

Welcome to Sicily with Spatia!



We're so happy to have you here! You've chosen to join a Spatia Teacher Academy course in Sicily — a place where learning meets sunshine, sea breeze, and the warm rhythm of local life. This guide will help you prepare for your stay in Balestrate, giving you all the information you need to make the most of your time here.

Let's get started!

Arrival of participants

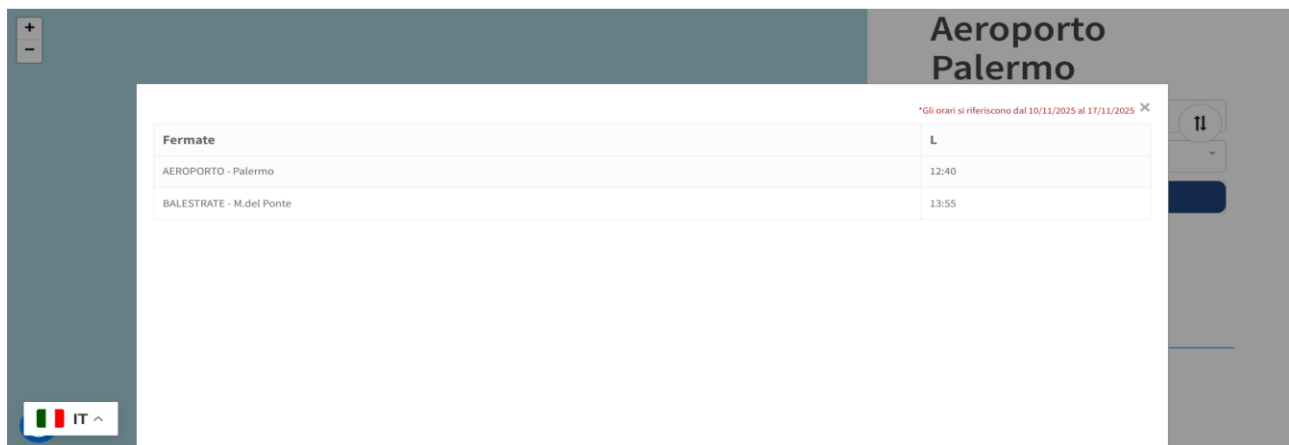
Participants arriving to Palermo Airport (Falcone–Borsellino)

The arrivals area is on the ground floor of the terminal. When you disembark from the plane, please follow the signs to **Passport Control** if necessary (only for flights from outside the EU), and then to the **baggage reclaim hall** and **Customs** (if necessary). Once in the baggage area, check the screens to find which carousel is assigned to your flight. On the ground floor you will reach the **Arrivals area**, where public transport connections are located.

You have several options to get from the airport to **Balestrate**:

- As a first pick, you can take the **train**. The train station is connected to the airport. Take a train towards **Palermo Centrale**, and get off at **Piraineto** station. Then, go to platform 3 and take the train **towards Trapani**. Get off at Balestrate station. The whole trip takes about **1 hour and 10 minutes**, and the ticket costs around **€8**. You can buy tickets at the machines or online (Trenitalia).
- Alternatively, you can take a **taxi or private transfer** directly from the airport to Balestrate. The ride takes about **25–30 minutes**, depending on traffic, and costs around **€40-50**. Taxi stops are located outside the **Arrivals building** (ground floor).
- You can also rent a **car** at the airport. The drive to Balestrate is easy: follow the **A29 motorway** direction *Mazara del Vallo*, and take the **Balestrate exit**. The distance is about **30 km**.
- There is also a bus service provided by the private transport company Russo Autoservizi: <https://www.russoautoservizi.it/aeroporto-palermo/>

However, there are few trips during the day and timetables may change depending on the period and season.



The screenshot shows a train timetable for the route from Palermo Airport to Balestrate. The title is 'Aeroporto Palermo'. The table lists the following stops and times:

Fermate	L
AEROPORTO - Palermo	12:40
BALESTRATE - M.del Ponte	13:55

A note at the top right of the table states: '*Gli orari si riferiscono dal 10/11/2025 al 17/11/2025'. The interface also shows a search icon, a language dropdown set to 'IT', and a zoom control.

(Tip: Google Maps works very well in Sicily, both for trains and driving routes.)

Course venue



The course will take place in **Balestrate**, a charming seaside town on the northwestern coast of Sicily, known for its golden beaches, Mediterranean atmosphere, and welcoming community. The town offers a pleasant residential area filled with small cafés, local restaurants, and traditional Sicilian streets where you can experience authentic daily life.

Affordable supermarkets, bakeries, and shops are available within walking distance, offering a wide variety of local products at reasonable prices.

The main venue of the course will be hosted either at the **Community Library inside the “Istituto Comprensivo Rettore F. Evola”** or in another **public space provided by the Municipality of Balestrate** — both located in the heart of the town and easily reachable on foot.

