

SCENIC GUIDED MOTORBIKE TOUR OF SICILY

(8 Days/7 Nights)

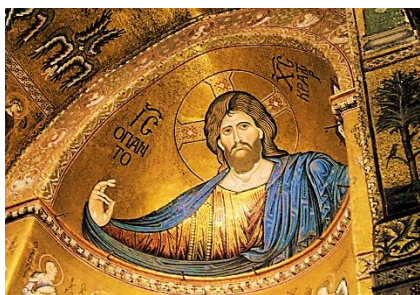
Day 1 – Arrival Palermo

Arrival at Palermo airport. Meet and greet by an assistant who will guide you through the arrival formalities. Transfer to your city centre hotel with a drive through Palermo's wide avenues. You will be enchanted by the city's wide avenues and historic buildings. Dinner in a traditional restaurant to taste street food and other traditional Palermo dishes. Overnight stay in Palermo.



Day 2 From Palermo to Scopello

(approximately 180 km/ 112 miles – 4.30 hour ride excluding stops)



Breakfast at hotel and check-out. After collecting your motorbike from the rental office, we start our trip to discover Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean.

We begin our leisurely ride through the Conca d'Oro Valley to **Monreale**. Stop for a guided tour. The cathedral and its Benedictine monastery were founded in 1172 by the Norman King William II and provides a typical Sicilian fusion of architectural styles: Byzantine mosaics, Arab-inspired ornamental floors and a magnificent cloister

flanked by a series of unique, decorative columns.

We then head into the beautiful countryside, through the hills covered with vineyards and olive groves. We pass through towns such as **Piana degli Albanesi**, founded by a group of exiled Greek-Albanians in the 15th century. Here you can try 'cannoli', for which Piana degli Albanesi is famous.

We proceed inland in the direction of **Corleone**, notorious for its connection to the Mafia both in film and reality. Next stop will be a farmhouse for a traditional light lunch.

Then we reach the ruins of **Gibellina** destroyed by a terrible earthquake that raked through the Valle del Belice in south-west Sicily in 1968. Now, the ruins are one of the greatest modern works of art ever made, the **Cretto di Burri**. Except for the streets, which were left open to visitors, the entire old town centre area (120,000 square metres) is covered with a five-foot layer of white concrete.

We then get back on our bikes and head to our final destination for the day, **Scopello**. On the way there is the archaeological area of **Segesta**. We will admire the landscape with the magnificent Greek Temple, perched on a hill overlooking the countryside.

Accommodation at hotel in Scopello, fascinating little village centred around a fortified 'baglio' (farmstead). Dinner at your leisure at and overnight stay.



Day 3 From Scopello to Agrigento

(approximately 235 km/ 146 miles – a 4.30 hour ride excluding stops)



Breakfast at hotel and check-out. A wonderful day's ride awaits us beginning along the coast. Scopello's coastline is rocky, craggy and dramatic, we will be able to admire the sea stacks 'faraglioni' and the old tuna fishery. We continue our bike ride inland in the direction of **Erice**, a wonderfully preserved medieval hill town, on the top of Monte San Giuliano. During this excursion you will be able to admire a number of churches and convents of the Middle Age as well as the famous Norman Castle and its Dome. A Stop will be made at Maria Grammatico's Pastry Shop to taste the marzipan sweets made with the

old recipes she learnt from the nuns of Erice. We go down again to the coast and continue our ride along the 'Via del Sale' (Salt Road), between Trapani and Marsala. The 'Saline' salt pans offer a truly unique landscape, windmills, and piles of collected salt. Once we arrive in **Marsala**, known for its traditional dessert wine 'Marsala', we will stop at a cellar for a tasting and light lunch.

In the afternoon we take the coastal ride to **Selinunte**, the largest archaeological Greek site in Europe, with its numerous temples that enjoys a splendid position overlooking the sea.

Stop for a guided tour. We then continue our ride in the direction of **Agrigento**.

Accommodation at hotel, dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.



Day 4 From Agrigento to Ragusa

(approximately 250 km/ 155 miles– a 4 hour ride excluding stops)



Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Guided tour of the splendid **Valley of the Temples**, one of best-preserved temple sites in Sicily and enjoy an in-depth exploration of the site. You'll hear the amazing story these eight temples tell, from the almost, entirely intact Temple of Concordia to the Temple of Hera, from the Temple of Juno to the Temple of Zeus. We continue our itinerary, the day's route will take you inland on a small, scenic road to visit some of the villages. We will stop at a cellar for a tasting and light lunch.

