



Culturforum

LINGUA E CULTURA ITALIANA

Italian Language Courses in Cefalù Sicily



Language courses
Cultural seminars
Free time activities
Excursions
Accommodation

www.culturforum.it

...more than a language school

Culturforum is a linguistic and cultural institute which, since 2000, has been organising Italian Language and Culture courses in a fascinating seaside town on the Mediterranean: the sun, the crystalline sea, the unspoilt natural environment, the artistic beauties, and the warmth of the people make Cefalù the ideal place to combine learning Italian and experiencing a slice of Italian life with a cultural and stimulating holiday.

Professionalism combined with personal attention and flexibility are basic principles at Culturforum.

Our students, of great diversity of age, profession, and nationality, will be given a warm welcome and will find an informal atmosphere which will turn the study of the Italian language into an enjoyable experience.

At Culturforum you will find a team of friendly professionals, always ready and willing to help you learn our language and discover our historically rich culture and the traditions and hidden charms of our beautiful land, because what we set our heart on is to make your stay in Cefalù a unique and memorable holiday.



WHERE WE ARE

Cefalù is situated on the northern coast of Sicily, the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean Sea, and the southernmost region in Italy. The school is located on the first floor of a historic building in Cefalù's main street, the Corso Ruggero, close to the "Piazza Duomo" (Cathedral Square) in the very heart of the medieval town, where the most attractive cafés, bars, pubs, restaurants, and shops are to be found.



Cefalù

nature and art in harmony

A small medieval town with a typical Mediterranean atmosphere and a hint of Arabian mystery, Cefalù is the most exciting and charming resort in western Sicily.

Cefalù enchants visitors with its warm bright colours and its magnificent setting: long stretches of golden sand, beautiful small coves, creeks and beaches, sheer rocky cliffs which descend to the sea, clear blue waters, green wooded mountains in the background. Nature's wonders are counterbalanced by man's creations the most impressive of which is the Arabo-Norman cathedral located in the heart of the town.

It is this perfect and harmonious synthesis between nature and art which makes Cefalù a truly unique spot.

Spend the day strolling along the tiny alleys of the medieval town centre. Here you can experience the pulse of everyday life.

In the fish restaurants along the promenade or in the small trattorias hidden away in the alleys and courtyards you will discover Sicilian cuisine, which mirrors the history of the island and the creative *joie de vivre* of its people.

Deep in the island's mountainous interior is the lush Madonie National Park, which offers endless opportunities for walking and excursions. Here you can enjoy breathtaking views of Mount Etna and the Aeolian Islands and will discover small villages nestled on the mountain slopes or crowning the summits, where people still live as in times gone by.



Cefalù offers this and much more to the visitor. Come and discover it for yourself!

Sicilia

“...an indescribably beautiful country”

Whoever comes to Sicily today cannot help being enchanted by the strong contrasts and variety of its natural scenery and landscapes rich in different styles and colours. Right in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, Sicily can boast some 6000 years of history. Since pre-historic times different peoples came to Sicily attracted by its beauty, fertility and luxuriant vegetation. The island has seen many different cultures flourish on its soil, which have left behind a rich cultural, historical and artistic heritage: the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, Arabs, Swabians, French and Spaniards have all left in their wake a trail of impressive monuments, buildings and works of art which still today inspire wonder and admiration. Many of these peoples felt at home in Sicily, the land Homer described as “the wonderful island of Helios” the God of the Sun, the dream land of the ancients where “everything grew without being sown”. It was a supremely desirable land, an exceptional crossroad of history where different races and civilisations merged. Travelling across Sicily, you can discover and enjoy the history, myths and legends of an ancient civilisation, of a land still today swinging between East and West, between Europe and Africa.





Culturforum

LINGUA E CULTURA ITALIANA

Culturforum: a small quality school ITALIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL



Quality teaching in a friendly, informal, and stimulating atmosphere, professionalism combined with personal attention, courses in small groups personalized according to the needs of the participants are basic principles at Culturforum. In our language courses in small groups we always try to combine professionalism with liveliness, method with lightness of touch, efficacy with flexibility so that everyone can feel at ease and participate actively to the courses and learn to express correctly and effectively and be able to interact with Italians in every type of communication and cultural context. All of our teachers are university graduates or qualified in the teaching of Italian as L2, and have several years experience. Through lively and challenging lessons it is teacher's aim that students become familiar with the language, learn to communicate fluently and achieve their personal objectives, whether they learn Italian for their job, for interest's sake, or for travel in the

"bel paese".

A series of seminars and a rich and varied programme of free time will help you to deepen your knowledge and further your experience of the Italian reality.