The compact size of the town makes it perfect for walking or cycling between the accommodation, the learning venue, and the beach.



Accommodation and Logistics Assistance (Balestrate)

We are able to fully assist you with finding and booking accommodation.

Thanks to our established network of local partners in Balestrate, we can guarantee you exclusive, more advantageous rates compared to standard market prices for the duration of your Erasmus course.

Our team will take care of:

- **Sourcing:** Selecting the best accommodation options (B&Bs, holiday homes, etc.) that meet your group's needs.
- **Booking and Management:** Directly handling all reservations for you, ensuring availability and applying the agreed-upon prices.
- **Integrated Logistics:** Coordinating accommodation with the needs of the course and local travel arrangements.

This way, you can be sure of comfortable and convenient accommodation without having to personally handle the negotiation and booking management.

Private Transportation and cultural visit options

To ensure maximum convenience and flexibility during your stay, we collaborate closely with Jumbo Viaggi, in Balestrate (PA).

Thanks to this established partnership, we can offer you special negotiated rates and customized solutions for all your private transportation needs:

Airport Transfers: Private transfers to and from the airport.

Cultural Excursions: Private vehicles for reaching the cultural and tourist sites you wish to visit.

We handle the coordination of rental and transfer services, ensuring reliable and convenient transportation for the entire duration of the program.

Suggestions for your free time in Balestrate

Walking Recommendations:

- Take it easy along the coast eastwards, towards the long sandy beach of Spiaggia di Balestrate. The water is shallow and it's less busy than big tourist resorts.
- From town centre, walk the main street Via Madonna del Ponte (or “Corso” by locals) down to the sea — the viewpoint at the end is a great place for sunset.
- If you prefer green shade, try the woodland paths “La Boscaglia” near the coast for a quiet nature walk away from the beach crowds.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jka5TjLfApbvGMfW7>

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1136015200166494>

<https://it.wikiloc.com/percorsi-cammino/balestrate-mare-spiaggia-e-bosco-171734222>

Promenade and Beaches:

- Balestrate has one main beach: the west side beach: <https://share.google/Xq7GjohyXB1TOGZEM>. There are parts of the beach where you can sit for free with your own equipment and other parts of the beach where you can sit in beach bars.
- There isn't a long specialised “promenade” like big resorts, but the main coastal road plus the beach front offer a nice walk, especially for evening strolls.
- For fewer stairs and easier access: choose beach sections close to town centre which are flatter and more accessible

Must-Try Local Foods:

- Try the classic Sicilian dish Pasta alla Norma – pasta with eggplant, tomato, ricotta salata.
- Arancini – fried stuffed rice balls, common and delicious in Sicily.
- Gelato(Ice cream) in a brioche (“brioche con gelato”) at a local café – especially nice in the town centre near Via Madonna del Ponte:

Recommended bars:

- Bar del Golfo, <https://share.google/Z6lfE0fw4VXhM5xcD>

Via Madonna del Ponte, 113, 90041 Balestrate PA

- Cavalluccio Marino-Gelateria naturale

Via Madonna del Ponte, 5, 90041 Balestrate PA

<https://share.google/Z6lfE0fw4VXhM5xcD>

Evening Entertainment:

- As the sun goes down, wander the town centre and beach front cafés for a relaxed drink as the waves lap nearby. We recommend:
 - Fish Restaurant and coacktyail bar on the beach " Marrifriscu"
<https://www.marrifriscu.com/>
 - In the in the village, near the viewpoint, Giovanni's restaurant:
<https://share.google/iWvkP6hIxzalyP2A>
- Look out for bars along the main street and near the marina where you can hear live music or enjoy a seaside view.
- For a slightly livelier night, head toward the beach zone or port area where locals and visitors mix.

Natural Beauty and Activities:

- Watch the **sunset** over the sea – from the beach or the small “balcony” viewpoint on Via della Segesta near town.