In the afternoon we will reach **Piazza Armerina**, situated in the centre of Sicily. Guided tour of the "Roman Villa of Casale" which is one of the largest Roman villas that exist. The Villa has 3500 sq. metres of floor mosaics and a number of wall murals.

We then head to Ragusa, our final destination for the day. On the way we will stop in **Caltagirone** famous for its colours, ceramics and the 'Scalinata' (steps) di Santa Maria del Monte with 142 steps that join the lower town with the older upper town.

Accommodation at hotel in **Ragusa**, one of the most fascinating baroque towns in Sicily.

Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.



Day 5 From Ragusa to Taormina

(approximately 220 km/ 137 miles – a 4 hour ride excluding stops)



Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Sicilian Baroque architecture will be the theme of the morning, we will ride along some of the most superb secondary roads. First stop in **Modica**, internationally known for its artisanal chocolate, introduced to Sicily by the Spaniards in the 16th century. Enjoy a tasting of the local speciality during a visit to a pastry shop. Then we will reach the beautiful **Siracusa**, full of charm and history, its old town centre is the Island of Ortigia. You will have free time to wander around its streets before a visit to its stunning

cathedral built on the ruins of an ancient Greek temple that forms its backbone. Free time for lunch.

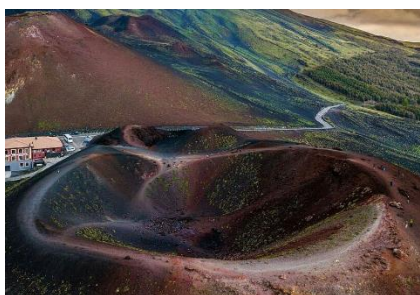
We proceed to **Taormina**, known as the “Pearl of Sicily”, for several reasons, nestled on Mount Tauro, it offers the beauty of Mediterranean architecture while surrounded by endless magnificent views of both sea and mountains. Thanks to its high position, Taormina offers visitors a breath-taking experience. From its Greek theatre you can admire the bay of Giardini Naxos and Mount Etna. The ride will be partly along secondary roads, partly inland and partly coastal.

Accommodation at your hotel. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.



Day 6 From Taormina to Cefalù

(approximately 193 km/ 120 miles a 4 hour ride excluding stops)



Breakfast at hotel and check-out. The itinerary of the day will be exceptional with a panoramic route that winds along the slopes of **Etna**, the largest active volcano in Europe. Discovering Mount Etna is a unique experience in Sicily, not only for the volcanic phenomena but also for the different kinds of vegetation visible during the ascent. We will reach the medieval town Randazzo (about 750 metres) and stop in an Etna DOC winery to enjoy a tasting and lunch.

It is possible to extend the itinerary, riding up the Mareneve Road, until you reach to reach The Citelli Refuge at Piano Provenzana, about 1700 metres above sea level.
(to add approximately 35 km/ 22 miles a 45 minutes ride excluding stops)

In the afternoon we head down to the north coast of Sicily to reach **Cefalù**, whose name derives from the Greek ‘kefaloidono’ which means ‘head’ because it has the shape of a small head. This pretty medieval town is one of the most beautiful in Sicily, founded by Ruggero II, first Norman King of Sicily.

We finish the tour by returning to Palermo. Accommodation at your hotel. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.



Day 7 From Cefalù to Palermo

(approximately 120 km/ 75 ml – a 3 hour ride excluding stops)



Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Once again, you will ride through Sicily's inland area to discover the winding roads within the national park of **The Madonie**. A Ride through historic towns and villages with mediaeval centres, beautiful churches, picturesque piazzas, breath-taking viewpoints and impregnable castles, such as **Castelbuono**. One ancient tradition in Castelbuono is the production of 'manna', a whitish resin that drips from ash trees when the bark is cut, which is now used to make local sweets and cakes that we will taste. The Madonie Mountains offer a gastronomic tradition with its rich, prime ingredients, such as meat,

sausages, salami, cheese, olives and mushrooms. We will stop at restaurant for a traditional lunch. Finally, you will return to the coast and to your first destination of this journey, Palermo. On the way we will stop in Bagheria to visit Villa Palagonia "The Villa of Monsters" (Villa dei Mostri), famous for the grotesque statues of "monsters" that decorate its garden and its wall. Accommodation at hotel. Dinner at your leisure and overnight stay.



Day 8 DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out. Transfer to Palermo airport and departure.