METHOD

The organization of our language courses is based on the development of the four basic skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, as suggested by the Council of Europe in the **Common European Framework of Reference** which describes the levels of teaching and learning a foreign language in the EU countries. Particular emphasis is placed on improving listening and speaking skills, developing vocabulary and functional language so that, outside the classroom, you will be able to communicate in many different situations and practise your Italian with Italian people. We put emphasis on the use of authentic and updated learning materials relating to the individual needs of each learner in order to make the study of the Italian language a stimulating and enjoyable experience; while also providing a good grounding in grammar we focus mainly on a more practical use of the language to teach students true communication skills. The teaching material is constantly kept up-to-date and matched with the practical needs of the various groups.



COURSES

Our main aim when planning the courses is our students' satisfaction and their maximum progress. This is the reason why we prefer a flexible class design which enables us to meet more effectively the needs and requirements of the diverse groups and of the individual in a group.

Classes are held in the mornings from Monday to Friday. The afternoons are free for students to take part in free time activities.

Classes are small with 4/5 students on average, and a maximum of 8. This allows the teacher to monitor participants with particular care, providing an active participation in the learning process and the ideal opportunity to gain confidence in speaking the language. The school provides all teaching levels from absolute beginners to upper advanced.

At the end of the course students receive a Certificate of Attendance.

<p>Standard Course</p>	<p>The standard course is suitable for students who wish to improve their overall level of Italian, practising the four basic skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as widen their vocabulary and their understanding of grammar rules. Particular emphasis is placed on the spoken language to cover a wide range of day-to-day communicative situations.</p> <p>The standard course consists of 20 hrs of lessons per week, a study hour being of 60 minutes duration.</p>
<p>Combined Course</p>	<p>The combined course, with 5 hours of extra one-to-one tuition combined with the standard course allows the student to have his/her individual teacher who can respond to particular needs and interests.</p> <p>You can choose to deepen your understanding of the rules of grammar as well as work further on vocabulary, select some topics for discussion or simply to chat about various things with your teacher so as to become even more familiar with everyday spoken language.</p>
<p>Intensive course</p>	<p>Two hours of individual tuition along with the standard course will help the most exigent among our students to gain the maximum benefit from their study-holiday in Italy.</p> <p>The two hours of individual tuition are devoted in turn to grammar and conversation, or to developing particular skills, such as reading and writing.</p> <p>Flexible design to meet the particular requests of each participant.</p>
<p>Italian for Special Purposes</p>	<p>This course is intended for professionals who already have a basic knowledge of the language and want to improve both their social Italian and the language they need for their professional life. The course is tailor-made to respond to the students' individual needs.</p> <p>This combined course comprises attendance of the standard course plus two extra hours of specialist teaching.</p> <p>Italian for business Italian for tourism Italian for medicine Italian for flight assistants</p>
<p>One-to-one tuition</p>	<p>One-to-one tuition is tailored to suit your specific requirements.</p> <p>Course topics and content are decided directly with the teacher who will help you identify your needs and meet your objectives.</p> <p>Number of study hours, length of course and the place to practise are flexible.</p>
<p>Learning Duo</p>	<p>This course is for students who wish to attend an intensive Italian course and need rapid progress through tailored-made lessons yet in a small group. Timetable and content are extremely flexible to meet the students' requirements and needs.</p> <p>The lesson must be booked by two people at the same time.</p>
<p>io <> tu</p>	<p>io <> tu is a simple but extremely effective method, a fast and pleasant way to learn or improve a foreign language through exchange: "I will help you learn my language and you will teach me yours". The school organises a meeting between our foreign students and the Italian students attending our foreign language courses. It is a modern way of learning that will give you the opportunity to make new friends with whom you can keep in touch even after leaving our town.</p>

SEMINARS

The school offers a series of seminars which can be combined with your language course, but can also be booked independently. The goal of these seminars is not only the study of the language but also an in- depth discussion of topics relating to diverse aspects of Italian and Sicilian life and culture. We offer a great variety of topics from the History of Sicily, or Italy, History of the Italian language, History of Art to more actual themes like the mafia.



Topic of the seminars

Speaking without words: Italian 'sign language' and gestures

The pursuit of perfection: Greek Art

Two different worlds combined:Arabo-norman Art

The story of matter and colour: the mosaic

Cefalù: from origins to the Grand Tour

Italians: a nation of saints, sailors and... singers the Italian language through songs

I know nothing, I saw nothing, I don't want to know anything: Let's talk about the mafia

Island of contrasts: History of Sicily from ancient to modern times

History of Italy from the unification to the present day

History of Italian post-war literature

History of the Italian Language

Lets read some Italian literature together



FREE TIME

Learning a language should not be confined to time spent at school: we worked out a lively and varied social programme offering a range of activities and excursions that will allow you to discover the soul of Sicily and give you a real understanding of our people and country. The excursions offered will take you off the beaten track, to allow you to admire the artistic treasures and the imposing monuments yet showing you also the controversial aspects less accessible to tourists, along with the wild natural sceneries of the island.

