Agrigento

Sicily · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Agrigento is a hilltop town on the south coast of Sicily, and most people come for one reason: the Greek temples below it. The ancient city of Akragas was one of the richest in the Greek world. Its Doric temples still stand in a line on a ridge between the modern town and the sea, inside the UNESCO-listed Valley of the Temples.

Plan at least one full day for the temples and the archaeological museum. Stay a night or two to see the temples lit up after dark, walk the steep lanes of the medieval old town and spend time on the nearby coast. Agrigento is the home town of the writer *Luigi Pirandello*, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, and of the ancient philosopher *Empedocles*.

When to visit

Spring (April to early June) and autumn (September and October) are the best times to visit. Days are warm and the temples are pleasant to walk. July and August are hot and dry, often well above 30 °C, and the archaeological park has very little shade. Winter is mild but wetter, with short days.

The biggest annual event is the **Almond Blossom Festival** (Mandorlo in Fiore) in late winter, usually in February or March. Folk groups from many countries parade through the streets and perform in town, when the almond trees around the temples are in flower.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 16° Feels like 10°	6° / 1°	Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 17° Feels like 10°	6° / 1°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 20° Feels like 12°	7° / 3°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	18° / 24°	9° / 5°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	13° / 9°	20 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for the beach	28° / 33°	17° / 13°	24 sunny days · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	31° / 35°	19° / 16°	29 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	31° / 35°	20° / 17°	27 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for the beach	27° / 31°	18° / 14°	Humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	15° / 10°	Calm winds
November	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for sightseeing	14° / 18° Feels like 11°	8° / 3°	Dry air

Best months: April, May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Valley of the Temples is the reason to come. The main path runs for about 2 km along a ridge. Start at the eastern entrance and finish at Porta V in the west, and allow 2 to 3 hours. The basic ticket does not include the archaeological museum, but a combined ticket valid for 3 days does. Buying online in advance is recommended. Go early or late in the day to avoid the heat.

B Temple of Concordia is still almost complete. It survived because it was turned into a church in the 6th century.

C Temple of Juno stands at the highest, eastern end of the ridge. Many columns are still standing, and it is the classic place to watch the sunset.

D Temple of Heracles is the oldest temple in the valley, from the late 6th century BC. Eight of its columns were raised again in the 1920s.

E Temple of Olympian Zeus was planned as the largest Doric temple of the Greek world. Today it is a field of huge fallen blocks, with a copy of one of the giant stone figures that once held up its roof.

F Temple of Castor and Pollux is only four columns and a corner of the roof, rebuilt in the 19th century. They have become the symbol of Agrigento.

G Museo Archeologico Regionale Pietro Griffo sits between the temples and the town. It holds the finds from the ancient city, including an original stone giant almost 8 metres tall from the Temple of Olympian Zeus.

H Kolymbetra is a garden of citrus, almond and olive trees in a small valley between the temples. It is run by the FAI heritage trust and needs a combined ticket with the Valley, bought at the park entrances.

In the old town, I Santa Maria dei Greci is a small medieval church built over a Greek temple, with the ancient base visible inside. Nearby, J

Chiesa di Santo Spirito has white Baroque stucco work by the workshop of *Giacomo Serpotta*.

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What to experience

Agrigento is at its best in the cool hours, when the light turns the temple stone golden.

- From late June to around 20 September, the archaeological park stays open late in the evening. Walking past the lit-up temples after dark is cooler and quieter than a midday visit.
- Time your walk along the ridge so you reach Temple of Juno as the sun goes down over the sea.
- In July, the feast of San Calogero fills the old town with drummers, and the statue of this popular saint is carried in procession. People throw small loaves of bread towards it, following an old tradition.
- On summer evenings, join local families on the seafront promenade at San Leone, the city's beach district about 7 km below the old town.

Day trips

The coast west of Agrigento has white cliffs, long beaches and more Greek ruins. A car makes these trips much easier.



