

# Places of interest in Salerno

## **The Medieval Castle “Arechi Castle”**

Loc. Croce – Phone +39.089.227237

The castle dominates the city of Salerno from 300 metres above sea level. Its ancient architectural features are attributed to Byzantine craftsmen of VI century A.D. The Lombard Prince Arechi II reinforced defences and fortified the castle in the VII century, giving the structure its present appearance. Its location offers an enchanting view of Salerno and its gulf.

## **The Cathedral of San Matteo and San Gregorio Magno**

Piazza Alfano I – Phone +39.089.231387

Also known as Salerno Cathedral (or Duomo), is the main church of the city of Salerno. It is considered the main tourist attraction of the city. It is dedicated to Saint Matthew, one of the four Evangelists, whose holy relics are buried inside the Cripta. The Cathedral was built at the centre of Salerno, when the city was the capital of the Principality of Salerno in Southern Italy (that stretched from the gulf of Naples to the Ionian sea). The Duomo of Salerno was founded by Robert the Guiscard and was consecrated in July 1084 by Pope Gregory VII, who had fled to Salerno to find refuge.

## **The Church of San Giorgio**

Via Duomo 19 – Phone +39.089.228918

San Giorgio is the most beautiful Baroque Church in Salerno, full of high quality frescoes.

## **The Church of San Benedetto**

Via San Benedetto

The church was originally part of the homonymous monastery, founded between the VII and IX centuries. The monastery was connected to the famous aqueduct, traces of which can still be seen today in Via Arce. Destroyed in 884 AD during a Saracen attack, the monastery was rebuilt by Abbott Angelario and in a short time became the reference point for the whole religious world of Southern Italy.

## **The Gardens of Minerva**

Via Ferrante Sanseverino 1 – Phone +39.089252423

The Minerva Garden was the first botanical garden in Europe for cultivation of plants for therapeutical use. Situated in the heart of the old town, close to the Fusandola stream and the ancient medieval walls, the garden appears as a terraced – walled orchard.

These gardens are located in the heart of the old town centre of Salerno and are walled in and terraced.

## **The Diocesan Museum of San Matteo**

Largo Plebiscito 12 – Phone +39089239126

Founded in 1935, by Bishop Arturo Capone, the Diocesan Museum of San Matteo with the Archives and the Library of the Diocese, from 1990 is located in the former Archbishop’s Seminary of Largo Plebiscito, behind the Cathedral. The valuable collection is rightly considered as an organised overview of artistic production in southern Italy from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century.