

SICILIAN EXPERIENCE

NO. 7

9 days
8 nights

● 1st day ●
ARRIVAL IN
CATANIA

● 2nd day ●
MOUNT ETNA
& TAORMINA

● 3rd day ●
AIDONE
& PIAZZA
ARMERINA

● 4th day ●
PALERMO
MONREALE
GIBELLINA AREA

● 5th day ●
MARSALA
MOTHIA
SEGESTA
SALEMI

● 6th day ●
SELINUNTE
AGRIGENTO
MODICA

● 7th day ●
NOTO
SIRACUSA

● 8th day ●
NICOLOSI
ZAFFERANA ETNEA
or CYCLOPS RIVIERA

● 9th day ●
DEPARTURE
FROM
CATANIA



1st Day

ARRIVAL IN CATANIA

Meet-and-greet at Catania Fontanarossa Airport with your tour leader and transfer to hotel.

Dinner in hotel and overnight.

2nd Day

EXCURSION TO MOUNT ETNA & TAORMINA

HOTEL IN CATANIA

Mount Etna is the greatest active volcano in Europe and one of the biggest in the world. Etna is 3.329-meter-high and forms the background to practically the whole of the Sicilian landscape, given to the fact that it can be seen at a distance of more than 250 Km.

We will reach the “Crateri Silvestri”, small volcanic cones now inactive, surrounded by ancient lava flows.

Free time for lunch.



In the afternoon, guided walking tour through the charming town of **Taormina**.

There are many noble residences, like the wonderful Palazzo Corvaja, Palazzo dei Duchi di Santo Stefano, and the churches, every one built with a peculiar architecture style, from Chiesa dei Cap-



puccini to Chiesa di San Pancrazio that was built on the rests of a Hellenistic temple.

Walking along its main street, Corso Umberto, and the maze of narrow stair cased streets and small beautiful squares, you find

also Theaters and Gymnasium from the Greek Age, Odeon and Baths from the Roman Age, beautiful buildings in which the Arab and the Norman cultures melt together in a memorable sense of beauty, traces of the Byzantine domination and beautiful villas which belonged to the European aristocracy in the XVIII and XIX centuries, all in the context of a small town on top of the hill, overlooking the coastline of the Ionian Sea.



3rd Day

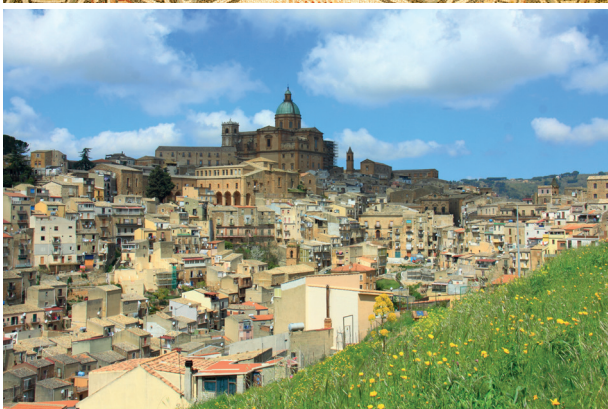
AIDONE & PIAZZA ARMERINA

HOTEL IN PALERMO

After breakfast and check out, transfer to the **Archaeological Museum in Aidone** where we will see the statue of the “Venus of Morgantina” carved in the 5th century BC.



Transfer to **Piazza Armerina** where you will have free time for lunch and where you will admire the splendid polychrome mosaics of the famous **Villa Romana del Casale**, depicting the daily life and customs of the ancient Romans.



Transfer to Palermo for overnight. Dinner at the hotel or in a restaurant nearby.

4th Day

PALERMO / MONREALE / GIBELLINA AREA

*optional: night excursion to Erice

HOTEL IN SALEMI

After breakfast, morning guided tour around **Palermo**, the capital of Sicily, one of the richest towns in the island for its history and art. We will visit the Cathedral, the Palazzo dei Normanni with its precious Palatine Chapel, the fountain in Pretoria Square, adorned with sculptures.



We will go on to **Monreale** to visit its huge Norman Cathedral, proclaimed the Eighth Wonder of the World, and its splendid Cloister.



Free time for lunch.

