



ANCIENT WONDERS AND CULINARY DELIGHTS IN SICILY

8 days/7 nights

Embark on an unforgettable eight-day journey through the captivating landscapes and rich history of Sicily, a land that has inspired the verses of literary giants such as Lucretius, Frederick II, Goethe, Maupassant, Carducci, and Quasimodo. Your odyssey begins in the enchanting Ortigia, the historic heart of Siracusa, where you'll explore the Cathedral, the mythical Arethusa's Fountain, and the Neapolis Archaeological Park featuring the Greek Theatre, Roman Amphitheatre, Latomie, and the Ear of Dionysus. As you venture onward, the baroque charm of Noto, risen from the ruins of the devastating 1693 earthquake, beckons. In Catania, savor the flavors of the historic center, indulging in delectable "arancini" and the renowned brioche with granita. Witness the grandeur of Cefalù's Cathedral and immerse yourself in the living museum of Palermo, followed by a visit to Monreale's awe-inspiring sights. Your journey unfolds with the medieval allure of Erice, where almond sweets captivate the palate. In Marsala, savor exquisite local wines, setting the stage for the ancient temples of Selinunte and the majestic Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Delve into history at the Villa Romana Del Casale in Piazza Armerina, a noble residence dating back to the fourth century A.D. As your adventure reaches its zenith, stand in awe of Mount Etna's lunar landscape and explore the ancient allure of Taormina's Tempio Antico. Join us for a soul-stirring Sicilian escapade, where each day unfolds a new chapter in this captivating story.

DAY 1 (Saturday) CATANIA

Your Sicilian adventure commences with a warm welcome at Catania airport. Our dedicated partner in Sicily will be there to assist you, ensuring a smooth transfer to your hotel in the picturesque and delightful seaside village of Acitrezza, known for its famous Faraglioni. With the formalities taken care of, the remainder of the day is yours to savor at your leisure. Whether you opt to relax and rejuvenate or embark on a spontaneous exploration of the surroundings, let the spirit of Sicily embrace you. As the day concludes, settle in for a restful night at the hotel, eagerly anticipating the days of discovery that lie ahead.

DAY 2 (Sunday) SIRACUSA – NOTO A Symphony of Sicilian Wonders

Fuel your day with a delightful breakfast at the hotel, setting the stage for an extraordinary journey to Syracuse, the illustrious Greek colony and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dive into history at the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, where the ancient Greek Theatre, Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise, and the Ear of Dionysius will transport you to a bygone era. Continuing our exploration, we venture to the charming Ortigia, a petite island encapsulating the historic essence of Syracuse. Behold the commanding Cathedral in Piazza Duomo, an imposing Sicilian-Baroque masterpiece that conceals its origin as a Doric temple. Wander through the captivating Ortigia, culminating at a panoramic terrace overlooking the renowned Arethusa's Fountain—a celebrated freshwater source in the Greek world. As the day unfolds, indulge in a leisurely lunch before departing for Noto, the capital of Sicilian Baroque, famous for its fine buildings of the early eighteenth century and declared Unesco World Heritage Site. Inspired by Baroque ideals of "open city", Noto is a rare masterpiece and the clearest example of theatrical tastes in 18th century architecture whose local limestone has been burnt gold by the sun. Noto's Baroque is a game of elegant curves, floral weaves, perspective views, palaces and gardens, capitals and ornaments that adorn the facades of churches and monasteries. Then immerse yourself in the grandeur of Palazzo Nicolaci Villadorata, a stunning Baroque residence, before relishing free time for a leisurely stroll through the town. The day culminates with a transfer to Ragusa, where dinner and a restful night at the hotel await, marking the end of a day immersed in the cultural tapestry of Sicily. **(B) (D)**

**PRICES PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

EUR 1.723.-

Surplus Single Room EUR 403.-

Supplement Superior/Deluxe room
EUR 212.-

DEPARTURES 2024

Every saturday from
April through November

Do you want to organize your group or
customize your travel plan? Please contact us

INCLUSIONS

- ✚ Private transfers airport/hotel/airport
- ✚ Deluxe bus from day 2 to 7
- ✚ 7 nights in selected hotels 4****
- ✚ 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches in famous restaurants and 2 dinners in hotels with traditional cuisine.
- ✚ Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guides
- ✚ Visit of the main suggestive Unesco World Heritage Sites: Syracuse, Noto, Ragusa, Modica, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Monreale, Palermo, Cefalù, Catania, Etna
- ✚ Tasting of Sicilian typical products:
 - Modica (day 3): visit of the well-known chocolate manufacturers Sabadi w. tasting
 - Marsala (day 4): visit of the famous Florio wine cellar and wine tasting
 - Catania (day 6): tasting of Sicilian "granita & brioche"
 - Etna (day 7): visit of a beekeeping honey company and honey tasting.

