

Giardini Naxos-Taormina, Sicily, Italy

Ships anchor in the shadow of Mount Etna while passengers tender ashore to a dual destination: the sun-soaked Greek colony at sea level and the impossibly photogenic clifftop town of Taormina looming 200 metres above.

Tender (no pier)

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Euro (€)

Italian

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender — ships anchor in Bay of Naxos; 10–15 min boat ride to shore

Best For: Ancient ruins, clifftop views, beaches, Sicilian food & wine

Walk to center: 5 min to Giardini Naxos waterfront; Taormina requires bus or taxi (30 min)

Don't Miss: Teatro Antico di Taormina at sunrise before the tour buses arrive

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ €12–25 one way · 🚗 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber · 🚗 **Hop-on hop-off** ✅ City by See

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Teatro Antico di Taormina** — One of the world's most dramatic ancient theaters: 3rd-century BC Greek-Roman ruins framing a natural backdrop of the Ionian Sea and smoking Mount...
 - **Isola Bella Marine Reserve** — A tear-shaped island connected to the mainland by a narrow pebbly spit — submerged at high tide.
 - **Giardini Naxos Archaeological Park** — Walk among ruins of Sicily's first Greek colony (734 BC) on the Capo Schisò peninsula — just 15
- minutes on foot from the tender pier.

 - **Corso Umberto & Piazza IX Aprile, Taormina** — Taormina's pedestrian main street is lined with luxury boutiques, pastry shops, and café terraces.
 - **Giardini Naxos Beach Day** — Fine sand and gravel beaches stretch right from the tender pier.

BEST WALKS

- **Giardini Naxos Waterfront to Archaeological Park** 1.2 km · 15 min · Flat — From the tender pier head south along the waterfront promenade past the Nike sculpture to the Capo Schisò peninsula and the entrance to the ancient Greek colony ruins.
- **Taormina Old Town: Duomo to Greek Theater** 0.9 km · 20 min · Hilly cobblestones — Start at the Taormina bus terminal, walk Corso Umberto past the Duomo and Piazza IX Aprile balcony, then continue uphill to the Teatro Antico entrance for panoramic...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		64°	45°	7d
Jun		84°	61°	5d
Aug		89°	66°	4d
Sep		81°	61°	6d
Oct		72°	55°	9d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:23AM–7:34PM · Jun 5:36AM–8:22PM · Aug 6:14AM–7:51PM · Sep 6:41AM–7:06PM · Oct 7:07AM–6:21PM

Euro (€)

