



SICILY

**A LAND WHERE
TOURISM AND THE SEA
LIVE IN HARMONY**

Introduction

*M*oving away from metropolitan areas, the sea becomes clear and teeming with fish. In the vicinity of marine protected areas it is possible to rediscover the silence of wild corners where the sea finds its perfect balance, and enjoy a little bit of shade among the reeds and bushes near the coast. Its difficult to talk about all the beautiful beaches in Sicily. They range from the most famous places, such as the Caribbean San Vito Lo Capo, a few km from the Zingaro Nature Reserve in the province of Trapani, or the very well known Isola Bella in Taormina Mazzarò, the oases for environmentalists ready to wait for the hatching of turtle eggs “Caretta caretta” in Torre Salsa or in the more distant Pelagie Islands. You wouldn't want to miss the famous beach Isola dei Conigli, considered among the most beautiful in the world. The group of islands Egadi are a favorite destination for sailors and divers thanks to the seabed and crystal clear water, second to none. The Aeolian Islands are a confirmed destination for VIPs and cultural events. Those who want total privacy and african atmospheres, choosing the charm of Pantelleria, considered the black pearl of the Mediterranean, thanks to its black volcanic rock.



Beaches away from the crowds, comfortable equipped beaches, cliffs, islands and hidden coves, strong wind to the delight of sailors. This is the sea of Sicily, full of more than a thousand kilometers of coastline and the many small islands that form the perimeter.





Golden sand and blue sea ... sites and within walking distance of great historical and artistic value. Sicily has always been the ideal destination for those who want to combine a beach holiday also with the discovery of churches, castles, monasteries, not far from the coast.



Leaving behind Palermo with its famous Mondello beach, nestled between Mount Pellegrino and Capo Gallo, you'll be spoiled for choice.

The Tyrrhenian coast, with its unmistakable cobalt blue sea, watching the fascinating spectacle of the Aeolian Islands, which on a clear day, they seem to lean on the horizon.





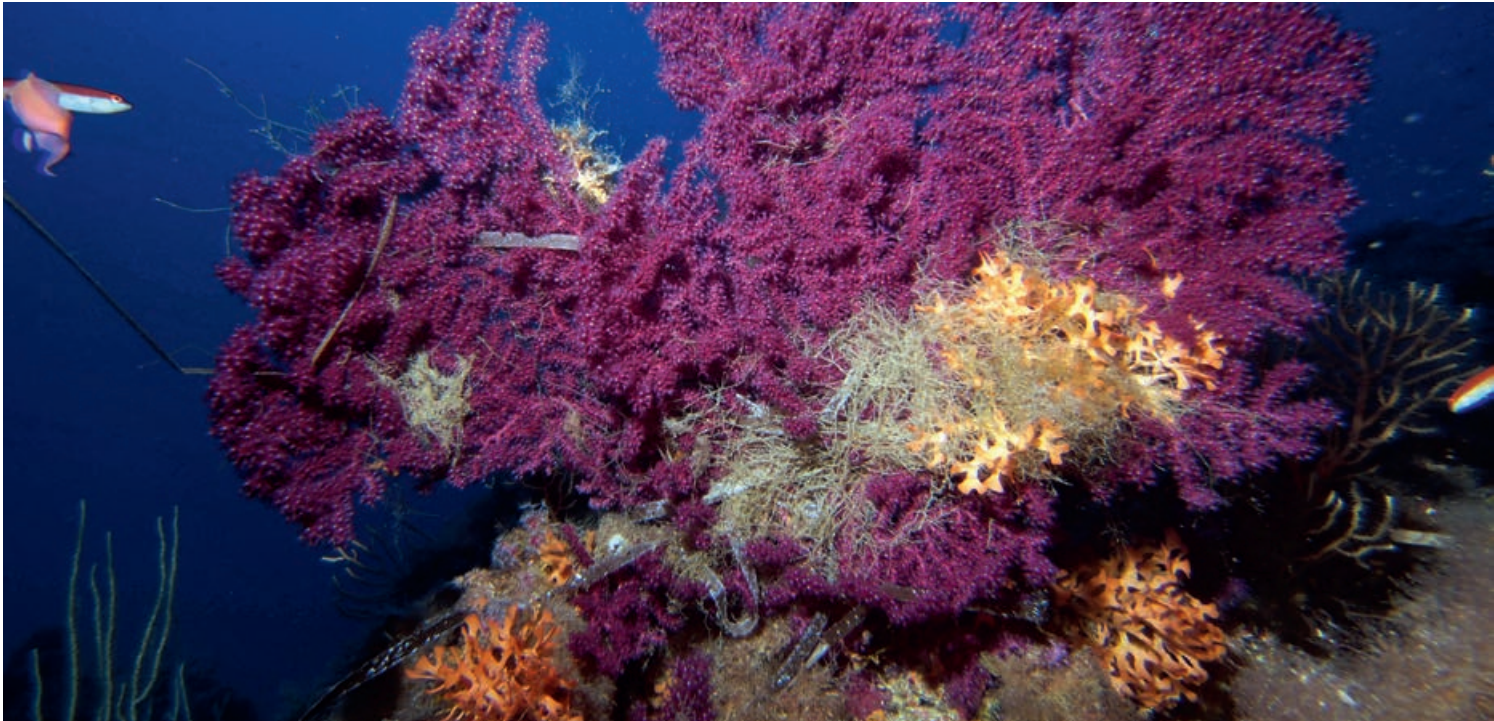
Seven pearls of volcanic origin (the archipelago is why it is written in the WHL protected by UNESCO) embedded in the clear Tyrrhenian Sea that offer to tourists and visitors relaxing nature, but also entertainment and nightlife.





