

MESSINA SICILY
CRUISE PORT GUIDE

CATHEDRAL • ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK • TAORMINA • MOUNT ETNA • ISOLA BELLA • ALCANTARA GORGES • SICILIAN FOOD

TOP HIGHLIGHTS
- Messina Cathedral
- Astronomical Clock
- Taormina
- Mount Etna
- Isola Bella
- Alcantara Gorges
- Sicilian Food
- Beautiful Views

PORT AT A GLANCE
- Cruise ships dock in Messina near the city center.
- Waterfront access depends on your assigned berth. Follow port directions.
- Taxis, buses and excursions are readily available.
- Currency: Euro (€). Cards are widely accepted.
- Check your ship's exact arrival and all aboard time.

SCHEMATIC REGIONAL OPTIONS
NOT FOR NAVIGATION



GETTING AROUND

WALKING (IN MESSINA)
- City center is very close to port
- Duomo and main sights are walkable
- Mostly flat with some uneven pavement

TAXI
- Readily available at the port
- Good for Taormina, Etna, etc.
- Agree on price or use official taxis

PUBLIC BUS
- Local buses are available and affordable
- Good for areas around Messina
- Main bus terminal near the port

TRAIN TO TAORMINA
- Trains run from Messina to Taormina-Giardini (scenic coastal route).
- Railway station is below the hill town. Take a separate bus or taxi uphill.
- Allow time for transfers and waits.
- Check Trenitalia for possible engineering works.

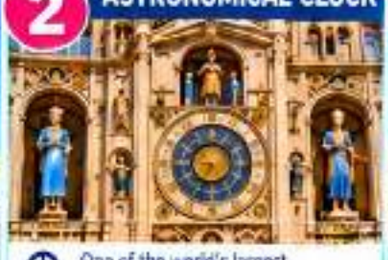
ORGANIZED TOURS
- Easiest option for Taormina, Mount Etna, Isola Bella, Alcantara Gorges and more.

1 MESSINA CATHEDRAL (DUOMO)



- Norman origins, consecrated in 1197
- One tall, detached bell tower (with astronomical clock)
- Beautiful interior and history
- Located in Piazza Duomo
- Check opening hours and access. Bell tower requires a separate ticket.

2 ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK



- One of the world's largest mechanical astronomical clocks
- Automata normally at **12:00 NOON**
- Check cathedral opening hours and access (may be restricted).
- Bell tower ticket is separate.
- Incredible mechanical details

3 TAORMINA (HILL TOWN)



- Stunning hilltop town
- Greek Theatre with amazing views
- Piazza IX Aprile (panoramic terrace)
- Charming streets, shops and cafés
- Reach by train to Taormina-Giardini (station below town), then bus or taxi uphill. Allow time for transfers and waits. Check Trenitalia for engineering works.

4 ISOLA BELLA (NATURE RESERVE)



- Protected nature reserve
- Crystal clear water
- Beautiful views from Taormina
- Check reserve access, entry fees and swimming rules (may be seasonal or restricted).
- Take the cable car to Mazzarò, then walk/steps down to the beach. Cable car does not go directly to the island.

5 MOUNT ETNA



- Europe's most active volcano
- Stunning landscapes and views
- Access is subject to weather and volcanic activity.
- Guided tours to regulated zones only.
- Use a reputable tour operator.

6 ALCANTARA GORGES



- Unique lava rock gorges
- Cool, refreshing river water
- Hiking, walking and adventure options
- Great for nature lovers
- Often combined with Taormina on separate excursions.

7 MESSINA OLD TOWN



- Charming streets, churches and squares
- Santa Maria degli Alemanni
- Annunziata dei Catalani (Arab-Norman style)
- Cafés, shops and local markets
- Beautiful views of the Strait of Messina

8 SICILIAN FOOD & DRINK



- Granita + brioche (a must try!)
- Arancini (fried rice balls)
- Pasta alla Norma (eggplant)
- Fresh seafood
- Cannoli and gelato
- Kinnie (local soft drink)
- Pistachio specialties

GOOD TO KNOW
- Currency = Euro (€)
- Messina is very DIY-friendly
- City center is close to the port
- Be at the Duomo at 12:00 for the clock
- Taormina train arrival is below the hill town; allow onward transfer.
- Etna and Alcantara require separate excursions.
- Summer can be hot – bring water, sunscreen
- Keep a buffer for longer excursions

IDEAL DAY ITINERARY
(ONE MAIN REGIONAL EXCURSION)

CLASSIC DAY – TAORMINA
- Messina (port)
- Train to Taormina-Giardini
- Bus or taxi uphill to Taormina
- Explore Taormina (Greek Theatre, Piazza IX Aprile, shops, cafés)
- Return to Messina with time to spare for all aboard.

CHECK YOUR CONNECTIONS
- Check Trenitalia for your date and engineering works.
- Taormina-Giardini station is below Taormina; add bus or taxi uphill.
- Allow time for port exit, station transfers and waits.
- Etna and Alcantara require separate transport plans.
- Choose one main excursion and protect your return buffer.

PERFECT FOR
- History and culture lovers
- Scenic views and photography
- Foodies (Sicilian cuisine)
- Beach lovers (Isola Bella)
- Nature and adventure (Etna & Gorges)
- Families (great mix of options)
- Couples and honeymooners
- Easy DIY explorers
- Anyone wanting an authentic Sicilian experience