Cefalù is located right in the middle of the northern coast of Sicily. It is, therefore, an ideal departure point for those who, as well as attending an Italian course, would like to visit the most famous sites on the island eg. Etna, Taormina, Agrigento, the Eolian islands.



Free time programme

- **La città di Ruggero:** a walk around the town to find out the history of Cefalù, its monuments and traditions and discover its characteristic hidden corners
- **Sicilia antica :** visits to important Greek-Roman and other archeological sites
- **Fra passato e presente:** Guided visits to towns and places of artistic and cultural interest
- **Cinema ed altro:** Watch an Italian video or film once a week at school
- **Mille scatti:** photography course with a professional photographer
- **Con le mani:** make and decorate your own ceramic piece with professional instruction. Ceramics course
- **Non solo mare:** Away from the hustle and bustle: excursions and trekking to the Madonie Mountain Park
- **A cavallo:** horse riding across the Nature Reserve of the Madonie Park
- **In bici.** A bike ramble around Cefalù
- **Sapori di..vini:** Afternoon together to visit a **wine cellar** and sample local wines and other Sicilian products
- **Buon appetito:** let's prepare some typical Sicilian dishes and have dinner together.
- **Nell'azzurro:** A boat trip along the beautiful coastline discovering bays, small beaches and coves.
- **Serata in mare:** Let's go fishing on a local fishing boat with dinner on board based on...fish (the one you have caught!).
- **Magiche isole:** A trip on a sailboat to the Aeolian islands (from May to October only).

And if you are sporty type you can practise your favourite sport or even take up a new one in Cefalù. We can help you arrange the following sporting activities: tennis, basketball, yoga, scuba diving, horse-back riding, cycling and mountain biking.



ACCOMODATION

Cefalù is the most famous seaside resort on the northern coast of Sicily. With an excellent infrastructure and a wide range of tourist and leisure facilities it is a lovely place to spend a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. The town offers different types of accommodation: you can choose to spend your holiday in comfortable hotels by the sea, live in the old town centre or experience a home stay sharing your time with friendly Sicilian people.

Apartments in the old town centre

Located in the picturesque alleys and courtyards of the old town centre, a few steps from the wonderful beach, all apartments are comfortably furnished and supplied with all amenities. Most apartments have a balcony with a sea view, and some have a small terrace overlooking the roofs of the medieval town and the sea.

You can share your apartment with other students or if you wish a space of your own you can choose either a simple and convenient studio or a more spacious and comfortable apartment.

We can also supply houses and villas with a garden in the neighbourhood or by the sea, on request. All apartments are regularly inspected by our staff so as to guarantee a high standard of comfort, cleanliness and a pleasant environment.

Living with local people

Living with Italians offers a direct insight into Sicilian life and provides the opportunity to share it. It is also the best way to continually practise the language.

Our hosts are not only families but also single men or women who let rooms in their apartment or house.

Two students may also share a room if they book at the same time.

Breakfast is included in the price; other meals are by arrangement with the host family.

We can pay regard to certain needs like pet allergies or non-smokers.



Hotel and B&B

Cefalù has a very wide variety of hotels of various categories and several B&B's located in the town centre. If you wish this kind of accommodation, contact us, we will find the room which best suits your requirements.

ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER

The easiest and quickest way to get to Sicily is certainly by air. In Sicily there are two international airports, Palermo-Punta Raisi and Catania-Fontana Rossa. Both airports have direct flights from all over Europe. Some low cost companies fly now to Trapani-Birgi as well.

You can get to Palermo also by ship from either Genova, Civitavecchia or Napoli.

Whatever way you choose to get to Sicily and whatever the arrival time you will be welcomed by one of the school's representatives and taken to Cefalù and your accommodation.



How to enrol

To enrol in a course at Culturforum, please:

- choose a course from the course list
- add a seminar, if you wish
- choose your accommodation
- read the school's terms and conditions carefully
- complete the enrolment form as accurately as possible

You may send the enrolment form to our postal address or fax it.

You can also enrol online, if you prefer. Complete the form that you will find on our website: www.culturforum.it

If you need additional information or have any special requirements, contact us. We are pleased to answer all of your questions.

