of the Italian [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque)) and [Ernesto Basile](/wiki/Ernesto_Basile).

#### Sicilian Baroque[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Sicilia_Siracusa1_tango7174.jpg)[Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,Sicily) Cathedral [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The [Sicilian Baroque](/wiki/Sicilian_Baroque) has a unique architectural identity. [Noto](/wiki/Noto), [Caltagirone](/wiki/Caltagirone), [Catania](/wiki/Catania), [Ragusa](/wiki/Ragusa,_Italy), [Modica](/wiki/Modica), [Scicli](/wiki/Scicli) and particularly [Acireale](/wiki/Acireale) contain some of Italy's best examples of [Baroque architecture](/wiki/Baroque_architecture), carved in the local red [sandstone](/wiki/Sandstone). Noto provides one of the best examples of the Baroque architecture brought to Sicily.

The Baroque style in Sicily was largely confined to buildings erected by the church, and [palazzi](/wiki/Palazzo) built as private residences for the Sicilian aristocracy.[[126]](#cite_note-126) The earliest examples of this style in Sicily lacked individuality and were typically heavy-handed pastiches of buildings seen by Sicilian visitors to Rome, [Florence](/wiki/Florence), and [Naples](/wiki/Naples). However, even at this early stage, provincial architects had begun to incorporate certain vernacular features of Sicily's older architecture. By the middle of the 18th century, when Sicily's Baroque architecture was noticeably different from that of the mainland, it typically included at least two or three of the following features, coupled with a unique freedom of design that is more difficult to characterise in words.

### World Heritage Sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[thumb|Square rock-cut tombs in Pantalica](/wiki/File:Pantalica1770.jpg)

* [Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale](/wiki/Arab-Norman_Palermo_and_the_Cathedral_Churches_of_Cefalù_and_Monreale)
* [Archaeological Area of Agrigento](/wiki/Archaeological_Area_of_Agrigento)
* Late Baroque Towns of the [Val di Noto](/wiki/Val_di_Noto)
* [Aeolian Islands](/wiki/Aeolian_Islands)
* [Mount Etna](/wiki/Mount_Etna)
* [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse_(Sicily)) and the Rocky [Necropolis of Pantalica](/wiki/Necropolis_of_Pantalica)
* [Villa Romana del Casale](/wiki/Villa_Romana_del_Casale)

### Music and film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Palermo_teatro_massimo.jpg)[Teatro Massimo](/wiki/Teatro_Massimo), [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) hosts the [Teatro Massimo](/wiki/Teatro_Massimo) which is the largest [opera house](/wiki/Opera_house) in Italy and the third largest in all of Europe.[[127]](#cite_note-127)In [Catania](/wiki/Catania) there is another important [opera house](/wiki/Opera_house), the [Teatro Massimo Bellini](/wiki/Teatro_Massimo_Bellini) with 1,200 seats, which is considered one of the best European [opera houses](/wiki/Opera_houses) for its acoustics. Sicily's composers vary from [Vincenzo Bellini](/wiki/Vincenzo_Bellini), [Sigismondo d'India](/wiki/Sigismondo_d'India), [Giovanni Pacini](/wiki/Giovanni_Pacini) and [Alessandro Scarlatti](/wiki/Alessandro_Scarlatti), to contemporary composers such as [Salvatore Sciarrino](/wiki/Salvatore_Sciarrino) and [Silvio Amato](/wiki/Silvio_Amato).

[150 px|left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Vincenzo_bellini.jpg)[Vincenzo Bellini](/wiki/Vincenzo_Bellini)

Many award-winning and acclaimed films of Italian cinema have been filmed in Sicily, amongst the most noted of which are: [Visconti's](/wiki/Luchino_Visconti) *"*[*La Terra Trema*](/wiki/La_Terra_Trema)*"* and *"*[*Il Gattopardo*](/wiki/Il_Gattopardo)*"*, [Pietro Germi's](/wiki/Pietro_Germi) *"*[*Divorzio all'Italiana*](/wiki/Divorce,_Italian_Style)" and *"*[*Sedotta e Abbandonata*](/wiki/Seduced_and_Abandoned)".

