Historical and cultural ITINERARY

1) Piazza Duomo

The Piazza Duomo has always been the main square of the city and is overlooked by important baroque monuments such as the Cathedral and the Campanile. Behind the Cathedral, to the right, is the Baptistry, and a short distance away, to the left, is the Duomo museum. The square is overlooked by the Campanile and the Duomo, both of which were built between the 11th and 13th centuries.

2) La Cattedrale

Founded on the remains of an ancient Roman Baths between 1088 and 1095 during the Norman conquest, the Cathedral has the characteristics of an ecclesiastical basilica with three naves separated by pillars, with a high dome. The current structure was completed in 1486 after the destructive 1695 earthquake. The remaining sections of the structure date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The 18th-century Neoclassical façade was designed by Giuseppe Antonio Amato.

3) Palazzo Ducale (Palace of Culture)

Evidence of late medieval and Renaissance architecture, the palace owes its name to the Palatine family, one of the most eminent in Catania, who donated it to the religious and became part of the Monastery of St. Paolino. It was restored by Sandro Crescitelli from 1736 and was restored in 1750 by bishop Galante. The architect Giovanni Battista Vaccarelli. On the right side of the main St. Agatha’s Chapel, where the relics of our lady of Mount Carmel are conserved, the elevator has been placed.

4) Palazzo degli Elefanti

To the east of the Cathedral, a incident occurred during the 1959 earthquake, proportional to the number of its columns. The building was named for its massive sculptures, which were originally part of the Piazza Catania, the largest open space in Catania.

5) Fontana dell’Ammiraglio

The Corallo marble fountain created by the Neapolitan sculptor Tito Angelini in 1667 is a tribute to the River Ammann, represented by a young man holding a Corinthian column from which a gold-dyed, a wide-mouthed vase, watered by the immortals of Catania as a sheen. “From here, which feeds the fountain the popular name of ‘acqua amirabile’.

6) Palazzo dei Civetta

The Palazzo dei Civetta, today's Palazzo Civetta, was rebuilt after the 1962 earthquake and has maintained its original structure since 2010. The building is located in the Piazza del Duomo and is used as offices by the city.

7) Porta Uzeda

Entrance to the Spanish viceregal Francisco Pizarro, duke of Uzeda, it was opened in 1686 in a segment of a wall of the middle-16th century Charles V’s walls, overlooking the sea, called Porta grande della Marina (Door of the Sea) as well.

8) Terme Archeologiche

The Archeological Baths are one of the most significant buildings of the old Roman imperial period in Catania and are situated underground the floor of the Cathedral. You can also get from the piazza by the exit of the Baptistry. The baths were built in the 1st century B.C. and were extended in the 2nd century A.D.

9) Salo di Santa Agata

The church, which faces the northern façade of the cathedral, was destroyed by the earthquake of 1733-1737. The architect was Giovanni Battista Vaccarelli, who worked on this structure and two others in the 18th century. The church was then restored and opened to the public in 1739.

10) Palazzo Biscari

At the end of the eighteenth century, when the last earthquake, the nobility family of the Biscari prince wanted to build a theater of Charles V’s old walls on the project of architect Antonio di Bartolomeo. The building was then restored and opened to the public in 1739.