

VAT Most stores participate in the Value Added Tax program in which Non-European citizens may be entitled to reclaim a portion or all of the taxes paid (depending on the total purchase price). It is your responsibility to inquire as to whether or not the store participates in VAT refund program if the purchase qualifies for a refund.

Global BLUE Shop where you see this Global Blue - Tax Free Shopping sign and ask for your tax refund receipt. To qualify, there are minimum amounts, per store, per day, so please ask the retailer for details. Show your purchases and Global Blue receipts to Customs officials when leaving the EU. Have your Global checks stamped and collect your cash at the Global Blue cash refund office.



GRAZIA GIOIELLI
TAORMINA



Look for this sign or flag in all of our preferred shops.

Beware of "similar" signs at store fronts.

If the store is not mentioned on this map, then the store is not part of our program!

PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING MAP GUARANTEE Shop with confidence as all the merchants on our Preferred Shopping Program have been carefully selected and that each offers a 60 day guarantee to our cruise line guests. This guarantee is for repairs and exchanges. Please note the following conditions apply to the guarantee: Guest negligence or buyer's regret is excluded. Price paid for merchandise or verbal claims/agreements between merchant and guests will not be grounds for returns. Only jewelry appraisals from gem laboratories or independent graduate gemologist appraisers not affiliated with jewelry retailer, or rug appraisals from certified non-commercial carpet experts will be considered for valuation claims. Watches and other brand merchandise may not be returned as they carry International brand warranties. Guests are responsible for all postage returns and appraisal fees.

Please contact us at Europeshopping@rccl.com if any queries arise after your purchase from our preferred shops on shore. We will do our best to facilitate a solution on your behalf.



Celebrity X Cruises®



Sicily (Messina), Italy

PORT EXPLORER and SHOPPING GUIDE

GENERAL INFORMATION The ancient Greeks called Sicily 'Trinacria' because of its triangular shape, but historians believe that an old tribe called Sicilii left the long-lasting name upon this area. The largest island in the Mediterranean, it is 150 miles wide and 200 miles long, situated off the toe of the Italian 'boot' and separated from the mainland by the Strait of Messina. With a population of over 5 million, it is one of the most densely populated areas of Italy.

A mountainous and rugged island, the highest point on Sicily is Mount Etna, an active volcano which dominates the eastern coast at a height of 10,902 feet. Sicily is mainly an agricultural land with citrus fruits, olives, vegetables and grapes as the main crops. However, some industry has developed, mainly in the form of oil refineries and chemical plants while fishing is still important, accounting for 25% of Italy's annual seafood catch.

HISTORY Sicily was once a part of greater Greece and an important cultural center, until becoming a part of the Roman Empire. The Romans used the fertile plains as a bread-basket for the large armies of the Empire but, with the fall of Rome, Sicily became an open territory and was in turn occupied by Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, French and Spanish. Finally, in 1861, Sicily became a part of the newly unified Italy, with the help of Garibaldi. Sicily suffered great damage in World War II, but recovered in the following years to become an autonomous part of Italy.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Messina and its surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: There are limited opportunities for bargaining in some of the tourist stores.

Tipping: If service is not included, 10% is a good guideline.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Pasta con Sarde is popular amongst the locals, fresh sardines served with pasta, alternatively try Macaroni Sicilian style with tomato, eggplant and parmesan cheese. There is a wide range of fresh seafood available as well as: goat (kid) which is often served roasted, and rabbit which is also quite common. For dessert try a Gelato (ice cream), for which the Italians are particularly well-known.

The local wines are Etna Rosso and Etna Bianco. Grapes are grown on the fertile lower slopes of the volcano and produce good quality wines. Marsala is a well-known dessert wine produced in Sicily. Bottled water is recommended.

LOCAL CURRENCY The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The main Post Office in Messina is located at Via San Giacomo 5.

The Telephone Office, Telefoni di Stato, is located on Via Cavour. International telephone calls may be placed from here. Public phones accept coins or phone cards from Telefoni di Stato, Post Offices or Tobacconists.

