



UNVEILED SICILY

A complete tour, to admire all the must-sees of the wonderful Mediterranean island, get in touch with locals and live engaging experiences

DAYS: 11 **NIGHTS:** 10

FROM: PALERMO **TO:** CATANIA

VISITED CITIES/PLACES:

PALERMO - MONREALE - SEGESTA - MARSALA
MOZIA - MAZARA DEL VALLO - AGRIGENTO
PIAZZA ARMERINA - CALTAGIRONE - RAGUSA
IBLA - MODICA - SCICLI - SIRACUSA - CATANIA
TAORMINA - ETNA





UNVEILED SICILY / ITINERARY

1ST DAY: PALERMO

Upon arrival in Sicily, you'll be met by a chauffeur who'll drive you to your hotel. Start your stay with an orientation walk, followed by a complimentary welcome drink/briefing and meet your fellow travelers and tour leader. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner in a local restaurant. Accommodation and overnight: **HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA**** (D)**

2ND Day: PALERMO / MONREALE

After breakfast we'll discover Palermo with a guided tour including some of the highlights of the city such as the Norman Palace with the Palatine Chapel, the Teatro Massimo, the piazza Pretoria and the two old markets Capo and Vucciria. Street food lunch. In the afternoon, we'll reach the hill town of Monreale for a guided tour of the the Benedictine's Cloister and the Cathedral with its amazing Byzantine mosaics (a UNESCO Heritage).

Dinner on your own and overnight: **HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA**** (BL)**

3RD DAY: SEGESTA/MARSALA

After breakfast we'll drive to Segesta, an area that was populated by the ancient Elymians, one of Sicily's indigenous populations. Their city, located on Mount Barbaro, boasts an unfinished and perfectly preserved Doric temple, which was built when the people acquired Greek habits. After lunch in a local "agriturismo" (farm), we'll head to Marsala, known as the birthplace of the wine with the same name. After check-in and some free time, we'll visit a local winery, to taste and discover the production of Marsala wine. Accommodation, dinner and overnight: **BAGLIO DONNA FRANCA - Wine Resort & Farm Estate (BLD)**

4TH DAY: MOZIA/MAZARA DEL VALLO

Today we'll discover the little island of Mozia, the most important settlement of the first invaders of Sicily, the Phoenicians. The boat departs from the old salt pans where locals still extract salt with ancient techniques. Before sailing to Mozia, we'll visit an old windmill where the process is presented. In Mozia we'll enjoy a relaxing walk around the island while visiting the archaeological site (no guide included). Lunch on the island. After some time at leisure, we'll head to Mazara del Vallo where we'll visit the museum of the "Dancing Satyr", a mysterious Greek bronze statue that rested for 2.000 years on the seabed. Then we'll meet the local fisherman association and enjoy dinner with the families. Overnight: **BAGLIO DONNA FRANCA - Wine Resort & Farm Estate (BLD)** *(On request it is possible to arrange a salt tasting inside the mill or in the surrounding outdoor areas: You can taste some unusual varieties of salt, plain and flavored, together with typical Sicilian products, like fresh bread, olive oil, cherry tomatoes, fresh seasonal fruit, refreshing lemon juice).*

5TH DAY: AGRIGENTO/PIAZZA ARMERINA

After breakfast departure to Piazza Armerina. On our way we'll visit the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO site just outside the city of Agrigento, once the ancient city of Akragas, a rich Greek city-state. After a guided tour of the archaeological area, we'll have lunch in a local restaurant and then continue to Piazza Armerina where we will spend the night in an "Agriturismo", a local farmhouse. On the way, we'll stop in a private house, where we will admire a small and colorful private collection of Sicilian carts. Lunch on your own. Accommodation, dinner and overnight: **AGRITURISMO VECCHIA MASSERIA - Farm House (BD)**

6TH DAY: PIAZZA ARMERINA/CALTAGIRONE

After breakfast, we'll visit the amazing Villa Romana del Casale, where excavations have revealed some of the finest examples of Roman mosaics worldwide. After the visit, we'll head to Modica. On our way we'll visit Caltagirone, famous for the handicraft of ceramics. After lunch in a local restaurant, we'll visit a ceramic workshop. In the afternoon we'll arrive in Modica where we'll check-in our hotel and you'll have the opportunity to do your own discoveries: our tour leader may help you to identify them. Dinner on your own.

Accommodation and overnight: **HOTEL PALAZZO FAILLA**** (BL)**

7TH DAY: RAGUSA IBLA/MODICA

After breakfast, this morning we'll focus on the Baroque splendors of Ragusa Ibla, during a guided walking tour of the hill town. Afterwards we'll enjoy a delightful lunch in a 2 stars Michelin restaurant. After lunch, we'll move back to Modica, where we'll ride the iconic FIAT 500, a small vintage car. At the end, we'll learn how the typical local chocolate is produced. Dinner on your own.

