

# MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF **NAXOS**

**ΠΝΓ**



# THE GREEK ADVENTURE IN SICILY STARTED HERE

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Lapped by the sea, by the fresh waters of the Santa Venera stream and overlooking the natural bay of Schisò, ancient Naxos was the first colony founded by Greek colonists in Sicily. Today, the backbone of streets, houses, temples and its navy yard, shelter for boats, remain of that first pòlis. The Archaeological Museum houses artefacts that tell the daily life of women, men and children of ancient Naxos, while in the underwater archaeology section, amphorae and millstones recovered from the seabed tell us about its past as a seaside town.



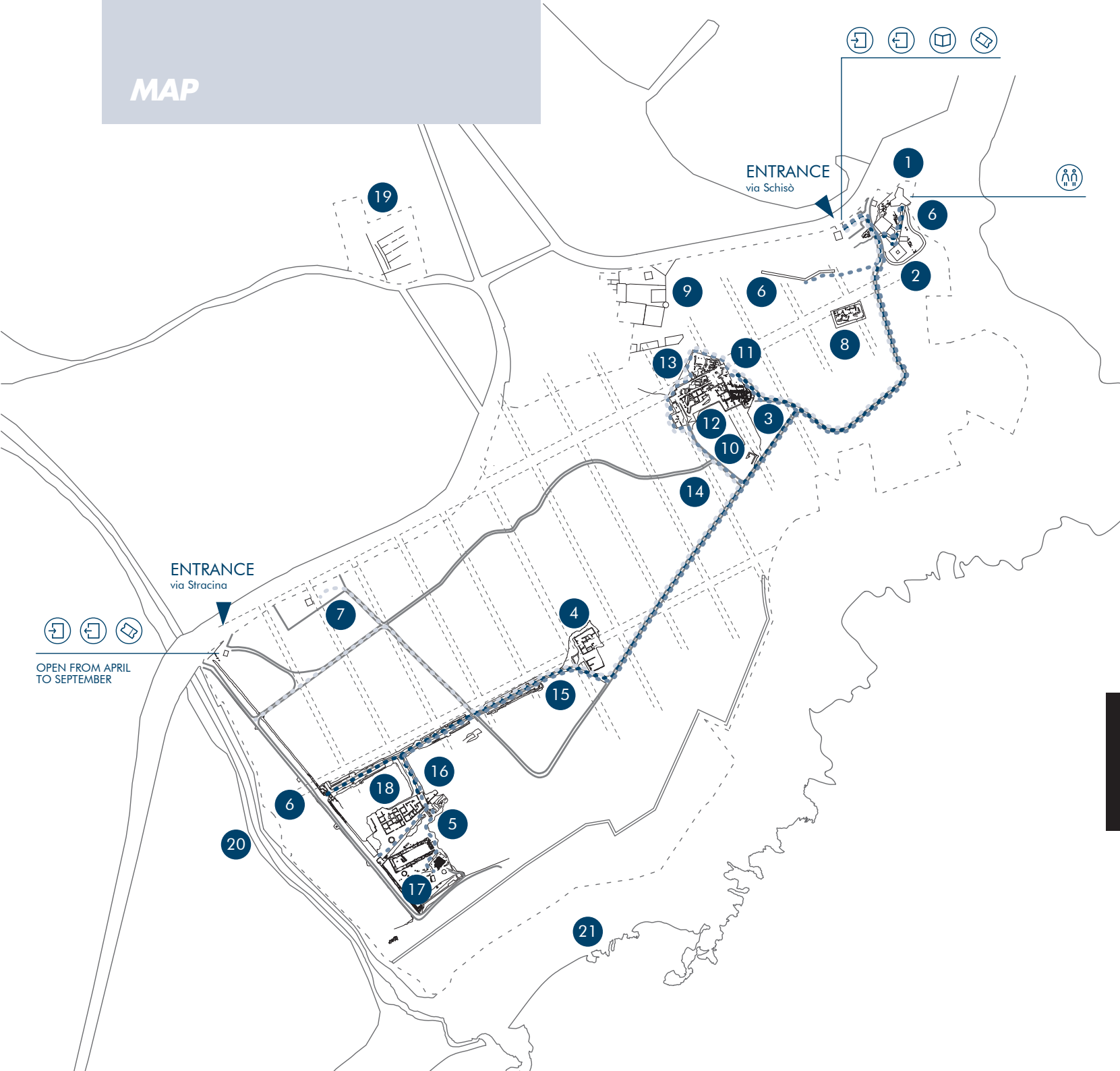
Gabriella Tigano  
*Director of the Park of Naxos -  
Taormina*

# A SEASIDE TOWN

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Naxos was founded in 734 BC just alongside a deep bay, the first landing point for sailors coming from the east. In the period between the eight and the end of the fifth century BC the excavations give us a story marked by ruinous destruction and punctual reconstructions. Surrounded by a monumental fortification, the Greek town has two superimposed urban systems, with streets, sanctuaries dedicated to the venerated divinities (Hera or Aphroditè) and isolated with private houses (from the oldest ones, with a single compartment, to the larger and more articulated ones around the courtyard). An exceptional naval arsenal, next to the main square (agorà) and the port, used between the sixth and fifth centuries BC for the shelter and storage of warships (the famous triremi), reveals the main seafaring vocation of the city which had one of its main sources of development in the port.