- About 15 minutes by car, the Scala dei Turchi, Turkish Steps, is a white marl cliff that drops to the sea in wide steps, with sandy beaches on each side. Entry costs about €6, paid on arrival, with timed groups and a daily limit, so arrive early in summer. In summer, Trenitalia also runs a train and bus link here.
- About 25 minutes by car, Punta Bianca is a quieter white headland east of the city, with wild beaches and a short coastal walk.
- About 25 minutes by car, Torre Salsa Nature Reserve near Siculiana protects a stretch of coast with long sandy beaches, dunes and walking paths.
- About 40 minutes by car, Eraclea Minoa is a small Greek city with a theatre on a cliff above a long sandy beach.
- About 50 minutes by car, Sciacca is a fishing and spa town with a Baroque centre, ceramic workshops and a busy harbour.
- About 70 minutes by car, near Ⓐ Piazza Armerina, the Roman Villa of Casale is famous for its huge, well-preserved Roman floor mosaics.

Where to explore

Agrigento is the main sight on the south coast of Sicily. Most visitors combine it with the island's big cities and the Baroque south-east.

- **Inland**: Piazza Armerina, with its Roman villa mosaics.
- **The north and west**: Palermo and Cefalù.
- **The east**: Catania, Taormina and Syracuse.
- **The Baroque south-east**: Noto and Ragusa.

Getting there

- **By air**: Agrigento has no airport. The nearest are Palermo Falcone Borsellino and Catania Fontanarossa, each about 2 hours away by car. A few direct trains a day run from Palermo airport to Agrigento Centrale and take about 3 hours. Buses link Catania airport with Agrigento in about 2.5 to 3 hours.
- **By train**: Regional trains run from Palermo to Agrigento Centrale in about 2 hours. The station is at the foot of the old town. Rail links to Catania need a change and are slow, so the bus is usually better. Trenitalia
- **By bus**: Coaches run to Agrigento from Palermo (about 2 hours), Catania and Catania airport (about 2.5 to 3 hours) and other Sicilian towns.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is compact but built on a steep hill, with many steps. The temples are about 3 km below the town, too far and too hot to walk in summer.
- **Buses**: City buses run by TAG – Trasporti Agrigento (formerly TUA) leave from the square in front of Agrigento Centrale station for the Valley of the Temples and for San Leone, the seaside district. Buy tickets in the operator's app (TUA Bus Agrigento), which shows a QR code to scan on board. Trenitalia also sells a combined train and city bus ticket to the temples. Trasporti Agrigento
- **Taxi**: Taxis wait outside the station. A taxi is the easiest way to get back to your starting point if you walk the temple ridge from one entrance to the other.
- **Car**: Useful for the coast and day trips, but not needed inside the town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is compact but steep, with many steps; the temples are about 3 km below it, so most visitors take a bus or taxi there.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep hills, heat and busy roads make cycling hard; few visitors cycle.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town and the temples, which you can reach by bus or taxi. A car is the best way to explore the coast and the inland sites, where buses are infrequent.
- **Parking**: The archaeological park has paid car parks at its main entrances, by the Temple of Juno and at Porta V. In town, park on the edge of the old town and walk up.
- **Restrictions**: The old town's main street, Via Atenea, and many lanes around it are closed to normal traffic, and the lanes are steep and very narrow. Watch for limited traffic zone (ZTL) signs, which are camera-enforced.
- **Unofficial attendants**: Near the temples and beaches, informal parking attendants sometimes ask for money. Use the official car parks.

Food & drink

Agrigento's food is classic Sicilian, with a strong taste for almonds, which grow all around the temples. Look for almond pastries and *cuscusu*, a sweet couscous with pistachios and almonds made by the nuns of the Chiesa di Santo Spirito convent. Arancine (fried rice balls), granita and cannoli are everywhere. Nearby Favara is known for its marzipan Easter lambs, sold around Easter.