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[150px|thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Luigi_Pirandello.jpg)[Luigi Pirandello](/wiki/Luigi_Pirandello) The golden age of Sicilian poetry began in the early 13th century with the [Sicilian School](/wiki/Sicilian_School) of [Giacomo da Lentini](/wiki/Giacomo_da_Lentini), which was highly influential on [Italian literature](/wiki/Italian_literature). Some of the most noted figures among writers and poets are [Luigi Pirandello](/wiki/Luigi_Pirandello) ([Nobel laureate, 1934](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature)), [Salvatore Quasimodo](/wiki/Salvatore_Quasimodo) ([Nobel laureate, 1959](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature)), [Giovanni Verga](/wiki/Giovanni_Verga) (the father of the *Italian* [*Verismo*](/wiki/Verismo_(literature))), [Domenico Tempio](/wiki/Domenico_Tempio), [Giovanni Meli](/wiki/Giovanni_Meli), [Luigi Capuana](/wiki/Luigi_Capuana), [Mario Rapisardi](/wiki/Mario_Rapisardi), [Federico de Roberto](/wiki/Federico_de_Roberto), [Leonardo Sciascia](/wiki/Leonardo_Sciascia), [Vitaliano Brancati](/wiki/Vitaliano_Brancati), [Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa](/wiki/Giuseppe_Tomasi_di_Lampedusa), [Elio Vittorini](/wiki/Elio_Vittorini), [Vincenzo Consolo](/wiki/Vincenzo_Consolo) and [Andrea Camilleri](/wiki/Andrea_Camilleri) (noted for his novels and short stories with the fictional character [Inspector Salvo Montalbano](/wiki/Salvo_Montalbano) as protagonist). On the political side notable philosophers include [Gaetano Mosca](/wiki/Gaetano_Mosca) and [Giovanni Gentile](/wiki/Giovanni_Gentile) who wrote [*The Doctrine of Fascism*](/wiki/The_Doctrine_of_Fascism).

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Today in Sicily most people are bilingual and speak both Italian and [Sicilian](/wiki/Sicilian_language), a distinct and historical [Romance language](/wiki/Romance_languages). Some of the [Sicilian](/wiki/Sicilian_language) words are [loan words](/wiki/Loan_word) from [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language), [Catalan](/wiki/Catalan_language), French, [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language), Spanish and other languages.[[128]](#cite_note-128) Dialects related to Sicilian are also spoken in [Calabria](/wiki/Calabria) and [Salento](/wiki/Apulia); it had a significant influence on the [Maltese language](/wiki/Maltese_language). However the use of [Sicilian](/wiki/Sicilian_language) is limited to informal contexts (mostly in family) and in a majority of cases it is replaced by the so-called *regional Italian of Sicily*, an [Italian dialect](/wiki/Regional_Italian) that is a kind of mix between Italian and Sicilian.[[129]](#cite_note-129) Sicilian was an early influence in the development of the first Italian standard, although its use remained confined to an intellectual elite. This was a literary language in Sicily created under the auspices of [Frederick II](/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) and his court of notaries, or *Magna Curia*, which, headed by [Giacomo da Lentini](/wiki/Giacomo_da_Lentini), also gave birth to the [Sicilian School](/wiki/Sicilian_School), widely inspired by troubadour literature. Its linguistic and poetic heritage was later assimilated into the Florentine by [Dante Alighieri](/wiki/Dante_Alighieri), the father of modern Italian who, in his [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), claims that "In effect this vernacular seems to deserve a higher praise than the others, since all the poetry written by Italians can be called Sicilian".[[130]](#cite_note-130) It is in this language that appeared the first [sonnet](/wiki/Sonnet), whose invention is attributed to Giacomo da Lentini himself.

