

Discover Sicily

9 nights

Day 1 ARRIVAL PALERMO AIRPORT

Overnight Palermo area

Arrival at Palermo airport and private transfer to your Hotel in Palermo area

Day 2 PALERMO AND MONREALE

Overnight Palermo area



h. 09.00 Pick-up from the hotel with driver and guide

Palermo, the capital city of Sicily, offers a glimpse into its rich history, vibrant culture, and architectural marvels. Palermo has a long and complex history, influenced by various civilizations including the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, and Byzantines. Palermo boasts several impressive churches and cathedrals, including the Cathedral of Palermo and the Church of San Cataldo. These structures showcase a blend of architectural styles and

house important religious relics. At the heart of the historic centre is Quattro Canti, a Baroque square where four streets intersect. Each side of the square represents a different season and features elaborate facades adorned with statues and fountains. Free time for lunch.

After lunch, visit of Monreale.

Monreale is a charming town located just outside Palermo, Sicily, known for its stunning Cathedral of Monreale. This UNESCO World Heritage site, built in the 12th century under the Norman kings, is renowned for its breathtaking mosaics that cover over 6,000 square meters, depicting scenes from the Bible. The cathedral's blend of Norman, Arab, and Byzantine architectural styles makes it a true masterpiece.



The view from the cathedral's cloister offers a panoramic vista of the surrounding countryside, adding to the town's allure as a must-see destination. You will have the opportunity to visit the workshop to see the craftsmanship and techniques used to create a mosaic, and to make your own small mosaic.



h. 17:00 estimated arrival to the hotel

h. 09:00 | Meet the driver and the guide for a full day tour to Erice and Segesta, two ancient sites in Sicily, known for their historical and archaeological significance. Both Erice and Segesta offer visitors a glimpse into Sicily's rich history and cultural heritage, showcasing architectural marvels and archaeological treasures from different periods of antiquity. The sites are popular among tourists and history enthusiasts for their scenic locations and the opportunity to explore the remnants of ancient civilizations.

In the morning visit Erice, this historic town is located on the top of Mount Erice, near the city of Trapani. The history of Erice dates back to ancient times, with evidence suggesting



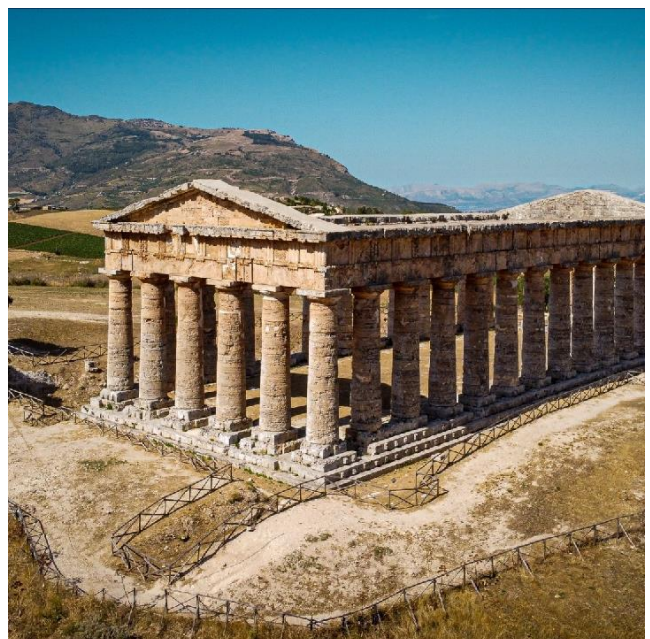
the presence of indigenous Elymians, followed by Phoenician and Greek influences. It later became a Roman and medieval Norman stronghold.

This town is also renowned for its well-preserved medieval architecture, including the Venus Castle (Castello di Venere), which offers panoramic views of the surrounding region. The town also features cobblestone streets, charming churches, and historical sites like the Church of San Giovanni Battista. Free time for lunch.

The tour continues in Segesta, an important Elymian city with origins dating back to the 5th century BCE. The city maintained a degree of autonomy and was involved in various conflicts with neighbouring Selinunte and Carthage.

Despite its historical significance, Segesta was never fully urbanized and eventually declined.

The most notable attractions in Segesta include the well-preserved Doric temple and the ancient theater. The Doric temple, often referred to as the Temple of Segesta, is one of the best-preserved examples of Greek architecture in Sicily. The theatre, set on a hill overlooking the Gulf of Castellammare, provides scenic views and is still used for performances and events.



h. 17:00 estimated arrival to the hotel

h. 09:00 Your driver will pick you up from your hotel.
Transfer to Agrigento and check-in at the hotel.
Free time for lunch

Visit to the archaeological site of the Valley of the Temples.

