Introduction to Erice with photos by Martin U. Schmidt 3 June, 2011
Monte San Giuliano (Mount of Erice), 751 m
Erice: A brief history

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- Since about 4000 BC: Elymic people
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Venus fountain
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- Roman (still temple of love)
- Byzantine
- Arab time (9th - 11th century) (Couscous)
- Norman time (11th - 13th century)

Venus fountain
Castle from the Norman time (12th-13th century)
Castle from the Norman time (12th-13th century)
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Tower
Built as observation tower, 1312
(Later: prison)

Duomo, "Chiesa Regia Madrice" (1314)
Duomo, "Chiesa Regia Madrice" (1314)
Interior (1850)
Duomo, "Chiesa Regia Madrice" (1314)
Piazza Umberto I, with Town hall
CaCO$_3$ (marble)
Traces of carriage wheels

CaCO₃ (limestone)
During centuries Erice lived from:
- Churches
- Monasteries
- Pilgrims
- Agriculture
Erice after 1945:
- Less pilgrims
- Many churches and monasteries out of use
- People moved away. Town went down
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Meetings on subnuclear physics organized by Antonino Zichichi
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Meetings on subnuclear physics organized by Antonino Zichichi

Since 1974:
Courses on Crystallography organized by Ludovico Riva di Sanseverino
Erice today

- Several churches and monasteries rebuilt to lecture halls, student rooms etc.
- Scientific courses round the year
- Town lives from tourism and science.
- Today about 2 000 inhabitants
- Courses on crystallography organized by Paola Spadon and her team
Paola (Last night at 0:15)
San Rocco
- 15th century: Built as church
- 17th century: Completely rebuilt to a monastery
- Today: Centre for Scientific Culture "Ettore Majorana"
Ettore Majorana
1906 - 1938
Physicist from Sicilia
(Theoretical nuclear physics)
Disappeared in 1938 under mysterious circumstances
San Domenico

- 15th century: Church
- 19th century: Entrance (Renaissance)
- 1970: Rebuilt to a lecture hall
San Domenico (Rear)
Limestone quarries

San Giovanni Battista (first mentioned in 1339)

View from San Domenico
Monte Cofano (659 m)

Limestone quarries

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View from San Domenico
Monte Cofano (659 m)
(Real photo!)
"Spanish Quarter"

(Built for Spanish soldiers in the 17th century)
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Weather in Erice (sometimes)
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Some additional romantic pictures ...
Torretto Pepoli (Romantic castle, 19th century)
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Trapani
(80 000 inhabitants)
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(80 000 inhabitants)
Salt works (Saline)
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Excursion to Mozia on Monday
Mozia (Phoenician town 6th - 4th century b.c.)
Selinunte (Big Greek town, 6th - 3rd century B.C.)
Excursion on Thursday
Segesta (Elymic town, 6th - 4th century b.c.)

Excursion on Thursday
Segesta Temple
Excursion on Thursday
The two most important places for you:

1. San Domenico Lecture Hall
The two most important places for you:

2. Marsala Lecture Hall
Sources of Photos:

Town wall: fr.academic.ru/pictures/frwiki/69/Erice_mura.jpg

Mozia: http://www.freevax.it/ITINERARI/Sicilia/02/mothia%20(22).JPG

Saline:
http://www.freevax.it/ITINERARI/Sicilia/02/mothia%20(3).JPG

Old painting with town wall: Painting in the town hall in Palermo. Photo by M. Schmidt