### Science[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Catania](/wiki/Catania) has one of the four laboratories of the [Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare](/wiki/Istituto_Nazionale_di_Fisica_Nucleare) (National Institute for Nuclear Physics) in which there is a [cyclotron](/wiki/Cyclotron) that uses [protons](/wiki/Proton) both for [nuclear physics](/wiki/Nuclear_physics) experiments and for particle therapy to treat cancer ([proton therapy](/wiki/Proton_therapy)).[[131]](#cite_note-131)[[132]](#cite_note-132) [Noto](/wiki/Noto) has one of the largest [radio telescopes](/wiki/Radio_telescopes) in Italy that performs geodetic and astronomical observations.[[133]](#cite_note-133) There are [observatories](/wiki/Observatories) in [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) and [Catania](/wiki/Catania), managed by the [Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica](/wiki/Istituto_Nazionale_di_Astrofisica) (National Institute for Astrophysics). In the *Observatory of Palermo* the astronomer [Giuseppe Piazzi](/wiki/Giuseppe_Piazzi) discovered the first and the largest [asteroid](/wiki/Asteroid) to be identified [Ceres](/wiki/Ceres_(dwarf_planet)) (today considered a [dwarf planet](/wiki/Dwarf_planet)) on 1 January 1801;[[134]](#cite_note-134) [Catania](/wiki/Catania) has two observatories, one of which is situated on [Mount Etna](/wiki/Mount_Etna) at 1,800 m.[[135]](#cite_note-135) [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily) is also an experimental centre for the solar technologies through the creation of the project [Archimede solar power plant](/wiki/Archimede_solar_power_plant) that is the first [concentrated solar power plant](/wiki/Concentrated_solar_power) to use [molten salt](/wiki/Molten_salt) for heat transfer and storage which is integrated with a [combined-cycle](/wiki/Combined-cycle) gas facility. All the plant is owned and operated by [Enel](/wiki/Enel).[[136]](#cite_note-136)[[137]](#cite_note-137) The touristic town of [Erice](/wiki/Erice) is also an important science place thanks to the [Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture](/wiki/Ettore_Majorana_Foundation_and_Centre_for_Scientific_Culture) which embraces 123 schools from all over the world, covering all branches of science, offering courses, seminars, workshops and annual meetings. It was founded by the physicist [Antonino Zichichi](/wiki/Antonino_Zichichi) in honour of another scientist of the island, [Ettore Majorana](/wiki/Ettore_Majorana) known for the [Majorana equation](/wiki/Majorana_equation) and [Majorana fermions](/wiki/Majorana_fermion).[[138]](#cite_note-138) Sicily's famous scientists include also [Stanislao Cannizzaro](/wiki/Stanislao_Cannizzaro) (chemist), [Giovanni Battista Hodierna](/wiki/Giovanni_Battista_Hodierna) and [Niccolò Cacciatore](/wiki/Niccolò_Cacciatore) (astronomers).

[thumb|right|Department of Engineering,](/wiki/File:Ripresa_notturna_della_Facolta_di_Ingegneria_Messina.jpg) [University of Messina](/wiki/University_of_Messina)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

Sicily has four universities:

* The [University of Catania](/wiki/University_of_Catania) dates back to 1434 and it is the oldest university in Sicily. Nowadays it hosts 12 faculties and over 62,000 students and it offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs. [Catania](/wiki/Catania) hosts also the [*Scuola Superiore*](/wiki/Scuola_superiore_di_Catania), an [academic institution](/wiki/Academic_institution) linked to the University of Catania, aiming for excellence in education.[[139]](#cite_note-139)\* The [University of Palermo](/wiki/University_of_Palermo) is the island's second oldest university. It was officially founded in 1806, although historical records indicate that medicine and law have been taught there since the late 15th century. The [Orto botanico di Palermo](/wiki/Orto_botanico_di_Palermo) (Palermo botanical gardens) is home to the university's Department of Botany and is also open to visitors.
* The [University of Messina](/wiki/University_of_Messina), founded in 1548 by [Ignatius of Loyola](/wiki/Ignatius_of_Loyola). It is organized in 11 Faculties.
* The [Kore University of Enna](/wiki/Kore_University_of_Enna) founded in 1995, it is the latest Sicilian university and the first university founded in Sicily after the [Italian Unification](/wiki/Italian_Unification).

