



# Travel guide





# Discover Noto

Noto, often called the “Baroque capital of Sicily,” is one of the island’s most enchanting towns and the perfect setting for a celebration. Rebuilt after the 1693 earthquake, its golden limestone architecture glows beautifully in the sunlight, creating an almost cinematic backdrop. As you stroll along Corso Vittorio Emanuele, you’ll find elegant churches, charming piazzas, and lively cafés where you can pause for a gelato or espresso. The Cathedral of San Nicolò, with its grand steps and stunning façade, is the heart of the town, but every corner reveals something special—from intricate balconies to flower-filled streets. Noto is also close to the sea, so a quick drive brings you to gorgeous beaches and coastal views. With its blend of history, beauty, and Sicilian warmth,





# Things to do in Noto

- Cathedral of San Nicolò – the grand heart of the town, with sweeping steps and a glowing façade.
- Corso Vittorio Emanuele – the main avenue, perfect for strolling and admiring Baroque palaces.
- Palazzo Nicolaci – famous for its extravagant balconies decorated with cherubs, lions, and mythical creatures.



- Church of San Carlo al Corso – climb up to the terrace for panoramic views over Noto's rooftops.
- Day Trips to Baroque Neighbors – explore Modica, renowned for its historic center and rich chocolate tradition, and Ragusa Ibla, with its winding streets, grand piazzas, and striking Duomo.

# Vendicari

The Vendicari Nature Reserve is a protected stretch of coastline just outside Noto, where wild beauty meets history. Its landscape of sandy dunes, lagoons, and rocky coves is home to migrating birds like flamingos, herons, and storks, making it a favorite for both beach lovers and nature enthusiasts. At the heart of the reserve lie the atmospheric ruins of the Tonnara di Vendicari, a 19th-century tuna fishery that once played an important role in Sicily's maritime life. Walking among its stone arches and towers, with the turquoise sea as a backdrop, feels like stepping into another time. Combined with the reserve's pristine beaches, such as Calamosche and San Lorenzo, Vendicari offers the perfect blend of relaxation, history, and natural charm.





# How to get to Noto

Noto is a historic town in the province of Syracuse, in southeastern Sicily. It's about 30 minutes from the city of Syracuse, 1 hour from Catania, and close to the Ionian coast.

The closest Airports are:

Catania Fontanarossa Airport (CTA), about 1 hour away

Comiso Airport (CIY), about one hour away - less frequent flights

Palermo Airport (PMO), about 3.5 hours away.





# Transportation

## Car Rental

Renting a car in Sicily is the easiest and most convenient way to get around, and there are hundreds of rental companies to choose from. You do need to be careful, though, as the main driver must have a credit card—rental companies are very strict about this. If the main driver doesn't have a credit card, you can usually add someone with a credit card as an additional driver for an extra fee. Make sure to read the rental policy carefully, as rules can be strict. If you don't have a credit card, some companies, such as Sicily by Car, do allow rentals with a debit card, but at a higher cost.

## Trains and Buses

While renting a car is the easiest way to explore Sicily, trains and buses are also available. Noto is connected by train to Syracuse, and buses run from Catania, Syracuse, and other nearby towns. However, these options are less frequent and less flexible, so they are best for simple point-to-point travel rather than exploring the surrounding area.







# Accommodation

**There are plenty of accommodation choices both in Vendicari and in Noto ideal for low or high budget. An indicative list of hotels / Agriturismi follows:**

Hotel Corte del Sole

Zahir Country House

I Carusi Bio Relay

Casa Vendicari Boutique Hotel

Case Marianeddi

Farmhouse Le zagare di Vendicari

Agriturismo Vendicari Tenuta Arancio

Agriturismo Fiore di Vendicari





# Food Guide



- Granita & Brioche – The ultimate Sicilian breakfast. Try almond or pistachio granita at the legendary Caffè Sicilia — it's a must.



- Pasta alla Norma – A Sicilian classic with eggplant, tomato, ricotta salata, and basil — simple, rich, and full of flavor.

- Arancini – Crispy rice balls filled with ragù, mozzarella, or other delicious surprises. For the best ones, visit Rosticceria Palermitana Arancina Planet.



- Cannoli & Cassata – Two of Sicily's most famous desserts, made with sweet ricotta, candied fruit, and all the indulgence you deserve on holiday.



- Fresh Seafood – Noto and its coast are known for excellent seafood; try grilled swordfish, tuna, or calamari with a splash of local olive oil and lemon.





# Travel suggestions

**Since you're already in Sicily for the wedding, if you feel like adding a few extra days, here are some ideas — whether it's a quick escape or a full road trip around the island.**

## **If you're adding a couple extra days**

- Syracuse (Siracusa) – A 40-minute drive away, this seaside city blends ancient history and Mediterranean charm. Explore the island of Ortigia, stroll its markets, and enjoy dinner by the sea. Also don't miss the Ancient Greek Theater.
- Ragusa Ibla & Modica – Two baroque gems, each with their own personality. Ragusa Ibla offers winding stone streets and stunning views, while Modica is famous for its rich chocolate and elegant churches.
- Catania – A lively city at the foot of Mount Etna, full of energy, architecture, and great food — just 1 hour from Noto.
- Taormina – Discover breathtaking views of Mount Etna and the Ionian coast.





# Travel suggestions

## If you're making a longer roadtrip

- Palermo – The vibrant capital, full of markets, mosaics, and history.
- Cefalù – A charming seaside town with a golden beach and a medieval old town.
- Agrigento – Home to the spectacular Valley of the Temples, one of Sicily's most famous archaeological sites.
- Mount Etna – Europe's highest active volcano; you can hike or take a cable car for incredible views.
- Trapani & Erice – A beautiful coastal town and its medieval hilltop neighbor, known for salt pans and sunsets.
- Marsala – Famous for its sweet wine and golden coastline.
- The Aeolian Islands – A group of volcanic islands off the north coast, perfect for a few days of swimming, boat trips, and relaxation — Lipari, Vulcano, and Stromboli are highlights.





# See you in Sicily

Iris & Gian Luca

