

IL CAMMINO DI SAN GIACOMO IN SICILIA

Official Practical Guide & Practical Directory for Pilgrims

CALTAGIRONE

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Contact for collecting the credential

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Caltagirone Credential Stamping

Basilica San Giacomo - Every day except MONDAY
Morning 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Afternoon 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Padre Don Salvatore: +39 340 305 0608
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HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Massimo: +39 338 811 1802

Partnered Hospitality

Santiago Rooms	+39 379 272 9964
B&B; Sig.ra Giuliana	+39 333 506 8816
B&B; Sig.ra Tina	+39 338 390 7855
B&B; Casa Francesca (WhatsApp)	+39 335 584 0056

Where to Eat

Ristorante Pizzeria Bella Roma (ex DaSà)	+39 0933 350099
Arco Antico Pizzeria	+39 0933 55567
Pinsé Sicilian Street food	+39 334 300 9080

WHAT TO VISIT

In Caltagirone there are several places to visit that tell the history, art, and centuries-old tradition of the city, famous for its ceramics.

Basilica di San Giacomo

Among the oldest churches in Caltagirone, it was built in 1090 by order of Count Roger the Norman and dedicated to St. James, patron saint of the city. Rebuilt after the 1693 earthquake and damaged by the 1943 bombings, it retains a late Baroque facade, an elegant nineteenth-century bell tower, and precious relics of the Saint.

Scala di Santa Maria del Monte

This imposing staircase, consisting of 142 steps, is decorated with splendid hand-painted majolica tiles, each with unique motifs representing the history of local ceramics. It is a symbol of the city and is often used as a stage for cultural events and during the Infiorata or the celebrations of St. James.

Museo Regionale della Ceramica

The museum houses a rich collection of ceramics documenting the artistic and artisanal evolution of ceramics in Sicily, from antiquity to the present day. It is the perfect place to delve into the tradition that made Caltagirone famous worldwide.

Cattedrale di San Giuliano

Located in the heart of the historic center, the cathedral is an important example of Baroque architecture with decorated interiors and a bell tower that offers a panoramic view of the city.

Villa Comunale

Designed by the architect Basile in the 19th century, the villa is a large public garden in Art Nouveau style with ceramic decorations, fountains, and green areas. It is an oasis of peace where you can walk and admire suggestive views.

Chiesa del Gesù e Convento dei Gesuiti

This architectural complex is a beautiful example of Sicilian Baroque, with valuable stuccos and artworks inside.

Ponte San Francesco

This monumental bridge is adorned with ceramic balustrades and connects the historic center with the most modern part of the city. It is one of the symbols of the bond between tradition and modernity in Caltagirone.

Quartiere della Ceramica

Walking through the streets of this neighborhood means entering a true open-air workshop, with artisan shops that create and sell unique ceramics according to the tradition handed down from generation to generation.

Chiesa di Santa Maria del Monte

Located at the top of the staircase, this church is a spiritual and artistic reference point, with architecture that tells of the different influences it underwent over time.

Museo Civico al Carcere Borbonico

Located in a building that was once a Bourbon prison, the museum houses a collection of local art and history that offers a perspective on the life of the Caltagirone community over the centuries.

SAN MICHELE DI GANZARIA

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Comune di San Michele di Ganzaria
Pro Loco San Michele di Ganzaria
Bar Nazionale Pasticceria Gallina
Bar da Rocco

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Danilo: +39 340 181 3426

Partnered Hospitality

Hotel Pomara - Via Vittorio Veneto, 84	+39 0933 978143
Casa del Sarto - Via dei Greci 45	+39 380 768 0144
Casa Pinù - Via Filippo Meli, 91	+39 345 885 6605

Where to Eat

U Canalaru Ristorante Pizzeria Contrada Consorto	+39 338 779 2787
Ristorante Pomara Via Vittorio Veneto, 84	+39 0933 978143

WHAT TO VISIT

San Michele di Ganzaria is a small town nestled in the heart of Sicily that offers a mix of traditions, history, and nature.

Historic center

The historic center of San Michele di Ganzaria still preserves the charm of its ancient streets, churches, and squares. It is pleasant to stroll through the alleys and admire the simple and typical architecture of small Sicilian villages.

Chiesa Madre di San Michele Arcangelo

This church is dedicated to the patron saint of the town, St. Michael the Archangel. The structure, rich in sacred decorations, is the focal point of the town's religious celebrations and bears witness to the devotion of the local community.

Parco dei Monti Erei

San Michele di Ganzaria is located near the Erei Mountains Park, a vast natural area offering beautiful views, hiking trails, and the chance to discover the flora and fauna of the Sicilian territory.

