



Discover more than 3,000 years of diverse cultural innovation—wave after wave of new peoples, new ideas and new artistic techniques sweeping the island of Etna, leaving in their wake sublime temples, great cities, captivating villages and extraordinary works of art. Our journey includes a treasure trove of riches, from the Doric temples of the ancient Greeks to the colossal works of the Romans and the spectacular artistic achievements of the Byzantine era. Also discover Sicily's inviting towns, including medieval Erice and historic Monreale, with its Norman Cathedral. To cap it off, you will spend the last 2 nights in one of the most beautiful settings in the world – Taormina.

Day 1 - Sun, Sep19 -- Depart USA

Depart the USA on any regularly scheduled flight to Palermo, Italy .

Day 2 - Mon, Sep 20- Palermo

Arrive in Rome for a connecting flight to Palermo, Sicily. Upon arrival, transfer to the centrally located, 4-star Hotel Centrale Palace, located in the historical center of Palermo. This evening there will be a welcome dinner.

Hotel Centrale Palace - 4*

Room Standard

Meals Dinner

Day 3 - Tue, Sep 21 - Palermo - Monreale - Palermo

The entire day is devoted to visiting Palermo and Monreale's most splendid medieval treasures. The Capella Palatina was completed in 1143 as the royal chapel for the Norman king of Sicily, Roger II. It a striking example of cross-cultural coalescence: Greek artists created the shimmering mosaics; Muslim artisans carved and painted the wooden ceiling beams; Italian sculptors fashioned the marble altar furnishings. We'll see more superb mosaics by the same artists who decorated the Capella Palatina at La Martorana Church. In a nearby piazza is the Fontana Pretoria, an over-the-top assembly of three dozen nude satyrs, nymphs, mermen, and mermaids sport in a marble fountain. Visit Vucciria, Sicily's most picturesque food market, and have lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Then we travel to the small hilltown of Monreale to see the spectacular 12th-century Cathedral. Inside are Byzantine mosaics more numerous and, arguably, even more beautiful than those in the Capella Palatina. This evening, dinner is on your own. Overnight at Hotel Centrale Palace.

Hotel Centrale Palace - 4*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

C O D A I N T E R N A T I O N A L T O U R S , I N C .

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The Treasures of Sicily

September 19-28, 2010

Day 4 - Wed, Sep 22 - Palermo - Segesta - Erice - Palermo

A full-day excursion leads to the ancient sites at Segesta and Erice. Surrounded by hills in a remote setting is the 5th-century B.C. Temple of Segesta. This grand Doric temple was never finished and why the workmen abandoned the project remains a mystery. Nearby is the Theater, built in the 3rd century B.C. and still used for performances of ancient Greek and Roman dramas. Then we continue to Erice, a perfectly preserved medieval village set atop a sheer cliff overlooking the sea. Erice is extremely ancient, and is said to have been the setting for the myths of Hercules and Venus and Adonis. After lunch in the town, a walking tour includes the Norman Castle, the Cathedral, and the medieval watchtowers. Return to Palermo for independent dinner and overnight. Overnight at Hotel Centrale Palace.

Hotel Centrale Palace - 4*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 - Thu, Sep 23 - Palermo - Cefalu - Piazza Amerina - Agrigento

We leave Palermo this morning for Agrigento, but stop along the way to see the medieval hill town of Cefalù and the magnificent Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina. This morning, stroll through the medieval streets of the seaside town of Cefalù which houses one of the most magnificent cathedrals in Sicily. Lunch is at Gigliotto farmhouse, originally a 13th-century Benedictine monastery and then operated as a farm for centuries. In the afternoon discover the elegance of the Roman lifestyle at Villa Casale at Piazza Amerina, featuring exquisite ancient mosaics. Archaeologists believe that the mosaics were made in the 3rd century A.D. for a member of Rome's imperial family. Among these mosaic masterworks is a scene of a chariot race, a dramatic hunting scene, and episodes from the labors of Hercules. Continue to Agrigento where our accommodations are at the 4* Hotel Baglio della Luna. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Hotel Baglio della Luna - 4*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 - Fri, Sep 24 - Agrigento - Ragusa

Most of the day is devoted to exploring Agrigento's temples and visiting the treasures displayed in the Museum. Highlights include the almost perfectly preserved Temple of Concord, the primitive Rock Sanctuary of Demeter, and the picturesque ruins of the Temple of Castor and Pollux. Among the artifacts in the Museum is a giant male caryatid from the Temple of Zeus and a beautifully sculpted torso attributed to Praxiteles. After lunch, continue to Ragusa, located in one of the most authentic Sicilian regions of the island, and check in to the Hotel Eremo della Giubiliana. Take a walking tour of the Old Town (Ragusa Ibla), a nostalgic remnant of yesterday. Wander its narrow streets, checking out its weathered and crumbling baroque palaces. Dinner is at the hotel.

Hotel Eremo della Giubiliana - 5*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7- Sat, Sep 25 - Ragusa - Noto - Syracuse

Depart this morning into Sicily's southeast region, known for its Baroque towns, stopping in the exquisitely preserved Noto, a jewel on a plateau surrounded by olive and almond groves. Lunch is independent today. Continue to Syracuse. According to the historian Thucydides, Syracuse was founded by Greeks from Corinth in 773 B.C. Today we will explore the city's ancient origins, beginning at the Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum, one of Europe's finest collections of art and artifacts from the classical world. Among the stars of the museum is the voluptuous Landolina Venus. Then, crossing a causeway to the island of Ortigia, we visit the ruins of the Doric Temple of Apollo and the Temple of Athena, which is now part of the Cathedral. and check in to the Grand Hotel Ortigia Siracusa. Dinner is included this evening.

Hotel Grand Hotel Ortigia - 4*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

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Day 8 - Sun, Sep 26 - Syracuse - Catania - Taormina

Depart Syracuse this morning and drive to Taormina, via Catania where we stop for lunch and brief visit of the city. After lunch, continue to Taormina. Said to be the most beautiful town in Sicily, Taormina is set between the Mediterranean and the snow-capped peak of Mount Etna. Our accommodations for the next two nights are at the Hotel El Jebel. Dinner is free to try one of Taormina's charming restaurants

Hotel El Jebel- 5*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9- Mon, Sep 27 - Taormina

Gardening is a passion in Taormina; even the piazzas are filled with tubs of flowers. We will go up to the Greek Theater, carved into the summit of a hill and offering spectacular views of Mount Etna and the sea. The afternoon is free to explore the many shops, enjoy the views or go the beach. This evening we celebrate the end of a wonderful tour through Sicily over dinner together.

Hotel El Jebel- 5*

Room Standard

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 - Tue, Sep 28 - Taormina - Catania - Rome or Milan - USA

Transfer to the airport at Catania for a regularly scheduled return flight to the United States. A group transfer will be arranged in conjunction with the earliest morning Alitalia flight which typically departs Catania approximately 6:30am. All other transfers will be private and at additional cost.

Meals Breakfast

Rates

Double	\$4595
Single	\$5495

Single rates can be avoided if you are willing to share. We will be happy to match you with another single traveler who also wishes to share. If no share is available, the single rate will apply.

Special Note - Rates are based on current rates and currency exchange rates at the time of publishing the tour on-line. Rates are subject to change until final payment has been made.

ADDITIONAL HOTEL NIGHTS & TRANSFER RATES

Hotel Centrale Palace, Palermo

1st night - Double Occ. = \$*** per person; Add'l night = \$***.00

1st night - Single Occ. = \$*** per person; Add'l night = \$***

Above rate for 1st night includes Arrival Transfer.

Arrival/Departure transfers only: \$** per transfer for 1 or 2 people

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

No visa is required for American or Canadian passport holders. Travelers of other nationalities should check with the appropriate Consulate or Embassy for requirements.

SHOTS

None required or recommended. It is recommended you have your regular vaccinations up-to-date before traveling. For further information, visit the Center For Disease Control website.

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INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE

Delta Airlines, Alitalia, Air France, Lufthansa, United are among airlines that can be used for this trip. We recommend booking at least 7 months in advance if you want to try to use Frequent Flyer Miles for free tickets or upgrades or the American Express Platinum card 2-4-1 program.

MINIMUMS

All departures are guaranteed on a minimum of 7 participants. A small group charge will be assessed for fewer than 7 travelers. This tour can be operated as a Private Tour, can be customized and repriced based on final itinerary.

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights First Class & Deluxe Hotels as mentioned in the itinerary; breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner as per the itinerary
- Sicilian Tour Leader/driver throughout the tour with Sprinter mini-van
- Local guides where required
- Wine during lunch and dinner
- Entrance fees
- VAT and taxes

EXCLUSIONS

- Meals not mentioned.
- Beverages with meals other than wine
- Gratuities to guides, tour leader, restaurants and hotel personnel
- Trip Cancellation & Interruption insurance which is highly recommended.