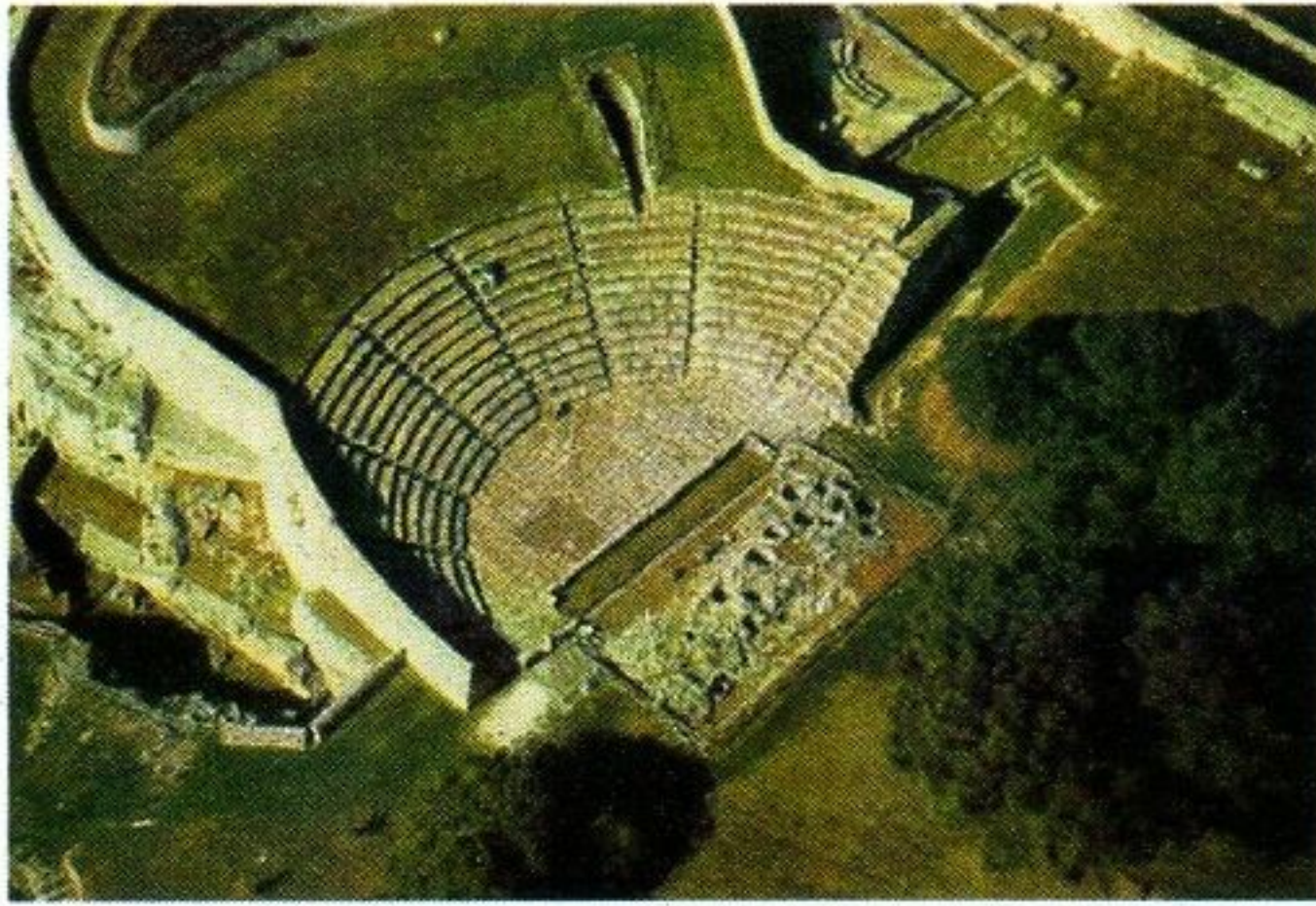


# ETNO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL ITINERARY

## PALAZZOLO A.



Departure from Syracuse

## BUSCEMI



## BUCCHERI



*Arrival in Palazzolo Acreide. The town rises on hills overlooking a large part of the South-East of Sicily down to the coast. The area was inhabited since prehistoric times and around 664-663 B.C., Corinthian settlers founded Akrai which was politically subordinated to Siracusa, but had administrative autonomy. Together with Kasmenai first, and then also with Kamarina, it was one of the most important geopolitical and military strategic places to control the territory of Siracusa. The ancient city was lost for centuries and the ruins were first identified during the sixteenth century and then brought to light in the early nineteenth century. Currently it is possible to visit these ruins in the archeological area, Parco Archeologico di Akrai, with the theatre, the latomie, the bouleuterion the meeting place for the senate, the agora and Aphrodite's temple. The 1963 earthquake destroyed the medieval town, including the Norman castle that was in the area which is still called Castelvecchio. Palazzolo Acreide was completely destroyed and then rebuilt in the same location in the baroque style that changed the face of the South-East of Sicily. The beauty of the baroque architecture characterises the city centre which is now a World Heritage site. Of particular interest the cathedral of Saint Niccolo, the church of Saint Paul, the church of Saint Sebastian, Palazzo Zocco and Palazzo Judica Cafici*

*Arrival in Buscemi. The historical records about this small town go back to the Arab domination referring to the construction of a fortification. The town's old Arab name Qal'at Abi Samah was successively changed to Buxema, Bussema and its present name. Buscemi accommodates an interesting and unusual museum known as I Luoghi del Lavoro Contadino, whose rooms are scattered throughout the town centre. These eight rooms provide a picture of the life and work of the Iblean people. They include the blacksmith's shop, the oil-mill (where scenes of Lavia's La Lupa were filmed), a farmer's and a laborer's house, the shoemaker's and the carpenter's shops, the millstone (where the pressing of grape took place) and, next to this, a room accommodating a small film-library. There visitors can enjoy the projection of a short film on the activities of the past set into the different rooms of the museum. Buscemi's baroque monuments include the Chiesa Madre, with its fine façade, the Chiesa di S. Antonio da Padova and the Chiesa di S. Sebastiano;*

*Arrival in Buccheri, tasting local products in the renowned restaurant "The Old Walls".*

*Free tour of the mountain village. The small town Buccheri is worth a visit, especially because of its two baroque churches. The Chiesa della Maddalena was built in 1709 and designed by Michelangelo di Giacomo. The three-nave pillar basilica has richly ornamented façades and a wide belfry. A high staircase leads up to the second Baroque church in the city, the church of St. Anthony Abbate. Its three-story façade with flanking columns is an eye-catcher.*

Return to Syracuse