

THE VENUE CITY: TAORMINA



As soon as you arrive in Taormina, you will feel the magical, mythical atmosphere spread all around which has enchanted visitors from all over the world for years and years. Settled on a hill of the Monte Tauro, Taormina dominates two grand, sweeping bays below and on the southern side, the top of Mount Etna, the European highest active volcano, often capped with snow, offering to the visitors a breath-taking, dramatic and memorable view over almost one hundred miles of Mediterranean sea.

Taormina seems to be born as a tourist resort since past times, when ancient people like the Sicels, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Saracens, Arabs, Normans and Spaniards chose it as their residential site thanks to its favourable position, mild climate and magic atmosphere. Nowadays, visitors can still find fine examples of Taormina's golden times: the splendid Greek Theatre, the Roman "Naumachiae", the 13th century Cathedral of Saint Nicolò, the 14th century Palazzo Corvaja, the 16th century Palace of the Dukes of Saint Stefano, the public gardens, the "Badia Vecchia" (Ancient Abbey) and many others.

Text and photo source for this page: www.taormina.it

BY PLANE

Catania Fontanarossa International is the nearest airport at some 55 km from Taormina. It features several flights from major Italian cities such as Milan, Rome, Naples, Venice etc. and many international direct flights from important European cities such as Brussels, Munich, Barcelona, Athens and many more. Lots of charter flights from all over the world land at Catania, too.

From Catania airport you can reach Taormina in a 1 hour drive via the highway A 18 (direction Messina, exit TAORMINA).

A direct bus line to Taormina centre is available at 08.30, 11.30, 13.30, 16.30, 18.30 and 20.30 every day (ticket: ~ 4 €). A taxi to Taormina costs approx. 70-80 € (~ 1 hour).

BY TRAIN

Taormina 's railway station is considered one of Italy 's most beautiful for its elegant charming Sicilian Liberty style decor; every train arriving from Northern Italy to Sicily stops here. One has a large choice of trains, from the deluxe Eurostar down to the simple but very efficient "Espresso train" normally departing from Milan, Turin and Rome through Naples and the Amalfi & Capri area.

BY SHIP

Some people enjoy coming to Taormina by ship; from Northern Europe & Italy it is possible to take a comfortable fast ship from Genoa harbour (Tirrenia) and reach Palermo in about 17/18 hours. From Palermo, Taormina is a 2 hours drive by highway A19. Frequent ferries from Naples to Milazzo (1 hour drive to Taormina) and one daily from Ravenna (Adriatic northern coast) to Catania as well as

modern speed boats and catamarans daily from Malta to Catania and Pozzallo are available, too.

BY CAR

Sicily features excellent highways. From Northern Italy, one can drive along the highway A1 through Naples and Salerno; then from Salerno (Amalfi coast & Capri area) drive along the panoramic free of charge highway A3 direction Reggio Calabria. Take exit "Villa S.Giovanni – Sicilia", then get to the harbour where very frequent ferries (company "Caronte" most recommendable – please just lock your car and enjoy a fantastic ride from the ferry sun-deck, it is very safe !) connect the mainland to Sicily 24 hours a day (city of Messina).

Once in Messina, take highway A18 direction Catania, drive enjoying the beautiful coastline on your left for about 30 minutes , then take exit "Taormina" and You 've made it !!! If you come from Catania, just take highway A18 direction Messina and take exit "Taormina" and if you come from Palermo take highway A20 to Messina, then highway A18 direction Catania and take exit Taormina.

GETTING AROUND

Travelling in Sicily by comfortable buses is a very smart idea: they are fast, reliable and cheap and take the traveller almost everywhere. Taormina has its own bus terminal right in the town centre.

Frequent buses ("Interbus") run from Palermo, Catania (airport included) and Messina. Moreover, there are connections from Rome and Amalfi (Interbuisness), Bari, Brindisi (ferries from Greece) and Taranto (Etna).

ACCOMODATION AT THE VENUE HOTEL



Rooms at a special rate are blocked at the venue hotel:

Hotel Caparena & Wellness Club ****

Via Nazionale, 189, 98039 Taormina

www.hotelcaparena.com, caparena@gaishotels.com

Tel.: +39.0942.652033, fax: +39.0942.36913

Rates

- Double room for single use (incl. breakfast): 130 Euro
- Double room for double use (incl. breakfast): 160 Euro
- Double superior room (incl. breakfast): 180 Euro

Booking deadline and conditions

15 March 2012. Reservations after that date may still be possible, but rates are granted only upon availability. Please contact the hotel directly. Any room reservation shall be accompanied by the credit card form with the express permission to withdraw 30% of the total amount of the stay. The rest can be paid upon departure.

Booking keyword

ANGEL 22/24 May 2012

Location

The Hotel Caparena is positioned far from the traffic of the city, in a tranquil alcove that gazes out on to the crystalline seas of Taormina Mare - a spot recognized as having some of the most picturesque beaches in the World, combined with an abundant natural flora and fauna.

Getting there by taxi

A taxi from Taormina's central bus station to the Hotel Caparena costs approx. 15 €.

Getting there by public bus

From Taormina central bus station take the bus with direction "Letojanni" and exit at the stop next to the Hotel Caparena or ask the bus driver.

Hotel shuttle bus

The shuttle bus of Hotel Caparena stops three hundred meters from Taormina's central bus station (right after the Hotel Villa Nettuno, Via Pirandello n. 33/31, near Porta Messina). If you want to use the shuttle bus, please call the Hotel Caparena before to check the availability of seats and book this service.

ALTERNATIVE HOTELS IN TAORMINA



Please note that the information below comes from the homepages of the hotels. Rates may vary according to availability and reservation date. The rates below were checked in November 2012. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation.

Hotel Lido Mediterranee ****

Rates: 99-240 €

Via Nazionale 175 (Spisone), 98030 Taormina

www.hotellidomediterranee.com, info@taorminahotels.it

Atahotel Capotaormina ****

Rates: 135-216 €

Via Nazionale, 105, 98039 Taormina

www.atahotels.it, booking.capotaormina@atahotels.it

Villa Carlotta Taormina ****

Rates: 209 €

Via Pirandello, 81, Taormina

www.hotelvillacarlottataormina.com, info@villacarlotta.net

Hotel Baia delle Sirene ***

Rates: 65-83 €

Via Nazionale, 165/A C.da Spisone, 98030 Taormina

www.hotelbaiadellesirene.it, info.baiasirene@hotelbaiadellesirene.it

Hotel Isola Bella ***

Rates: 40-59 €

Via Nazionale, 196, 98039 Taormina

www.isola-bella.it, info@isola-bella.it

Hotel Innpiero *

Rates: 35-70 €

Via Luigi Pirandello, 20, 98039 Taormina

www.hotelinnpiero.com, innpiero@tiscali.it

Hotel Gallodoro

Rates: 70-120 €

Via nazionale 147/151, Taormina

www.hotelgallodoro.it/uk/index.htm, info@hotelgallodoro.it

Pensione Villa Chiara

Rates: 34-114 €

Via Don Giovanni Bosco, 10, 98039 Taormina

www.hotelvillachiara.com, info@hotelvillachiara.com