



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE  
SITES IN SICILY**



# SICILY

Aeolian Islands

Egadi Islands

LAVANZO

FAVIGNANA

Zingaro National Park

PALERMO

CEFALU'

ERICE

MONREALE

Parco delle Madonie

GERACI

TAORMINA

Selinunte

PETRALIA

PIAZZA ARMERINA

CATANIA

Valley of the Temples

Etna mt3350

Scala dei Turchi

AGRIGENTO

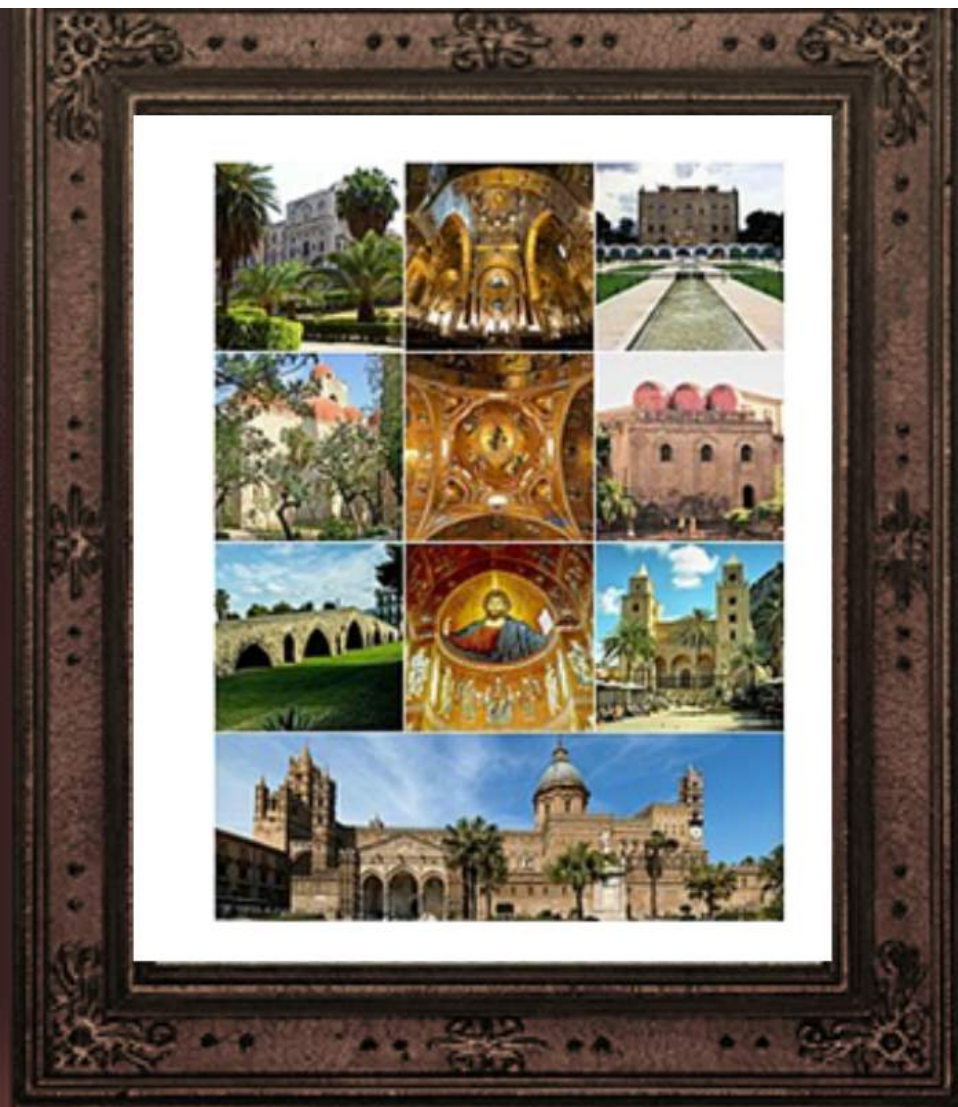
Pantalica

SIRACUSA

Ortigia Island







A visit to Palermo is like a trip in a time machine: Phoenician, Byzantine, Arab-Norman and Spanish culture flows before your eyes in a unique and precious intermingling of cultures. Two and a half centuries of Arab rule (from 827 BC at the end of the Eleventh century) gave magnificent palaces, mosques, minarets, and gardens to the city of Palermo. Then, the Normans took possession of this splendour. Today, the heritages of these two cultures are intertwined and indistinguishable. Creating the so-called **Arab-Norman style**.