In the afternoon, transfer to **Gibellina** where you will see the “Ghost Town” of **Poggioreale**, destroyed by an earthquake in 1968. Still today, its ruins testify how life was before that terrible disaster. We will also visit the “**Cretto di Burri**” (Burri’s Crevice), one of the widest works of contemporary art, whose giant slabs just follow the paths of the town’s streets and alleys; this huge monument of death is what remains today of the old city.



Dinner and overnight in Salemi.

*After dinner it will be possible to organize a night excursion to Erice, suggestive medieval town, located in a charming position, offering a striking panorama of the Egadi Islands.

5th Day



**MARSALA / MOTHIA /
SEGESTA / SALEMI**

HOTEL IN SALEMI

Breakfast in hotel and departure to **Marsala**, where we will visit a cellar and taste the strong sweet wine, famous all-over the world.

We will go on to visit the small **island of Mothia**, situated at the center of a large lagoon in Marsala, known today as ‘Stagnone’. Thanks to its particularly favorable location, in the past it was one of the most prosperous Punic colonies in the Mediterranean.



Free time for lunch and departure to **Segesta** to see its famous Doric Temple, unusually well preserved.



Back to **Salemi**, in time to visit this nice town, proclaimed the first Capital of Italy in 1860; the visit will start with the Museum (of Sacred Art, of Risorgimento, of the Mafia) and will end in Piazza Alicia, proclaimed the sixth most beautiful square in Europe: there lies the Norman Castle, erected in 12th century and also the rests of the Mother Church, destroyed in 1615 by an earthquake and restored in 1968 by a Portuguese architect, appearing today as a magnificent theatre in the open air.

Dinner and overnight in Salemi.

6th Day

SELINUNTE / AGRIGENTO / MODICA

*optional: night excursion to Ragusa Ibla

HOTEL IN SALEMI

Breakfast in hotel and departure to **Selinunte** where, surrounded by a splendid landscape near the African Sea, we will walk among the rests of the ancient Greek city, which today represents the largest archaeological site in the Mediterranean.

We will proceed to **Agrigento**. Free time for lunch.

Visit of **Valley of the Temples** where, among hundreds of almond trees, the rests of the ancient Akragas rise. It was defined by Pyndar “the most beautiful city of mortals”: we will see the “Temple of Hera”, the “Temple of Concordia” and the “Temple of Heracles”.

Transfer to **Modica**, where we will visit the Church of San Giorgio and taste the delicious chocolate, typical of this city. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Modica.



*After dinner it will be possible to organize a night excursion to Ragusa Ibla, entirely rebuilt in baroque style after the earthquake of 1693.



7th Day

NOTO & SIRACUSA

HOTEL IN CATANIA

After breakfast in hotel we will reach Noto, the capital of Sicilian baroque, passing through the countries of Ragusa region.

Noto, famous for its fine buildings of the early 18th century, is considered one of the main masterpieces in the Sicilian baroque style and the town was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002.

Departure to **Siracusa**, the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily.

Free time for lunch.

In the afternoon the visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheater, the Latomie of Paradise and the Dyonisios "Ear" and it will continue with the visit of **Ortigia**, a small island which is the historical center of Siracusa. In Ortigia you will admire the amazing Cathedral and the famous Arethusa's Fountain.



ORTIGIA - Piazza Duomo

Transfer to Catania. Dinner in hotel and overnight.



ORTIGIA © Michele Ponzio

8th Day

NICOLOSI / ZAFFERANA ETNEA or CYCLOPS RIVIERA

HOTEL IN ACIREALE

Breakfast in hotel and departure for **Nicolosi** area to visit a cheese factory.

Lunch in a restaurant included.

In the afternoon you can decide to visit either an honey factory in **Zafferana Etnea** or visit the **Cyclops Riviera** (Acireale, Aci Castello, Acitrezza)

Dinner and overnight in hotel in Acireale area.



ACIREALE – Main square



ACI TREZZA



ACI CASTELLO – The Norman Castle

9th Day

CATANIA RETURN FLIGHT

After breakfast and check out from hotel, transfer to the airport according to your flight schedules.

If you have a late flight we can arrange optional visits. Catania's airport is only 6 km from the city center.





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