



THE PEARLS OF SICILY

Discover archaeological wonders and natural beauties

A nine-days itinerary to discover Sicily's capital Palermo, Cefalù, the coastal town of Marsala, Erice and the historic island of Mozia. Explore Monreale's Cathedral, Valle dei Templi, Ragusa and Noto. Head to Taormina and enjoy a boat tour of the Aeolian Islands followed by a 4x4 tour of Mt.Etna.

Day 1: Start of the tour - Palermo

Arrival in Palermo, transfer to the hotel, accommodation and free time for lunch. Meeting with the guide and start of the walking tour of **Palermo**. We'll start from the **Norman Palace**, the **Palatine Chapel**, the churches of the historic center and the **Regional Gallery of Sicily**. Then, our guide will lead us to explore the interiors of the **Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele**. We'll show us the stunning **auditorium** and the most interesting **halls** of the **third largest opera house in Europe**. Dinner in a typical restaurant, return to the hotel and overnight stay.



Day 2: Walking tour of Cefalù & Palermo

Breakfast at the hotel, meeting with the guide and transfer for a walking tour of the city center of **Cefalù**. We'll discover the **Jewish quarter** with its **Cathedral of the Transfiguration** listed by **UNESCO** as a World Heritage Site. Then, we'll transfer to **Palermo** for a lunch in a local restaurant and continue the tour exploring the **Cappella Palatina**, a fusion of Western and Middle Eastern cultures. Dinner in external restaurant, return to the hotel and overnight stay.

Day 3: Marsala and boat tour of Mozia island

Breakfast at the hotel followed by a morning tour of **Marsala** city center. We'll explore the historic center and the **Cathedral of Saint Thomas of Canterbury**. Then we'll indulge our senses at a local winery for a taste of **Marsala wine** paired with local dishes.

In the afternoon transfer and guided tour of **salt pans**, where we'll witness the age-old art of sea salt harvesting set and **boat tour of Mozia Island**.

Transfer to **Erice** with the **funicular** and short stop to admire the spectacular vista from its hilltop location.

Dinner in external restaurant, transfer to the hotel and overnight stay.



Day 4: La Martorana & Monreale guided tour

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to **Palermo** for a visit to the **Church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio**. After the guided tour of the church we'll make a stop in **Ballarò street**, where one of the most famous Sicilian markets is located. Transfer to **Monreale** and visit the **Duomo**, a masterpiece of the 12th-century which combines European, Romanesque and Arabic art. Lunch in a local restaurant, transfer to hotel in Agrigento and accommodation. Afternoon at leisure and overnight stay.



Day 5: Valle dei Templi and Villa Romana

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out and meeting with the driver for a transfer to the **Archaeological Park**. With our english-speaking guide we'll explore the site which extends over approximately 1.300 hectares, we'll marvel at the aqueducts and walk through the core of the site of **Agrigento**.

Transfer to **Piazza Armerina** and lunch in a typical restaurant. In the afternoon we'll discover **Villa Romana del Casale**, one of the most precious jewels left by Roman civilization in Sicily. Transfer to **Modica**, accomodation in hotel and free time for dinner. Overnight stay.



Day 6: Ragusa, Noto and Ortigia

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out and transfer to **Ragusa**. With our guide we'll use a fascinating Baroque train, to discover **Piazza Duomo, Palazzo Arezzo di Donna Fugata**, passing through the **Chiesa di San Giorgio** and the beautiful **Iblei Gardens**. Then we'll transfer to Noto for a lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon walking tour of **Noto**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, where we'll discover the **Cathedral of St.Nicolò** and **Palazzo Nicolaci**.

Next on the list: transfer to **Syracuse** and walking tour of **Ortigia Island** to explore with our guide the **Arethusa fountain, Piazza del Duomo, Beneventano del Bosco Palace** and **Senate Palace** which are among the most beautiful buildings in Sicily.

Transfer to **Taormina**, accomodation in hotel, free time for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7: Daily excursion of Aeolian Islands

Breakfast, check-out, and transfer for a daily excursion to the **Aeolian Islands**. This volcanic archipelago boasts seven main islands: **Lipari, Vulcano, Salina, Panarea, Stromboli, Filicudi**, and **Alicudi**. Then we'll immerse in a walking tour of the largest island, **Lipari**, where we'll admire the picturesque **Faraglioni** and we'll stroll along **Vittorio Emanuele** of **Via Garibaldi** street. At around 1:00 a direct connection will allow us to reach the **island of Vulcano** where, after a lunch in a local restaurant, we'll take a bus for a guided tour of the island reaching the **Gran Cratere della Fossa, Grotta del Cavallo** and **Piscina di Venere**.

Return to the hotel, free time for individual visists and dinner, overnight stay.



Day 8: Etna tour 4x4 and Taormina

Breakfast at the hotel, meeting with the driver and transfer to **Mt.Etna**. We'll take part of a itinerary which combines 4x4 adventure with off-road routes and short walks.

We'll explore the remnants of **lava flows**, the **dormant craters** and take in the breathtaking views from the **Valle del Bove** viewpoint.

After a lunch in a local restaurant it's time to transfer to **Taormina** and discover with a guided tour the grandeur of the **Ancient Theater**, the largest show venue in the Italian Peninsula. Return to the hotel, free time for dinner and overnight stay.



Day 9: Catania, Aci Trezza and Aci Castello

Breakfast at the hotel, check-out, transfer to **Catania** and meeting with the guide for a walking tour. On our last day we'll discover the iconic landmarks like **Ursino Castle, Cathedral of St.Agata** and **Piazza Duomo**.

After a lunch in a local restaurant, with a guide, we'll discover the fishing villages of **Aci Trezza** and **Aci Castello**, on Sicily's eastern coast where we'll admire the stunning coastline and the historic **Castello Normanno**, perched atop a lava rock overlooking the sea.

End of tour, transfer to the airport 3 hours before the flight

Tour for groups and F.I.T.
Custom made itinerary

Ask for a quote

Included:

- Accommodation in 4* hotel with breakfast: Palermo (3 nights); Agrigento (1 night); Modica (1 night); Taormina (3 nights)
- Dinner and lunches as described
- Transfers as described
- Baroque train ticket in Ragusa
- Bus tour in Vulcano Island
- Private boat for a daily excursion to Aeolian islands from Milazzo (6 hours)
- English-speaking guide: from the 1st to the 9th day
- Entrance tickets: Teatro Massimo Palermo; Palermo Cathedral; Palazzo Normanno in Palermo; Mozia island (boat tour included); Erice funicular; La Martorana; Monreale Dome; Valle dei Templi; Villa Romana del Casale; Ancient Theatre of Taormina; Aci Castello

Not included:

- Tips and personal extras
- Everything that is not in the "included" section
- Lunches and dinners, where not specified