**Driving Directions:**

- From the NAS 1 gate, make a left.
- After about 3km, go right and take the A19 to Catania.
- After about 5km, take the Messina (A18) exit**This is a toll road**
- Go approximately 20km and exit the highway at Giardini Naxos
- Pay the toll and stay to the right on highway SS185
- Head inland, not towards the water.
- Follow the signs to Gole Dell’Alcantara.

**Estimated Driving Time:**

1 hour 15 minutes

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**ALCANTARA GORGE**

**ABOUT ALCANTARA GORGE**

Gole Dell’ Alcantara or Alcàntara Gorge was formed by volcanic stone which crystallized as it cooled rapidly en route from a minor crater atop Mt. Etna. It took at least one thousand years for the rushing waters - then much more voluminous and forceful than they are now - to form the basalt gorges and "columns" visible today. The Alcàntara River is one of the few streams in Sicily that actually has water all year round. Its name comes from Sicily's Arabs; the phrase *al qantara* means "the bridge" and refers to a Roman span found by the Arabs.

The source of the river is located in the Nebrodi Mountains which is near Floresta, which at almost 1,300 meters above sea level. It is generally considered the highest town in Sicily. The canyon reaches a depth of around 65 metres, of which some 50 metres are above the average water level, and the water is cool even during Sicily’s hottest summer months.
Alcantara Gorge

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to guided tours Alcantara Gorge Botanical and Geological Park offers walks, food tasting, and cooking classes.

Contact the park directly for more info:

booking@terralcantara.it

Ph. +39 0942 985010
Fax +39 0942 985264

All services available in the Alcantara Gorge Botanical and Geological Park:

- Tours separate from the Walks can be booked
- Bar, self-service restaurant, a la carte restaurant
- Shopping Area
- Equipped rest areas and solarium
- Parking

Lunch & Snacks

Arancini (rice balls), pizzas, baked pasta, Pasta alla Norma, pasta with eggplant and cold dishes are available every day along the Gorge trail.

INFORMATION

Botanic Park and Geological Alcantara Gorges

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Sources:


http://www.terralcantara.it/en