PALERMO ARABO-NORMANNA  
E LE CATTEDRALI DI CEFALÙ  
E MONREALE



Organizzazione  
delle Nazioni Unite  
per l'Educazione,  
la Scienza e la Cultura

Palermo Arabo-Normanna  
e le Cattedrali di Cefalù e Monreale  
iscritto nella Lista  
del Patrimonio Mondiale nel 2015

[www.unescoarabonormanna.it](http://www.unescoarabonormanna.it)  
[www.unescosicilia.it](http://www.unescosicilia.it)



Palermo arabo normanna e le cattedrali di Cefalù e Monreale



On 2015 in Bonn the UNESCO World Heritage Committee declared the Arab Norman itinerary "World Heritage Site" The Arab-Norman style is unique in its kind and exclusive of Palermo, Cefalù and Monreale and characterized by the union of two opposing worlds: the Arab - Muslim and the Norman - Catholic.



# San Giovanni degli Eremiti Church

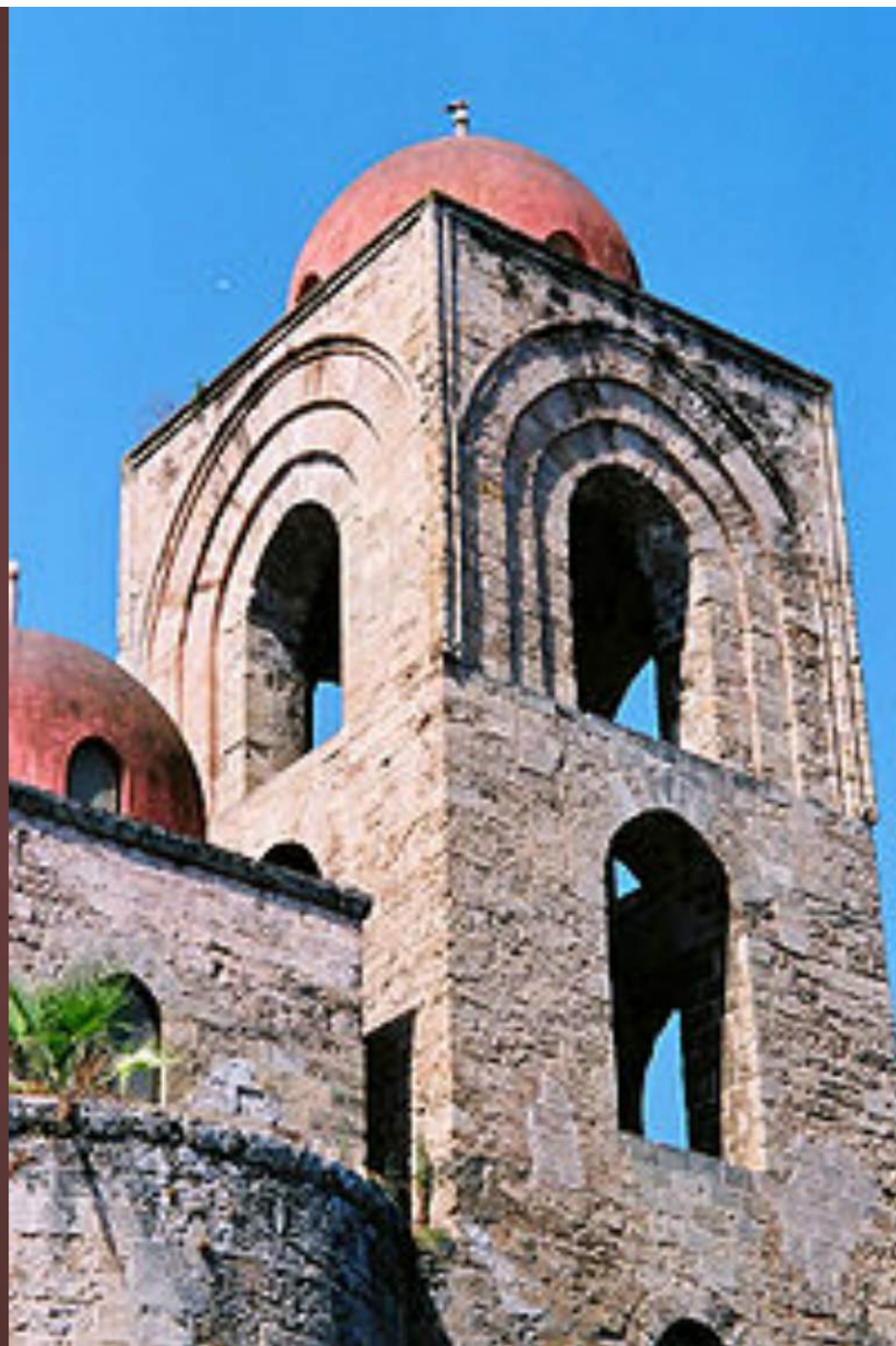


built in the XII century, it  
has five Arab-Norman  
domes











# Martorana Church



The foundation charter of the church (which was initially Eastern Orthodox), in Greek and Arabic, is preserved and dates to 1143; In 1184 the Arab traveller Ibn Jubayr visited the church, and later devoted a significant portion of his description of Palermo to its praise, describing it as "the most beautiful monument in the world."