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Sicilia_Noto1_tango7174.jpg)[Noto Cathedral](/wiki/Noto_Cathedral)

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) As in most Italian regions, Christian [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism) is the most predominant religious denomination in Sicily, and the church still plays an important role in the lives of most people. Before the invasion of the Normans, Sicily was predominantly [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox), of which few adherents still remain today. There is also a notable small minority of Eastern-rite [Byzantine Catholics](/wiki/Byzantine_Catholics) which has a mixed congregation of ethnic [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians); it is operated by the [Italo-Albanian Catholic Church](/wiki/Italo-Albanian_Catholic_Church). Most people still attend church weekly or at least for religious festivals, and many people get married in churches. However, there was a wide presence of Jews in Sicily for at least 1,400 years and possibly for more than 2,000 years. Some scholars believe that the Sicilian Jewry are partial ancestors of the [Ashkenazi Jews](/wiki/Ashkenazi_Jews).[[140]](#cite_note-140) However, much of the Jewish community faded away when they were [expelled from the island](/wiki/Expulsion_of_the_Jews_from_Sicily) in 1492. [Islam](/wiki/Islam) was present during the [Islamic rule of the island](/wiki/Emirate_of_Sicily), although Muslims were also expelled. Today, mostly due to immigration to the island, there are also several religious minorities, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Judaism, and [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism). There are also a fair number of [Evangelical](/wiki/Evangelicalism) Church members and practitioners who reside on the island.

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Cannoli_siciliani.jpg)[Cannoli](/wiki/Cannoli), a highly popular pastry associated with Sicilian cuisine The island has a long history of producing a variety of noted cuisines and wines, to the extent that Sicily is sometimes nicknamed *God's Kitchen* because of this.[[141]](#cite_note-141) Every part of Sicily has its speciality (for example Cassata is typical of Palermo, even if available everywhere in Sicily, as is Granita, a Catania speciality). The ingredients are typically rich in taste while remaining affordable to the general public[[142]](#cite_note-142) The savory dishes of Sicily are viewed to be [healthy](/wiki/Healthy_diet), using fresh vegetables and fruits, such as tomatoes, [artichokes](/wiki/Artichoke), [olives](/wiki/Olive) (including [olive oil](/wiki/Olive_oil)), [citrus](/wiki/Citrus), [apricots](/wiki/Apricot), [aubergines](/wiki/Aubergines), onions, [beans](/wiki/Bean), [raisins](/wiki/Raisin) commonly coupled with seafood, freshly caught from the surrounding coastlines, including [tuna](/wiki/Tuna), [sea bream](/wiki/Sea_bream), [sea bass](/wiki/European_seabass), [cuttlefish](/wiki/Cuttlefish), [swordfish](/wiki/Swordfish), [sardines](/wiki/Sardine), and others.[[143]](#cite_note-143) [left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Arancini_002.jpg)[Arancini](/wiki/Arancini), rice balls fried in breadcrumbs

