



WELCOME GUIDE

Fondazione Ortygia

Via Roma, 124 96100 Siracusa

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www.ortygiabs.org

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The Conference Venue: Fondazione Ortygia



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1 – The Greek theatre

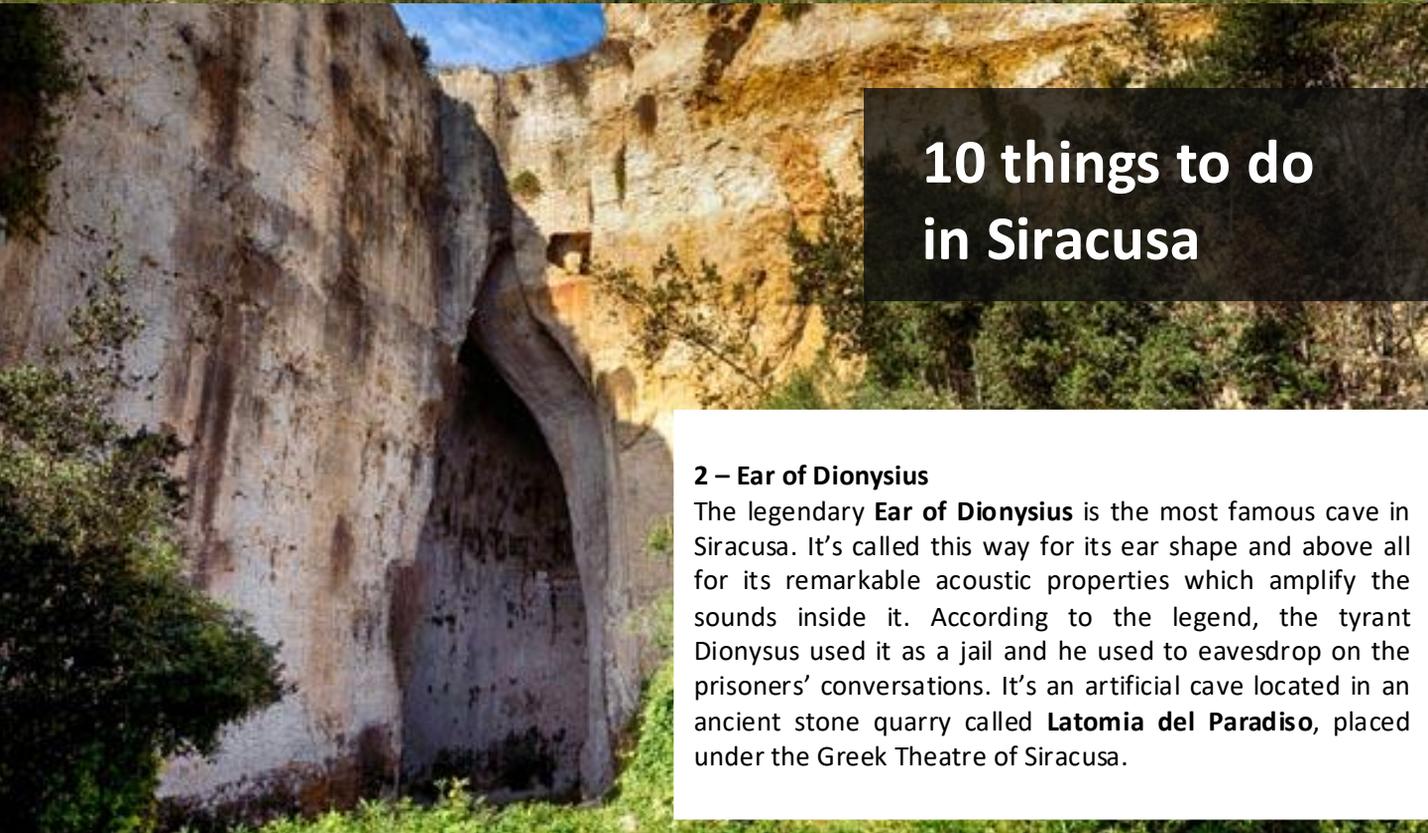
Impressive, solemn, intriguing, with stunning views. It may happen that, while sitting on the big stone steps, you hear the voices of the great Greek heroes, Agamemnon, Medea or Oedipus, even if there are no actors on the stage... this is such an evocative place! It keeps evidences of several historic periods, from the prehistoric ages to Late Antiquity and the Byzantine era. The **Greek Theatre** is one of the biggest in the world, entirely carved into the rock. In ancient times it was used for plays and popular assemblies, today it is the place where the Greek tragedies live again through the **Series of Classical Performances** that take place every year thanks to the **INDA**, National Institute of Ancient Drama. At sunset, or maybe even with a full moon, here, on the stairs of the Greek theatre, we will enjoy a wonderful experience.



