

Cefalù

Written by Administrator

Monday, 03 May 2010 15:39 - Last Updated Tuesday, 01 June 2010 15:51



Altitude: 16 m. above sea-level

Surface: 65,80 km²

Population: 13.771 (cefaludesi, cefalutani)

Neighbouring communes: Castelbuono, Gratteri, Isnello, Lascari, Pollina

Zip code: 90015

Dialling code: 0921

Kephaloidion is the Greek name of the native centre of the fifth century B.C., prosperous thanks to contacts with the peoples living in or passing in Sicily. In 254 B.C. it was taken by the Romans, becoming then Cephaloedium, with a Latin name.

Traces of Hellenistic-Roman road system are spread all over under the domination of the Western Roman Empire, the Goths and Vandals, the Eastern Empire, then the Arabs and the Normans. There are few traces left by the Byzantines and mainly in usages and customs, relating to the Arabs who conquered Cefalù in 858 (the name of the city became then Gafludi). Magnificent and monumental traces we have received from the Normans. The Great Count Roger took possession of the town in 1063 and his son, Roger II, definitively returned Cefalù to Christianity, founding the Church of St. George (1129) and later the Cathedral (1131). After Roger II, the fortunes of the centre decrease, since his heirs show a great lack of interest.

At the death of Frederick II (1250) the political situation of the city becomes very confused. Cefalù passes from a feudal Lord to another, a jumble of dates and events, until, in 1451, it is finally redeemed by the Bishop. With the advent of the Spanish Viceroy it begins a period of greater stability: from then on the city's history unfolds only through a slow series of customs, tithes, excise, confirmations of privileges, royal letters and cards.

In 1742 Consulates of Commerce are founded (France, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands). The centre then opens to Europe and begins to be a destination for travellers on the Grand Tour.

Worth visiting: Duomo, Museo Mandralisca, Lavatoio medievale, Rocca e tempio di Diana.

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<http://www.comune.cefalu.pa.it/>