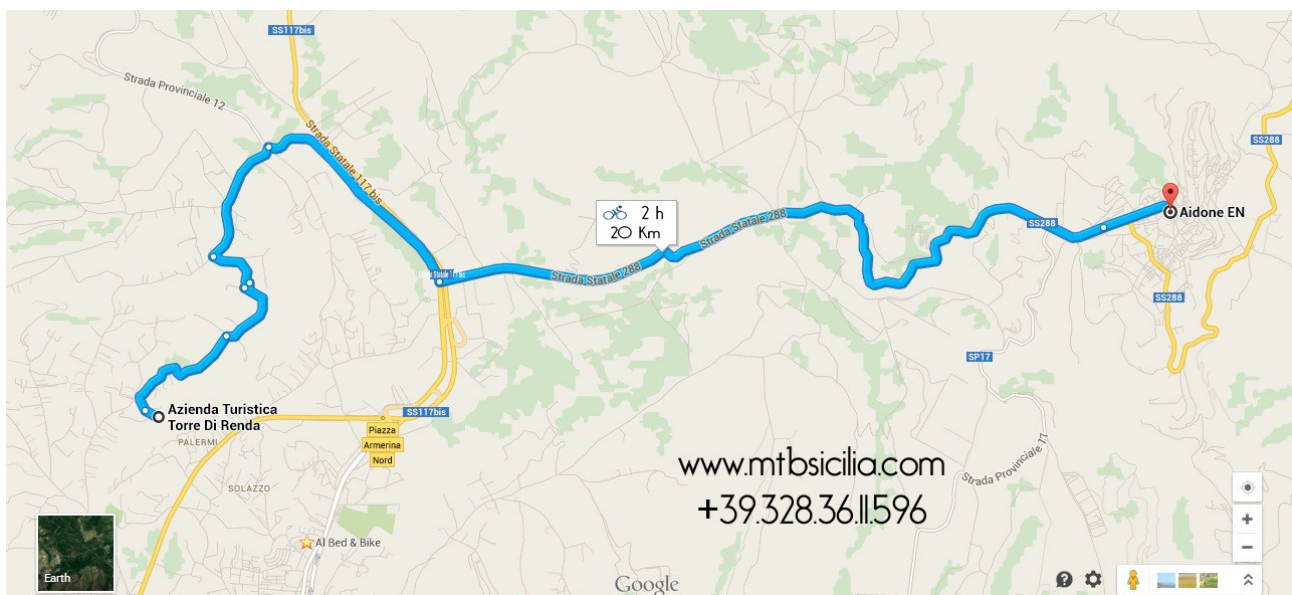


The museum of Aidone

The museum is housed in the ex Monastery of the Capuchins, built between 1611 and 1613 when it was administered by Father Gregorio da Castrogiovanni. The original architectural structure, including the church dedicated to St. Francis was restored in 1984, when the museum was established. You enter the museum through the church of St. Francis, whose aisle is partly used as a congress hall. From here, following the stairs you reach the crypt, whose walls are entirely covered by tomb niches.

The museum illustrates the history of Morgantina, from the Bronze Age to the Republican Roman period. The site of Morgantina was already inhabited in the prehistory. The oldest ruins which have been found up to now are on the hill of the Cittadella and are dated back to the 13th c. BC. According to the historical data, during this period the central part of Sicily was occupied by the Morgets, a people coming from the mainland, who probably named Morgantina. The Calcidian colony arrived on the same hill from the valley of Leontinoi and founded its urban settlement. In 459 BC the settlement was besieged and destroyed by the Siculians led by Ducezius. The new town was founded in the near Serra Orlando in around the second half of 5th c. BC, with the orthogonal layout which was used in the newer Greek towns, whose evidences are now very few. The period we are more aware of starts from the 4th c. BC. The town enjoyed a period of great prosperity in the 3rd c., especially during the kingdom of Iero, which is proved by the ruins of the monumental buildings.

The agorà, which was rebuilt after being destroyed in 211 BC, and the existence of buildings dated up to 50 BC, testify the Roman phase of the town which later, in the Roman-imperial period, was completely abandoned. The collections. The materials exhibited come from excavations made by the American Mission of Princeton and Virginia Universities and by the Superintendency of Siracusa, Agrigento and Enna since the 50s. The arrangement follows both chronological and thematical criteria. The exhibition is supported by maps and explanatory panels.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Difficolty – Medium

Km 20

Travel time 2 h