Accommodation and overnight: **HOTEL PALAZZO FAILLA**** (BL)**

8TH DAY: SICILI/SIRACUSA

After breakfast we'll travel to Siracusa, which was once the most powerful Greek city of the whole Mediterranean area. On the way, we'll stop at "Gli Aromi", a local farm specialized in the production of fine herbs. At the end of the visit, we'll have a cooking class and lunch, with the food we helped to prepare.

In the afternoon, after we check-in, we'll enjoy a guided walking tour of Ortigia (old city center of Siracusa), that will lead us through centuries of history and art. After some time at leisure, dinner on your own.

Accommodation and overnight: **GRAND HOTEL ORTIGIA***** (BL)**

9TH DAY: CATANIA/TAORMINA

After breakfast, we'll transfer to Taormina and on the way we will visit Catania and the Landing Museum. After a short guided tour of the city center, you'll have some free time and lunch will be on your own. In the early afternoon we'll reach the charming town of Taormina with its beautiful Greek Roman theatre, still in use for concerts and events. After our check-in, we'll visit it and have time to stroll on the main street. You'll have dinner on your own this evening.

Accommodation and overnight: **SAN DOMENICO PALACE*****LUX (B)**

10TH DAY: ETNA

After breakfast we'll get in 4-wheel vehicles and drive to Mount Etna, the tallest active volcano in Europe, where our guide, a volcanologist, will let us discover the secrets of the big mountain. After some hiking and walking on the lava fields, we'll have a light lunch in a winery on the slopes of the volcano, to taste some of the most renowned wines produced in Sicily. Afterwards will go back to the hotel and will have some time to relax and to prepare ourselves for the farewell dinner, when we'll toast to our adventure and say bye bye to Sicily.

Accommodation and overnight: **SAN DOMENICO PALACE*****LUX (BLD)**

11TH DAY: CATANIA

Transfer to Catania airport and return to city of origin.

UNVEILED SICILY / INFO AND CONDITIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

- We will be initiated by a guru of the Sicilian street food
- We'll have the possibility to discover the real taste of Marsala wine, the "Paerpetuum" production and dining at the winery will give us the chance to taste their regular wines as well.
- Talking with the fishermen, we'll have the opportunity to understand what is the situation of one of the most important parts of Sicilian economy, to interact with them and their own families and to taste their catch. During the evening we'll talk with a local marine biologist.
- We will have the unique chance to be hosted in a private house, in order to admire an icon of Sicilian craft, the "Carretti Siciliani", done by one of the last "master of axe".
- At the ceramic workshop, the travelers will have the chance to discover how we produce ceramics in Sicily and to put their hands on in the creation of some pottery.
- With the FIAT 500 we'll go back to the glorious Italian past, to the years of the economic boom and of the youth/woman emancipation. Furthermore with this small car we'll be able to fit into any narrow alley of Modica.
- At "Gli Aromi", we'll have a sensorial experience, we'll use our smell, taste and touch more than our sight, led by the volcanic owners, the Russino family, and at the end we'll attend a cooking class and will eat in one of the greenhouses.
- Sicily was the first landing spot during the WWII operations that led The Allied to win the war, so this museum is important to understand the strategic rule of the island, the impact of the bombings in Sicily, and the relationship between the locals and the American troops.
- The Etna is a Unesco site itself and the local guide is an added value to understand not just the geology, but mostly the importance of the mountain in local economy as well as the tight relationship in between the locals and the volcano.



RATE INCLUDES

- Minivan 8 seat for 2/6 pax or minibus
- English speaking assistant for transfer in/out
- Nr. 10 nights at the hotels according our itinerary
- Meals as per itinerary (**B**=breakfast / **L**=lunch / **D**=dinner)
- Street Food in Palermo
- 1 cooking class in Sicily
- Beverages ¼ of wine and ½ Water, and coffee for all the included meals
- English speaking driver
- English speaking licensed local guide: half day Palermo/ Monreale + Half day Segesta + half day Valley of the Temple + half day Piazza Armerina + Half day Ragusa Ibla + half day Siracusa/Ortigia + half day Catania + half day Taormina + half day Etna
- Activities according to our itinerary
- Tasting of chocolates
- Wine tastings (Marsala and Etna)
- Entrances fees at all sites mentioned on the itinerary
- Excursion Jeep in the Month Etna
- Excursion in Fiat 500
- Hotel portorage
- City tax to be paid at the hotels

RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Tips and personal extras
- All not mentioned as included



FOR ORGANIZATIONAL REASONS, THE ITINERARY MAY BE REVERSED OR MODIFIED WITHOUT NOTICE.
IN ANY CASE STS ENSURE THE VISITS AND EXCURSIONS MENTIONED ON THE JOURNEY