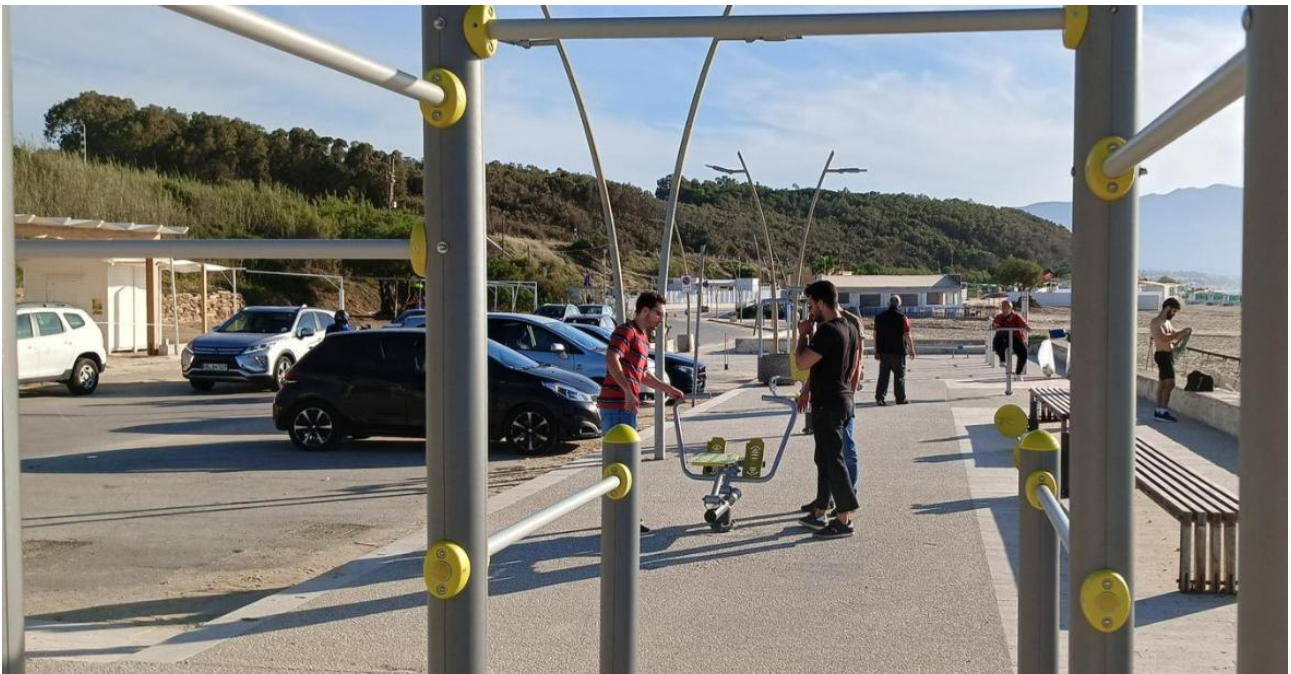
- For nature and physical activity: walk or hike one of the coastal trails around Balestrate. Some routes are moderate and give great views of the sea and countryside.
- Water-sports: you can try paddle-boarding or SUP (surfing with paddle) in the clear coastal waters around Balestrate for some active fun.



- Visit the beach of Balestrate and take a photo in the “LOVE” sign.



- Then walk a few meters and find yourself at an outside gym where you can exercise for free!



Day Trips from Balestrate

1. Riserva Naturale dello Zingaro (Zingaro Nature Reserve)





- Depart from Balestrate for a boat or coastal trail excursion along Zingaro. [GetYourGuide+1](#)
 - Hidden bays, snorkeling opportunities, dramatic scenery. [summerinitaly.com+1](#)
 - Ideal for you (you like sports + nature) — you can hike, swim, explore caves.
 - **Tip:** bring good shoes for walking & swim gear; start early to avoid midday heat.
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2. Erice & Trapani (Medieval hill-town + coastal city)





- From Balestrate you can drive up to Erice for panoramic mountain-town views; then drop down to Trapani for the coast. The region is mentioned as a possible excursion base from Balestrate.
- Good mix: culture, hiking (Erice), sea breeze (Trapani).
- **Tip:** In Erice check viewpoints, wear layers (mountain can be cooler). In Trapani you can stroll by the sea and enjoy seafood.

3. Castellammare del Golfo & nearby beaches





- Very close to Balestrate (on the same golf “Golfo di Castellammare”) so less driving.
- You can combine some beach time + walking around the harbour + maybe a boat rental.
- **Tip:** Great for a more relaxed day with optional adventure (snorkel or kayak).

4. Olive Grove / Wine & Olive-Oil Tasting near Balestrate



- If you want something lighter but still immersive, there are tours where you visit olive groves, taste wine & oil near Balestrate.
- Great for mixing nature + delicious local food/drink.
- **Tip:** book ahead, enjoy the countryside slower pace.

5. Boat Trip & Snorkel along the Coast



- Using companies like Levante Boat Tours you can do 2-7 hour boat trips with swimming & snorkelling from Balestrate.
- Perfect for an active day on the water.
- **Tip:** Bring snorkel gear (or rent), sunscreen, water, maybe a light jacket for wind on boat.

Weather Forecast

From November to March, Balestrate enjoys mild and pleasant weather, making it a great winter escape. Daytime temperatures typically range from 14°C to 26°C while nighttime temperatures drop to around 10-18°C. Sunshine is abundant, but there may be occasional cloudy days. From May to September, the temperature can climb as high as 45°C during the day! Sun protection and hat are necessary during these months.



Contact info

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Do not forget!

We remind you of a few must-haves you should not forget when packing your suitcase when traveling to Balestrate:

- All documentation! ID/Passport, Erasmus+ documents.
- European Health Insurance Card
- Swimsuit, towel and flip-flops (optional in summer).

We hope that you enjoy your learning experience in Balestrate!