

Case Vacanza Sud Est

Marina di Ragusa

Your feelings with us - guide for the tourist



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Marina di Ragusa

Marina di Ragusa is one of the most renowned and popular seaside town on the south-eastern coast of Sicily. With a distance of only 20 km from the provincial capital, it is considered the perfect place thanks to the mild climate in winter, warm temperature in summer season, the typical local cuisine, the cultural tours of Unesco sites and Montalbano's places. Since 2009, it has been awarded with the Blue Flag for its excellent quality of life and numerous services. In addition its free coastline characterised by golden sand (due to the presence of quartz) and the warm, clear waters of Mediterranean Sea.



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History

In the past Marina di Ragusa was known as “Mazzarelli”, an Arabic origine name maintained until 1928, with the meaning of 'small village'. In fact, it was founded as a fishing village, used to ship products from Ragusa hinterland to export such as: locust beans, cereals, caciocavallo cheese, etc.

In the 16th century, a watchtower and defence tower against pirate raids was erected by the Cabrera family, Viceroy of Spain who owned the County of Modica. In 1870, it experienced a real development with asphalt from the Ragusa mines, which was transported by carters and then exported to asphalt roads all over the world. In 1928, at the behest of fascist hierarch Filippo Pennavaria, the name was changed to the current Marina di Ragusa. After the war period, Marina experienced a real residential boom, a phase that continues to this day and has led the village to become the nerve centre.



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Beaches in Marina di Ragusa

The low, sandy shoreline of the Hyblean coastline is considered one of the most beautiful and beloved in the whole of Sicily. It is characterised by fine, golden sands and enjoys a sea that has received several times the international Blue Flag, attesting to its beauty and sustainability. Marina di Ragusa stretches in a long riviera equipped with the best tourist facilities, lively and animated beaches, suitable for families and children thanks to its shallow waters. The Hyblean coastline offers various leisure and sports activities. Among the most popular beaches is LaOla Beach, located a short walk from the Case Vacanze Sud Est and it is the most popular place to swim and relax. The latter is followed by the historic Mancina Beach, where the Marsa a' Rillah Yatch Club is located. Continuing eastwards, the shoreline is free and it offers the possibility of lying down or eating at Margarita Beach and Boga Lido.



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Nearby Beaches

Kamarina:

21 km west of Marina di Ragusa

Near the seaside resort of Scoglitti, above a clayey outcrop called Punta Cammarana, lies Kamarina, an ancient colony founded by the Greeks at the beginning of the 6th century B.C.. The name, according to Strabone, means 'inhabited after much toil'. The main feature beach consists of a wide stretch of golden sand and is interspersed with stretches of rocks where it is possible to lie down. Today, on this promontory, in addition to the remains of the ancient city and there are plants adapted to the salty environment, such as the sea lily and the dwarf palm. Continuing southwards, from Kamarina towards Randello, there is a series of promontories interspersed with beautiful semi-moon-like beaches.



Randello beach:

14 km west of Marina di Ragusa

Between Kamarina and Punta Braccetto lies Randello beach, perfect for those who love unspoilt beaches, seeking calm. It has fine, white sand and crystal-clear sea, and is considered one of the most beautiful beaches in Italy; in fact, it was included in the Touring Club's 2014 Blue Guide. Behind there is an area managed by the

Forestry Department where the typical Mediterranean flora is preserved: reeds, mastic trees, holm oaks, myrtles, aromatic plants, dwarf palms, carobs and eucalyptus trees. There is a large farmhouse in the area preceded by two gigantic ficus trees and a large hunting ground, called 'cunigghiera' by the locals.

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Punta Braccetto:

11 km west of Marina di Ragusa

Punta Braccetto beach is located near the Cava Randello reserve, and consists of fine white sand, clean sea and sandy seabed. It is protected by a limestone strip, where there are the remains of an ancient square-based watchtower 'Torre Vigliena' bordered by a trench, erected during the last war to defend the coast from enemy landings. The beach is free and the area is served by numerous camping areas.



Torre di Mezzo:

8 km west of Marina di Ragusa

Torre di Mezzo takes its name from a coastal defence tower built in the early 17th century by the Celestri family. The tower, built entirely of limestone ashlars with a strong scarp, is now partly ruined, but underwent partial restoration in 1994.

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Punta Secca:

6 km west of Marina di Ragusa

A popular seaside resort, Punta Secca takes its name from the ancient 'Marsa Sicca'. So called because of the presence of a small shoal, formed by reefs, that develops in front of the eastern beach. The Punta Secca lighthouse is one of the most important public works of the Bourbon

government in Ragusa. It was designed in 1857 by Engineer Nicolò Diliberto D'Anna and is 35 m high. There is Torre Scalambri, which in past centuries, with that of Torre di Mezzo and Punta Braccetto ones, served to defend the coast from pirate attacks. Much of Punta Secca's notoriety is due to the famous television drama Commissario Montalbano. After seeing the sites of the famous series, you can enjoy the beaches going to small bathing establishments where you can rent sunbeds and umbrellas.

