Sicily, Italy Fact File

Human Geography

Sicily is an island off the coast of Italy.



Population

The population of Sicily is 5.1 million.

Area

Sicily covers an area of 25,711 km^2.

Language

The native language spoken is Sicilian which is a type of Italian. Italian is Sicily's official language.

Cities

The largest city in Sicily is Palermo with a population of 675,000. Other large cities include Catania, Syracuse and Messina.



Religion

The main religion in Sicily is Roman Catholicism.

Natural resources

The main natural resources of Sicily are sulfur, salt, natural gas and petroleum.

Exports

Sicily exports fruits and vegetables, sulfur, wine, salt, oil and fish.



Land Mark

Sicily has many famous castles, temples and cathedrals. The Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples) has many surviving ancient Greek temples, including the Temple of Concordia.

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Rivers

The three largest rivers in Sicily are the Salso (144km), The Simeto (113km) and the Belice (107km).

Relief

Sicily is mostly hilly with many mountain ranges. The highest point is Mount Etna (3,329m) which is the largest active volcano in Europe!



Climate

Sicily has a Mediterranean climate with mild wet winters and dry hot summers.

Temperature

Average Temperatures are 15°C in January and 30°C in July.

Rainfall

Sicily gets 61.5 cm of rain in one year. There is very little rain in summer.

Snow

Snow is rare apart from the summit of Mount Etna, which is usually snow-capped from October to May.

Biome

Sicily has a Mediterranean biome. This means that most of the plants are small bushes and shrubs that can survive the hot, dry summers.

Beaches

Sicily is an island and has many beautiful beaches including Mondello Beach and Calamosche.



Natural Hazards

Sicily has earthquakes. Some are very powerful and can cause quite a lot of damage!

Volcanoes – Mount Etna is the highest volcano in Europe. It is one of the most active volcanoes in the world.

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