For eating out, the best areas are Via Atenea and the small squares and lanes off it in the old town, where you will find trattorias and pastry shops. For fish and seafood, head to the restaurants along the seafront in San Leone, especially on summer evenings.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Pizza Margherita
Thin-crust pizza topped with tomato, mozzarella, and basil, invented in Naples and still best there.

DINNER

Spaghetti alla Carbonara
Pasta with egg, cured pork cheek (guanciale), pecorino cheese, and black pepper, a Roman classic.

Risotto alla Milanese
Creamy saffron-infused rice dish from Milan, often served alongside braised veal shank.

Lasagna · Lasagne al Forno
Layered baked pasta with ragu, bechamel, and cheese, a staple of Emilia-Romagna cooking.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Prosciutto and Cheese · Prosciutto e Formaggio
Cured ham paired with regional cheeses, a common antipasto plate found nationwide.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Gelato
Dense, slow-churned Italian ice cream, traditionally lower in fat and air than American-style ice cream.

Tiramisu · Tiramisù
Layered dessert of coffee-soaked ladyfingers and mascarpone cream, dusted with cocoa.

DRINKS

Espresso · Caffè
A short, strong shot of coffee drunk quickly, usually standing at a bar counter.

Wine · Vino
Italy is one of the world's largest wine producers, with regional styles from Piedmont's Barolo to Tuscany's Chianti.

Aperol Spritz
A bittersweet orange aperitif mixed with prosecco and soda water, a staple of the early-evening aperitivo.

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Safety & health

Agrigento is a safe place to visit. Petty theft is not a major problem, but do not leave valuables visible in parked cars, especially at beach and temple car parks.

- The archaeological park has almost no shade. In summer, visit early or late, wear a hat and carry plenty of water.
- The white cliffs at the Scala dei Turchi (Turkish Steps) and Punta Bianca are soft and can crumble. Stay out of closed areas and away from cliff edges.
- Agrigento has long-standing problems with its water supply, and many buildings store water in rooftop tanks. Most visitors drink bottled water.

History

Greek settlers founded Akragas around 580 BC. Under the tyrant *Theron*, the city defeated Carthage at Himera in 480 BC and grew rich. Prisoners of war helped build the temples, including the giant Temple of Olympian Zeus. The philosopher *Empedocles* was born here in the 5th century BC.

Carthage sacked the city in 406 BC, and Rome took it in 210 BC as Agrigentum. You can walk its Roman streets and see house mosaics in the Quartiere Ellenistico Romano. In the 6th century, the Temple of Concordia became a Christian church, which is why it still stands almost complete today.

In the Middle Ages, the town moved up to the hill above the temples. Under the Arabs it was called Kerkent, and it later became Girgenti, a name it kept until 1927. The Normans founded the Cattedrale di San Gerlando at the top of the hill in the 11th century. *Luigi Pirandello* was born in 1867 in a farmhouse just outside town, now Casa natale di Luigi Pirandello e museo. The Valley of the Temples became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Italy at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F / Type L
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

Italian

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Agrigento's Essential Treasures

Agrigento was the Greek city of Akragas, and its temples still stand on a ridge between the modern town and the sea. This list brings together the UNESCO-listed Valley of the Temples, the archaeological museum that holds its finds, and the most rewarding churches of the old town on the hill above.





A Valley of the Temples

UNESCO-listed archaeological park with the Doric temples and ruins of ancient Akragas, spread along a ridge facing the sea.

Strada Panoramica dei Templi, 92100 Agrigento
(37.29107, 13.59007)

Mo–Su 08:30–20:00

parcovalledeitempli.it



B Temple of Concordia

One of the best-preserved Greek temples anywhere, built in the 5th century BC. It survived because it was turned into a church in late antiquity.

Via Passeggiata Archeologica, 92100, Italy
(37.28966, 13.59207)



C Temple of Juno

Doric temple at the eastern end of the ridge, with many columns still standing. A popular spot at sunset.