Riserva del fiume Irminio:

3 km east of Marina di Ragusa

Between Ragusa and Scicli lies the Riserva del Fiume Irminio, which in ancient times, was the fastest route to connect the inland territories with the coast and to facilitate trade. It is managed by the Regional Province of Ragusa in order to safeguard the ecosystem of the coastal area. In this protected area you can find small cliffs, sandy dunes and the characteristic Macchia Mediterranea vegetation. The calm waters host different species of fish, and even among the animals there are some exotic species, such as the nutria, wild boar and the red-cheeked tortoise.

To enjoy this route, you can park at the entrance to the reserve, where there is a designated clearing. Remember that bathing is forbidden.



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Donnalucata:

10 km east of Marina di Ragusa

Donnalucata's name derived from the Arabic Ain-lu Kat, meaning 'fountain of the hours'. It seems that a freshwater spring gushed forth only during the hours of prayer. The fishing suburb is characterised by two wide beaches: Micenci beach and Ponente beach. Upstream there is the Sanctuary of the Madonna delle Milizie, commemorating the episode of the Normans' battle against the Turks. The current urban appearance took shape in the 19th century, when there was still a clear distinction between the fishermen's hovels and the nobles' villas. Among these is Palazzo Mormino Penna, a building with a characteristic red façade in neo-Gothic style whose decorations recall the symbols of Sicily. At the end of the same century, in 1883, the church of Santa Caterina da Siena was also completed.



Cava d'Aliga:

18 km east of Marina di Ragusa

Cava d'Aliga is characterised by a wide beach interspersed with two imposing cliffs that create a natural gulf. Moving eastwards, a number of natural caves open up in the cliff coast, and the largest, known as the 'Grotta dei contrabbandieri' (Smugglers' Cave), also allows visitors to enter.



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Sampieri:

23 km east of Marina di Ragusa

Sampieri is a small seaside hamlet of Scicli. It consists of an old fishing village where everything is still preserved, with low houses, cobbled streets, picturesque views and an airy waterfront with a wide view of the Pisciotto. Here you can notice the large remains of the old brick factory built at the beginning of the 20th century, destroyed by a fire. The suggestive remains are the old furnace, the tall chimney and the flight of arches. It is a magnificent example of Sicilian industrial archaeology (several times featured in the television drama "Commissario Montalbano").



What to see

From a small fishing village to an internationally renowned tourist destination, Marina di Ragusa offers an ancient historic centre, now used as a shopping and tourist area. If you take a tour of the town, you can discover the most characteristic sights: including the 16th-century Cabrera Tower, Piazza Dogana, the 'Blue Flag' award-winning beaches, and the church of the Madonna di Portosalvo dating back to the 1930s. A very popular route is from the Lungomare Mediterraneo, full of restaurants and shops, to the Tourist Port. The latter stands on the site of the old 'Scalo Trapanese' and is not only one of the best known ports in southern Italy, but also one of the city's main attractions.



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In the surroundings

Marina di Ragusa is the ideal starting point to reach the baroque centres of Ragusa and Ragusa Ibla, Scicli, Modica, Ispica, or the castle of Donnafugata. It is also a short distance from the main tourist destinations of the Val di Noto. Moving away from the province, but easily reachable within a day, are the other famous places in Sicily: the temples of Agrigento, Taormina, Siracusa, Catania, Caltagirone and Piazza Armerina. We also recommend visiting the various wildlife oases, such as the Irminio river reserve, the Randello reserve, the Pantalica necropolis, the Vendicari nature reserve and the Etna park. Very interesting is Kamarina archaeological museum, an important testimony of Greek-Roman art where amphorae, vases, statues and bronze objects recovered from the wrecks of commercial ships are preserved.



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What to do

A trip to Sicily offers the best feelings and emotions thanks to the combination of good food, natural and artistic beauty. Ragusa is one of the most beautiful towns, offering spectacular scenery that seems straight out of a film: from the enchanting coastline bathed by the warm Mediterranean Sea to the many places steeped in culture.

Marina di Ragusa and the surrounding area are rich in attractions. We recommend exploring the main baroque centres of the Val di Noto (Unesco heritage site) or choose the route of Camilleri's crime novels about the famous Commissario Montalbano.

Instead for sports lovers, the place offers endless possibilities for amateurs and professionals.



Here is a series of activities and events that will make your stay unforgettable:

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Events - La Madonna di PortoSalvo

According to tradition, until the 1950s-60s, with the purpose of celebrating the conclusion of the agricultural work carried out, the inhabitants of Ragusa would gather on 14 August to go to Marina di Ragusa. On the day of Ferragosto, the Church of Santa Maria di PortoSalvo organises a game called 'legno a mare' ('u lignu 'nzivatu') in which participants compete to catch a flag placed at the end of an 8-metre long pole on a fishing boat and greased with animal fat. In the afternoon, there is a procession on the sea, in which the simulacrum of the Madonna of PortoSalvo, placed on a boat, travels along most of the coastline.



Events - Addio all'estate

Every year in mid-September at the Tourist Port of Marina di Ragusa is organized a fireworks display to bid farewell to the next season . During the event there will be local food and wine tastings, photographic exhibitions,



and all kinds of recreational and sporting events.