TOURIST INFORMATION The local Tourist Information Office is Azienda Autonoma Soggiorno e Turismo, located on Piazza Cairoli. A smaller tourist information office is located in front of the train station. A small information stand is also available 300 yards beyond the hydrofoil terminal on the quay.

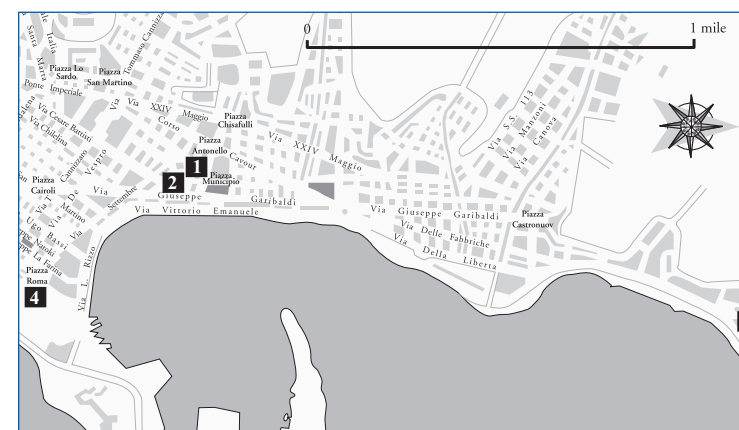
TRANSPORTATION Taxis are generally available on the Pier. It is important to negotiate a fare prior to departing. Some taxi drivers may accept U.S. Dollars.

The main train station is located approximately 1 mile from the ship's berth, at Piazza della Repubblica (#4 ON MESSINA MAP). There is a regular service from Messina to Taormina, although the station in Taormina is at the bottom of the hill and it will be necessary to take either a bus or taxi to reach the town.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes • Sì
No • No
Good Day • Buon Giorno
Good-bye • Ciao
Thank-you • Grazie
You're Welcome • Prego

MESSINA PLACES OF INTEREST



1 CATHEDRAL, destroyed in the 1908 earthquake and damaged during the War, has now been handsomely reconstructed along its original 11th century lines. The Astronomical Clock, housed in the Bell Tower of the Cathedral, is one of Messina's most unusual features. At 11:55 am the mechanism is activated and various figures and evangelical scenes move through the 15 minute cycle.

2 ANNUNZIATA DEI CATALANI CHURCH is located two streets east of the Cathedral. Of Norman construction, from the 12th century, it is an original Crusader's church and is believed to have been used by Richard the Lionheart.

3 NATIONAL MUSEUM is located on Viale della Libertà, approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Pier. This lovely little museum houses some fine, ancient artifacts, and a good collection of renaissance paintings. Well worth a visit.

THE SIGHTS of TAORMINA

SHOPPING ALONG CORSO UMBERTO I

TAORMINA is 35 miles from Messina. Founded in 358 BC, it is a beautiful town perched on high cliffs midway between Catania and Messina. The town has a medieval atmosphere despite its Greek and Roman past.

- 1

PORTA CATANIA Located next to the bus drop off, this is one of the entrances to Taormina's old town and shopping district. You will find the coats of arms on the top of its archway commemorated in 1440 in the Aragonese period, bridging the medieval and modern eras.

S. NICOLA CATHEDRAL, Built around 1400 on the ruins of an ancient church, this medieval cathedral with its baroque portal is situated a few steps from Porto Catania. The ceiling has wooden beams that are carved with Arabic motifs.

PIAZZA IX APRILE, Enjoy panoramic views from one of Taormina's largest squares. From here, you will have vistas of the coast and the famous Clock Tower and churches of San Giorgio and San Guiseppe.

- 4

ROMAN WALL NAUMACHIE, This is the oldest building in Taormina. This imposing wall, that dates back to the first century BC is about 130 meters long and has several niches that once held statues of the gods.

ANCIENT MUNICIPAL GARDENS, This was the private garden of English aristocrat Florence Trevelyan a woman who was a botany and ornithology lover. The property was donated to the Taormina Municipal Council in 1920.

