

**AGRIGENTO
AND
THE VALLEY
OF THE TEMPLES**



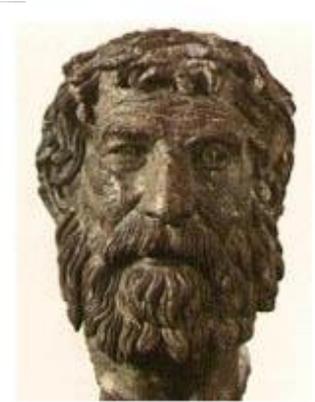
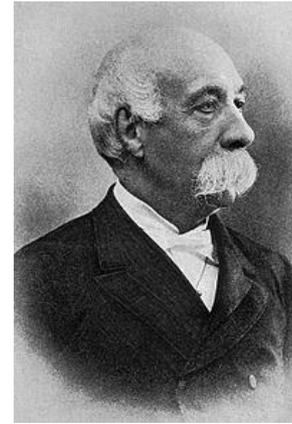
Agrigento, one of the most beautiful cities in Sicily, is situated on a plain degrading towards the sea.

The city was called in different ways: Ἀκράγας by the Greeks, Agrigentum by the Romans, Kerkent o Gergent by the Arabs and for the Normans it was Girgenti.



It was founded around 580 A.D. Agrigento includes the famous area of the Greek temples, the ancient Norman cathedral, the “Santo Spirito” chapel and the house where Goethe lived.

Near the city you can visit the fascinating “Scala dei Turchi” and the Archeological Museum. Famous poets and philosophers as L.Pirandello, Francesco Crispi and Empedocle were born here.



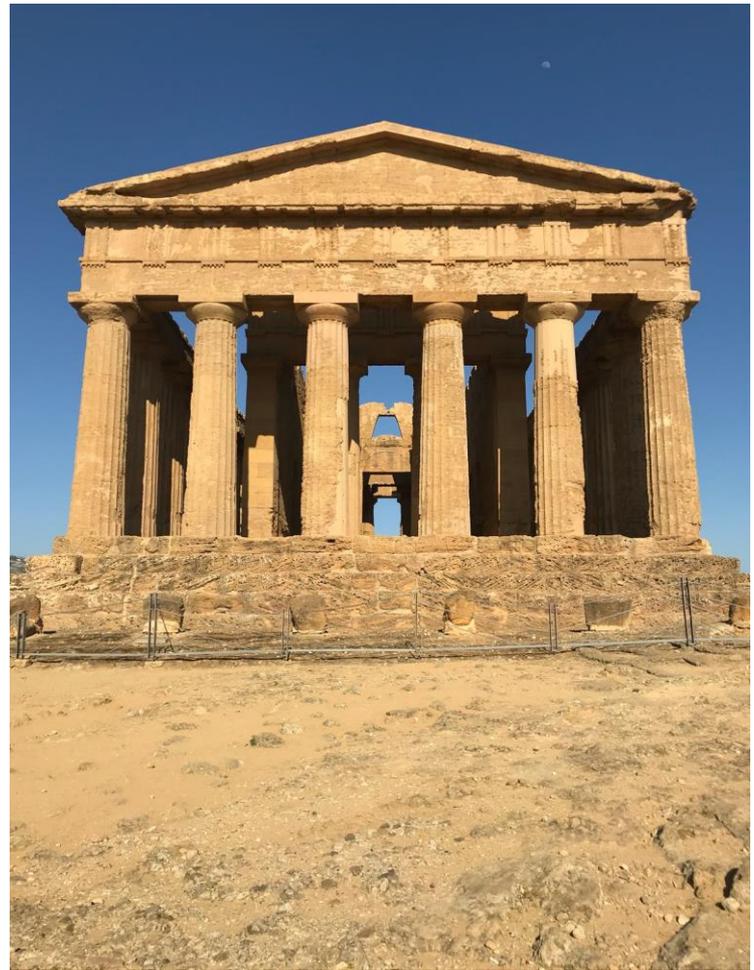
VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES



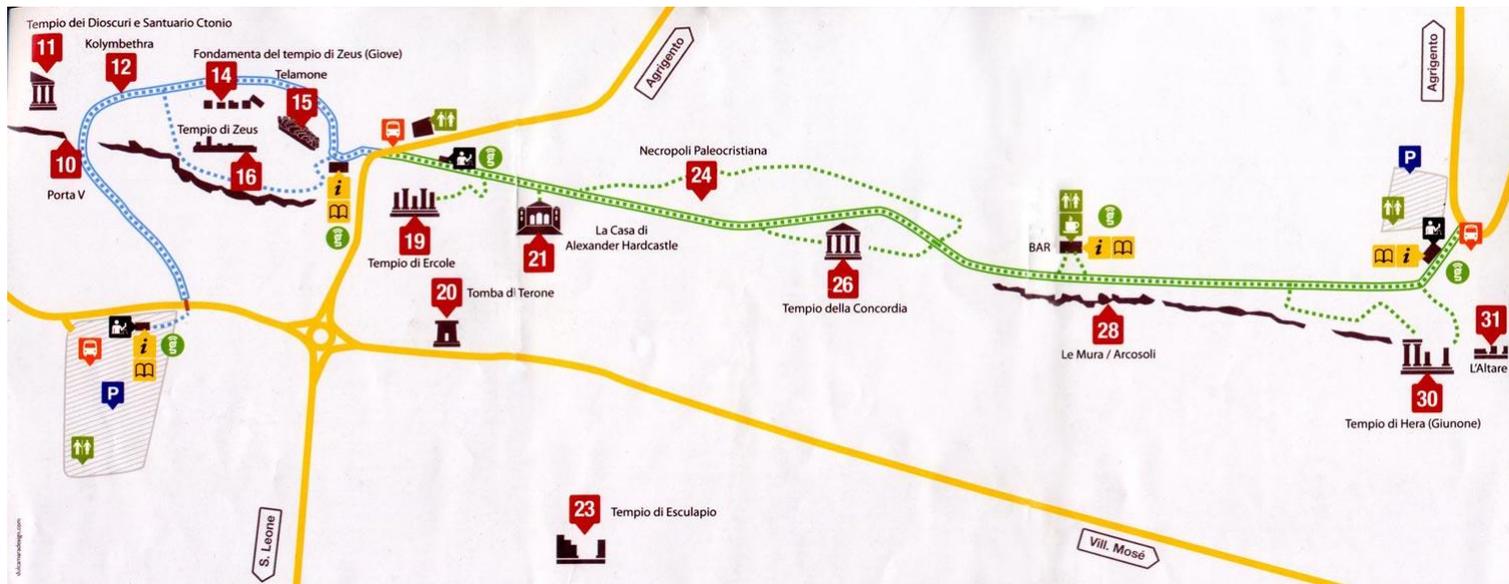
THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

is considered one of the most famous and scenographic archeological site in the island and in 1997 it became a UNESCO site.

The valley includes twelve different Doric temples, three sanctuaries, a lot of necropolies, ancient buildings and a Roman neighbourhood which is divided into two parts: the north Agora (Zeus temple) and the south Agora (the Olympeion and the Bouleuterion).



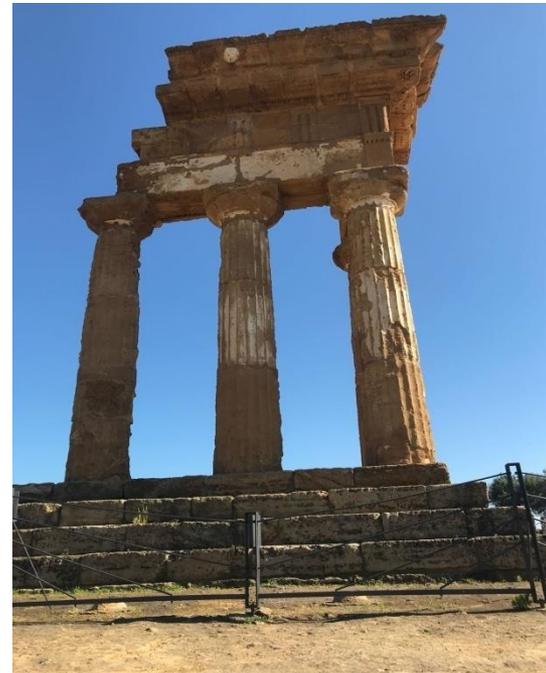
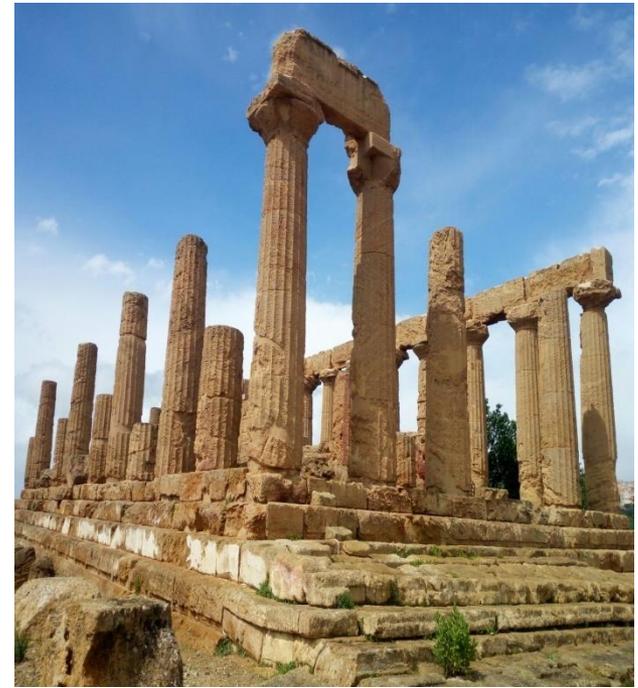
- The “Hera Lacinia” temple or the temple of Giuno was built during the V century A.D. and burnt in 406 by the Carthaginians. It was the temple where the weddings were celebrated;
- The “Concordia” temple is the most famous and impressive temple of the monumental area;
- The “Eracle temple” is one of the most ancient constructions destroyed by an earthquake, today we have only 8 coloumns;