The festival is coloured by dances, concerts and goes from the Tourist Port and Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, and the eastern area from the Lungomare Andrea Doria to Piazza Malta. This square is filled with lovely traditional markets and stands.

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Local markets

Every Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. a district market is held in Piazza Vincenzo Rabito to buy all kind of food. Additional small markets will be introduced during summer season.



Sporting activities

Marina di Ragusa is known to be one of the liveliest and most ideal locations for sports enthusiasts. The port is often chosen as the main venue for various organised sporting events, such as the Vele d'Agosto Trophy and the Italia Cup Laser.

For sports enthusiasts:



- *Tamb Beach* (<http://www.federtamburello.it/specialita/tambeach.html>)
- *Tour by boat, dinghy o kayak* (<https://www.seaboatnoleggi.it/>)
- *Sailing school* (<https://scuolavelaragusa.it/>) and surf, windsurf, Sup (<https://ondafenicia.it/>)
- *Parasail and jet ski tours* (<https://parasailsicilia.it/>)
- *Snorkeling*, (<https://freedome.it/attivita/snorkeling-tour-costa-ragusa/>)

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Evening “movida”

The heart of the movida are the clubs located between the Porto Turistico, the Lungomare Mediterraneo, Piazza della Dogana and the main square, Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi. Relaxing by day and fascinating by night, Marina di Ragusa is the perfect destination for a fun-filled trip. Typical dinners, drinks, concerts and evenings enchant some of its most eccentric neighbourhoods. On the other hand, you can choose the most fashionable discos on the South-East coast..



Where to eat

In Sicily you will taste many local delicacies that you will love from the first bite.

You cannot miss Ragusa's 'SCACCE', cannoli or brioche with granita!



Here are the many places where to eat in Marina di Ragusa:

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Street Food:

- *CHIOSCO DEL FARO – Lungomare Mediterraneo*
- *LA GROTTA BEACH – Via Napoli, 11*
- *PANIFICIO SAN GIUSEPPE – Via del Mare, 6*
- *STELLA MARINA – Piazza Scalo Trapanese*
- *BURGERT ART – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 12*
- *DUKE – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 17*
- *BOLLA – Via Amerigo Vespucci, 9*
- *I PUPARI – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 5*
- *A CAMPERIA – Via Benedetto Brin, 1*
- *ARA' – Via Tindari, 13*
- *KONZA – Via Tindari, 5*
- *L'ARTE DEL SALATO – Lungomare Andrea Doria, 72*
- *FRANGIPANE STORE – Via Tindari*
- *FRA (Schiacciate Farcite) – Via Venezia, 10*

Restaurants and pizzerie:

- *FRANGIPANE AL PORTO – Porto Turistico di Marina di Ragusa*
- *FRESCO è BOTTEGA – Via Livorno, Porto Turistico di Marina di Ragusa*
- *MERCATO DEL PORTO – Via Livorno, Porto Turistico di Marina di Ragusa*
- *LAOLA BEACH – Lungomare Mediterraneo*
- *SOTTOSALE – Via Venezia, 18*
- *QUATTRO QUARTI – Via Augusta, 1*
- *TRE PER CASO – Lungomare Mediterraneo*
- *LUMIA – Lungomare Mediterraneo*
- *VOSSIA IL MARE – Via Benedetto Brin, 2*
- *RUDE – CUCINA E CACIARA – Lungomare Andrea Doria, 3*
- *MET – Piazza Torre 1*
- *MARTA CUCINA D'AMARE – Piazza Icnusa, 3*
- *TAROCCO- LIEVITI & MAGIA – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 2/8*
- *UMORE – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 14*
- *TOSHI – Via del Mare, 13*
- *ZENCHO SUSHI – Via Dandolo, 18*
- *LIDO AZZURRO 1953 DA SERAFINO – Lungomare Andrea Doria*

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- *MIRAMARE – Lungomare Andrea Doria, 44*
- *VOTA VOTA – Lungomare Andrea Doria, 48*
- *DONNALINA 1974 – Lungomare Andrea Doria, 76*
- *MARISCO – Lungomare Andrea Doria, 104*
- *IL DELFINO – Lungomare Andrea Doria*
- *TRATTORIA DA CARMELO – Lungomare Andrea Doria*
- *LA FALENA – Via Portovenere*

Bar e gelaterie:

- *DOLCERIA Via del Mare, 9*
- *CAFFE' DELLE ROSE – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 25*
- *SORBETTERIA – Piazza Duca degli Abruzzi, 20*
- *CAFFE' ROMA – Via Dandolo, 6*
- *CANNOLIA – Via Amerigo Vespucci, 6*
- *DON PEPPINU – Piazza Malta, 11*
- *STELLA MARINA – Piazza Scalo Trapanese*
- *SCALO SICILIA – Via Benedetto Brin, 63*
- *FRESCO è BOTTEGA – Via Livorno Porto Turistico*
- *FRANGIPANE AL PORTO – Porto Turistico*
- *MARINA'S LOUNGE BAR - Lungomare Mediterraneo, 25/33*

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