Calvario di San Michele

A small chapel built on a hill overlooking the town, with a Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross) leading to the top. It offers a splendid panoramic view of the surrounding countryside and the town.

Typical products and gastronomic traditions

This is not a real monument, but a culinary experience is a must. San Michele di Ganzaria is famous for its agricultural products, such as prickly pears and mustarda, celebrated during the Sagra della Mostarda e del Ficodindia (Mustarda and Prickly Pear Festival) in September.

Rural area and nature trails

The surroundings of San Michele di Ganzaria are characterized by a charming rural landscape, with cultivated fields and paths ideal for walks and trekking.

Events and Religious Traditions

The celebrations in honor of St. Michael the Archangel, the patron saint of the town, are among the most heartfelt events of the community. The festivals include processions, music, and religious rituals rooted in ancient local traditions.

MIRABELLA IMBACCARI

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Chiesa Maria Santissima delle Grazie
Comune di Mirabella Imbaccari
Pro Loco
Bar dei Vespri

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Valerio: +39 391 489 1992

Pilgrim Hospitality

Valerio: +39 391 489 1992

Partnered Hospitality

Hotel Wonder Tommaso	+39 345 283 9741
Affittacamere “Iron”	+39 3385951310 / +39 3404658423
Rochouse La Rotonda	+39 391 496 0979

Where to Eat

La Pinta Pizzeria	+39 380 267 4327
U Curtigghiu Ristorante	+39 349 667 0134

WHAT TO VISIT

Mirabella Imbaccari is a small municipality known for its artisanal traditions and for the history reflected in its monuments and streets.

Palazzo Biscari

This baronial palace, built in the 18th century, is a beautiful example of Sicilian noble architecture. It was the residence of the Princes of Biscari and preserves a historical charm that tells the story of the local nobility. Cultural events and exhibitions are occasionally held inside.

Museo del Tombolo

Mirabella Imbaccari is famous for the art of tombolo, a lace-making tradition passed down from generation to generation. The museum offers a wide overview of this ancient art, with displays of lace, historical photographs, and live demonstrations.

Parrocchia Matrice Maria SS. delle Grazie

The Church, dedicated to Maria SS.ma delle Grazie (as reminded by the inscription placed at the top of the central nave archway: “This temple is dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God”), was started in 1630 by Baron Giacinto Paternò simultaneously with the construction of his palace and the 60 houses scattered along the current via Trigona. After the 1693 earthquake, the Church was repaired by Baron Aloisio Trigona, but totally renovated and expanded from one to three naves by Prince Vincenzo Paternò Castello between 1737 and 1749.

Historic neighborhood

Strolling through the streets of the historic center allows you to immerse yourself in the authentic atmosphere of the town. You will find charming views, stone houses, and corners that tell the local history.

Artisan tombolo shops

Visiting one of the artisan shops dedicated to tombolo is a unique experience. Here you can observe the lace-makers at work and learn more about this traditional art. Hand-made products are often available to buy as souvenirs.

Events and Local Festivals

Several religious festivals and sagre take place throughout the year, including the Feast of St. Joseph and events related to the tombolo tradition. These occasions offer the opportunity to experience the festive atmosphere of the town.

PIAZZA ARMERINA

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Borgo San Giacomo "Domus Hospitalia"	
Basilica Cattedrale di Maria Santissima delle Vittorie	
Bar-Tabacchi Concetto Diana	+39 328 612 9629

Pilgrim Hospitality

Domus Hospitalia "Borgo San Giacomo": +39 328 361 1596

WhatsApp: +39 366 447 6915

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Totò: +39 328 361 1596

Partnered Hospitality

Hotel Villa Romana	+39 0935 682911 / +39 333 767 0013
B&B; Torre Castellina	+39 339 294 0856
Torre di Renda	+39 340 608 7031 / +39 0935 680 208

Where to Eat

Highlander Pub - Piazza Giorgi Boris Giuliano (Pilgrim's Menu -10%)	Emilio: +39 334 3584843
da Totò Ristorante - Pizzeria Via Mazzini	+39 0935 680153
da Nino Ristorante - Pizzeria Via Don Milani	+39 0935 686653

WHAT TO VISIT

Piazza Armerina is one of the most fascinating destinations in Sicily, famous for its historical, archaeological, and cultural heritage.

Villa Romana del Casale

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this Roman villa is famous for its exceptional floor mosaics, the largest and best-preserved from the Roman period. They represent scenes of hunting, mythology, and daily life, including the famous "Bikini Girls".

