

Taormina (ME), 1 August 2024 – Until 30 November, Taormina hosts the great archaeological and multimedia exhibition entitled “From Tauromenion to Tauromenium. The invisible city between history and archaeology”, scheduled at Palazzo Ciampoli. Visits every day from 10 am to 7 pm.

A great choral project of the Naxos Taormina Archaeological Park, directed by the archaeologist Gabriella Tigano, who for about two years has coordinated various working groups – scientific and technical – made up of archaeologists and officials of the Park, the Superintendency of Messina and the Universities of Messina, Palermo and Catania and an interdisciplinary team made up of architects, computer scientists, filmmakers and 3D reconstruction experts with the aim of recomposing, rereading and telling the DNA of a city with an ancient history and, due to its privileged position, always inhabited.

At Palazzo Ciampoli there are exhibits from the Park’s warehouses (capitals, epigraphs, statues) and others from more recent discoveries, known to scholars but never exhibited (such as some tanagrines found in the cistern of the Timeo hotel and finds from excavations at Villa San Pancrazio, the former Convent of San Domenico and other private properties). And also heads, bas-reliefs and inscriptions, finds already known and normally exhibited in the Antiquarium of the Theater here framed in the thematic and historical context.

For the occasion, eagerly awaited by the local community, the famous “Priestess of Isis” has returned to Taormina, a marble statue found in 1867 near the church of San Pancrazio – anciently the place of worship of Isis and Serapis – and since 1868 transferred to the Salinas Museum in Palermo, the first archaeological museum in Sicily. The statue has been absent from Taormina since 2001, when it was exhibited in the exhibition organized by the Superintendence of Messina with the Municipality of Taormina and set up in the spaces of Badia Vecchia. Other loans come from the Superintendence of Palermo and the Archiepiscopal Seminary of Palermo (formerly the Alliata di Villafranca collection).

“Taormina,” comments the director of the Park, Gabriella Tigano, “is a site with a continuous life, so its urban history, over a period of about 2,500 years, becomes for us scholars a complex mosaic to reconstruct, an operation to be conducted with the necessary scientific rigor. We have tried to reconstruct it, cross-referencing documentary sources, mobile finds and ancient structures and, with the support of modern digital technologies, we have created a series of videos with 3D animations to give visitors from all over the world and of all ages the fascination of the monumental and scenic city founded by the Greeks and which experienced centuries of peace and fortune even in Roman times.”