ICXC

Pantocrator

John 8:12

Archangels

Prophets

Evangelists









The **Palazzo Reale** with the **Cappella Palatina**, which was built by Ruggero II, a magnificent example of the harmony of different Sicilian cultures and the know-how of Arab-Norman politics; both permitted the co-existence of these cultures in an extraordinary equilibrium.



Muqarnas style roof











# Muqarnas style roof



its floor



# San Cataldo Church



Founded around 1160, its ceiling has three characteristics red, bulge domes (cupole) and Arab-style merlons. The church provides a typical example of the Arab-Norman architecture, The plan of the church shows the predilection of the **Normans** for simple and severe forms, derived from their military formation.

At the same time, the church shows features shared by **Islamic and Byzantine architecture**, such as the preference for cubic forms, the blind arches which articulate the external walls of the church and the typical spherical red domes on the roof











# The Zisa castle



The name Zisa derives from the Arab term al-Azīz, meaning "dear" or "splendid". The ceiling is high and honeycombed, the three inner walls set with deep niches, roofed in their turn with those tumbling stalactites so dear to Saracen architects.













Small text block below the volcano image.



It is a prehistoric site, dated back to the late Bronze Age. It is possible to observe thousands of working days in the rock walls seen in the Aragon's Valley.



San Cataldo Church





# Etna



**The most beautiful and restless mountain in all of Sicily is today a World Heritage Site**





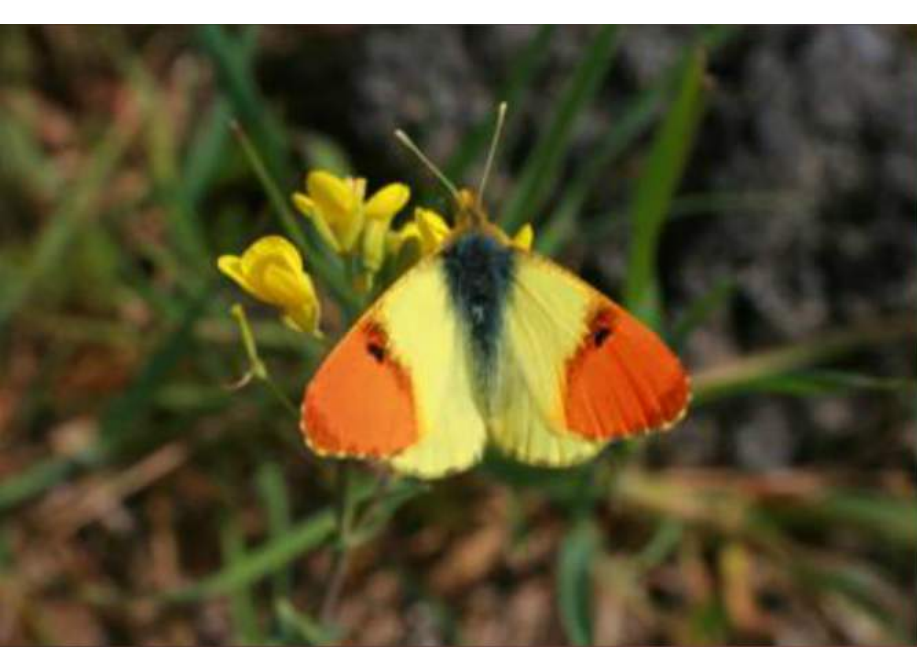
**The UNESCO committee gathered in Phnom Penh (2013) to decide on the inscription on its list of 31 places of natural or artificial interest has declared the Etna is World Heritage, calling it one of the "most emblematic and active volcanoes in the world".**





Etna is the highest and most active Volcano in Europe. It has experienced of variety eruptions, including violent explosions and voluminous lava flows.





The first time it was thought about the establishment of an Etna Park, it was around the sixties, when it began to assert itself, the need to protect nature from the invasion of mass tourism brought by the diffusion of personal means of transport. The establishment of the Park is to protect the forest heritage and the conservation and development of specific species of the places







site, dated  
Bronze Age. It is  
thousands of  
rock walls cliff  
ey.



Pantalica, UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005, is a naturalistic- archeological site located in the province of Syracuse. The site is located on a plateau, surrounded by canyons formed over the millennia by two rivers, the Anapo and the Calcinara which determined the canyon orography characteristic of the area. The plateau as well as the valley below (called Valle of the Anapo) are important naturalistic area.





It is a prehistorical site, dated back to the late Bronze Age. It is possible to observe thousands of tombs dug in the rock walls cliff on the Anapo's Valley.





It is one of the most important Sicilian protohistoric places, useful to understand the moment of transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age on the island.









In the middle of the plateau there are also the foundations of the so-called **anaktoron**, probably it was the palace of the prehistoric ruler or a sacred building.