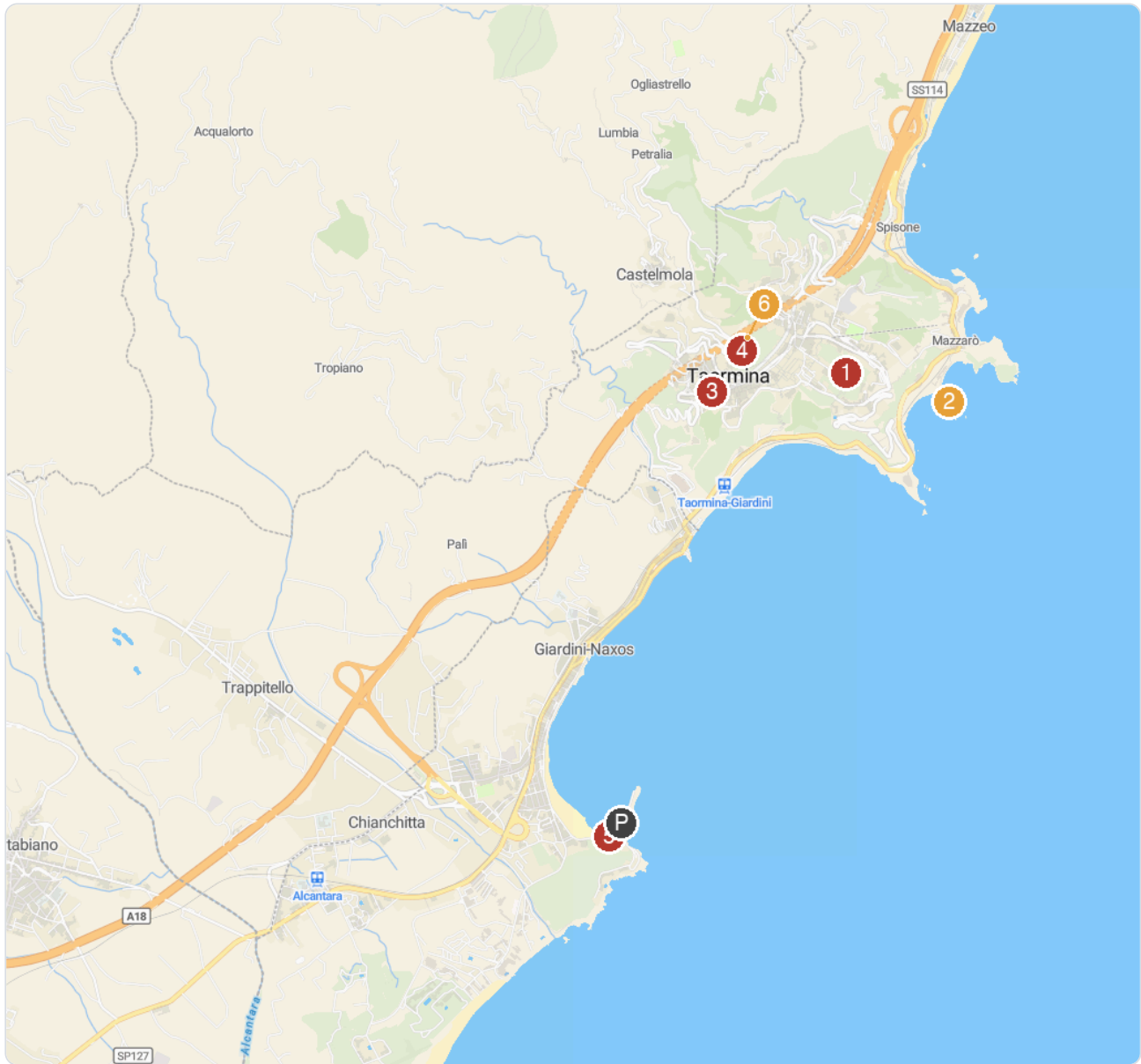
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Leave Taormina early. The tender queue swells in the late afternoon. Be back at the pier at least 90 minutes before all-aboard, or you risk a very expensive taxi chase.
- Wear proper shoes. Taormina's cobblestones are steep and slick — flip-flops or heels will punish you. Comfortable walking shoes are essential.
- Carry cash. Local buses (€3–5), small gelaterias, beach lidos, and taxis often prefer cash. ATMs are available in Taormina and Giardini Naxos.
- White Lotus fans: Season 2 was filmed at the San Domenico Palace (Four Seasons) on Piazza San Domenico, a short walk off Corso Umberto. You can walk past and peek in — dining requires reservations and a dress code.
- Tender weather risk. The bay is open and seas can cancel or delay tenders. Check the ship's daily programme for any weather advisories before going ashore late in the day.
- Don't skip the granita. Sicilian granita is nothing like a slushy — try almond or pistachio at a local bar. Eat it the traditional way: with a warm brioche bun, for breakfast or mid-morning.

Giardini Naxos-Taormina, Sicily, Italy — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1 Teatro Antico di Taormina | Greco-Roman theater carved into the hillside with Mount Etna framed dramatically behind the stage. | 2 Isola Bella | Small nature reserve island connected to the mainland by a sand spit, ringed by clear turquoise water. |
| 3 Porta Catania | Medieval stone gate marking the historic western entrance to Taormina's old town. | 4 Chiesa della Madonna della Rocca | Small chapel built directly into a rock outcrop high above Taormina, reached by a steep footpath. |
| 5 Parco Archeologico di Naxos | Ruins of the first Greek colony in Sicily, founded 734 BC, on a coastal lava-rock promontory. | 6 Castello di Taormina | Ruined medieval castle perched on Monte Tauro above the theater, with sweeping coastal views. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |