



## General Conference Information

### Hospitality and Activities

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A goal of our conferences is to provide not only a rich intellectual exchange, but also a rich cultural exchange that showcases the link between Greece and Southern Italy symbolized by the myth of **Alpheios and Arethusa**—whose spring still flows on the island of Ortigia.

The presentations of the conference will alternate with visits to local sites including a walking tour of the island of Ortigia and a welcome dinner nearby one of our ancient Greek temples, breaks featuring local specialties, and excursions to the **Paolo Orsi archaeological museum** and the **Neapolis archaeological park** and Castello Eurialo. In summer, there is also the opportunity to see performances of *Greek plays* by the **National Institute of Ancient Drama**, which has been performing for over 100 years, at the ancient Greek theater in Neapolis.

The final day will include a farewell dinner. Please be sure to let us know any special dietary requirements in advance.

After the conference a post-conference tour will be offered to Agrigento, Piazza Armerina and Taormina/Giardini Naxos.

The conference registration fee includes admission to all academic sessions, guided tour of Ortigia, welcome dinner, refreshment breaks, guided visits to the archaeological site and museum and Castello Eurialo (including transportation), plus the concluding banquet. There is a reduced fee for junior scholars, students, unemployed, or accompanying persons. Children under 15 may participate in the social program for 125 euro.

A variety of **accommodations** from B&B to 5 star hotels is available on the island of Ortigia; you can search directly on [Booking.com](#) or Air Bnb. We can suggest [Hotel Posta: Hotel a Siracusa - Hotel ad Ortigia, Siracusa \(hotelpostasiracusa.it\)](#), [Nuova Mastrarua Rooms](#), [Maecò Ortigia | B&B Ortigia Siracusa | Sito Ufficiale \(bbmaeco-ortigia.it\)](#), [Casa VerbaVolant® | Le tue vacanze letterarie in Ortigia](#), but there are many other options, including self-catering apartments.

The Exedra center is at via Landolina 5 (in Palazzo Francica Nava), just north of Piazza Duomo. Any lodging on the island of Ortigia or in the Zona Umbertina (just over the bridge linking Ortigia to the mainland) is within walking distance.

## Travel Information: Getting to Siracusa

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The main works of the conference will take place at Exedra Mediterranean Center, via Landolina 5, just north of Piazza Duomo on the delightful islet of Ortigia. Car traffic on Ortigia is restricted at certain times, but local taxis can enter.

The closest **airport** is Catania Fontanarossa (CTA), about 50 kilometers away, served by a few major airlines and many budget carriers such as Ryanair, EasyJet, Vueling, Volotea etc. Frequent connections are available to Rome, Milan, London, Paris, Munich, Malta etc. Please note that major travel sites like Expedia.com may not list the bargain airlines, google flights is a good alternative. It may be more economical to fly to a major hub like Milan and then take a separate bargain flight to Catania—the only problem is that you will have to reclaim and re-check your luggage since you'll be travelling with separate reservation numbers.

If you are considering **driving**, it is possible to arrive by ferry at Palermo, Messina or Catania and then drive to Siracusa. Please note that it can be expensive to park your car on Ortigia; and your hotel/host will have to pre-register your entry during certain times, or you risk a very large fine.

**Transport to Siracusa from Catania Airport:** Exiting baggage claim, turn right and exit through the door at the end of the building. Just outside, there are small kiosks selling bus tickets. Go to the kiosk marked “Interbus/Etna” and buy a single ticket to Siracusa (round trips are only good for the same day). The ticket should cost just over 6 Euro. The buses pull up along the kerb opposite the kiosks, look for the one marked “Siracusa” on the front. (The **bus schedule** is posted on the kiosk and available online; buses are usually on time or no more than 15 minutes late). You will need to put your own luggage inside the space underneath—open up the luggage door or ask the driver to do it for you; do not leave your bag on the kerb. The bus goes straight from the airport down the autostrada to Siracusa—the trip takes about an hour. Once the bus reaches Siracusa it does a loop of the new town, making several stops before arriving at the station - the last stop in Siracusa. From there, it's a fairly pleasant 15-20 minute walk to the island of Ortigia, then another 10 minute walk to the conference site. Just head south past the giant replica of an ancient bronze horse, down Corso Umberto I. Alternatively you can take a taxi from the bus station (or nearby train station) right to your hotel.

You can also take a **taxi** directly from the airport. The best way is to arrange with your hotel or have **Central Taxi** send a car from Siracusa to pick you up. Taking a taxi from the kerb in Catania is likely to cost more and out-of-town taxis may not be able to enter Ortigia on evenings and weekends when traffic is limited.

**Renting a car** can be cheap and convenient until you try parking it on Ortigia. Check to see if your hotel will help you with parking. All major rental car companies have cars at Catania airport that can be booked online. From the airport, follow the green signs for “Tangenziale Ovest” and then “Siracusa.” This will put you on a 4 lane highway to town. Exit at Siracusa and as you enter town, follow signs to Ortigia. Driving on the island is sometimes restricted and you may pay a heavy fine for entering the pedestrian zone, so check with your hotel or go directly to the large Talete parking garage near the fish market on the island (the daily fee is about 10 euros).

There are **trains** from Catania airport, but they are not very frequent and getting to the station requires a shuttle bus or long walk. The **bus** is generally more convenient and less expensive.