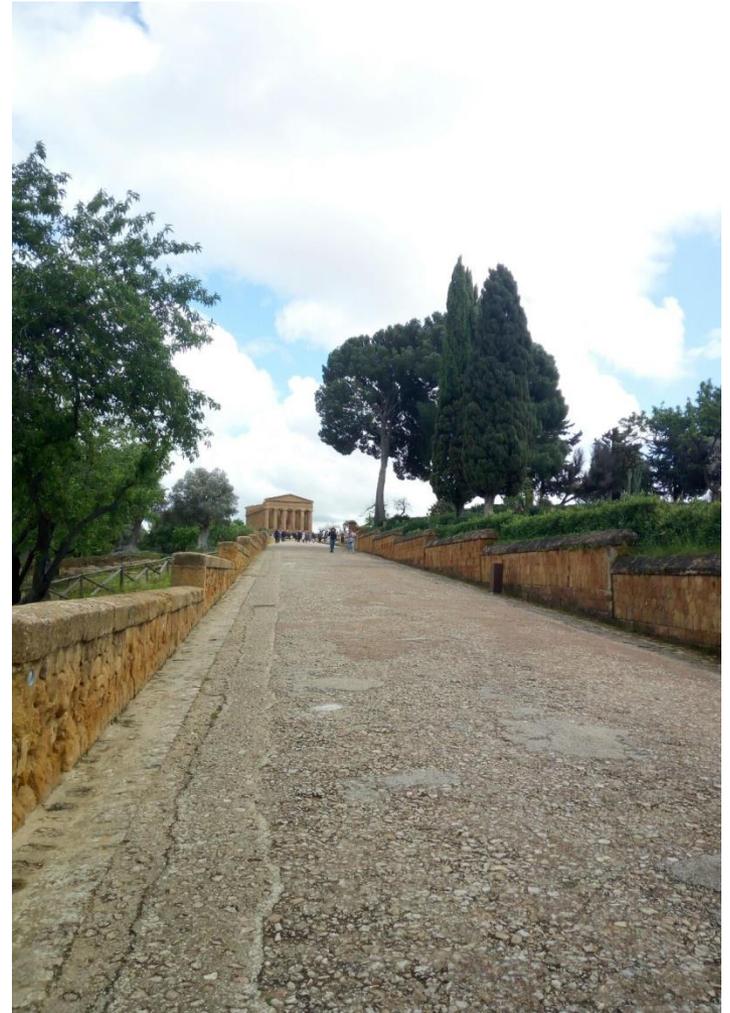
- The “ Zeus Olimpio” temple was built after the victory of Himera against the Carthaginians to honour Zeus and it was the biggest temple in the West. The temple is characterized by 7-metre tall sculptures;

- The Temple of Dioscuri or Temple of Castore and Polluce. It is situated into the sanctuary of Ctonie divinity;

- The Temple of Efesto or the temple of the Volcano;



- The Temple of Athena was built far from the “Temple valley” and it is situated in the historical centre of the city;
- The Temple “L” was recently discovered and it is a completely destroyed construction;
- The Temple of Asclepio or Temple of Esculapio is a part of a sanctuary built far from the city walls. It was a place for sick pilgrims looking for recovery;
- The Temple of Demetra is situated on the east part of the city and from its terrace we can reach the underlying sanctuary dug inside the hill;
- The Temple of Iside. It situated inside St. Nicolas’ museum .



In the Valley we can also find the Tomb of Terone, a pyramidal monument.

On the other side of the road there is a large plain called **Campo dell'Olympeion** while in the Eastern part we have an area commonly called the “Agora area”.

In the middle of the Temple valley, near “St Nicolas” church, there are the rests of “ekklestèrion” and the oratory of Falaride.

In the northern part, which is no longer visible because it has been whelmed by the structure of the museum, there is Demetra and Kore's sanctuary (VI-V b.C.) where there are some ex voto fictiles and ceramic objects. In the southern part there are the ruins of the “Ekklestèrion”.



The Valley of the Temples is an amazing historical testimony and having it in our territory is great honor.

