

CATANIA

The City Under the Volcano

Catania is an ancient port city located on Sicily's east coast along the Ionian Sea, and is the second largest city on the island. This city is a combination of old meets new with its Baroque architecture, bustling city streets filled with shops, markets, and fine dining options.

Points of Interest:

✔ **Piazza del Duomo**

Also known as Elephant Square, this central square sits at the beginning of the main shopping street, Via Etnea. In this square visitors will find the Duomo that was built on top of ancient Roman ruins and dedicated to Catania's patron saint, Agata. Across from the Duomo, visitors can see the 'Elephant Fountain', which is the symbol of the city.

✔ **Roman Amphitheater**

This Imperial Roman theater dates all the way back to the 5th century B.C. and was the third largest coliseum under the Roman Empire. In Catania, portions of this amphitheater have been resurrected to where visitors can walk down into it and get a feel for what the original structure looked like.

✔ **Massimo Bellini Theater**

Named after the local-born opera composer, Vincenzo Bellini, and inaugurated in 1890, this famous opera house still hosts a multitude of performances of ballet and theatrics.

✔ **Catania Fish Market**

Known for being one of the largest fish markets in Sicily, and conveniently located in the heart of the city, this lively fish market is the best place to purchase locally sourced, high quality seafood.

✔ **World War II Museum**

Visitors interested in learning about the history and effects of World War II had on the city of Catania, then this museum is a must see with its exhibits containing photos, newspaper clippings, and artifacts from the war.

✔ **Ursino Castle**

Built in the early 13th century, this castle houses the Civic Museum of Catania. Visitors can see and learn about Catania's history through the archeological finds and materials kept here.

✔ **Via Etnea**

Running straight from Piazza del Duomo all the way to the foot of Mt. Etna, this famous street is lined with department stores, bars, and local cafes where visitors can take a leisurely stroll and take in the sights of Catania.

✔ **Cattedrale di Sant'Agata**

Inside this grand church lies the remains of Catania's patron saint, Agata, as well as the world-famous local composer, Vincenzo Bellini. Here visitors can read the history of Agata and see the dungeon she was imprisoned in.

Parking:

Park just outside of Piazza del Duomo near the Catania arches, and take a short walk into the city center.