10 things to do in Siracusa

2 – Ear of Dionysius

The legendary **Ear of Dionysius** is the most famous cave in Siracusa. It's called this way for its ear shape and above all for its remarkable acoustic properties which amplify the sounds inside it. According to the legend, the tyrant Dionysius used it as a jail and he used to eavesdrop on the prisoners' conversations. It's an artificial cave located in an ancient stone quarry called **Latomia del Paradiso**, placed under the Greek Theatre of Siracusa.



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3 – Ortygia market, island of Syracuse

An explosion of colors, scents and authentic flavors of our country, the charm of the ancient markets.

At the entrance of **Ortygia** island, that is connected to the city by Umberto bridge, you will be greeted by the aroma every kinds of spices, chili peppers from Etna, almond cakes, as well as seafood and fresh fish. A small market enlivened by colorful “vanniate”, catchy phrases in Sicilian dialect, shouted to attract customers. Why don't you buy a rarity? A nice opportunity to get to know our local products and learn new Sicilian recipes.



10 things to do in Siracusa



4 – Piazza Duomo

One of the most famous squares on the website as it is one of the most beautiful squares in Italy! Surrounded by magnificent baroque palaces it is the core of the civil and religious life of **Ortygia**, the ancient city of Syracuse, a UNESCO heritage. Stop: take a break, sit down for a drink and enjoy the atmosphere! The Cathedral is an exceptional case of mixed architecture: a pagan temple and at the same time a Christian church. It stands on the ruins of a temple dedicated to Athena that was built in 480 BC. and, behind its baroque façade, it keeps a jewel of the past with the Doric columns still visible both outside and inside. At the back of the square you can find the church of Santa Lucia alla Badia.

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5 – Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi

It is one of the most important and prestigious museums of archaeology in Europe. On display, there are pieces dating from the prehistory to the Greek-Roman period, coming from excavations in the city and other places of Sicily.

10 things to do in Siracusa



6 – Sanctuary of Madonna delle Lacrime

A charming place, where you breathe an atmosphere of peace, tranquility and mysticism. The structure, very impressive, was built in memory of a miracle occurred in 1953: the lacrimation of a plaster effigy of the Virgin Mary. The Shrine houses some precious memories of this extraordinary event: the original painting, a piece of cloth that covered the picture, a handkerchief soaked with the Virgin Mary's tears and even some crystallized tears.

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7 – Maniace Castle and Eurialo Castle

If you like castles, you are in the right place: these are among the most picturesque castles of the Island.

Maniace Castle is named after the Byzantine Commander *Giorgio Maniace*. It's a true symbol of the power and the genius of Emperor Federico II, who built it upon an ancient fort between 1232 and 1240. Immersed in the colors of the sea, is the most extreme flap of Ortigia Island.

Eurialo Castle is one of the largest and most complete military works of the Greek period. It was built by Dionysus I, the tyrant of Syracuse, in order to complete the great defensive system called *Dionysian walls*, which ran alongside the edge of the plateau of *Epipoli*. Walking through the ruins is like going back in time as they still resound with the clatter of the soldiers' sandals.



10 things to do in Siracusa



8 – Temple of Apollo
The magnificence of these Greek ruins can be immediately noticed when arriving to the small island of Ortygia. It is the oldest Doric temple in Sicily and its story has been very troubled over the time. It was first a Christian church, then a mosque, then again a Norman church and finally a barracks at the time of Charles V. In the evening, thanks to the lights of the city, you can enjoy a unique spectacle.