Perhaps the most well-known part of Sicilian cuisine is the rich sweet dishes including [ice creams](/wiki/Ice_cream) and [pastries](/wiki/Pastry). [Cannoli](/wiki/Cannoli) (singular: *cannolo*), a tube-shaped shell of fried pastry dough filled with a sweet filling usually containing [ricotta cheese](/wiki/Ricotta_cheese), is in particular strongly associated with Sicily worldwide.[[144]](#cite_note-144) Biancomangiare, biscotti ennesi (cookies native to [Enna](/wiki/Enna)), braccilatte (a Sicilian version of [doughnuts](/wiki/Doughnut)), [buccellato](/wiki/Buccellato), [ciarduna](/wiki/Ciarduna), [pignoli](/wiki/Pignolo_(macaroon)), [bruccellati](/wiki/Bruccellati), [sesame seed cookies](/wiki/Giuggiulena_cookies), a sweet confection with sesame seeds and almonds ([torrone](/wiki/Torrone) in Italy) is [cubbaita](/wiki/Cubbaita), [frutta martorana](/wiki/Frutta_martorana), [cassata](/wiki/Cassata), [pignolata](/wiki/Pignolata), [granita](/wiki/Granita), cuccidati (a variety of fig cookie; also known as buccellati) and [cuccìa](/wiki/Cuccìa) are amongst some of the most notable sweet dishes.[[144]](#cite_note-144) Like the cuisine of the rest of southern Italy, pasta plays an important part in Sicilian cuisine, as does rice; for example with [arancini](/wiki/Arancini).[[145]](#cite_note-145) As well as using some other cheeses, Sicily has spawned some of its own, using both cow's and sheep's milk, such as [pecorino](/wiki/Pecorino_Siciliano) and [caciocavallo](/wiki/Caciocavallo).[[146]](#cite_note-146) Spices used include [saffron](/wiki/Saffron), [nutmeg](/wiki/Nutmeg), [clove](/wiki/Clove), [pepper](/wiki/Black_pepper), and [cinnamon](/wiki/Cinnamon), which were introduced by the Arabs. [Parsley](/wiki/Parsley) is used abundantly in many dishes. Although Sicilian cuisine is commonly associated with sea food, meat dishes, including [goose](/wiki/Goose), [lamb](/wiki/Domestic_sheep), goat, rabbit, and [turkey](/wiki/Turkey), are also found in Sicily. It was the [Normans](/wiki/Normans) and [Swabians](/wiki/Hohenstaufen) who first introduced a fondness for meat dishes to the island.[[147]](#cite_note-147) Some varieties of wine are produced from vines that are relatively unique to the island, such as the [Nero d'Avola](/wiki/Nero_d'Avola) made near the baroque of town of [Noto](/wiki/Noto).[[148]](#cite_note-148)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[250px|upright|thumb|](/wiki/File:Giuseppe_Gibilisco_Berlin_2009.JPG)[Giuseppe Gibilisco](/wiki/Giuseppe_Gibilisco), [pole vaulter](/wiki/Pole_vaulting) from [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily), [2003 World Champion](/wiki/2003_World_Championships_in_Athletics) and bronze [Olympic](/wiki/Athletics_at_the_2004_Summer_Olympics_–_Men's_pole_vault) medalist The most popular sport on Sicily is [football](/wiki/Association_football), which came to the fore in the late 19th century under the influence of the English. Some of the oldest football clubs in all of Italy are from Sicily: the three most successful are [Palermo](/wiki/U.S._Città_di_Palermo), [Messina](/wiki/F.C._Messina_Peloro), and [Catania](/wiki/Calcio_Catania), who have all, at some point, played in the [Serie A](/wiki/Serie_A). To date no club from Sicily has ever won Serie A, but football is still deeply embedded in local culture and all over Sicily most towns have a representative team.[[149]](#cite_note-149) Palermo and Catania have a heated rivalry and compete in the [Sicilian derby](/wiki/Sicilian_derby) together: to date, Palermo is the only football team in Sicily to have played on the European stage, in the [UEFA Cup](/wiki/UEFA_Cup). In the island, the most noted footballer is [Salvatore Schillaci](/wiki/Salvatore_Schillaci), who won the [Golden Boot](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_awards) at the [1990 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1990_FIFA_World_Cup) with [Italy](/wiki/Italy_national_football_team).[[149]](#cite_note-149) Other noted players include [Giuseppe Furino](/wiki/Giuseppe_Furino), [Pietro Anastasi](/wiki/Pietro_Anastasi), [Francesco Coco](/wiki/Francesco_Coco), [Christian Riganò](/wiki/Christian_Riganò), and [Roberto Galia](/wiki/Roberto_Galia).[[149]](#cite_note-149) There have also been some noted managers from the island, such as [Carmelo Di Bella](/wiki/Carmelo_Di_Bella) and [Franco Scoglio](/wiki/Franco_Scoglio).

Although football is by far the most popular sport in Sicily, the island also has participants in other fields. [Amatori Catania](/wiki/Amatori_Catania) have competed in the top Italian national [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) league called [National Championship of Excellence](/wiki/National_Championship_of_Excellence). They have even participated at European level in the [European Challenge Cup](/wiki/European_Challenge_Cup). Competing in the basketball variation of [Serie A](/wiki/Serie_A_(basketball)) is [Orlandina Basket](/wiki/Orlandina_Basket) from [Capo d'Orlando](/wiki/Capo_d'Orlando) in the [province of Messina](/wiki/Province_of_Messina), where the sport has a reasonable following. Various other sports that are played to some extent include volleyball, [handball](/wiki/Team_handball), and [water polo](/wiki/Water_polo). Previously, in [motorsport](/wiki/Motorsport), Sicily held the prominent [Targa Florio](/wiki/Targa_Florio) sports car race that took place in the Madonie Mountains, with the start-finish line in [Cerda](/wiki/Cerda).[[150]](#cite_note-150) The event was started in 1906 by Sicilian industrialist and automobile enthusiast [Vincenzo Florio](/wiki/Vincenzo_Florio), and ran until it was cancelled due to safety concerns in 1977.[[150]](#cite_note-150) From 28 September to 9 October 2005 [Trapani](/wiki/Trapani) was the location of Acts 8 and 9 of the [Louis Vuitton Cup](/wiki/Louis_Vuitton_Cup). This sailing race featured, among other entrants, all the boats that took part in the 2007 [America's Cup](/wiki/America's_Cup).

### Popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[thumb|upright|Sicilian *arrotino* at a living](/wiki/File:Sicilian_animated_crib.JPG) [nativity scene](/wiki/Nativity_scene) wearing traditional Sicilian clothing [thumb|left|Religious festival in](/wiki/File:Trapani_Misteri.jpg) [Trapani](/wiki/Trapani) [thumb|upright|A](/wiki/File:Carnival_at_Acireale.JPG) [carnival](/wiki/Carnival) float in [Acireale](/wiki/Acireale)

Each town and city has its own patron saint, and the [feast days](/wiki/Feast_day) are marked by colorful processions through the streets with marching bands and displays of fireworks.

Sicilian religious festivals also include the *presepe vivente* (living [nativity scene](/wiki/Nativity_scene)), which takes place at Christmas time. Deftly combining religion and folklore, it is a constructed mock 19th century Sicilian village, complete with a nativity scene, and has people of all ages dressed in the costumes of the period, some impersonating the Holy Family, and others working as artisans of their particular assigned trade. It is normally concluded on [Epiphany](/wiki/Epiphany_(holiday)), often highlighted by the arrival of the [magi](/wiki/Magi) on horseback.

Oral tradition plays a large role in Sicilian folklore. Many stories passed down from generation to generation involve a character named "[Giufà](/wiki/Giufà)". Anecdotes from this character's life preserve Sicilian culture as well as convey moral messages.

Sicilians also enjoy outdoor festivals, held in the local square or *piazza* where live music and dancing are performed on stage, and food fairs or *sagre* are set up in booths lining the square. These offer various local specialties, as well as typical Sicilian food. Normally these events are concluded with fireworks. A noted *sagra* is the *Sagra del Carciofo* or [*Artichoke*](/wiki/Artichoke) *Festival*, which is held annually in [Ramacca](/wiki/Ramacca) in April. The most important traditional event in Sicily is the [carnival](/wiki/Carnival). Famous carnivals are in [Acireale](/wiki/Acireale), [Misterbianco](/wiki/Misterbianco), [Regalbuto](/wiki/Regalbuto), [Paternò](/wiki/Paternò), [Sciacca](/wiki/Sciacca), [Termini Imerese](/wiki/Termini_Imerese).

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Pupi,_Catania.JPG) [marionettes](/wiki/Marionettes) used in the [Opera dei Pupi](/wiki/Opera_dei_Pupi) The [**Opera dei Pupi**](/wiki/Opera_dei_Pupi) (Opera of the Puppets; [Sicilian](/wiki/Sicilian_language): Òpira dî pupi) is a [marionette](/wiki/Marionette) theatrical representation of Frankish romantic poems such as the [Song of Roland](/wiki/Song_of_Roland) or [*Orlando furioso*](/wiki/Orlando_furioso) that is one of the characteristic cultural traditions of Sicily. The sides of donkey carts are decorated with intricate, painted scenes; these same tales are enacted in traditional [puppet theaters](/wiki/Puppet_theater) featuring hand-made marionettes of wood. The opera of the puppets and the Sicilian tradition of *cantastorî* (singers of tales) are rooted in the Provençal [troubadour](/wiki/Troubadour) tradition in Sicily during the reign of [Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor](/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), in the first half of the 13th century. A great place to see this marionette art is the puppet theatres of [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo). The Sicilian marionette theater Opera dei Pupi was proclaimed in 2001 and inscribed in 2008 in the [UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists](/wiki/UNESCO_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Lists).[[151]](#cite_note-151) Today, there are only a few troupes that maintain the tradition. They often perform for tourists. However, there are no longer the great historical families of marionettists, such as the Greco of [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo); the Canino of [Cinisi](/wiki/Cinisi); Crimi, Trombetta and Napoli of [Catania](/wiki/Catania), Pennisi and Macri of [Acireale](/wiki/Acireale), Profeta of [Licata](/wiki/Licata), Gargano and Grasso of [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento). One can, however, admire the richest collection of marionettes at the Museo Internazionale delle Marionette Antonio Pasqualino and at the Museo Etnografico Siciliano [Giuseppe Pitrè](/wiki/Giuseppe_Pitrè) in Palermo. Other beautiful marionettes are on display at the Museo Civico Vagliasindi in [Randazzo](/wiki/Randazzo).

