

Short Tour of Sicily Catania - Palermo 2024

6 days / 5 nights

Regular departures every Saturday



Day 1 - Saturday: CATANIA (hotel in Catania/Acitrezza)

Individual arrival to your hotel in **Catania** or in the picturesque and delightful seaside village of Acitrezza, known for its famous Faraglioni (optional private transfer on request). Dinner on your own and overnight in hotel.

Day 2 - Sunday: SYRACUSE – NOTO (hotel in Ragusa)

After breakfast in hotel departure to **Syracuse** to visit the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily and World Heritage Site! The visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the Ear of Dionysius. Proceeding on and visit of the splendid **Ortigia**, a small island which is the historical centre of Syracuse. In Ortigia you will admire the beautiful Cathedral which dominates the square with its authoritative presence. The façade is a powerful Sicilian-Baroque composition but it gives no hint that this building was once a Doric temple! From Piazza Duomo you will reach a wide terrace on the waterfront surrounding the famous Arethusa's Fountain, one of the most famous fresh-water sources of the Greek world. Free time for lunch. Departure to **Noto**, the capital of Sicilian Baroque, famous for its fine buildings of the early eighteenth century and declared Unesco World Heritage Site. Inspired by Baroque ideals of "open city", Noto is a rare masterpiece and the clearest example of theatrical tastes in 18th century architecture whose local limestone has been burnt gold by the sun. Noto's Baroque is a game of elegant curves, floral weaves, perspective views, palaces and gardens, capitals and ornaments that adorn the facades of churches and monasteries. Visit of Palazzo Nicolaci Villadorata, beautiful noble residence in Baroque style. Free time for a walk along the town. Transfer to Ragusa for dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 3 – Monday: RAGUSA IBLA – MODICA – PIAZZA ARMERINA (Hotel in Agrigento)

Today visit of **Ragusa Ibla** and its historical centre cradle of Sicilian Baroque. Used as a location of the extremely popular Police Inspector Montalbano Tv series, it is today stated among the 44 Italian World Heritage Sites. This little precious ancient town hosts more than 50 churches and many Baroque architectural treasures! You will be fascinated by its Cathedral, situated in the beautiful Dome square and you will love the "Giardino Ibleo", the oldest of the four main gardens in Ragusa... At 383 meters above sea level, from this beautiful garden you can admire a spectacular panorama! The tour proceeds towards **Modica** chest of innumerable Baroque architectural treasures and for this reason stated Unesco World Heritage Site.

Walking along the tiny streets of this charming town, you will have a stop to visit *Sabadi*, one of the most renowned chocolate manufacturers whose chocolate has been awarded as the best Modica chocolate in the last 9 years! You will enjoy a multisensorial chocolate tasting discovering the authentic Sicilian perfumes... the local *nepitella* (wild mint), the orange blossom honey, the raw PGI - quality Sicilian lemon and the PGI – quality Sicilian red orange are just some of the many flavours you can taste! . Then you will enjoy some local delicacies under the shadow of the amazing Orti di San Giorgio: 7 gardens suspended between light and beauty. A breath-taking panorama will be the setting of your relaxing lunch! The day goes on to the charming **Piazza Armerina** to visit the famous Villa Romana del Casale, Unesco World Heritage Site, to admire the splendid polychrome mosaics! This majestic villa, belonged to a member of the Roman Senatorial aristocracy, hosts prestigious mosaics representing mythological and historical episodes and scenes of hunting and entertainments: you will love it! Departure to Agrigento. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 4 – Tuesday: AGRIGENTO – MARSALA - SALT ROAD (hotel in Palermo)

This morning the tour continues in **Agrigento** visiting the famous Valley of the Temples stated World Heritage Site. It was defined by Pindar “the most beautiful city of mortals”. As one of the most prosperous of the ancient Greek cities on the island, Agrigento presents a remarkable series of Doric Temples of the 5th century. Among hundreds of almond trees you will admire the rests of the ancient Akragas. You will see the “Temple of Hera”, the “Temple of Concordia” and the “Temple of Heracles”. Proceeding on, visit of the charming and well-known town of **Marsala**, where Garibaldi went ashore in May 1860. Marsala is a Mediterranean modern city, divided between sea and land, featuring unforgettable colors: bright yellow, intense blue, strong red, dazzling white and natural green. After a walk along the city centre, guided tour of the **Florio Cellars**. The visit starts in front of the majestic giant vats, built at the end of the 19th century and still used for the refinement of Marsala wine. It continues inside the 3 fascinating barrel chambers, 165 meters long and running beneath 104 arches, under which 1.400 small barrels and about 600 larger barrels and vats of different capacities are arrayed, as c. 5.500.000 liters of Marsala wines age in silence and stillness. After a thirty minute tour through the barrel vaults, where the ancient tuff stone floor has been restored, you will reach the avant-garde tasting rooms named Donna Franca and Duca Enrico. You will enjoy a delicious light lunch and a memorable wine tasting experience! The tour will continue visiting the popular **Salt Road**: here the salt marshes have given rise to one of the oldest salt-extracting industries in the world! Between Trapani and Marsala, the Salt Road is now protected for its interesting birdlife, and also as an important site of industrial archaeology. Transfer to Palermo, accommodation in hotel, free dinner and overnight.