CORVAJA PALACE, The first part of this beautiful Medieval Palace was built by the Arabs during their period of rule. It was a cubed-shaped tower that was used for defending the town.

PORTA MESSINA, This is the ancient city gate located on the Northern end of the old town.

GREEK THEATRE, From this site, there is a wonderful view of the area surrounding Taormina. The theatre of Greek origins was renovated and extended by the Romans, and today is the second largest theatre in Sicily.

- A

CERAMICHE RAPISARDA - 211 CORSO UMBERTO I

This is your location to find Sicilian ceramics and handicrafts in Taormina. Located close to Piazza Duomo, this store was founded in 1975 and is known for its variety and quality of ceramics. A special treasure is the typical Sicilian Puppets, handcrafted in ceramics. You can also pick up souvenirs, so it's a one stop shop for your gifts for home. World-wide delivery using Federal Express can be arranged.
- B

FIUMARA FOTO OTTICA - 163 Corso Umberto I

This eyeglass and sunglass retailer carries all of the top international brands. Started in 1885 by Giovanni Crupi, this family owned business founded its roots in the art of photography. His art is now in the permanent collection of the National Museum of Photography in Florence. Bring this map in for a 15% discount on sunglasses or reading glasses. Fittings and mountings are done on the premises
- C

LA PAGODA - 160 Corso Umberto I

Find the latest in women's and men's fashions at this store located on the main shopping street. Great selections as Roberto Cavalli, Moschino and Who's Who can be found at great prices. A wide selection of accessories are also available at this store, which takes pride in its customer service and friendly personnel. Come in for a smile and leave with a great outfit!
- D

DEBORAH - 110 Corso Umberto I

Find a great fashion accessory or outfit for any occasion on your visit to Deborah. Great prices and a variety of styles and sizes can be found at this shop. They carry both men's and women's wear including Just Cavalli, C'N'C, Maria Grazia Severi and Le Fate.

- E

SORELLE MAZZULLO - 35 Corso Umberto I

This Italian boutique offers some of the most exclusive brands for men's and women's shoes, purses and accessories. They are the exclusive retailer of Acqua di Taormina, a fresh fragrance made in Sicily from the mix of flowers and citrus located in this fertile area.
- F