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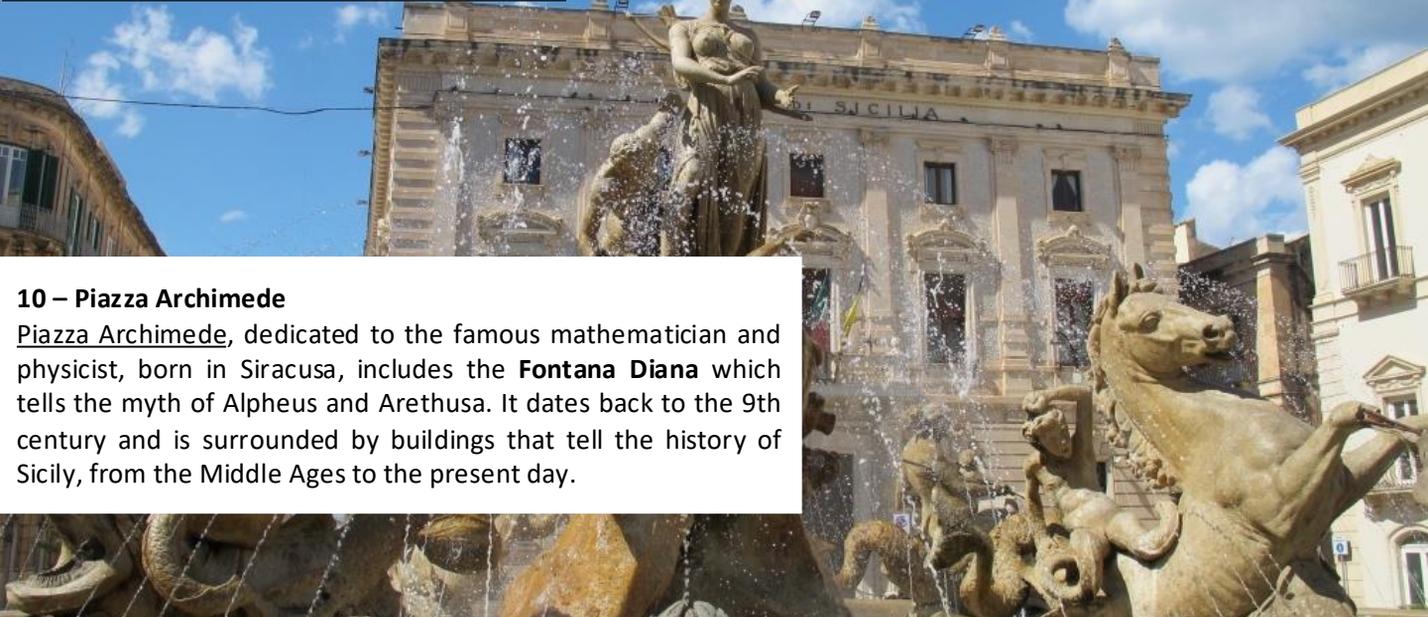
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9 – Fonte Aretusa

The fountain originates in a fresh water spring and creates a small semicircular lake with fishes, geese and ducks and where the plants of the only natural Papyrus (Papireto) in Europe grow luxuriantly. Nearby, inside a restaurant, you can visit for free an Ancient Washhouse dating back to the eighteenth century. Its name comes from the **legend** of the **nymph Arethusa**, who, wanting to escape from the impetuous love of **Alpheus**, jumped into the sea and reached Ortigia island. Here the goddess Diana, sad because of this extreme reaction, turned her into a spring. Alpheus, in turn, transformed into a river whose waters crossed the sea and busted out into a water source close to Arethusa, so they could join together forever.

10 things to do in Siracusa



10 – Piazza Archimede

Piazza Archimede, dedicated to the famous mathematician and physicist, born in Siracusa, includes the **Fontana Diana** which tells the myth of Alpheus and Arethusa. It dates back to the 9th century and is surrounded by buildings that tell the history of Sicily, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

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TRAVEL

Travel from Catania Airport to Ortigia

Ortigia is the historical center of the city of Syracuse, where the Fondazione Ortygia - The Conference Venue - and the hotels are located.

You can reach Ortigia from Catania Airport either by bus or taxi.

By Bus

Interbus brings you to the Syracuse bus station in approximately 1h. For a timetable, click [here](#).

The Syracuse bus station is a 15 minute walk from Ortigia. From there you can either walk or take a taxi to reach your hotel.

By Taxi

Fondazione Ortygia has an agreement with Taxi Giuseppe Trupia who reserves a special fare of 100 euros (120 euros 10PM-6AM) from Catania Airport to Ortigia (3 pax 1 car).

Contact number: +39 330 975689.

If you need a minibus for 4 or more people, we suggest Zuccalà Travels.

Contact number: + 39 3488739113

The trip takes approximately 50 minutes.

Important: contact them at least 24h before the service is needed. The Taxi Station is in Siracusa.

By Train

Trenitalia brings you to the Syracuse train station in approximately 1h. For a timetable, click [here](#).

The Syracuse train station is a 15 minute walk from Ortigia. From there you can either walk or take a taxi to reach your hotel.

The Conference will take place at:

[Fondazione Ortygia](#)

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Wonderful Italy

Ortigia Apartments by Wonderful Italy
<https://wonderfulitaly.eu/it/case>

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ORTYGIA MAP

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