Duomo di Piazza Armerina

Located at the top of Mira hill, the Cathedral is an imposing example of Sicilian Baroque architecture. Its construction dates back to the 17th century, and it is characterized by a large dome visible from most of the city

and an interior rich in decorations.

Castello Aragonese

Built in the 14th century, this castle represented an important defensive structure. Today a part of its walls remains, but it is possible to visit the ruins and enjoy historical views of the city and its surroundings.

Monte District and the Historic Center

Strolling through the streets of the historic center is an evocative experience. Medieval streets, historic palaces, and churches tell centuries of history. The Monte district is one of the oldest in the city and houses various historic buildings.

Chiesa di San Rocco

Built in the 17th century, the church is known for its richly decorated interior. Every year it is at the center of the religious celebrations in honor of St. Roch, deeply felt by the community.

Pinacoteca Comunale

Located inside Palazzo Trigona, the art gallery houses works of art that reflect the artistic history of the city and inland Sicily.

Palazzo Trigona MUSEUM

This noble palace, home to the Archaeological and City Museum, is located near the Cathedral and hosts exhibitions and cultural events. Its Baroque architecture and internal rooms offer a glimpse into the life of the local nobility.

Il Palio dei Normanni

If you visit Piazza Armerina in August, do not miss the Palio dei Normanni, a spectacular historical reenactment in costume commemorating the liberation of Sicily from the Saracens by the Normans. The celebrations include tournaments, parades, and the famous "Quintana".

Minor Museums and Churches

Piazza Armerina houses numerous minor churches and small museums that tell less known aspects of its history and tradition, such as the Diocesan Museum, Mining Museum, and other Baroque and medieval churches.

Gran Priorato di S. Andrea

The church of St. Andrew of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem of the original priory dates back to 1096. Seat of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 1106 granted by Count Simone del Vasto, lord of Butera and Policastro, nephew of the great count Roger, seven years after the capture of Jerusalem in 1099. In 1148 it was donated by the same Aleramico and his wife Thomasia to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem with the annexed monastery, endowed with a conspicuous income, which served to participate in the expenses for the defense of Jerusalem until the latter was conquered by the Turks in 1244.

AIDONE

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Santuario San Filippo Apostolo	+39 0935 86835 / +39 338 644 8462
Comune di Aidone	
Pro Loco	

Partnered Hospitality

B&B; da Mario Piazza Cordova 20	+39 389 314 2359 / +39 366 287 5150
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Where to Eat

La Vecchia Aidone Ristorante Via Senatore Cordova	+39 0935 87863
Pizzeria "La Venere" Viale Martiri della Libertà	+39 339 589 1881

WHAT TO VISIT

Aidone is a charming village in the heart of Sicily, known for its rich archaeological and cultural heritage.

Museo Archeologico di Aidone

The museum is housed in the Capuchin Convent and is famous for artifacts from the site of Morgantina, including the famous Goddess of Morgantina, a marble statue believed to represent the goddess Demeter or Persephone, and the Acroliths of Demeter and Kore, along with a collection of objects of extraordinary historical and artistic value.

Sito Archeologico di Morgantina

Located a few kilometers from the center of Aidone, this archaeological site dates back to the Hellenistic and Roman periods. You can admire the remains of houses, agora, theaters, public baths, and sanctuaries. Morgantina represents one of the most evocative testimonies of life in ancient Sicily.

Chiesa di San Leone

The mother church of Aidone, dedicated to St. Leo, is an example of Baroque architecture. The facade is imposing and the interior houses several works of art, including valuable altars and frescoes.

Chiesa di Santa Maria La Cava e Santuario di San Filippo

This sanctuary is very important for the people of Aidone, being dedicated to St. Philip, the patron saint of the town. The religious complex is characterized by its architectural beauty and the atmosphere of recollection felt inside.

Historic Center of Aidone

Strolling through the historic center, you will discover a village rich in charming views, with alleys, small squares, and ancient stone houses. There is no shortage of artisan shops and cafes where you can stop to savor a typical local sweet.

Panorama from the Hills of Aidone

Aidone stands on a hill and offers wonderful panoramas of the surrounding countryside and the Erei mountains. A perfect spot to admire the sunset and take souvenir photos.

Traditions and Local Events

Throughout the year, Aidone celebrates several religious holidays and popular events, including the Feast of St. Philip, characterized by traditional processions, songs, and dances. Participating in these events will allow you to immerse yourself in the local culture.