92100, Italy (37.28860, 13.60013)

lavalledeitempli.it/Era_Giunone_tempio.... , +393770872496



D Temple of Heracles

The oldest temple in the valley, from the late 6th century BC. Eight columns were raised again in the 1920s.

Via Passeggiata Archeologica, 92100 Província de Agrigento (37.29020, 13.58629)



E Temple of Castor and Pollux

Four columns and a corner of the roof, put back together in the 19th century from ancient pieces. They have become a symbol of Agrigento.

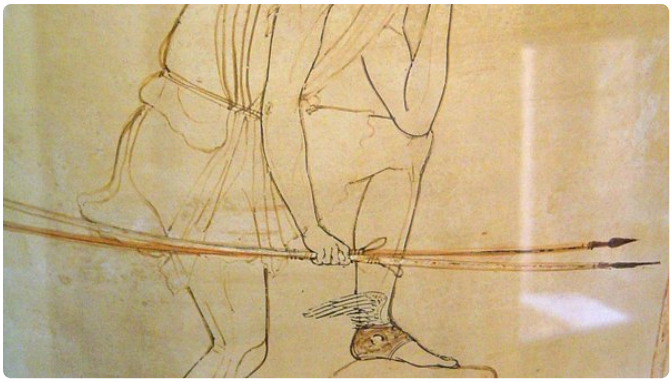
92100, Italy (37.29139, 13.58140)



F Temple of Olympian Zeus

Field of huge fallen blocks from the largest Doric temple ever planned. A copy of one of its giant stone figures, the telamons, lies among the ruins.

92100, Italy (37.29083, 13.58421)



G Pietro Griffo Archaeological Museum

Regional museum near the temples with vases, sculpture and the original telamon from the Temple of Olympian Zeus.

92100, Italy (37.29700, 13.58913)

Mo–Sa	09:00–19:30
Su	09:00–01:30

parcovalledeitempli.it, +393770872496



H San Gerlando Cathedral

Cathedral at the top of the old town, founded in the Norman period and rebuilt many times, with a painted wooden ceiling.

Piazza Don Minzoni, Agrigento AG, Italy (37.31399, 13.57645)

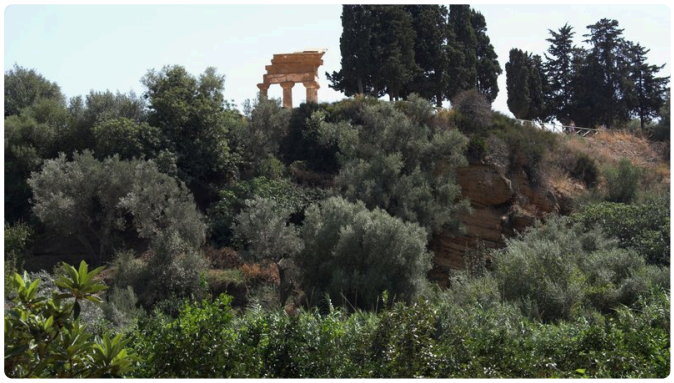
Mo–Su	10:00–18:45



I Monastero Santo Spirito di Agrigento

Church of a medieval Cistercian convent with white stucco decoration by Giacomo Serpotta's workshop. The nuns still make almond and pistachio sweets.

4 Cortile Iacono, Agrigento 92100, Italy (37.31133, 13.58382)



J Kolymbetra

Garden of citrus, almond and olive trees in a small valley between the temples, cared for by the FAI heritage trust.

8 Contrada San Marco, 92100, Italy (37.29203, 13.58192)



Santa Maria dei Greci

Small medieval church built over a Greek temple. Parts of the temple base and columns are visible inside and beneath the church.

17 Via Santa Maria dei Greci, Agrigento 92100, Italy
(37.31289, 13.57810)

Valley of the Temples

The archaeological park preserves the remains of Akragas, one of the richest Greek cities of Sicily. Beyond the famous Doric temples, it holds sanctuaries, a theatre, Roman houses with mosaics and the Kolymbetra garden.





