



MoDeSt 2024

PROVISIONAL SOCIAL PROGRAM

Sunday 1 st September	16.00 - 20.00	Registration and get together party (City Sea, https://en.citysea.it)
Monday 2 nd September	20.00 -23.00	Gala Dinner (City Sea, https://en.citysea.it)
Tuesday 3 rd September	15.00 - 18.00	Half day visit of: Archaeological area of Solunto and Villa Palagonia (Bagheria).
Wednesday 4 th September	10.00 - 13.00	WALKING in Palermo (guided tour)

Both the activities to Solunto and Palermo are free for accompanying persons; they are however open to active participants upon payment of a small fee.

Other new events will be communicated to the registered persons.

Palermo:

Rich in natural beauty, artistic wealth and traditions, Palermo has a very remote history. The ancient Phoenicians, who first colonised her, called her "ZIZ" which means flower. The Greeks saw her as a wide and hospitable bay and called her "Panormus" (all port). She kept this name throughout the Roman domination, which began in 254 B.C. when the Romans captured her from the Carthaginians. Thus, in 831 the Arabs seized an already ancient city with a mixed population.

In 1072, with Roger, the Arab rule was overthrown by the Norman wave. At this point various architectural styles began to blend. The result of this fusion is the Arab-Norman style of architecture. During this period she became Capital of a Kingdom. The reign of Frederic II of Swab witness the birth and evolution of that famous Sicilian school of poetry. Now it is the turn of the Angevins and Aragonese to take possession of the beautiful city. From the Spanish to Bourbon domination, great but different civilisation followed each other and it was just that gave Palermo its most outstanding imprint, such as its composite architecture, its picturesque dialect, and its varied and deep-rooted popular traditions.

Solunto:

Soluntum or Solus was an ancient city on the Tyrrhenian coast of Sicily near present-day in the comune of Santa Flavia, Italy. The site is a major tourist attraction. The city was founded by the Phoenicians in the sixth century BC and was one of the three chief Phoenician settlements in Sicily in the archaic and classical periods. It was destroyed at the beginning of the fourth century BC and re-founded on its present site atop Monte Catalfano. At the end of the fourth century BC, Greek soldiers were settled there and in the 3rd century BC the city came under the control of the Roman Republic. Excavations took place in the 19th century and in the mid-20th century. Around half of the urban area has been uncovered and it is relatively well preserved. The remains provide a good example of an ancient city in which Greek, Roman and Punic traditions mixed.

This first appropriation is located at the Solunto promontory and the San Cristoforo plateau behind it. The area of occupation follows the Phoenician settlement model, which, according to the Tucididea description, favored the promontories and the small islands in front of the coast. The presence, moreover, in the plain of small streams that facilitated the ascent towards the hinterland and contacts with the indigenous centers of the valle dell'Eleuterio, fully met the commercial vocation of the Phoenician centers. The Archaeological Park of Solunto includes, however, only the inhabited area of the Hellenistic-Roman age, which was re-founded on the nearby Monte Catalfano after the destruction of the coastal center of the archaic-classical age operated by Dionisio of Syracuse at the beginning of the 4th century B.C. The city lies on the south-eastern slope of the Mount on sloping terraces; presents a regular urban layout, borrowed from Greek culture, c.d. ippodameo, with a road system consisting of three NS road axes, intersected perpendicularly by eight EO ways; the intersection of the roads determines rectangular blocks, longitudinally divided by the rainwater collection channels that supplied the public and private tanks. The shops open along the main street, while the houses have the entrance from the side streets. The houses are organized around a courtyard, often peristyle, with two-story colonnades. The rooms are distinguished by the refinement of the architectural elements and the decorative flooring and walls.

Villa Palagonia, Bagheria:

The Villa Palagonia is a patrician villa in Bagheria, 15 km from Palermo, in Sicily, southern Italy. The villa itself, built from 1715 by the architect Tommaso Napoli with the help of Agatino Daidone, is one of the earliest examples of Sicilian Baroque. However, its popularity comes mainly from the statues of monsters with human faces that decorate its garden and its wall, and earned it the nickname of "The Villa of Monsters" (Villa dei Mostri). This series of grotesques, created from 1749 by Francesco Ferdinando II Gravina, Prince of Palagonia, aroused the curiosity of the travellers of the Grand Tour during the 18th and 19th centuries, for instance Henry Swinburne, Patrick Brydone, John Soane, Goethe, the Count de Borde, the artist Jean-Pierre Houël or Alexandre Dumas, prior to fascinate surrealists like André Breton or contemporary authors such as Giovanni Macchia and Dominique Fernandez, or the painter Renato Guttuso.