Typical Gastronomy

Although it is not a physical attraction, Aidone's cuisine deserves a mention. Among the typical dishes to try are maccarruna (hand-made macaroni) and sweets like mustazzoli. Do not forget to taste the local wine and products.

VALGUARNERA

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Chiesa San Giuseppe Don Enzo Ciulo	+39 339 427 4862
Chiesa San Cristoforo	
Comune di Valguarnera Pro Loco	

Partnered Hospitality

San Giacomo Rooms Maria Grazia	+39 327 730 4715
B&B; Panoramic Enzo	+39 328 341 1690
B&B; Bellavista Manuela	+39 338 212 0205
Home Vany Salvatore	+39 345 285 3383
B&B; Bdieci	+39 338 212 0205

Where to Eat

Trattoria "Alessandro" Via Edison, 42	+39 0935 956523 / +39 339 777 3959
da Fabio Pizzeria Via Sant'Elena,48	+39 338 842 5587

WHAT TO VISIT

Valguarnera Caropepe is a Sicilian municipality located in the heart of the hinterland, known for its historical and cultural heritage, as well as for the landscapes that surround it.

Chiesa Madre di San Giuseppe

This church, dedicated to the patron saint of Valguarnera, St. Joseph, represents the spiritual heart of the town. Built between the 17th and 18th centuries, it has a Baroque-style facade and a richly decorated interior, with altars and sacred artworks of considerable interest.

Parco Minerario di Floristella-Grottacalda

A short distance from Valguarnera is the mining park with its Palazzo Pennisi, an important testimony to the mining history of Sicily. The sulfur mines, once fundamental to the island's economy, are today an industrial archaeology site.

Chiesa di Sant'Antonio Abate

Another important church in Valguarnera, dedicated to St. Anthony the Abbot. The interior features simple but highly impactful decorations and represents a place of reflection and devotion.

Piazza Colonnello Tuttobene

It is the beating heart of Valguarnera and a meeting place for the community. The square is surrounded by bars, shops, and historic buildings, and is the ideal spot to stroll and savor the atmosphere of the town.

Museo della Civiltà Contadina

This small but interesting museum collects tools, objects, and testimonies related to rural life and the agricultural history of Valguarnera. By visiting it, you can discover customs and trades that characterized the daily life of the local population in past centuries.

Traditions and Local Festivals

Valguarnera celebrates with great participation the Feast of St. Joseph, held on March 19, and the Carnival, with parades, dances, and folk songs. These are moments in which you can experience the hospitality and warmth of the local community.

Nature Trails and Surrounding Countryside

Valguarnera's position offers the opportunity to go hiking in the surrounding countryside, where you can admire rural landscapes and enjoy the quiet of nature. The area is rich in fields of wheat, olive trees, and almond trees, which characterize the landscape.

Ancient Shops and Typical Products

Do not miss exploring the artisan shops and trying typical local products, such as sweets and traditional Sicilian dishes. Valguarnera's cuisine is simple but authentic, with a strong link to rural roots.

ASSORO

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Chiesa San Leone Don Orazio	+39 388 607 2739
Comune di Assoro	
Pro Loco	

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Giacinto: +39 320 874 47 32

Pilgrim Hospitality

Don Orazio: +39 388 607 2739

Giacinto: +39 320 874 47 32

Andrea: +39 388 933 43 92

Partnered Hospitality

B&B; – CASA PELLEGRINI Giacinto	+39 320 874 47 32
Carmela	+39 388 110 4665
Gioacchino	+39 347 270 0380
Licia	+39 329 390 3473
Pina	+39 327 816 5022
Anna	+39 340 598 6771
Sig.ra Bengasi	+39 320 393 9733
Angelo	+39 328 068 3033

Where to Eat

D'Agostino Ristorante – Pizzeria – Bar Via Crisa, 289	+39 329 313 1289
Al Solito Posto Ristopizza caffè Via Crisa, 282	+39 388 571 9335
CHIOSCO (continuous hours 06:30 AM – 10:30 PM)	+39 328 815 2023
AIDA BIO Via Sandro Pertini, 26/b (open for lunch)	+39 0935 547210
Al Borgo Piazza Umberto, 1 (open for lunch)	+39 376 259 0537

WHAT TO VISIT

Assoro, one of the oldest villages in Sicily, has a history rooted in ancient times and offers visitors an authentic charm. Located in the heart of the island, the city is famous for its historical, cultural, and archaeological heritage.

Chiesa di San Leone and the Cattedrale di Assoro

The Church of St. Leo is the cathedral of Assoro and dates back to the 15th century. With an elegant facade and a majestic interior, the cathedral houses numerous works of art, carved altars, and valuable frescoes. It is the main place of worship in the city and one of the most striking buildings.