A Valley of the Temples

UNESCO-listed archaeological park with the Doric temples and ruins of ancient Akragas, spread along a ridge facing the sea.

Strada Panoramica dei Templi, 92100 Agrigento (37.29107, 13.59007)

Mo–Su 08:30–20:00

parcovalledeitempli.it



B Temple of Juno

Doric temple at the eastern end of the ridge, with many columns still standing. A popular spot at sunset.

92100, Italy (37.28860, 13.60013)

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C Temple of Castor and Pollux

Four columns and a corner of the roof, put back together in the 19th century from ancient pieces.

92100, Italy (37.29139, 13.58140)



D Temple of Heracles

The oldest temple in the valley, from the late 6th century BC, with eight columns raised again in the 1920s.

Via Passeggiata Archeologica, 92100 Província de Agrigento (37.29020, 13.58629)



E Temple of Concordia

Almost complete 5th-century BC Doric temple, kept intact because it served as a church for centuries.

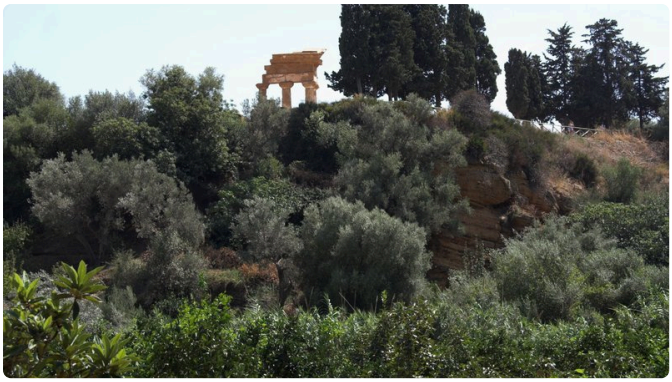
Via Passeggiata Archeologica, 92100, Italy (37.28966, 13.59207)



F Temple of Olympian Zeus

Huge fallen blocks of the largest Doric temple ever planned, with a copy of one of its giant stone figures.

92100, Italy (37.29083, 13.58421)



G Kolymbetra

Citrus, almond and olive garden in an ancient Greek reservoir basin, run by the FAI heritage trust.

8 Contrada San Marco, 92100, Italy (37.29203, 13.58192)



H Temple of Vulcano

Remains of a 5th-century BC Doric temple at the western edge of the park, with two standing columns.

Contrada San Marco, 92100, Italy (37.29289, 13.57878)



I Tempio di Esculapio

Small Doric temple in the plain below the walls, dedicated to the god of healing.

Strada degli Scrittori, 92100, Italy (37.28252, 13.58964)

J Quartiere Ellenistico Romano

Excavated streets of houses from the Hellenistic and Roman city, some with floor mosaics.

92100, Italy (37.29754, 13.59178)

Mo–Su 08:30–20:00

K Il Teatro di Akragas

Hellenistic theatre found in 2016 on the slope near the archaeological museum, still being excavated.

(37.29613, 13.59091)