# MAP



- 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
- 2 MARITIME ITEMS
- 3 A11 HOUSES
- 4 B6 HOUSES
- 5 SW SANCTUARY
- 6 FORTIFICATION WALLS
- 7 VIGNAZZA TOWER
- 8 BYZANTINE HOUSES
- 9 SCHISÒ CASTLE
- 10 TEMPLE C
- 11 PLATEIA A
- 12 INSULA A10
- 13 HOUSE 5
- 14 STENOPOS 10
- 15 PLATEIA B
- 16 STENOPOS 2
- 17 KILNS
- 18 B1 HOUSES
- 19 GREEK SHIPSHEDS
- 20 SANTA VENERA RIVER
- 21 ANCIENT LANDING

## VISITATION PATHS



45'



90'



20'



ENTRANCE



EXIT



BOOKSHOP



TICKET OFFICE



WC

OPEN FROM APRIL  
TO SEPTEMBER



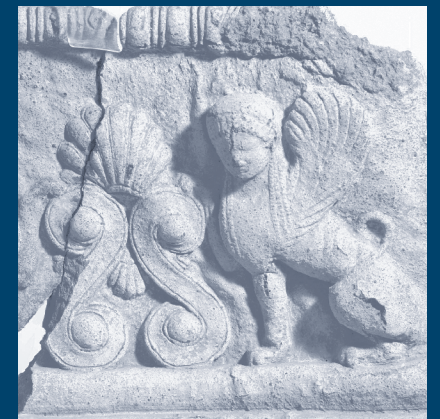
# MATERIAL CULTURE IS A TALE

- The Museum is located on Capo Schisò using a Bourbon fort that was already a fiftieth-century tower guarding the harbour. The finds are distributed over two floors, according to a thematic and chronological order: from the prehistoric to the late ancient and Byzantine age. Among the objects on display, on the ground floor, the ceramics of the oldest vascular production both imported and produced by colonists for everyday use: jugs, vessels for transporting water (hydriai), amphorae, craters, deinois, bowls to drink and to eat, plates of various sizes, all decorated with linear motifs (simple and wavy bands, metopal panels), vegetables (leaves) and stylised figures (birds).



# DIONYSIAN WORSHIP AND NAXOS IDENTITY

- On the upper floor, the clay coatings of the urban and extra-urban sacred buildings and the arsenal stand out, the work of local workshops that achieved an expertise in this art. Do not miss the large slab with the face of the Gorgone (560 BC) and the pedimental frieze of one of the sacred buildings of the sanctuary to the west of the Santa Venera stream. Among the most original artefacts, the Silenic mask antefixes deserve attention, produced in various types from the end of the sixth to the fifth century BC, a sign of the importance that the cult of Dionysus had in the city. The image of the god has in fact characterized the coinage of Naxos since the first silver issues. In the same room is exhibited the Heidelberg-Naxos arula (530 BC) with the depiction of two facing sphinxes, notable example of coroplastic produced in Naxos.





# CHRONICLES FROM A SUBMERGED WORLD



The visit includes the section of Underwater Archaeology set up in the Bourbon fort. Naxos was among the first archaeological sites to promote underwater investigations and excavations, with the support of local enthusiasts and divers.

The exhibition offers a rich sampling of objects returned from the seabed, from stone, lead, and iron anchors, to amphorae. Alongside the exhibits on display, a rich didactic apparatus awaits the visitor with 3D reconstructions and highly evocative historical films. The undisputed protagonists are the wrecks of the two ships sunk at Capo Taormina and in the Giardini-Naxos bay.

## PLAN

## YOUR VISIT

### Tickets

Adult

€ 5,00

Reduced

€ 2,50 (18-25 y.o.)

Free

Information available at the ticket office

### How to get here

Car

Highway exit Giardini Naxos  
taking A18

(Catania-Messina)

Towards Archaeological Museum

Bus

Schisò stop.

Train

Taormina – Giardini Naxos  
railway station, then busto Schisò.

Plane

Airport Vincenzo Bellini of  
Catania – Fontanarossa.

### Facilities

#### ■ Guided tours *on request*

Send your reservation request to  
[info@aditusculture.com](mailto:info@aditusculture.com)  
and you will shortly receive a reply.  
Italiano - English - Español

#### ■ Didactics

Visit the website [aditusculture.com](http://aditusculture.com)  
at the section educational tourism.  
Educational proposals for schools  
are curated by Civita, for information  
and reservations write an e-mail to  
[didattica@civitasicilia.it](mailto:didattica@civitasicilia.it)

#### ■ Bookshop

### Opening times

Updated opening times are  
available on the website  
[aditusculture.com](http://aditusculture.com)

### Personal conduct



Do not introduce  
animals.



Do not use flash  
photography.



Do not bring  
backpacks.



Do not touch exhibited  
works and finds.



Do not bring any food  
or drink.



## **WALLS OF CICLOPIC IMPACT**

In the VI century BC, the Greek city was enclosed by defensive walls of cyclopean masonry, built using enormous dry lava blocks. Large areas are lightened and visible along the west side of the river S. Venera, where the curtain served as defence and embankment wall.

## **THE PLEASURE OF REMEMBERING**

**LEAVE  
A COMMENT  
ABOUT  
YOUR VISIT!**



**#museodinaxos**

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# DISCOVER MUSEUMS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS OF EASTERN SICILY

Castle Maniace

Ancient Theatre of Taormina

Regional Gallery of Palazzo Bellomo

Museum and Archaeological Area of Naxos

Archaeological Regional Museum Paolo Orsi

Aeolian Archaeological Park - Museum Luigi Bernabò Brea

Interdisciplinary Regional Museum of Messina

Naturalistic Regional Museum of Isola Bella

Monumental Area of Neapolis

Archaeological Area of Tindari

Roman Villa of Patti



REGIONE SICILIANA



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