Castello di Assoro (Remains of the Medieval Castle)

The castle, located at the top of the hill, represents a point of great historical interest.

Medieval District and the Historic Center

Strolling through the cobblestone streets of the historic center will immerse you in the medieval atmosphere of Assoro. You will be able to observe ancient houses, sculpted portals, and views that tell stories of past centuries.

Convento dei Cappuccini and Chiesa di Santa Maria degli Angeli

The convent, dating back to the 17th century, is a place of great spiritual importance for the community. Inside there are sacred artworks and a collection of ancient religious texts. The attached church features simple but fascinating architecture.

Santuario di San Filippo d'Agira

This sanctuary is dedicated to St. Philip of Agira, one of the most revered saints in Sicily. In addition to its spiritual importance, the sanctuary offers a unique glimpse into local religiosity and traditions.

Museo Archeologico di Assoro

The museum houses artifacts that tell the ancient history of the city, from the times of Greek and Roman domination up to the medieval period. Here you can discover coins, ceramics, tools, and other artifacts.

Panorama from the Hill of Assoro

The position of the town, perched on a hill, offers spectacular views of the Sicilian countryside and the Erei mountains. A postcard panorama, ideal for taking photos and appreciating the natural beauty of the area.

The Legend and the Saying “Prima Assoro e poi Roma”

According to an ancient Sicilian adage, "First Assoro and then Rome", the city was historically considered more important than the Roman capital itself. This saying highlights the antiquity and historical importance of Assoro compared to many other cities of the era.

Chiesa del Carmine

The church, dating back to the 17th century, is a small architectural gem and preserves period frescoes and decorations. It is a place of worship very dear to the inhabitants of Assoro.

NISSORIA

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Chiesa San Giuseppe Don Salvatore Minuto	+39 345 169 4219
Comune di Assoro	
Pro Loco	

Pilgrim Hospitality

Chiesa San Giuseppe don Salvatore Minuto: +39 345 169 4219

Partnered Hospitality

Francesco B&B;	+39 328 873 7060 / +39 338 113 7595
Carmelo B&B;	+39 340 490 3969

Where to Eat

Cinque Sensi Ristorante Pizzeria Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 10	+39 329 354 0324
Da Ernesto Ristorante Pizzeria Via Moncada, 5	+39 0935 660145

WHAT TO VISIT

Nissoria is a small municipality located in the heart of central Sicily, offering a quiet and evocative atmosphere. Although it is less known than other localities in the region, the town is rich in history, culture, and traditions linked to rural life and spirituality.

Chiesa Madre di San Giuseppe

The Mother Church, dedicated to St. Joseph, is the main place of worship in the town. Built in the 19th century, it features a simple but welcoming architecture, typical of local churches. Inside there are sacred artworks and a suggestive atmosphere of recollection.

Piazza Umberto I

The main square of Nissoria is the beating heart of the town's social life. Here you can find bars, shops, and historic buildings that bear witness to the community's past.

Monumento ai Caduti

Located in the main square, the monument is dedicated to the fallen of Nissoria in the world wars. It is a symbol of memory and reflection for the local community.

Santuario di Maria Santissima del Carmelo

This sanctuary is very dear to the inhabitants of Nissoria and is a destination for pilgrimages and religious celebrations. The church dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel represents a place of prayer and devotion.

Il Vecchio Casale di Nissorya

Nissoria roots itself in an ancient structure called "Nissorya". The old farmhouse was an important agricultural and community life center. Although few traces remain, the history of this rural community is still alive in the memory of the inhabitants.

Traditions and Local Festivals

Patronal feasts, sagra, and religious celebrations represent an important moment for the inhabitants of Nissoria. Among the most heartfelt holidays are those dedicated to St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which see the participation of the entire community with processions, shows, and music.

Antiche Masserie and Agriturismo

In the surroundings of Nissoria there are ancient masserie (farmhouses) and agriturismo that offer the opportunity to taste typical local products, such as cheeses, olive oil, cured meats, and traditional sweets. A perfect opportunity to get to know the local cuisine and live an authentic Sicilian experience.

Trekking Trails and Rural Walks

Outdoor activity lovers can explore the trails that wind through the surrounding fields and hills. These paths offer breathtaking landscapes and the chance to discover local flora and fauna.

The Hospitality of the Locals

In addition to the monuments and places of interest, one of the most charming aspects of Nissoria is the hospitality of its inhabitants. Get to know their history, listen to the stories linked to rural life, and let yourself be involved by the warmth of the community.

