



Syracuse's dazzling ancient Greek ruins and the old sea town of Ortygia. Don't forget to visit Cefalù, just an hour's drive east along the coast.

Desserts

Comprising of 800 years of Sicilian history in each mouthful, desserts here are second to none. Made from almonds and honey, garnished with swirls of cream and sugar on top, each sweet offering is as delicious as the next. Sample traditional sweets like cassata and cannoli, as well as gelati and the incomparable granita, visitors can experience a mix of flavours of the countryside, especially thyme, with cream, sugar, vegetables, and fruits. Ensure you try some Zabaglione, a traditional Italian dessert.

How to get there:

Until the new airport outside Ragusa operates flights, Comiso or flying into Catania or Palermo is your best bet. The distances are small; you could drive across the whole region in two hours.

East Coast (Apulia)

One of the prettiest places in Europe, Puglia (or Apulia as it is known in English) lies in the southern part of east Italy, in the heel of the Italian boot. All about slow living, Puglia is ideal for experiencing that cosy, local way of life with sightseeing and the most incredible white beaches all rolled into one. The landscape of Puglia is fantastic, a combination of flatland and low rolling hills with millions of century old olive trees covering the land as far as the eye can see.

Where to stay

If you're looking for authenticity make sure to treat yourself to a stay in a beautiful Masseria (typical country estates in Apulia),

the region is dotted with so many of them which range from simply stunning to charming and quaint.

Food and Wine

Like many regions in Italy, Apulia has plenty of traditional dishes which are worth tasting. The region is now drawing foodie-led travellers, including some noted chefs and restaurateurs, eager to transform local produce into unexpectedly flavourful dishes. Puglia offers visitors a fantastic food experience for excellent value; dishes are mouth-wateringly delicious from the famous orecchiette and burrata, which alone merit a visit to Apulia, to the traditional taralli, friselle and hearty pizzas. Producers of an enormous quantity of grapes, you can't go to Apulia without tasting its unique autochthonous wine, Negroamaro. The full bodied red is delicious, even in summer.

When to Go

April, May, September and October are the best time to travel to Apulia— you can combine sightseeing with a swim on warmer days. From June through August expect crowds at the beach and with so many Italian who also holiday in Apulia you can barely walk through the piazzas which are thronged with people. In the winter, the life here is more accessible and the food even tastier, allowing true authenticity.

Where to go

Head to Lecce also known as the "Florence of the South" which is long cherished for its beautifully chiselled Baroque and Renaissance churches and palazzo architecture. Walk the small winding roads of Ostuni, the white city. Travel to Gargano, a spectacular coastal area, in northern Puglia, where the towns of Gallipoli, Alberobello, Otranto and Leuca are beautiful. For a more lively adventure, head to one of the many beach parties which take place in summer on the Apulia Coast.