



infopoint

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ONE DAY TOUR IN MESSINA

Not far from the Harbour there stands, surrounded by palm trees, the beautiful Townhall building, built in a neo classical style and restored during the twentieth century.

You just have to walk northwards for two blocks and see the “Vittorio Emanuele” theatre, a building restored in a neo-classical style after the 1908 earthquake. Inside you can admire the ceiling painted by Renato Guttuso, a very famous painter who portrayed the Legend of Colapesce, a mythological fisherman hero of Messina.

Still walking northwards , you will see the Fountain of Neptune and the two mythological seamonsters, Scilla and Cariddi.

Neptune and Scilla are but copies of the original statues, housed in the Regional Museum of the town.

All the works in the Museum, with the presence of great artists such as Antonello da Messina, Caravaggio and Montorsoli, witness the important role the town of Messina played in both art and culture, from the Middle Age up to the Nineteenth Century. (Visiting hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9.00am – 7.00pm; Sunday-Holidays 9.00am – 1.00p.m).

How to reach it: Tramway to Museum - get off at last stop and cross. Tram tickets at Newspapers stands.

One of the best places to visit in Messina is Piazza Duomo, where you can see The Cathedral and The Fountain Of Orion.

The Cathedral was built in Norman times, in the Twelfth Century, and rebuilt various times in the course of centuries.

It is consecrated to The “ Virgin of the Letter”, The Patronnes of the Town.

Its Bell Tower has the biggest mechanical clock in the world.

The mechanism is connected with symbolical and allegorical moving metal statues which attract a lot of tourists who gather every day at noon, and watch the Clock’s amazing performance.

Inside the church you can visit the “Treasure”, a collection of vestments, reliquaries, silver chalices and The Manta D’oro, the most precious piece which would cover sacred images in the past.

Next to the Bell Tower, there stands the Fountain of Orion carved by Montorsoli. Here the Giant Orion is portrayed as one of the legendary founders of Messina.

A very short walk towards the sea and you reach the Church of The Catalans, built in an Arab-Byzantine style in the Twelfth Century, on the ruins of an ancient temple of Neptune.

It was then restored by The Aragonese rulers in 1500 to become a Royal Chapel and be subsequently donated to the Confraternity of the Catalans.

On the way to Piazza Cairoli, the heart of the town, you can visit the Church of Santa Maria degli Alemanni, concurrently built with an adjacent big hospital by Frederick II of Swabia in the Thirteenth Century. Both the church and the hospital were used by the Teutonical Knights as a base during the Crusades. The Portal of the Church (housed in the Regional Museum) is one of the purest examples of Gothic architecture in Sicily.

If you want to have a nice view of the town from above, you just have to go back to the Cathedral and reach Piazza Antonello, go up via S. Agostino and follow a bend on your left, at the roundabout of Fontana Falconieri.

You will easily get to the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Montalto, a building made in an eclectic style with Gothic and Romanesque elements.

From its panoramic view point you can admire, the suggestive scenery of the harbour and the Straight.

Not far from the Sanctuary, there stands, on a hilltop, the shrine of “Cristo Re”, a majestic memorial chapel, built in 1937, as a burial chamber in honour of some fellow citizens who died in Africa, as soldiers, in the Second World War.

If you have more time to spend, you could get shuttle bus number 100, from ATM bus terminal (Parcheggio Cavallotti), close to the train station, and reach the two lakes of Ganzirri and Faro, at the Lighthouse area, the north - eastern edge of Sicily.

Here, its extraordinary marine landscapes are an awe – inspiring sight.

Moreover, the lakes are the right place to have very good fish, seafood, and many other Sicilian specialties .