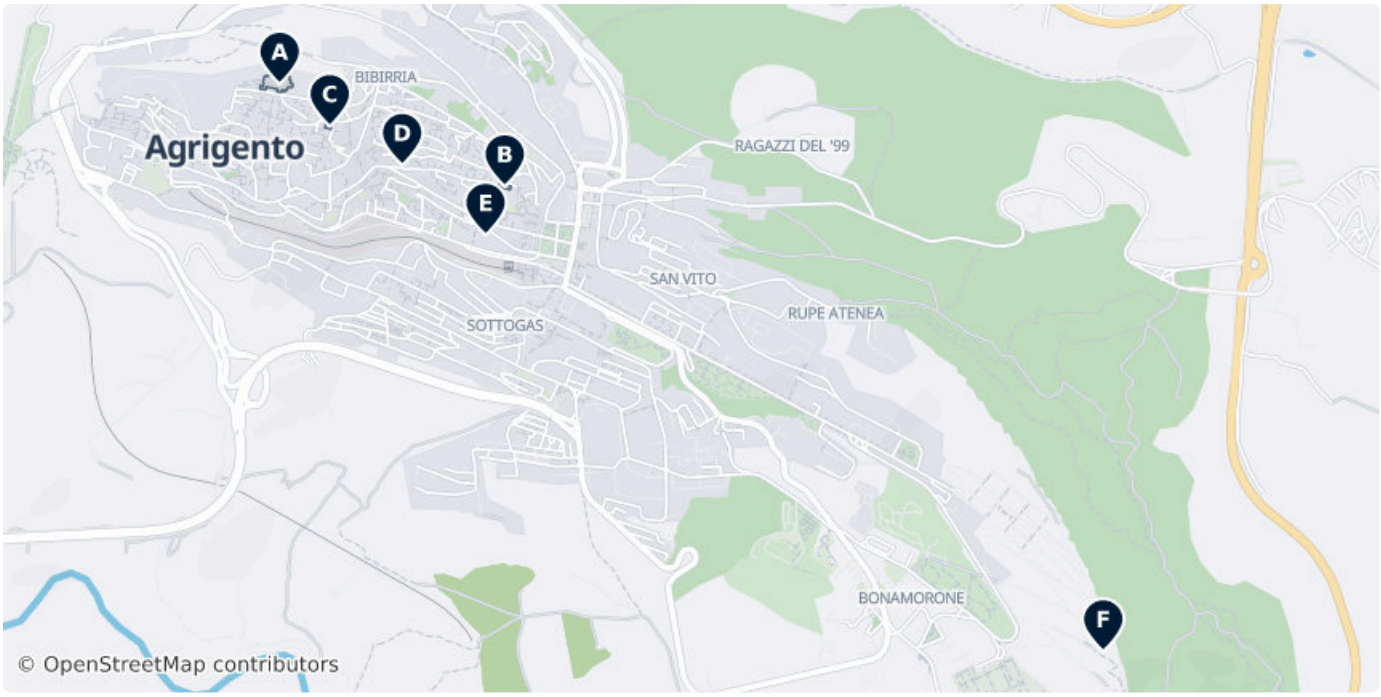
L Gymnasium

Training ground of the ancient city, with the remains of a long running track and seating.

92100, Italy (37.29356, 13.58661)

Churches and Monasteries

Agrigento's old town grew on the hill above the Greek city, and its churches span from the Norman period to the Baroque. Two of them stand on top of Greek temples, so you can see ancient stones inside a Christian church.





A San Gerlando Cathedral

Cathedral at the top of the old town, founded in the Norman period and rebuilt many times, with a painted wooden ceiling.

Piazza Don Minzoni, Agrigento AG, Italy (37.31399, 13.57645)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:45



B Monastero Santo Spirito di Agrigento

Church of a Cistercian convent founded around 1300, decorated with white stucco by Giacomo Serpotta's workshop.

4 Cortile Iacono, Agrigento 92100, Italy (37.31133, 13.58382)



C Santa Maria dei Greci

Small medieval church over a Greek temple, with the temple base visible inside and in the crypt.

17 Via Santa Maria dei Greci, Agrigento 92100, Italy (37.31289, 13.57810)



D Chiesa di San Lorenzo detta del Purgatorio

Baroque church with stucco statues of the Virtues attributed to the Serpotta school.

2 Via Foderà, Agrigento 92100, Italy (37.31188, 13.58046)

museodiocesanoag.it



E Basilica dell'Immacolata

Church of the Franciscan convent, also called San Francesco, with medieval origins and a Baroque interior.

43 Via Luigi Pirandello, Agrigento 92100, Italy (37.31006, 13.58319)

F San Biagio nel tempio di Demetra e Kore

Norman church below the old town, built on the remains of a Greek temple of Demeter and Persephone.

(Unnamed Road), 92100, Italy (37.29925, 13.60338)

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