NICOSIA

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Convento Frati Minori Fra Salvatore	+39 0935 646270 / +39 3280614051
Comune di Nicosia	

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Marcello: +39 320 685 9491

Pilgrim Hospitality

Convento Frati Minori Fra Salvatore: +39 0935 646270 / +39 328 061 4051

Partnered Hospitality

B&B; Marcello	+39 320 685 9491
B&B; Alessandro	+39 333 967 7440
B&B; Mimma	+39 349 536 0551
Baglio San Pietro	+39 333 537 5881

Where to Eat

Al Quadrifoglio Ristorante	+39 0935 646309
Memphis Ristorante Pizzeria	+39 0935 639722

WHAT TO VISIT

Nicosia, located in the Sicilian hinterland, is a city that preserves a rich historical and cultural heritage. Its historic center, characterized by cobblestone streets, medieval palaces, and ancient churches, tells the story of a city that for centuries was a crossroad of cultures and traditions.

Cattedrale di San Nicola di Bari

This majestic cathedral, built between the 14th and 15th centuries, dominates the city thanks to its elevated position. The facade features Gothic and Baroque elements, while the interior is rich in decorations, frescoes, and valuable sculptures. Do not miss the suggestive bell tower, from which you can enjoy a spectacular view of Nicosia and its surroundings.

Chiesa di Santa Maria Maggiore

One of the oldest churches in Nicosia, dating back to the 12th century.

Palazzo Speciale

An important example of Sicilian noble architecture, this palace dates back to the 17th century and is located in the heart of the historic center. The facade presents an elegant Baroque architecture, with decorated balconies and sculptural details. The palace often hosts cultural events and exhibitions.

Medieval District

Walking through the medieval district of Nicosia is like taking a step back in time. The narrow alleys, ancient houses, and picturesque views offer a unique atmosphere, ideal for history and photography lovers.

Chiesa di San Biagio

This church, located on a hill, is one of the symbols of Nicosia. The structure holds historical and religious importance for the local community and offers a spectacular panoramic view of the city and the surrounding hills.

Castello di Nicosia (Ruins)

Located on a hill above the city, the Norman castle of Nicosia is today in ruins, but remains an important landmark. The remains of the ancient walls and towers tell of the city's defensive past. From the castle, you enjoy a breathtaking view of Nicosia and the neighboring countryside.

Teatro Comunale "Vittorio Emanuele"

This elegant theater is an example of nineteenth-century architecture and represents the cultural heart of the city. It hosts theatrical performances, concerts, and other cultural events, providing a place of entertainment and gathering for the community.

Convento di Santa Maria degli Angeli

This Franciscan convent, founded in the 16th century, is a place of great spirituality and history. Artworks and religious relics are kept inside.

Museo della Civiltà Contadina

This museum collects objects, utensils, and tools used in the daily rural life of Sicily. A visit here will allow you to better understand the traditions and work of Sicilian farmers over the centuries.

Chiesa di San Calogero

Another church very much loved by the people of Nicosia, dedicated to St. Calogerus. The building stands out for its architecture and for the celebrations held there during the patronal feast.

The 40 Churches and the Tradition of the Barons

Nicosia is known as the "City of the 40 Churches" due to the large number of religious buildings found there. The city was also the seat of important noble families, such as the "40 Barons", who left traces in local history and culture. This aspect is reflected in the historic palaces and popular traditions.

Local Festivals and Traditions

Nicosia is a city that intensely lives its traditions, with religious feasts, sagre, and folkloric celebrations. Among the most important events are the feast of St. Nicholas and the Easter processions, which draw numerous visitors.

CAPIZZI

SINGLE EMERGENCY NUMBER 112

Where to Stamp the Credential

Chiesa San Giacomo (Marcello)	+39 339 520 2499
Comune di Capizzi	+39 0935 933315
Casa Irene (WhatsApp)	+39 345 918 5081
Parasuco Macelleria	+39 333 807 0341

HOSPITALITY MANAGER

Pierluigi: +39 333 345 9899

Donation-Based Hospitality

Giusy: +39 339 810 0680

Annalisa (WhatsApp): +39 345 918 5081

Partnered Hospitality

Ostello	+39 350 5816905
Affittacamere Gerani	+39 333 9092248 / +39 0935 933078
B&B; Nino	+39 333 807 0341

Where to Eat

Ristorante Spagna Risto Bar	+39 0935 934152
Antichi Sapori Trattoria-pizzeria	+39 333 372 9421

FREE TYPICAL TASTING

Parasuco Macelleria Prodotti Tipici	+39 333 807 0341
Bartolo Casabona Tartufo e altro	+39 334 100 5301
Il Dolce di "Irene"	+39 345 918 5081

WHAT TO VISIT

Perched on Mount Verna, at about 1,100 meters above sea level, Capizzi preserves a historic center of great charm, characterized by alleys, stairways, ancient stone houses, churches, and noble palaces.

