THE HISTORICAL LIVING MATTER

Laid on a plateau overlooking the Golfo di Patti, in front of the Aeolian Islands, the ancient city of Tindari is one of the symbolic places of the Sicilian natural and cultural landscape. The extraordinary position, the millennial history, the fascinating strong and luxuriant landscape has been the inspiration for poets and painters for centuries. Visitor, let the beauty seduce you and lose yourself in an interior dialogue with mythical and poetical time. To turn back to find the civilization sources, to investigate the values and the ancient lifestyles, it’s a moment of pure wonder.

Salvatore Gueli  
Director of the Tindari Archaeological Park

AN IDEAL CITY FACING THE SEA

Founded by the Syracusan Dionigi I in 396 BC, during the First Punic War, Tyndaris turned into a Carthaginian base and then, from the III century BC, into a faithful ally of Rome benefitting of wide freedoms and privileges. The city rises on the top of a ridge with a regular layout characterized by powerful walls and large linear decumanus, oriented from east to west, and by orthogonal short cardines. Flourishing during the imperial age, in the 36 BC it became Colonia Augusta Tyndaritanorum. Unfortunately, in the I century AD, part of the city slides off into the sea. The main public buildings, the Church and the Baths with their precious figurative mosaics and the Theatre face the decumanus, embodying the harmony of an ancient model city.
THE BIG GAME OF POLITICS

In the history, Tindari knows how to play its cards right. In 344 BC when the city lined up with the general Timoleon, arrived from Corinth to dismiss the Syracusean tyrant Dionysus I, and obtained six decades of peace and prosperity. Or that time when, in 204 BC and 146 BC, it joined Romans against Hannibal, gaining gifts and privileges. The earthquakes of the fourth century AD mark the beginning of a long decline through the years. Tindari's myth rises again in the XVIII century with the Grand Tour of European intellectual travellers, and becomes one of the most coveted place of the north-east Sicilian coast along with Lipari and Taormina.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MONUMENTAL HERITAGE

GREEK THEATRE

Built at the end of the IV century with a capacity of 3000 spectators, the theatre was revised during the Roman age in order to favour the circus performances. It's perfectly set in the hill dip. From 1956 a theatrical, dance and music festival takes place here.

THE BASILICA

It's an imperial age building, probably a propylon (monumental door), used also as a "meeting room" through the big central space. It houses the gold statue of Mercury donated by Scipio Africanus, and close there is the equestrian monument of the consul Marco Claudio Marcello.
WITNESSES OF AN ANCIENT CITY

THE DOMUS
A Roman Domus occupies the front of block XVII on the central decuman. There are eight rooms with cocciopesto floors, except the triclinium with geometric T-shaped mosaic in black and white and coloured walls. The structure of the domus, originally on two floors, dates back to the late republican age, its restoration in the I/II centuries AD.

THE MONUMENTAL BUILDING
A rectangular building from the Imperial Roman age occupies the front of the block XVIII on the central decuman. Plundered in ancient times, the monument retains a high access stairway, a portico with pillars, delimiting an open area, an external corridor, originally covered, paved in cocciopesto. Despite the peripheral location, the monument seems to be destined to religious purposes or to public functions.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Tickets
- Adult: € 6.00
- Reduced: € 3.00 (18-25 anni)
- Cumulative Adult: € 8.00
- Cumulative Reduced: € 4.00
- Free

Information available at the ticket office

Facilities
- Didactics
  - Visit the website aditusculture.com at the section Educational Tourism and our new Educational Platform Lasiciliaracconta.it
  - Educational proposals for schools are curated by Aditus
  - For information and reservations write an e-mail to francameitita@aditusculture.com

Opening Times
- Updated Opening Times are available on the website aditusculture.com

How to get here
- Car
  - Highway exit Falcone taking SS113 (Messina-Palermo) towards Tindari
- Bus
  - Line AST, Magistro-TAL towards Tindari
- Train
  - Olivieri-Tindari Railway station
- Plane
  - Airport Vincenzo Bellini of Catania - Fontanarossa

Come comportarsi
- Do not introduce animals.
- Do not use flash photography.
- Do not bring backpacks.
- Do not touch artworks or finds.
- Do not bring any food or drinks.
The Antiquarium collects a selection of finds from prehistoric to Roman age. The materials include precious and daily use vases, glasses, bronze objects, architectural decorations and marble sculptures. Among these there are two “winged victories” (nikai) from the II century BC and a head-portrait of the emperor Augusto coming from the area of the Basilica.
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 Isolabella
Monumental Area of Neapolis
Archaeological Area of Tindari
Roman Villa of Patti