### Regional symbols[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

There are several cultural icons and regional symbols in Sicily, including flags, carts, sights and geographical features. [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:2009-03-22_03-29_Sizilien_683_Agrigent,_Parco_Valle_dei_Templi_Agrigento,_Museo_Archaeologico.jpg)[Triskelion](/wiki/Triskelion) painted on [Ancient Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greek_art) vase, [Agrigento](/wiki/Agrigento).

The [Flag of Sicily](/wiki/Flag_of_Sicily), regarded as a regional icon, was first adopted in 1282, after the [Sicilian Vespers](/wiki/Sicilian_Vespers) of [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo). It is characterized by the presence of the [*trinacria*](/wiki/Triskelion) (triskelion) in its middle, the (winged) head of [Medusa](/wiki/Medusa) and three wheat ears. The three bent legs are supposed to represent the three points of the island Sicily itself. The colours, instead, respectively represent the cities of [Palermo](/wiki/Palermo) and [Corleone](/wiki/Corleone), at those times an agricultural city of renown. Palermo and Corleone were the first two cities to found a confederation against the [Angevin](/wiki/Capetian_House_of_Anjou) rule. It finally became the official public flag of the *Regione Siciliana* in January 2000, after the passing of an apposite regional law which advocates its use on public buildings, schools and city halls along with the national [Italian flag](/wiki/Flag_of_Italy) and the [European](/wiki/Flag_of_EU) one.

Familiar as an ancient symbol of the region, the [Triskelion](/wiki/Triskelion) is also featured on Greek coins of [Syracuse](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily), such as coins of [Agathocles](/wiki/Agathocles) (317–289 BC).The symbol dates back to when Sicily was part of [Magna Graecia](/wiki/Magna_Graecia), the colonial extension of [Greece](/wiki/Greece) beyond the [Aegean](/wiki/Aegean_Sea).[[152]](#cite_note-152) The triskelion was revived, as a [neoclassic](/wiki/Neoclassicism) – and non-[Bourbon](/wiki/House_of_Bourbon) – emblem for the new Napoleonic Kingdom of the [Two Sicilies](/wiki/Two_Sicilies), by [Joachim Murat](/wiki/Joachim_Murat) in 1808. [Pliny the Elder](/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder) attributes the origin of the triskelion of Sicily to the [triangular](/wiki/Triangle) form of the island, the ancient *Trinacria*, which consists of three large capes equidistant from each other, pointing in their respective directions, the names of which were [Pelorus](/wiki/Punta_del_Faro), [Pachynus](/wiki/Capo_Passero), and [Lilybæum](/wiki/Marsala). The three legs of the triskelion are also reminiscent of [Hephaestus's](/wiki/Hephaestus) three-legged tables that ran by themselves, as mentioned in [Iliad](/wiki/Iliad) xviii.

[thumb|left|A traditional](/wiki/File:Sicilian_Cart_Agrigento.jpg) [Sicilian cart](/wiki/Sicilian_cart)

The [Sicilian cart](/wiki/Sicilian_cart) is an ornate, colorful style of horse or donkey-drawn cart native to Sicily. Sicilian wood carver [George Petralia](/wiki/George_Petralia) states that horses were mostly used in the city and flat plains, while donkeys or mules were more often used in rough terrain for hauling heavy loads.[[153]](#cite_note-153) The cart has two wheels and is primarily handmade out of wood with iron components.

The Sicilian [coppola](/wiki/Coppola_(cap)) is a traditional kind of [flat cap](/wiki/Flat_cap) typically worn by men in Sicily. First used by English nobles during the late 18th century, the *tascu* began being used in Sicily in the early 20th century as a [driving cap](/wiki/Flat_cap), usually worn by car drivers. The *coppola* is usually made in [tweed](/wiki/Tweed_(cloth)). Today it is widely regarded as a definitive symbol of Sicilian heritage.[[154]](#cite_note-154)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Notable people[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

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