1. Chiesa Madre di San Nicolò di Bari

The origins of the Mother Church are traditionally traced back to the 6th century. Enlarged in the 13th century and rebuilt in the 18th century, it features a renovated facade in neoclassical style from the 19th century. Inside it preserves important works of art, including an organ from 1590 built by Raffaele La Valle, a valuable wooden Crucifix, and numerous paintings.

2. Santuario di San Giacomo Apostolo Maggiore

Heart of the city's devotion, it is considered the oldest Jacobean place of worship in Sicily. In 1426 the knight Sancho de Heredia brought some relics here, including one attributed to St. James. The sanctuary houses valuable works, including the marble statue of the Madonna del Soccorso, created by Antonello Gagini in 1517. On July 26, the patronal feast is celebrated, characterized by the solemn procession and the traditional ritual of tearing down the Wall of Miracles.

3. Chiesa di Sant'Antonio di Padova

Located in Piazza dei Miracoli and dating back to the 17th century, it houses a Baroque altar with twisted columns and cherubs, a wooden trussed roof, and a statue of the saint dated 1751.

4. Museo Diocesano dei Santi Nicolò e Giacomo

Housed in the crypt of the Mother Church, it preserves works from the churches of Capizzi, including paintings, sculptures, liturgical silver, and sacred vestments. Of particular interest is the pictorial cycle of the vault, completed in 1750, and the painting of St. Nicholas attributed to Zoppo di Gangi.

5. Pinacoteca Mater Dolorosa

Set up in the ancient oratory of the Compagnia della Buona Morte, dating back to the 18th century, it collects important testimonies of Sicilian painting between the 17th and 18th centuries. Among the main works are the Pietà with the Souls in Purgatory by Antonino Manno, the Passing of St. Joseph by Giovan Battista Quagliata, and the Assumption of Mary by Francesco Zappulla.

6. Churches, palaces and historical testimonies

Capizzi's heritage also includes the Church of San Bartolomeo, with its 14th-century Gothic portal, the Church of San Sebastiano, characterized by a sculpted stone portal, and the Church of the Madonna delle Grazie, which houses a marble statue made in Rome in 1760. Of particular note are the former Benedictine monastery of the Annunziata, today the seat of the Town Hall, the complex of the former Collegio di Maria, linked to the welcoming of pilgrims, and Palazzo Russo-Larcan, a testimony to noble architecture of the 17th century.

GENERAL PILGRIM PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

FOR PILGRIMS (Capizzi Schedule Note)

The Sanctuary of St. James in Capizzi is open every day from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. For the credential stamp and the delivery of the Aurea Jacopea, adhere to the following schedules:

PILGRIM'S HOLY MASS:

- Sanctuary of St. James: Monday – Wednesday – Friday - Sunday at 6:00 PM
- Chiesa Madre di San Nicolò di Bari: Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday at 6:00 PM & Sunday at 11:00 AM

AUREA JACOPEA COLLECTION Contacts:

- Padre Don Antonio Cipriano: +39 329 419 6744
- Marcello: +39 339 520 2499
- Paolo: +39 333 995 1427
- Pierluigi: +39 333 345 9899

Bus & Transport Services

School Line from September to June:

- Capizzi – Catania Departure at 7:00 AM arrival at 9:00 AM (INTERBUS)
- Capizzi – Catania Departure at 7:00 AM arrival at 9:00 AM (ISEA)

January - December:

- Capizzi – Messina Departure at 5:30 AM arrival at 8:30 AM (SBERNA)

Transport Service:

- Sig. Stanzù: +39 339 745 3302
- Sig. Gabriele: +39 339 606 8015

Before leaving

Walking is natural for human beings, so no special training is needed. However, if you lead a very sedentary life, in the weeks preceding departure it is advisable to take long walks with a backpack on your shoulders, loading it progressively, since the weight of the backpack is generally the greatest difficulty for those with no prior experience. It is important to bring only the bare essentials: refer to the list at the bottom of the page, useful in the days preceding departure, both to discard the superfluous and not to forget things that, instead, are indispensable.