Our office hours: **Monday – Friday 9:00-13:30 / 15:00-18:00**



Corso Ruggero, 55 - 90015 Cefalù - Italia
Telefono/Fax: +39 0921 923 998 / +39 0921 923146
Mobile: +39 3803566581 / +39 3292285421
skype: culturforum
staff@culturforum.it

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The course fees include: placement test, tuition, use of school library, free internet access, some social activities, the teaching material (except the course book, which will be available for the students' use but must be returned at the end of the course), certificate of attendance.
- All bookings made are accepted on written confirmation of the booking by Culturforum and definitely confirmed after receiving the requested deposit.
- The school must be informed as soon as possible in case of cancellation. If you cancel at least 30 days before the beginning of the course we will retain 50% of the amount paid on account. If you cancel within 30 days of the beginning of the course you could be charged up to the full amount of the deposit paid on account.
- Each hour of lesson runs for 60 minutes.
- Class sizes range to a maximum of 8 students.
- Group courses run for 4 hours a day for a total of 20 hrs per week. In groups smaller than five students the hours will be reduced to 15hrs a week; with one student per class they will be reduced to 10hrs a week.
- Group courses include a 20 minute break.
- Non attendance at courses, seminars or classes gives no right of refund or price reduction. There will be no refunds or reduction or extensions for late arrival, failure to arrive, early departure, or early dismissal.
- Lessons start at 9:00 am. If necessary the beginning could be postponed at the school's sole discretion.
- Individual tuition takes place in the morning hours in so far as group classes allow. Otherwise it will be postponed to the afternoon. Seminars run during the afternoon hours.
- Individual lessons or seminars cancelled with a minimum of 24 hours' notice will be rescheduled. In all other circumstances, cancelled lessons will be lost.
- Culturforum reserve the right to alter course programme, timetables, location or to substitute teachers at its sole discretion. It reserves also the right to alter course fees or other charges, with due notice to the clients, at any time prior to their arrival. Such alteration may become necessary in the event of changes to costs, due to factors beyond our control.
- The school is closed on the following public holidays: 1st January / 6th January / Easter Monday / 25th April / 1st May / 15th August / 8th December / 25th December / 26th December. There is no reduction in the course fees if a course includes a public holiday. Lessons will be made up only if feasible, and at the sole discretion of the school.
- All the free time activities are taken at the students' own risk. The school will not be liable for damage, or injury to persons which occur when a free time activity or excursion, if directly organised by the school or its partners, is undertaken.
- In arranging accommodation Culturforum is acting as the supplier's agent and thereafter as an intermediary between the student and the owner of the apartment. In case of problems we will be happy to give you all the necessary support.
- When selecting accommodation for our students, we search as far as possible for suitable standards but given the limited size of the small streets and the liveliness of the city and considering that for several hours of day and night, the historic centre is open to traffic, it isn't always possible to guarantee peace and quiet.
- The accommodation offered consists of private houses whose furniture and lay-out reflect the owner's personal taste. In no respect were they built with tourism in mind. While living in them, students get some idea of Sicilian living standards and become more involved in the atmosphere and character of Sicilian life.
- Most accommodation has no central heating but electrical air conditioners, electric or gas heaters. When these are used, the cost must be paid for as an extra.
- We reserve the right to change the accommodation for one of the same standard as the one booked, if this has to be done for reasons beyond our control.
- The possibility of changing accommodation is at the school's sole discretion, and will be decided case by case after reviewing each request. We reserve the right not to refund accommodation charges if you are not satisfied with the accommodation we offer.
- Culturforum acts as an introducing agent between students and various third party providers (providers of accommodation, transport services, sporting and leisure activities etc.). Accordingly, the school will not be liable in any way whatsoever to any student for any cost, claim, loss, damage or expenses, however arising, suffered by a student as a consequence of any services provided by any third parties. The student must address any complaints or claims to the provider of the service in question.
- Clients who have booked an airport transfer, must inform the school immediately of any variation of the arrival time. In case of severe delays due to strikes or any other reason beyond a student's control, if you give notice of the delay at the latest 2 hours before the scheduled arrival, the transfer will be rearranged. If you fail to inform us, the service must be paid for even if it is not supplied.
- Culturforum is not liable for delays due to factors beyond our control which may cause you to miss your flight.
- All students are strongly advised to take out personal, medical, and property insurance before travelling abroad. Participants from EU countries should obtain form E 111 from their local Social Welfare Office. Culturforum, its staff, representatives, and partners will not be liable for any loss, damages, or injuries to persons, personal effects or properties however caused. It is the student's responsibility to take out insurance against all such risks. This means that the students are fully responsible for anything that may occur during courses or activities organized by Culturforum either inside or outside the school premises. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they have adequate insurance coverage.
- We reserve the right to use students' images and comments for advertising purposes.
- These terms are regulated by Italian law and are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Termini Imerese, section of Cefalù.
- According to Italian Law 675/96, your personal details will be stored on our database and only processed for internal use. Your details will never be given to third parties.
- By sending the enrolment form the student agrees to and accepts the school's terms and conditions.



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