GRAZIA GIOIELLI - 7 Via de Giovanni

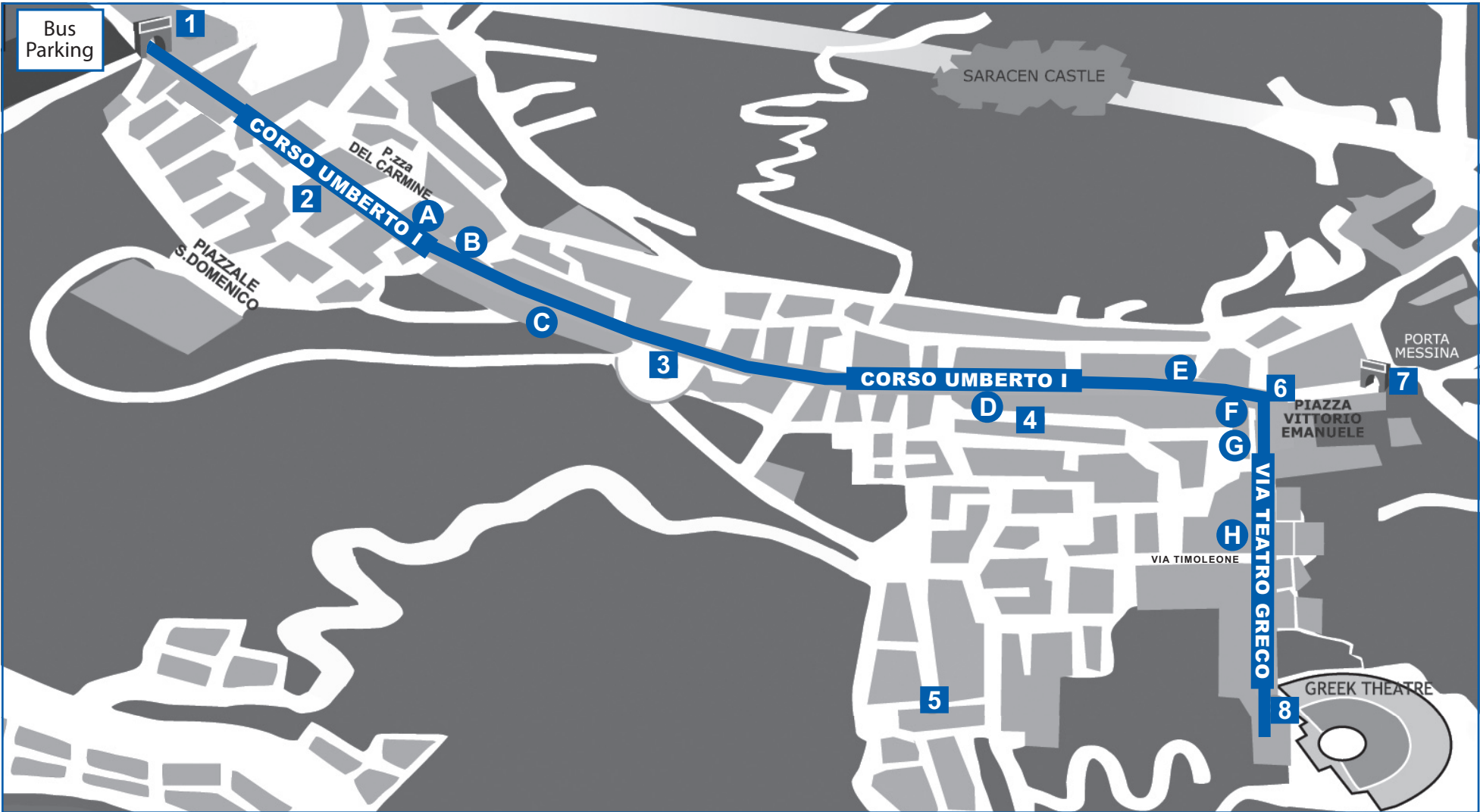
A jewelry store that has a little bit for everyone's taste. Here you will find customized 18KT gold jewelry made with black and white diamonds and unique pieces made with the Mediterranean or pink coral all made in Italy. From necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings, you will be sure to find that special piece to remember the magical town of Taormina forever.
- G

BOTTEGA DEL BUONGUSTAIO 17 Via de Giovanni

This gourmet shop has a variety of Italian pastries, wines, spirits, preserves and marmalades. These are all made with love and the time tested traditions of Sicily. Come in for a snack and don't forget to take home a special treat for those back home.
- H

SUGAR AND SPICE - 35 Via Teatro Greco

You will find a treasure of Sicilian traditional items and souvenirs at this store. Come and meet the owners, Diane and Francesca, two sisters with a passion for authentic ceramics, linens and handicrafts. You'll find everything from bed sheets and bed spreads to towels and tablecloths, all tailored made by hand or by loom. This little shop is located on the center of town on the street that leads to the Greek Theatre.



- I

GIVAL JEWELRY - 19 Via Sandro Pertini

This historic palace built at the foot of Mount Etna now houses the fine jewelry workshop of Gival Jewelry. Enjoy a cocktail and local pastries as the goldsmiths show you how their creations are produced. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to purchase these pieces at factory prices.



AT MT. ETNA

- J

LA CANTONIERA - Piazzale Cantoniera

This souvenir shop has a small café where you can enjoy the best Sicilian cannolis as well as coffees and other beverages. Browse the store for your special gift back home. Typical items made of lava stone and souvenirs from Sicily can be found at great prices.
- K

CRATERI SILVESTRI - Piazzale Crateri Silvestri

Located 2000 meters above sea level, this location offers a large bar with panoramic views of the area. You can relax in the outside terrace with a drink or go inside for a large selection of local souvenirs.

