

Italy Sicily



Very important information is that all the black boats in Rod Heikels "Italian Water Pilot" are "free of charge" places if there is space!!!

We visited all the places with an * in 2004-2006 and some of them again in 2009 and 2010. So prices mentioned below may have gone up afterwards. Most of the places are free quay sides (black boats in the pilot) but we added also a few places with (cheap) marinas and some beautiful anchorages. We didn't have any problems with our length of 14 m or our 2.05 m draught. The places without * were visited by friends who passed on the information to us.

Sicily

Catania *, 37°29'.1N 15°05'.9E, east coast

Mooring: Med mooring at own anchor inside the breakwaters or head for the high town quay at the side where the NIC marina is situated. The town quay is at the very end. We were in the marina and were told by the people from the marina that the quay was for free. From here you can take a bus ride to the Etna volcano (not on Sunday).

Syracuse *, 37°03'.6N 15°01'.7E, east coast

Free (low) town quay (Med mooring with own anchor, good holding), pilot talks about 3 days for free but we were there 1 week in 2004. Water and electricity is available at the quay, you have to buy a special pre-paid card at the kiosk. There are free public water taps, one at the end of the quay at the corner into town, the other in the middle of the road along the canal where the fishing boats are moored.

Autumn 2009, the quayside was closed due to the building of caissons. These caissons, when they are positioned out into the bay in front of the town quay, will form a breakwater. Shelter at the quay will be much improved by then.

The Porto Grande anchorage 37°03'.66N 15°16'.99E is safe and the holding in mud is perfect. We experienced one disadvantage in August 2009; we could hear the gooseneck barnacles and corral worm grow! In 2 weeks' time the prop was 5 times as thick as she normally is. But it was due to the water temperature, we think.

Near the town are 3 marinas; the one on the same side as the quay has multiple winter berths available. Laundrette is in the main street at the second corner, internet point in the streets in-between the market and the marina. The old town is really worth a visit as well as the nearby (20 bicycle minutes) archaeological park with one of the largest Greek theatres. Don't forget to visit the local market, sole is considered as a by-catch and goes for 5€/kilo. We could not resist having a sole dinner for at least three times that week and again in 2009, yummy.

Porto Palo *, 36°40'.09N 15°07'.18E, SE corner

Boats can anchor at the east or west side of the harbour, depending on the wind. Holding in sand/mud is excellent. There are limited facilities. It is the nearest port from which to reach Malta.

Pozzallo *, 36°42'.91N 14°50'.14E, S coast

Pozzallo is a sheltered anchorage, just on the south side of the north breakwater, and out of the way of the main harbour. There is a very large area with a depth around 3-4m. Holding perfect (sand) open to the east but it's a nice stop in-between Licata and Syracuse.

Licata *, 37°05'.56N 13°56'.73E, S coast

Once inside Licata harbour, turn to port side after the 2nd port breakwater, to reach the fishing harbour where you may find some space, moor at the pontoons free of the fishing ships. (2009)

Inside the 1st breakwater turn to starboard and approach the entrance (depth 5m) of a new set of breakwaters in front of the anchorage just east of the lighthouse. Anchor in 3-5 m depth, holding in sand/mud is excellent. We were anchored here in 2009 and endured a 8 hours long storm with continues 52-60 kn storm from the SW. Due to the new breakwaters protection is therefore excellent. *Part of this anchorage will have in future a very large marina according to the plans near the building site at the end of the bay. Note: the marina is finished and is running in full force, we heard!* Drive with the dinghy into the main harbour and tie it to a hugh fender in the corner where the old tugboats are moored, its save and the nearest place to walk to town.

Porto Empedocle *, 37°16'.44N 13°31'.63E, S coast

Inside the breakwaters turn to starboard and after the inner breakwater, to port. Head for the quay at the end and try to find a free spot and moor alongside or Med moor if necessary. Avoid (if possible) the smelly sewers. Locals take all the places of the black boats in the pilot. No facilities, the town is small but nice. The bus takes you to the town Agrigento with the exceptional "Valley of the temples" Greek temples. Don't forget to fill your spare water containers with the wine from the wine shop opposite the bus stop to Agrigento. Try to buy some shrimps/gamba from the fishermen at the quay side at night, they are delicious!

Sciacca *, 37°30'.03N 13°04'.49E S-coast

There are 2 marinas.

The first pontoon costs 10-15 € a night, water and electricity are available.

The second pontoon or central pontoon, boats may stay one night for free after that it becomes expensive (2009 35 €/night for 14m)! Water and electricity are available and there is a washing machine and a dryer. Be aware of the shallow spot (2m) north of the 2nd pontoon. A fuel berth may be found just south of the pontoon berths, against the western harbour wall. Locals warned for water in the fuel so we took a couple of canisters to the (car) fuel station behind the supermarket.

Mazara del Vallo, 37°38'.44N 12°35'.04E SW corner

The southern harbour wall extends to provide an anchorage east of the eastern harbour wall that is well protected from the prevailing west winds. This is the nearest point to Cap Bon and Sidi Bou Said (Carthage) in Tunisia and a good starting point from which to reach Sardinia. A single pontoon fledgling marina inside the harbour, for which mooring fees are payable, provides water and electricity.

Isola Favignana, Punta Longa *, 37°54'.8N 12°19'.4E, island W of the NW corner of Sicily

On the south side of the cape is a nice anchorage with a few sand patches and excellent holding. It is sheltered for the normal northern winds. Nice place to snorkel!

Trapani *, 38°00'.4N 12°30'.0E, NW corner

There are free places at the northern quay, just east from where the black boat is Med moored in the pilot (p373). There were a few spaces in 2005, before they were building pontoons for the Americas Cup in October. Ferryboats take the space at the south quay where the black boats are. Drinking water is available from the fire station at the quay side. No other facility but the town is beautiful with all the tiny winding streets and alleys and everything is available. A bus takes you to the medieval town Erice up the mountain, or you can take the cable car up/down.

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