The Valley of the Temples, located near Agrigento in southern Sicily, is one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Italy. This ancient Greek city, once known as Akragas, flourished between the 5th and 4th centuries BC. The valley is home to a collection of well-preserved ruins, including the majestic Temple of Concordia, which is one of the best-preserved ancient Greek temples in the world. As you stroll through the site, you'll encounter other iconic structures like the Temple of Juno and the Temple of Heracles, each offering a glimpse into the grandeur of the past. Surrounded by olive groves and offering stunning views of the surrounding landscape, the Valley of the Temples is a place where history, nature, and architecture come together in perfect harmony.



h. 15:00 estimated arrival to the hotel

Free time to visit the city center of Agrigento.

The **Cathedral of San Gerlando** and the charming streets of the old town offer a glimpse into Agrigento's medieval past. Don't miss the beautiful **Piazza Pirandello** with its vibrant cafés and atmosphere.

h. 09.00 Your driver will pick you up from your hotel.



Transfer to Sciacca, a picturesque town famous for its thermal baths, medieval charm, and vibrant fishing port. As you wander through Sciacca's narrow streets, you'll discover a mix of Baroque architecture, stunning sea views, and lively markets. The town's history is reflected in its ancient buildings, such as the Castello Incantato, a fortress with a fascinating story, and the Cathedral of Sciacca, which overlooks the town's rooftops. Sciacca is also renowned for its local ceramics and handicrafts, making it a great place to pick up unique souvenirs.

You can also visit the **Coral Museum** of Sciacca showcases the town's long tradition of coral craftsmanship, a key part of its history as a fishing and coral-processing center. The museum displays an impressive collection of **coral jewelry**, sculptures, and artifacts, highlighting the intricate art of coral carving that has been passed down through generations.



After the half-day in Sciacca, you will have free time to explore the surroundings of Agrigento. For nature lovers, a visit to the magnificent **Scala dei Turchi** is highly recommended, with its stunning white limestone cliffs rising dramatically from the sea. The cliffs are especially stunning at sunset, when the soft light transforms them into a glowing white and pink spectacle. The area around Realmonte is also known for its beautiful beaches, offering a tranquil spot to relax and take in the beauty of the coast.

For those who prefer a stroll along the harbor and a refreshing gelato, **Porto Empedocle** is the perfect spot, offering a charming waterfront atmosphere and a taste of local Sicilian life. This is also the birthplace of the famous writer Luigi Pirandello (Nobel Prize in Literature in 1934), and visitors can explore the Pirandello Museum to learn more about his life and works.

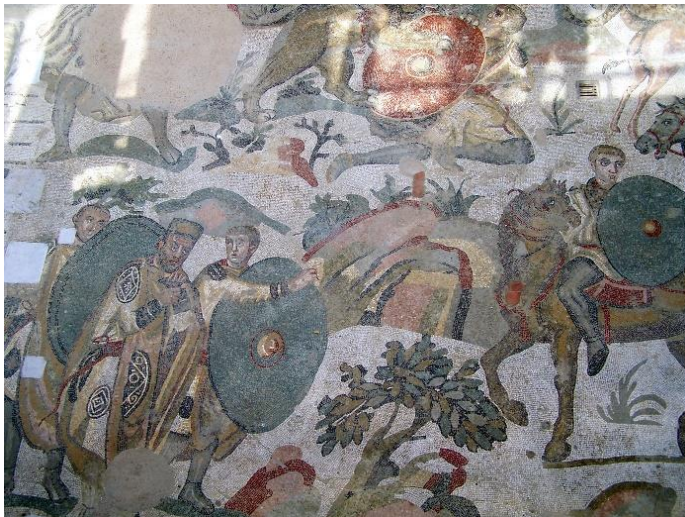
h. 09.00 Your driver will pick you up from your hotel.

During the trip you will stop and visit Villa Romana del Casale, located near the town of Piazza Armerina in central Sicily. This extraordinary Roman villa, built in the 4th century AD, is one of the best-preserved examples of ancient Roman architecture and is famous for its stunning mosaics. The villa was likely the luxurious country retreat of a wealthy Roman aristocrat, and its elaborate design reflects the opulence of the period.

As you walk through the villa, you're greeted by an impressive array of mosaics, which cover over 3,500 square meters of floor space. These intricate works of art depict a wide range of scenes, from mythological tales to hunting expeditions, and even everyday life in ancient Rome. One of the most famous mosaics is the "Bikini Girls", a lively depiction of women exercising in what is considered an early representation of swimming and sports, which is both amusing and fascinating.



The villa itself is laid out with a series of interconnected rooms, including bathrooms, dining areas, and private quarters, all adorned with mosaics that are incredibly detailed and vibrant despite their age. The scenes vary



from elaborate mythological depictions of gods and heroes to everyday activities like dancing and banquets, offering a rare glimpse into Roman life. The craftsmanship of these mosaics is remarkable, with many showing an attention to detail and color that still stands out today.