Backpack

The backpack for this walk, about 130 Km, must not weigh more than 7-9 Kg, with a capacity between 26 and 48 liters. If you need to buy one, get advice from your trusted shopkeeper, to choose the product that best suits your physical conformation. Not everyone is aware, for example, that the best brands produce specific backpacks for women and men, adjustable according to height. During the walk, remember, it must always be fastened at the waist and on the sternum, because only in this way is the weight distributed on the hips, as well as on the shoulders. It is then advisable not to have hanging objects or clothing (the backpack should contain everything). It is easy to lose some pieces on the road this way, but the greatest risk is that of hooking onto something protruding and being off-balance.

Shoes & Socks

The advice of a competent seller is essential to choose the model best suited to the type of foot and the right size. The Cammino di San Giacomo in Sicily follows paths on countryside tracks, it is always advisable to wear ankle-high boots with a lugged sole. Socks are equally important: there are technical hiking models, with differentiated padding, which help prevent blisters. The best socks are made of wool, a material that allows better transpiration of the foot, even in summer.

Equipment & Other accessories

The choice of technical mountain or hiking clothing may seem like a whim and a fashion. In reality, technical garments, although expensive, give greater guarantees regarding transpiration, comfort, resistance to rain and cold. They are light, wash easily, and dry within a few hours. Sometimes it is worth spending more to have a better and, generally, durable product. Use walking sticks, because they transfer a consistent part of the weight to the arms, lightening knees and ankles. Those who choose to use pilgrim hospitality must have a sheet sleeping bag or sleeping bag with them. The best ones weigh a few grams and are made of silk or synthetic fiber. You will need an umbrella or a cape to shelter from the rain, a headlamp so as not to disturb other pilgrims when sleeping in a dormitory and in the event of finishing the stage in the dark or to cross tunnels along the path.

Water & Where to sleep

The Sicilian walk, in some stages, crosses a territory poor in water. If you face the walk in summer periods, a good supply of water is advisable. It is however good practice, always, to leave with a full water bottle.

We have indicated in the appropriate section the accommodations whose cost per person does not exceed 30 Euros (except in some localities where the offer is scarcer). It is important to distinguish the structures organized expressly to welcome from those that are the fruit of good will of people who, however, have other heavy commitments to carry forward. Many parishes and convents make great efforts to welcome pilgrims, and the passage of an increasing number of wayfarers risks putting these initiatives of pure and disinterested volunteering in crisis. It is therefore appropriate to give notice of your passage in time, telephoning at least one day before. Many 'hospitable' structures based on volunteering, be they religious or public, offer hospitality in exchange for a monetary donation.

Medical emergencies

Those approaching a pilgrimage for the first time fear any physical problems that could manifest. The walk, in reality, is good for everyone, it is truly healthy, so the only serious troubles are blisters, which if neglected can cause infections and prevent you from continuing the walk. To avoid the problem, the best way is to prevent them, with regular foot care: pumice stone to eliminate dead tissues and thickening of the skin, and specific essential oils or massage creams to keep it always soft and hydrated. When you feel the slightest discomfort, the best method to avoid the blister and the consequent sore is to cover the red and irritated part with heavy canvas bandaging tape, to avoid direct friction on the skin. If the damage has already been done, it is convenient to make a well-padded dressing with sterile gauze and plaster, changing and disinfecting it every day. Always remember that our feet bear all our weight and that of the backpack. They are the ones that take us forward step after step. They deserve all the best attention and care. In case of special or more serious emergencies, the number to call is 118, active 24 hours a day.

How to get there

The city of Caltagirone is well served by trains and buses. The connection with Catania airport is guaranteed by bus lines with daily departures. The city of Capizzi is served by a bus service, during the school period (September - June) to and from Catania and Messina. January - December: Capizzi – Messina Departure at 5:30 AM arrival at 8:30 AM (SBERNA)

SUPPORT THE WALK

The Cammino di San Giacomo in Sicily is a project of hospitality, faith, and territorial enhancement carried forward with passion by the Borgo San Giacomo Association and by many volunteers. This guide is and will always be completely free for all wayfarers. A special “donation” box is placed at the Domus Hospitalia of the Church of San Giacomo in Piazza Armerina, where you can leave your offering. If you wish to support our commitment, the maintenance of the paths, and the development of pilgrim hospitality, you can leave a small voluntary donation: every contribution, even the smallest, helps us keep this dream alive along the Cammino di San Giacomo.

Buon Cammino, Pellegrino! / Ultreya y Suseya!

This is for informational purposes only. For medical advice or diagnosis, consult a professional. AI responses may include mistakes.