Day 5 - Wednesday: MONREALE - PALERMO (hotel in Palermo)

After breakfast in hotel, the morning will be spent visiting **Monreale**, its huge Norman Cathedral, proclaimed the Eighth Wonder of the World, and its splendid Cloister in Arab-Norman style: admirable masterpiece of art, sculpture, and semi-precious stones marquetry! Later you will discover the stunning **Palermo**, one of the richest towns in the island for its history and art. Palermo stands on a bay dominated by Mount Pellegrino, a headland described by Goethe as the loveliest he had ever seen. While the Baroque predominates, there is a profusion of different architectural styles reflecting the city’s multicultural past: Punic walls, Art Nouveau villas, noble residences, 17th century squares, including an elegant opera house. Visit of the wonderful eclectic Cathedral, the astonishing **Martorana Church** and the amazing **Cappella Palatina**, admirable example from an historical and an artistic point of view, and a prove of how different cultures, religions and way of thinking apparently incompatible can coexist. Ruggero II employed Bizantyne, Muslim and Latin workers. During the day, you will have a stop to enjoy a typical lunch with local food. Along the path you will admire the famous Teatro Massimo and the debated fountain in Pretoria Square, situated in the ancient Kalsa area and adorned with 16th century sculptures. Dinner on your own and overnight in hotel.

Day 6 - Thursday: PALERMO

Sicilian Secrets short tour ends today. Breakfast in hotel and end of services.

For organizational reasons or due to force majeure the itinerary may be modified

RATE PER PERSON

€ 865,00 in double room

Double room for single use supplement: € 205,00 - 3rd bed reduction: € 40,00

PRIVILEGE PACKAGE

Includes: Superior/Deluxe Room – Private transfer in/out
City taxes- All entrance fees as per program

€ 300,00 p.p. in double/twin room

€400,00 p.p. in single/Double single use

REGULAR DEPARTURES DATES - SATURDAY 2024

March	9	16	23	30	
April	6	13	20	27	
May	4	11	18	25	
June	1	8	15	22	29
July	6	13	20	27	
August	3	10	17	24	31
September	7	14	21	28	
October	5	12	19	26	
November	2	9	16		



[WATCH OUR SICILIAN SECRETS VIDEO](#)

THE RATE INCLUDES:

- Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guide* (English, Italian or Spanish) for the whole tour, from the 2nd day to the evening of the 5th day, local guides or audio-guides where necessary.
 - Deluxe bus from day 2 to day 5
 - Whisper kit
- Accommodation in charming 4 stars hotels mostly located in the city centre, international breakfast included:
Catania city centre: **Il Principe Hotel 4*/ Romano House Hotel 4*** or similar — Acitrezza: **I Malavoglia Hotel 4* / I Faraglioni Hotel 4*** or similar
Ragusa city centre: **Mediterraneo Palace Hotel 4*** or similar
Agrigento: **Baia di Ulisse Wellness & SPA 4*** or similar
Palermo city centre: **Mercure Palermo Centro 4* / Ibis Styles Palermo Cristal 4*** or similar
 - 5 international breakfast, 3 lunches in exclusive restaurants and 2 dinners in hotels to have a taste of Sicilian traditional cuisine
 - Visit of the main suggestive Unesco World Heritage Sites: Syracuse, Noto, Ragusa, Modica, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Monreale, Palermo.
 - Tasting of Sicilian typical products:
Modica (day 3): visit of the well-known chocolate manufacturers Sabadi with tasting;
Marsala (day 4): visit of the famous Florio wine cellar and wine tasting;

THE RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transfers in/out
- Meals not included by the program
 - Beverages
- Entrance fees at monuments/museums
 - City taxes (where compulsory)
- Anything not specified under "The rate includes"

SUPPLEMENTS:

- Pre-night in hotel in Catania (BB treatment):
€ 84,00 p.p. in Classic double room per night - € 130,00 p.p. in Classic single room per night.
- Pre-night in hotel in Acitrezza (BB treatment):
€ 103,00 p.p. in Classic double room per night - € 109,00 in Classic double room for single use per night
- Post-night in hotel in Palermo (BB treatment):
€ 85,00 p.p. in Classic double room per night - € 140,00 p.p. in Classic single room per night.
 - Transfers Catania airport/hotel in Catania : € 42,00 per car (1/2 pax).
 - Transfers Catania airport/hotel in Acitrezza : € 58,00 per car (1/2 pax).
 - Transfers Palermo airport/hotel in Palermo : € 55,00 per car (1/2 pax).
- Assistance – Medical Expense Reimbursement – Luggage insurance – Travel Cancellation Expenses Insurance: on request

*Monolingual departures during high season

Extra fees entrances to be confirmed

- ◆ Syracuse Archeological Park € 14,00 p.p. ◆ Syracuse Cathedral € 2,00 p.p. ◆ Noto Palazzo Nicolaci € 4,00 p.p.
- ◆ Piazza Armerina Villa Romana € 10,00 p.p. ◆ Agrigento Valley of the Temples € 14,00 p.p. ◆ Monreale Cathedral € 6,00 p.p.
- ◆ Monreale Cloister € 8,00 p.p. ◆ Palermo Cappella Palatina € 15,50 p.p. ◆ Palermo Martorana Church € 2,00 p.p.

Arrival Day : on request, it is possible to arrange optional HD private excursions to Acireale or Caltagirone

Departure Day : on request, it is possible to arrange optional HD private excursions to Palermo

– Bagheria - Cefalù – S. Vito Lo Capo – Erice Segesta – Trapani - Selinunte



Special GIFT to Participants:
a splendid illustrated book about Sicilian culinary tradition with recipes in English



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