NOT INCLUDED

- ❖ International or national flights
- ❖ City taxes (where compulsory)
- ❖ Personal expenses
- ❖ Tips for drivers, guides and porters
- ❖ Meals and drinks not mentioned here.
- ❖ Health insurance and others.





DAY 3 (Monday) CATANIA – RAGUSA IBLA - AGRIGENTO Baroque Splendors and Culinary Delights

Breakfast at the hotel. Embark on a day filled with architectural wonders and sensory delights, starting with the exploration of Ragusa Ibla. This cradle of Sicilian Baroque, immortalized as a backdrop in the beloved Police Inspector Montalbano TV series, stands proudly among the esteemed 44 Italian World Heritage Sites. Adorned with over 50 churches and a wealth of Baroque treasures, Ragusa Ibla captivates with its Cathedral in Dome Square and the enchanting "Giardino Ibleo," the oldest of Ragusa's four main gardens. At an elevation of 383 meters, this garden offers a breathtaking panorama, providing a perfect vantage point for soaking in the beauty of the surroundings. Our journey continues to Modica, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a treasure trove of Baroque architectural marvels. Traverse its narrow streets and make a delightful stop at Sabadi, a renowned chocolate manufacturer. Engage in a multisensory chocolate tasting, exploring authentic Sicilian flavors such as wild mint, orange blossom honey, PGI-quality Sicilian lemon, and PGI-quality Sicilian red orange. Under the captivating Orti di San Giorgio, seven gardens suspended between light and beauty, savor local delicacies against a backdrop of awe-inspiring scenery. As the day unfolds, we venture to the charming Piazza Armerina, where the renowned Villa Romana del Casale awaits—a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its splendid polychrome mosaics. This majestic villa, once owned by a member of the Roman Senatorial aristocracy, showcases prestigious mosaics depicting mythological and historical tales, as well as scenes of hunting and entertainment. Our journey concludes with a departure to Agrigento, where a delightful dinner and a restful overnight stay in the hotel await, marking the end of a day filled with cultural exploration and gastronomic indulgence. **(B) (D)**

DAY 4 (Tuesday) AGRIGENTO – MARSALA – SALT ROAD A Tapestry of Temples and Tastings

Breakfast at the hotel. Embark on a captivating morning in Agrigento as our journey unfolds amidst the ancient wonders of the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was defined by Pindar as "the most beautiful city of mortals". As one of the most prosperous of the ancient Greek cities on the island, Agrigento presents a remarkable series of Doric Temples of the 5th century. Among hundreds of almond trees you will admire the rests of the ancient Akragas. You will see the "Temple of Hera", the "Temple of Concordia" and the "Temple of Heracles". Next, your journey to the charming town of Marsala, where history unfolded as Garibaldi made his historic landing in May 1860. Marsala, a Mediterranean gem, captivates with its vibrant colors—bright yellow, intense blue, strong red, dazzling white, and natural green. Stroll through the city center and embark on a guided tour of the Florio Cellars. Marvel at the majestic giant vats from the 19th century, still in use for refining Marsala wine. Explore the 165-meter-long barrel chambers, a subterranean world beneath 104 arches where thousands of barrels age in stillness. The avant-garde tasting rooms, Donna Franca and Duca Enrico, will host a delightful light lunch and a memorable wine tasting experience. Our journey then leads us to the historic Salt Road, where salt marshes have birthed one of the world's oldest salt-extracting industries. Protected for its fascinating birdlife and industrial archaeology, this stretch between Trapani and Marsala unfolds as a testament to Sicily's diverse heritage. Conclude the day with a transfer to Palermo, where you'll settle into your accommodation. The evening is yours to savor a leisurely dinner and unwind, anticipating the adventures that await in this vibrant Sicilian capital. A restful overnight stay awaits, marking the end of a day filled with history, gastronomy, and natural beauty. **(B) (L)**

