

ITINERARY · PORTOPALO DI CAPO PASSERO

Isola delle Correnti in half a day: where the two seas meet

An itinerary in the southernmost corner of Sicily: from the viewpoint of **Portopalo** to the beach of **Isola delle Correnti**, with the **Cristo Redentore**, the lighthouse, and the sea where **Ionian and Mediterranean** meet. For each stop, find what to see and a practical tip.

DURATION**Half a day**

3-4 hours including transfers

STOPS**6 stops**

about 11.5 km

GETTING AROUND**By car or with a private vehicle between stops.**

On the beach and the island, you walk on foot.

ONLINE VERSION WITH MAPwww.marzamemi.com/itinerari/isola-delle-correnti-in-mezza-giornata

STOP 1 OF 6

Portopalo and Piazza dei Due Mari

🕒 Recommended time: 20 minutes



The view of the sea and the islands from the terrace of Piazza dei Due Mari in Portopalo

You start from **Portopalo di Capo Passero**, the southernmost municipality in Sicily: it is further south than the city of **Tunis**. It is a small village of fishermen and farmers, surrounded by the fields and greenhouses of **Pachino**.

Piazza dei Due Mari is a terrace from which you can see the **tonnara**, the **Castello Tafuri**, the stretch of coast, and the two islands: the **island of Capo Passero**, with its fort, and the **Isola delle Correnti**, the one you are heading to.

It is the right place to **orient yourself** before you set off: from here you can see where you will go.

A TIP

Bring **water and a hat**: the last stretch of the route is far from the village and there is little shade.

STOP 2 OF 6

The tonnara and the Castello Tafuri

🕒 Recommended time: 20 minutes



Tafuri Castle and the remains of the tuna fishery in Portopalo di Capo Passero

A little further on, you can see the **remains of the tonnara of Portopalo**, one of many in Sicily: like in Marzamemi, here tuna fishing played an important role in the local economy.

Next to it stands the **Castello Tafuri**, which can be recognised from afar and is usually viewed from the outside.

A TIP

These two stops are viewed **from the outside**: if you want to enter, **check** for visits or events.

STOP 3 OF 6

The road between the greenhouses and the seaside parking

🕒 Recommended time: 20 minutes



Overview of the Island of Currents

From the centre of Portopalo, Isola delle Correnti is about **8 kilometres** south: it is **14-15 km from Marzamemi** and about 10 from Pachino. You can only reach it **by private vehicle**, as there are no public transport links.

You cross the **expanses of fields and greenhouses of Pachino**: a territory that seems almost forgotten. The closer you get, the narrower the road becomes, and the **last stretch is unpaved, directly on the sand**: it leads to a large parking area just a few steps from the sea.

A TIP

Go **slowly on the unpaved stretch**. If your car is low, **check the road conditions** before you set off.

STOP 4 OF 6

The Cristo Redentore and the legend of Ulysses

🕒 Recommended time: 20 minutes



The statue of Christ the Redeemer with open arms, facing the Island of Currents

On the path leading from the beach to the island, on a small rise, stands the **statue of Cristo Redentore**. It has been here **since 2019** and is sculpted with **open arms**, facing the island, as if to welcome those arriving.

At the base, there are some **plaques**, including one from the CAI, celebrating this place as the **southernmost point** and recalling the legend of Ulysses.

The place is linked to a **legend**: it is said that here **Ulysses**, returning from Troy, landed and consecrated a monument to **Hecuba**, queen of Troy.

A TIP

Read the **plaques** at the base of the statue: they tell why this place is special.

STOP 5 OF 6

The island, the lighthouse and the vegetation

🕒 Recommended time: 40 minutes



The lighthouse of Isola delle Correnti with the vegetation of the Mediterranean scrub

The **Isola delle Correnti** is a small round island, only **4 metres** high above the sea, connected to the mainland by a **strip of land** that can be partially submerged at high tide.

On the island, there is an **active lighthouse**, built in **1865** and managed by the Navy. The rectangular building next to it, where the keeper once lived with his family, is now **abandoned**.

Around it grows **Mediterranean vegetation**, with **capers**, **wild leeks** and shrubs of the maquis. To protect it, since **1987** the island has been **included in the natural reserve plan**.

A TIP

Visit the island **only with calm seas**: sometimes you can reach it on foot with water up to your waist, but **the currents are strong**. If in doubt, **stay on the beach**.

STOP 6 OF 6

The golden beach and swimming

🕒 Recommended time: 60 minutes



The long golden beach in front of Isola delle Correnti, with the sea and the currents

In front of the island stretches a **long and deep, golden beach**, with some establishments where you can rent sunbeds and umbrellas. The name of the island comes from the point where **the waters of the Ionian and the Mediterranean meet**: merging, they create ripples and shades of blue that change continuously.

Here the **wind** is often strong, and it is an ideal spot for those who practice **water sports**. For this reason, the **currents** can be treacherous: it is not a suitable place for letting children play in the water unsupervised.

At certain times of the year, some stretches are **fenced off and prohibited**, as this is where the **Caretta caretta** turtle lays its eggs. There is still plenty of space.

A TIP

Do not enter the fenced areas of the nests and do not leave litter: the beach is among the most important in Sicily for turtle nesting.

Frequently asked questions

How do you get to Isola delle Correnti?

Only by private vehicle. From Portopalo it is about **8 km** south, from Marzamemi **14-15 km**. The last stretch is **unpaved on sand** and ends in a large parking area near the sea.

Can you reach the island on foot or by swimming?

Sometimes yes, **only with calm seas**: at low tide, the island may be connected to the beach and the water reaches at most to the waist. The **currents are strong**: if you are unsure, or if you have children, **stay on the shore**.

When is it best to go?

In **spring and autumn**, or in summer **early in the morning**. In the warm months, certain stretches of beach are fenced off for **turtles**: respect the prohibitions.

Why is it called Isola delle Correnti?

Because it is the point where, according to tradition, **the Ionian and the Mediterranean meet**: the meeting of the currents creates ripples and different colours on the water.

What to see in the surroundings?

About 14-15 km away is **Marzamemi**, then the **Vendicari Reserve** (with a separate itinerary). Near Portopalo, there is also the **island of Capo Passero**, with a Spanish fort and a bronze statue of the Madonna: **ask locally** how to reach it.

Route map



The numbers follow the order of the stops. The map shows no commercial businesses.

Practical information

DURATION

Half a day (3-4 hours including transfers)

GETTING AROUND

By car or with a private vehicle between stops. On the beach and the island, you walk on foot.

BEST TIME

Spring and autumn. In summer, it's best to go **early in the morning**, with calmer seas and fewer people.

TOTAL WALKING

about 11.5 km

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