



Excursion in Palermo 19 September
Visit to Cappella Palatina - Walk along the Cattedrale and Corso Vittorio Emanuele - Visit to Palazzo Alliata di Villafranca

14,30 Departure from Polytechnic School, Building 7, Viale delle Scienze

15,00 Guided visit of Cappella Palatina and Royal Palace

The **Palazzo dei Normanni** was the seat of the Kings of Sicily during the Norman domination and served afterwards as the main seat of power for the subsequent rulers of Sicily. Seat of the Sicilian Parliament, today it is the seat of the Sicilian Regional Assembly. The building is the oldest royal residence in Europe, the home of the rulers of the Kingdom of Sicily and imperial seat with Frederick II and Conrad IV

The **Cappella Palatina** is located on the first floor of the Norman Palace and it was dedicated, by will of Roger II to Saint Peter Apostle. Bears the year 1143 the inscription on the base of the dome, which sets a coeval date to the mosaics on the presbytery and leaving, as proved by the stylistic analysis, contemporary to the kingdom of William I the mosaics in the naves.

16,30 Walking tour:

Palermo Cathedral

Palermo Cathedral is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. As an architectural complex, it is characterized by the presence of different styles, due to a long history of additions, alterations and restorations, the last of which occurred in the 18th century.

The church was erected in 1185 by Walter Ophamil (or Walter of the Mill), the Anglo-Norman archbishop of Palermo and King William II's minister, on the area of an earlier Byzantine basilica. Ophamil is buried in a sarcophagus in the church's crypt. The medieval edifice had a basilica plan with three apses, of which only some minor architectural elements survive today.

The upper orders of the corner towers were built between the 14th and the 15th centuries, while in the early Renaissance period the southern porch was added. The present neoclassical appearance dates from the work carried out over the two decades 1781 to 1801.





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The interior has a Latin cross plan, with a nave and two aisles divided by pilasters. In the first two chapels of the right aisle are the tomb of emperors and royal figures moved here in the 18th century from their original sites (mostly from the basilica itself). Here are the remains of Emperor Henry VI, his son Frederick II, as well as those of Peter II of Sicily. A Roman sarcophagus is the tomb of Constance of Aragon.

17,00 Guided visit of Palazzo Alliata di Villafranca



Palazzo Alliata di Villafranca was home to the princes of Alliata. This grand edifice is a testimony to the power of Sicilian nobles during the 17th and 18th centuries and their passion for ornamentation and lavish display. The palazzo has long housed some of the most important art in Palermo, most famously the masterpiece, Crucifixion by Anthony Van Dyck, located in the aptly named Baroque Room, which is lined with silk damask wall coverings, rococo-style mirrors and intricate ormolu consoles.



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