The villa is surrounded by beautiful, rolling Sicilian countryside, adding to its charm and making it a peaceful and picturesque place to explore

After the visit you will have free time for lunch and then the driver will drive you to your hotel in Syracuse area.

h. 16:00 estimated arrival to the hotel

h. 09:00 Your driver will pick you up from your hotel.

Your day begins in Siracusa, a city with a deep connection to both Greek and Roman history. Start with a visit to the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, one of the most significant ancient sites in Sicily. This open-air museum is home to several well-preserved ruins, offering a glimpse into the grandeur of Siracusa's ancient past. The most impressive of these is the Greek Theatre, built in the 5th century BC, which still hosts theatrical performances during the summer months. As you walk around the theatre, imagine it filled with thousands of spectators



watching dramatic performances in this remarkable setting.

Next, head to the Ear of Dionysius, a massive limestone cave famous for its unique acoustics. The cave, so named by the 16th-century painter Caravaggio, is said to have been used by the tyrant Dionysius I as a prison, where the shape of the cave caused prisoners' whispers to echo dramatically. The acoustics are startling, and standing inside the cavern is an eerie but fascinating experience. A short stroll from the Archaeological Park takes you to the heart of Ortigia, the historic island center of Siracusa. Here, you can wander through a labyrinth of narrow streets,

discovering beautiful Baroque architecture and stunning views of the sea. Piazza del Duomo is the central square, where the Cathedral of Siracusa stands proudly. Built on the site of a 5th-century BC Greek temple to Athena, the cathedral is a striking fusion of ancient and Baroque styles, with columns from the original temple integrated into its structure. Spend some time admiring the architecture and soaking in the peaceful atmosphere of this beautiful square. You won't miss the Fonte Aretusa, a freshwater spring surrounded by papyrus plants and located just a short walk from the cathedral. According to legend, this was the place where the nymph Aretusa transformed into a spring to escape the advances of the river god Alpheus. Free time for lunch.



From Siracuse, the journey continues to Noto, a stunning Baroque town in southeastern Sicily, known for its beautifully restored golden-hued buildings and grand architecture. The **Corso Vittorio Emanuele** is lined with palaces, churches, and monuments, culminating in the impressive **Cathedral of Noto**. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Noto offers a perfect blend of history, art, and charm.

h. 16:00 estimated arrival to the hotel



An excursion to Mount Etna, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, offers a unique and unforgettable experience. You will begin the day with a scenic drive up the slopes of the mountain, surrounded by lush vineyards and charming villages. Once at the base of the volcano, you can choose if you want to take the cable car or for a thrilling ride to higher altitudes, where the views are truly spectacular.

As you ascend, you'll witness the stunning landscape shaped by ancient lava flows, craters, and volcanic rock formations. If you're lucky, you might even spot some steam rising from the active craters! At the summit, you'll have the chance to take in panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and the Ionian Sea. Depending on the weather, your guide may take you on a short hike to explore the crater area more closely, explaining the geology and history of this incredible volcano.

After your exploration of Mount Etna, you'll head to a nearby winery for a wine tasting experience. The fertile volcanic soil of the region produces some of Sicily's finest wines, and you'll have the opportunity to sample a selection of Etna wines, including reds made from the native Nerello Mascalese grape. As you sip the wines, you'll learn about the unique conditions that make this region perfect for viticulture and enjoy a delicious selection of local cheeses and other Sicilian delicacies. This excursion combines adventure, stunning natural beauty, and the rich flavors of Sicily, making it a must-do experience for nature lovers and wine enthusiasts alike.



Overnight in Taormina Area



Visit to **Taormina**, one of Sicily's most beautiful and charming towns, offers a perfect blend of history, stunning views, and vibrant culture. Situated on a hilltop overlooking the Ionian Sea, Taormina is famous for its **Greek Theatre**, a must-see landmark that dates to the 3rd century BC. Originally built by the Greeks and later expanded by the Romans, the theatre is one of the best-preserved ancient sites in Sicily. As you step into the theatre, you'll be awestruck by the breathtaking panoramic views of Mount Etna, the Mediterranean Sea, and the picturesque town below. The theatre's acoustics are incredible, and it still hosts performances and events today, adding a modern twist to its ancient history.

After exploring the theatre, you'll take a leisurely stroll through **Corso Umberto**, the town's main street. Lined with charming shops, cafés, and restaurants, it's the perfect place to soak in the atmosphere of Taormina. You'll pass beautiful squares, like **Piazza IX Aprile**, offering stunning views of the coastline and the surrounding landscape.



After your visit of Taormina, you will have free time to do some shopping or go on the beach of the Isola Bella, a small, picturesque island located off the coast of **Taormina**, renowned for its stunning beauty. Connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of sand, it's often referred to as the "Pearl of the Ionian Sea."



Day 10 DEPARTURE DAY – ARRIVEDERCI SICILY

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

If clients have the flight in the afternoon, we can add a half-day visit of Catania.

OPTIONAL:

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 reproduced all over the facade, 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!

