

Le Gole dell'Alcantara - The Alcantara Gorge

The **Gole dell'Alcantara** are found in the **Valle dell'Alcantara** in **Sicily**. They are gorges with walls as high as 25 meters and down to 2 meters wide at the narrowest channels, opening up to 4-5 meters at the wider points; the natural canyon, contrary to common believe, has not been eroded by water over the millenia. The most accredited and cited hypothesis ties the formation to a seismic activity that, with its trembling activity literally split an old lava flow in two (flow attributed to **Etna**), allowing water from the nearby rivers to seep in and establish a watercourse inside it. This fact is proved given that the structure of the walls (in some points, similar to "stacks of wood" and in others to "organ pipes") is continuous and angular.

The Alcantara river runs amongst the lava rocks that form its unique characteristic riverbed.

In the territory of the town of **Motta Camastra**, in the locality of **Fondaco Motta**, one can find the most imposing and famous extent of the gorge of the entire Alcantara feature, about 6 km long but highly accessible in the initial 3km run.

