



## Erice and the Venus Castle - 1 day

Erice and the Venus Castle - Between woods and forests to reach the summit, the ancient Medieval town of Erice, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy.



Erice



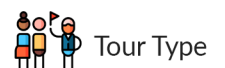
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All Year



# TOUR OVERVIEW

## ERICE AND THE VENUS CASTLE – 1 DAY

Season: all year available on request

Duration: One Day Tour

Time: full day from h 9AM

Season: All year round

Meeting Point: to be advised at time of booking

### Pepoli Tower and Erice Route

Hiking Details: Km: 3 | 120 mt elevation gain

Introduction: Cyclopean walls, ancient castles and historical buildings, and then the visit to the hamlet of Erice, with its artistic and traditional craftsmanship and its almond sweets.

Level of Difficulty: Easy Hiking Tour. Good fitness required. Mostly accessible paths

### Saint Anna Route

Hiking Details: Km: 6 | 680 mt elevation gain

Introduction: Full steam ahead with nature! Between woods and forests to reach the summit, the ancient Medieval town of Erice, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy.

Level of Difficulty: The first thing to say is that this part of the hike should not be attempted unless you are experienced and physically fit.

Price includes the following:

Qualified Hiking guide (Italian and English)

What to wear and bring with you:

A backpack for your personal items (you can leave the cloths change into the vehicle).

Comfortable clothes suitable for hiking, a rain/wind jacket, a change of clothes

A change of clothes in case of rain

Hiking Boots

Sunglasses & sun cream

A camera or smartphone if you want to take photos

A spirit of fun and adventure

BLOG: Walking Holidays



Day 1

## Erice and the Venus Castle

Today independent departure to join the Meeting Point (Details: to be shared at time of booking).

Pepoli Tower and Erice Route

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Level of Difficulty: Easy Hiking Tour. Good fitness required. Mostly accessible paths

We are on the top of Mount Erice, in the square that takes its name from the nearby Chiesa di San Giovanni (church of St. John), one of the oldest churches of Erice.

This church, from where you can enjoy a breathtaking view, is recognizable by its white dome that stands out at the eastern tip of Erice. Its original structure it is thought to date back to the 12th century; the church has been restored and extended several times, while featuring its suggestive entrance portal in Late-Gothic style; now it is a modern auditorium which preserves some masterpieces of Renaissance art. From the square, a walkway leads to the Torretta Pepoli (Pepoli Turret), dating back to the 19th century and built by count Agostino Pepoli (not accidentally named after him). Built on a cliff in a charming panoramic position (stretching from the gulf of Bonagia to Trapani and its salt pans), this characteristic Art Nouveau building was intended for meditation and study. Today the Turret, after an accurate restoration, has regained its original beauty and can be visited.

The Castello Normanno (Norman Castle) rises majestically on an imposing rocky outcrop; below a pine forest (created by count Pepoli who wanted to breathe 'balmy air') surrounds the area. The Castle was built over the remains of the ancient temple of Venere (Venus), a sacred building erected by the Sicilian-Elymians (9th-8th centuries b.C.) for the worship of the goddess of fertility, as well as a place of devotion for the Mediterranean peoples.

Placed as a defence to the valley below, the castle was built in the 12th century AD by the Normans. The doorway is characterised by an ogival arch and topped by a commemorative plaque depicting the eagle of the Hapsburg monarchy. Besides its defensive function it also housed the prisons which are still visible. Today it is used as a place for cultural exchange: during summer nights it's easy to be enchanted by listening to music, poems and old songs, enveloped in a seductive atmosphere.

Then the path continues in a south-westerly direction to Porta (Gate) Trapani, one of the three gates to Erice through the Cyclopean walls.

This afternoon END of our services.

Today independent departure to join the Meeting Point (Details: to be shared at time of booking).

Saint Anna Route

Hiking Details: Km: 6 | 680 mt elevation gain

Introduction: Full steam ahead with nature! Between woods and forests to reach the summit, the ancient Medieval town of Erice, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy.

Level of Difficulty: The first thing to say is that this part of the hike should not be attempted unless you are experienced and physically fit.

The route reaches the top of the mountain where is located the ancient medieval village of Erice. After a short urban stretch along Via Capua, Via Manzoni, Via Pola and Via Sant'Anna, you can easily reach the entrance of the Martogna picnic area, within the "Monte (Mount) Erice" wooded area, characterised by Mediterranean pine trees, oaks trees and eucalyptus trees. The area is also equipped with wooden benches and tables, a picnic area, a children's playground and an area with different animal species (including goats from Tibet, fallow deer, donkeys from Pantelleria and many species of birds). In the second stretch the path rises towards Pizzo Argenteria (where a breathtaking view over Trapani can be admired) and then it reaches the Sanctuary of Sant'Anna (332 m.), whose construction dates back to the 17th century. For centuries it was a pilgrimage site by the devotees of Sant'Anna. Now it is a place of silence and prayer offering unique views of the extreme western tip of Sicily, Trapani, the Egadi islands and the crossroad of the two seas: the Thyrrhenian and the Mediterranean.

The path continues on for about another kilometer until the Forestry Commission Building; it goes through a wood towards Porta (Gate) Trapani, one of the three gateways to Erice, so named because it looks towards Trapani. It is also an evidence of the Cyclopean fortification walls (8th-7th centuries b.C.) of Erice

Approximately 5,5 kilometers to reach one of the most beautiful hamlets of Italy, to visit historical and artistic monuments such as the Castello Normanno (Norman Castle, 12th -13th centuries), the Torretta Pepoli (Pepoli Turret, 19th century), the Duomo dell'Assunta (the Main Church dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, 14th century) –to name but a few- or to delight your palate with the typical sweets from Erice, such as those made of almond paste, the so called "genovesi" or the "mustazzoli", or to go shopping walking along the narrow streets: do not miss the trappiti (the traditional carpets) and the hand painted pottery, evidences of an artistic handicraft handed on from generations.

During the afternoon END our services.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

NOT INCLUDED

