

...A walking tour of the Alcantara River along the path behind the castle...

Our itinerary will begin from a little pathway in the San Francesco area of Francavilla di Sicilia which crosses cultivated fields. Within a few minutes of walking we will be immediately surrounded by nature.



After about 3/4 of a mile we will come across the old ENEL hydroelectric plant (along the river there are two other electric plants in operation). Continuing our walking tour we will discover wonderful sights and we can even wade (carefully) into the waters of the river or relax a bit while enjoying a picnic along the banks.





The Alcantara river flows out of Mt. Felcinara, 1250 meters above sea level, in the Nebrodi Mountains. It has unusual characteristics. With its incessant flow through the extraordinary valley that takes its name, the river has carved in time not only the famous Gorges of the Alcantara but also beautiful water falls and small lakes along the way. The river ends its course as it flows into the Ionian sea between Calatabiano and Giardini-Naxos. The Alcantara was called "Akesines" by Thucydides; the Romans called it "Assinos;" the Normans called it "Cantera," which was probably derived from the name "Al Quantarah" used during the Arab domination. The word means "the Bridge" and it refers to the ruins of a bridge the Romans had built so that their imperial legions could cross the river. To safeguard and preserve it, the Alcantara River Park has been created involving all the towns along the rivers' course. The offices are located in Francavilla di Sicilia.