Breathtaking views, archaeological areas, springs, caves and ravines for snorkeling and diving, fine dining and excellent wines to close the day in a blaze of fragrances and unforgettable flavors.

Go passed Capo Peloro, the coastal landscape changes abruptly. The Timpa Acese along the coast of Catania, with high cliffs bordered by Mediterranean shrubs, offers glimpses of the sea and turquoise-blue waters of rare beauty.





Mazzarò and Isola Bella, the famous and always wonderful Taormina sea never ceases to amaze divers with the seabed around the Capo Sant'Andrea. In addition, open spaces, as far as the eye can see, like the beaches of Giardini Naxos and Fiumefreddo.

Let the occupied beaches outside Syracuse, Arenella and Fontane Bianche, wildlife returns in abundance. Kilometers of sand dunes, processed by the wind, where natural vegetation only grows; very long stretches of white sand, broken by bays, islands, headlands, castles, towers and tuna traps.





Nautical tourism comes to Sicily and finds harbours and services that are most appropriate for a holiday that allows you to discover the coast line, including parks, villages and places of art.

The tip of Capo Passero where is the Reserve of Vendicari. The more willing people reach the beach on routes amongst Mediterranean lake vegetation, heather, juniper and tamarisk; but it is the presence of rare species of birds, flamingos and herons, that make the site a haven for naturalists.





Vendicari home to the hidden Cala delle Mosche, almost a piece of Africa. Outside the reserve, there are beaches and the village of Marzamemi, dominated by a very large tuna trap.

Far more popular, as the main location of the police television series “Inspector Montalbano”, is the beach of Punta Secca near Santa Croce Camerina in the province of Ragusa. It is a favorite with families, bicycle tourists and surfers attracted by the wind of the Straits between Messina and Calabria.



After a day of beach fun you can dive into the atmosphere of the beaches between music and tastings at sunset. Donnalucata, Cava d’Aliga and Pozzallo, are the most solitary, ideal for those looking for total immersion in nature.

From Porto Empedocle, in the province of Agrigento, you embark to the Pelagie Islands: Lampedusa, Linosa and Lampione. The queen of beaches is now the Isola dei Conigli, nature reserve, to walk on the savoring and the wonder of marine and coastal landscape.



The wind and the sea, over the centuries, have created real masterpieces of nature. Besides the beaches of Punta Secca and Capo Rossello, near Siculiana Marina (Agrigento), the eye opening charm of "Scala dei Turchi", extraordinary architecture chalky white rock (like marble), carved by the wind and waves.





A series of natural steps that alternate with white sandy beaches and rocky coves open a cold and clean sea, in the natural resort of Eraclea Minoa.

Over the Capo of Siculiana and the archaeological site of Eraclea Minoa runs the endless sandy oasis that takes the name of Torre Salsa. The reserve managed by the WWF has meant that the natural environment has been preserved and remains today one of the stretches of the Sicilian coast still completely untouched.





Less well known is the Giallonardo beach, with golden yellow coloured sand and the Norman tower restored, on a sheer cliff.



For sixteen years awarded by the EU for its clean sea and the quality of services, Portopalo of Menfi, with the nearby fishing village dominated by the Spanish tower, offers enthusiasts almost ten kilometers of uninterrupted african coastline.





In the distance the Capo of S. Marco borders the town of Sciacca, a town of fishermen and sailors, where you can visit the fishing port and enjoy the flavours of the fish of the day cooked according to old local recipes.

The Egadi Islands: Favignana, Levanzo and Marettimo, can be reached from the port of Trapani. Favignana, is a well known tourist destination, with a crystal-clear sea in which tuff quarries (a building material like sand stone) mine from the cliff face. Levanzo and Marettimo, mostly visited by divers and lovers of the rocky sea, preserve intact the natural heritage and maritime culture. Among these caves, undisturbed by people, the monk seal returned to live.





Pantelleria, a large and rocky island, ideal for lovers of the sea, good food and worldly pleasures. The turquoise waters and the typical “dammusi” lava stone houses, over the years have attracted celebrities from all over Europe who have made the island their summer retreat.

The Zingaro is the emblem of the protected sea, where the coastal and marine environment are integrated to perfection. Ancient tuna traps and towers, are the elements in the unique seaside village of Scopello, the large rocks called “faraglioni” and the tuna trap that has been restored and now open to the public.





The coastal road to Scopello and San Vito lo Capo invite you to stop, to enjoy the view of Castellammare del Golfo and its port.



The beach of San Vito lo Capo, with its transparent Caribbean sea, relaxing days, where you can take long walks on the “arenile” of white sand, cooled by the sea breeze.

Returning to Palermo there are numerous bays and coves with crystal clear waters to dive.



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