DAY 5 (Wednesday) PALERMO – MONREALE – PALERMO Day of Cultural Marvels

Breakfast at the hotel. The morning unfolds with a visit to Monreale, a town boasting a colossal Norman Cathedral acclaimed as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Marvel at the cathedral's grandeur and explore its splendid Cloister, a masterpiece in Arab-Norman style adorned with intricate art, sculpture, and semi-precious stones marquetry. Next, immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of Palermo, a city renowned for its rich history and artistry. Nestled on a bay overlooked by Mount Pellegrino, described by Goethe as the loveliest headland he had ever seen, Palermo captivates with its diverse architectural styles. From Punic walls to Art Nouveau villas, noble residences, and 17th-century squares, the city reflects its multicultural past. Explore the eclectic Cathedral, the astonishing Martorana Church, and the breathtaking Cappella Palatina—a





remarkable testament to the coexistence of diverse cultures, religions, and perspectives. During the day, savor a break for a typical lunch featuring local delicacies. Along the way, soak in the splendor of the famous Teatro Massimo and the much-debated fountain in Pretoria Square, nestled in the ancient Kalsa area and adorned with 16th-century sculptures. As the day concludes, dinner becomes a personal affair, allowing you to explore local culinary offerings at your leisure. Retreat to your hotel for a restful overnight stay, contemplating the cultural wonders that have unfolded throughout this captivating day. **(B) (L)**

DAY 6 (Thursday) CEFALU – CATANIA Enchanting Towns and Culinary Delights

After a delightful breakfast, your journey unfolds with a transfer to Cefalù, a captivating medieval town nestled along Sicily's northern coast. Explore the enchanting Norman Dome, a stunning architectural gem, and relish free time to wander through the town or explore the renowned Mandalisca Museum. Pause for a delectable lunch at a famous restaurant before setting off to Catania, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that welcomes you with its original Baroque style and unique streets crafted from black lava stone. The city center, adorned in black and dark grey hues, accented with white limestone details, creates an exceptionally elegant atmosphere. Embark on a walking tour starting at the picturesque Duomo square, where the magnificent Cathedral and the iconic "Liotru" statue—an antique lava-stone elephant, symbolizing the city—await. Move on to University Square and stroll along the splendid baroque Via dei Crociferi, the epitome of 18th-century elegance in Catania and admire the famous San Benedict Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The journey continues with a delightful break in a historic bar, savoring the typical Sicilian treat of "granita & brioche." As the day winds down, dinner becomes a personalized experience, allowing you to explore the local culinary scene at your leisure. Back to the hotel for a night of rest and reflection on the charm and flavors encountered in Cefalù and Catania. **(B) (L)**

DAY 7 (Friday) MOUNT ETNA - TAORMINA Day of Sicilian Marvels

Breakfast at the hotel. Commence the morning with a brief visit to the famous "pescheria," the ancient fish market in Catania, before the journey unfolds with an excursion to Mount Etna. This towering peak, reaching approximately 3350 meters, stands as the highest volcano in Europe and one of the largest and most active globally—now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The regional park surrounding Etna safeguards 59,000 hectares of unique geology, diverse flora and fauna, charming villages and farms, and traditional methods of forestry, beekeeping, wine manufacturing, stonework, and carpentry. As you traverse the stunning landscapes en route to Rifugio Sapienza, behold the mesmerizing "Crateri Silvestri," small volcanic cones now dormant, set against ancient lava flows. Beyond the mountain's myriad subsidiary cones and craters, the panoramic view extends across the entirety of Sicily, the Aeolian islands, and Calabria—an unparalleled spectacle. Indulge in local homemade honey and other typical products of the area before relishing a delightful lunch at a charming restaurant. The journey continues towards Taormina, a charming town renowned for its commanding position above the sea, offering a celebrated view of Etna. Explore Taormina's captivating Greek theatre, whose breathtaking vista overlooks Giardini Naxos bay and the majestic Etna mountain. Enjoy free time for a leisurely stroll along the picturesque medieval streets, indulging in shopping and exploring local handicrafts, including coral jewels, precious laces, ceramics, pastries, and more. Conclude the day with an overview of the beautiful Riviera dei Ciclopi. Return to Catania for an evening of dinner on your terms, savoring local culinary delights, before retiring to your hotel for a night of relaxation, reflecting on the wonders encountered throughout the day. **(B)**

DAY 8 (Saturday) CATANIA

Breakfast at the hotel. On time departure to the airport to return the vehicle and check-in at the airline for your flight back home. End of our services. **(B)**



(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner