

# Sicily from Taormina

## 7 nights

Day 1 ARRIVAL CATANIA AIRPORT

Overnight Taormina area

Arrival at Catania Airport, meet the driver and transfer to the Hotel.

**OPTIONAL:**

Depending on flights time the morning HD city tour of Taormina.

Walking Tour along the mediaeval streets and narrow alleys, each with its own secrets, great restaurants, cafés and ice cream bars. Within its eternal stone walls, old Taormina has fascinating archaeological

monuments and mediaeval homes. Magnificent views of the sea complete the picture.

The most famous is the view overlooking the Greek-Roman amphitheatre, one of Sicily's largest, with Mount Etna and the sea as backdrop.



Full day excursion on Mount Etna North Side by 4x4 jeep with driver.



Departure from hotel directly by private jeep with driver, for an extraordinary excursion along Mount Etna slopes in and off road. The jeep will drive on road and off road throughout villages, wood and several lava flows and guest will travel around observing the mineralised ruins of the old houses and plants that surrounded it.

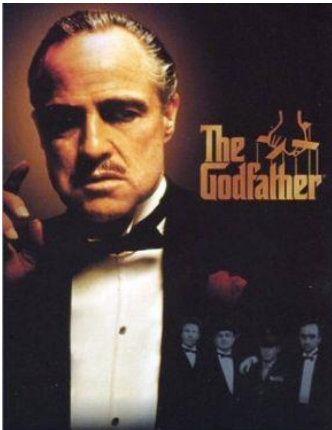
The jeep ride will reach 1800mt (the total high of Mount Etna is 3300mt), where the road ends in a large car park and where is Rifugio Sapienza. Hiking of about 40 minutes to visit Crateri Sartorius, a walking in the nature and in a volcanic landscape or make shopping in the small artisanal shops selling local products and souvenirs.



During the excursion will be arranged a stop in a winery for a wine tasting with lunch (menu of the day with selection of wines paired with dishes prepared with fresh ingredients)



Departure by private car with driver for a very unusual tour on the steps of the "Godfather". It will be possible to live Michael Corleone story travelling through the beautiful scenery chosen by Francis Ford Coppola to shoot the movie. Savoca: a village of exceptional artistic beauty and landscape. It is in rocky and mountainous area. Here is the bar where Michael Corleone asks Apollonia hand in marriage to her father. A Granita tasting will be arranged in a local bar



The tour continues toward **Forza D'agrò** : Picturesque town located 420 meters above sea level, very typical with narrow medieval streets. This village was a set for some shooting of the Godfather movie. Stop to visit the church where Michael gets married with the nice Sicilian girl Apollonia. Lunch will be arranged in a local restaurant



**h. 09:00** | Meet the driver and departure to Siracusa. Meet your local authorized guide for a private full day tour of Siracusa to travel back in time and explore more than 2,000 years of the city's history. Like many of Sicily's coastal towns, Siracusa was once an ancient Greek settlement of the Magna Graecia. Visit the archeological area with Greek Theatre and Latomie del Paradiso with its famous Ear of Dionysus (a cave with the shape of a tympanum).



Then the city centre of Ortigia Island, primitive cradle of the Greek civilization in Sicily.

From the Dom square the visit continue walking to admire the beautiful facades of the noble palace and churches around.

Lunch will be arranged in a Restaurant nearby

After Lunch, 1 hour Boat Tour

You will begin to see the majesty of the Grand Harbour, which is one of the largest natural harbours in the Mediterranean, we will pass near the Foro Italico where you will admire the luxurious yachts and above you will see part of the facade of the cathedral, the Duomo; immediately afterwards we will see from the sea the Arethusa fountain with its charm and the immense Maniace Castle which shows us the way out of the harbour.



After leaving the island, you start to enter the various caves: Grotta dei Cappuccini, Grotta del Corallo and Grotta Grande, also known as Grotta delle Stalattiti. As per tradition, there will be a stop in front of the cave of love: the heart-shaped cave, where you can take souvenir photos with the heart behind you.

Return to your hotel.

Departure by private car with driver to Catania

Visit of the Duomo Square, with the entrance gate to the city the monument to the elephant (a sculpture in lava stone) that represents the symbol of Catania, the impressive city-hall with several effigies of elephants reproduces all over the façade, also called “The palace of Elephants” and the archbishop’s palace.



Nearby the Duomo square is located the multi-coloured and funny fish market. It’s called also “Arabic market”, maybe a heritage of the Arabic domination in Sicily.

It is pleasant to walk around to see the local people, vegetables, cheese and salami, butcher’s shops, etc... The chaos is a feature of this very live market!



Street food experience in a bar with tasting of pizza, arancini (rice balls) and other local specialities  
Free time for shopping on the main street “Via Etnea”

Return to Taormina.

Departure by private car with driver to Caltagirone and visit Caltagirone is part of the late-Baroque cities which have been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2002.



But in addition to its splendid buildings in Sicilian Baroque style, Caltagirone is famous for its ceramics

Moving through the streets it is like walking in an open-air museum.

Its architecture is often decorated with splendid ceramics, among these the famous staircase of Santa



Maria del Monte, the San Francesco bridge, the municipal villa, palaces and churches.

Transfer toward Piazza Armerina. It is an ancient city with a medieval layout with a valuable Baroque and Norman historic centre. On its territory there is the Roman Villa del Casale with its famous mosaics, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Lunch in typical trattoria

The Villa Romana del Casale, visit with guide, is a large and elaborate Roman villa, excavations have revealed one of the richest, largest, and varied collections of Roman mosaics in the world.

The mosaic cover 3,500 sq metres floor and are almost unique in their excellent state of preservation due to the landslide and floods that covered the ruins.



A unique culinary Cooking Class in Taormina which will lead you through typical Sicilian Recipes and Wines. Learn how to cook delicious Sicilian specialities, tasting your creations and served with excellent local wine!



Free afternoon for relax and shopping before leaving.  
Dinner and overnight in Taormina

## DAY 8 –DEPARTURE DAY – ARRIVEDERCI SICILY

Check out the room, meet the driver and transfer to Catania airport.

### **OPTIONAL:**

*Before leaving Taormina, if flight schedules allow visit Villa Cuseni. It's a beautiful historic villa with stunning gardens, art collections, and an incredible view of Mount Etna. The Villa is renowned for its historical and artistic significance. It became a hub for famous writers and artists, including Hemingway, Picasso, and Dali.*

*The villa also features a theosophical garden with unique installations like the Temple of King Solomon and a purification path inspired by the Divine Comedy.*

*It's a wonderful way to add a unique cultural experience to your stay.*

