

Sicily's Hidden Treasures

May 6th - 16th, 2023

(Extension to Rome: May 16th-18th)

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“Sicilians build things like they will live forever & eat like they will die tomorrow.” - Plato

Sicily is a delight to visit & I love the blend of sea & medieval architecture. Sicily has some of the most ancient remains in all of Europe. An island of delicious Sicilian cuisine & vineyards, what's not to like! Sicilians have a reason to be proud of their homeland!



This is the largest island in the Mediterranean & largest of Italy's democratic republic political regions. 9,927 square miles contains a feast of archeological ruins of the Normans, Arabs & legacies of the Italian Middle Ages, Greek Temples, Romans Theaters dating back to the 6th century BC.

Sat. May 6: Arrive at Catania airport on the Ionian side. Buses are easy to locate outside the terminal and take you directly to Taormina, an hour ride. Our lodging is at the lovely El Condor with patios overlooking the Ionian Sea & the breakfast terrace with lovely views of the Sea.

Sun. May 7: Taormina, 4th century BC enjoyed prosperity under Greek & Roman rule until it was conquered by the Normans in 1087. When it was discovered by the Europeans in the 18th century, life & prosperity were restored. To really help us appreciate the value of this region, we have a 2 hr. guided tour including the Greek Theater, 3rd century BC, still used for international arts & film festivals. On our own, we will take a bus up the mountain to Castelmola, my favorite in the area. There is a castle which sits on the site of an ancient Greek acropolis. The views are spectacular! Taormina has been my groups' very favorite in Sicily. Afternoon free to wander.



Mon. May 8: A 20 min drive to Savoca, a medieval village in the foothills of the Peloriani Mts. Coppola's Godfather was filmed here. The highlight: Bar Vitelli & a scene with Al Pacino. Sitting on the patio, we can view the 14th century Chiesa di Santa Lucia where Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) marries Apollonia.

Tues. May 9: Sicilian Cooking class with the remaining day free to leisurely explore.

Wed. May 10: Depart for the UNESCO -protected Aeolian Islands on the Tyrrhenian Sea. These islands are a magical paradise. Arriving at Lipari, the largest & liveliest of the seven islands. we have a short ride to our lodging, Hotel Rocce Azzurre on the sea with the beach below us.

Thur. May 11: A day to relax and enjoy the serenity of the sea and revive. There are shuttles & taxis available if you choose to explore the island.

Fri. May 12: Island Hopping before we return to mainland Sicily. Arriving at the port in Milazzo, we will have private transportation to Ortigia, our hotel, Aretusa Vacanze B&B, is located in the historical district & Piazza del Duomo, Sicily's most spectacular masterpiece of baroque architecture. The Greek temple is the oldest in Sicily. A 13th century castle is within walking distance. My favorite activity is dinner on the patio with musicians & the evening glow of Piazza del Duomo.



Sat May 13: Morning walking tour includes visiting the lively market covering several blocks including everything from spices, fish, flowers, artwork. Fun to see the action. Then on to the food tour which will be Lunch! Afternoon free.

Sun. May 14: Day trip to Valley of the Temples, Sicily's biggest tourist site, 3 km below Agrigento. This UNESCO site

is mesmerizing, overlooking the Mediterranean, it boasts the best-preserved Doric temples outside of Greece. Once the ancient city of Akragas, it was the fourth-largest city in the world.

Mon. May 15: A Day to explore Ortigia, shop, & swim if you wish. A lovely island you will not want to leave. We will meet in the evening for a farewell dinner.

Tues. May 16: Transportation to Catania airport for those who plan to depart for home or travel towards another destination.

Extension to Rome: May 16-18. Includes Private tours of highlights. Vatican tour upon request, additional cost.

See Website for Trip Insurance & Cancellation Policy

Trip Details: Max of 8 travelers.

Cost: \$1650/double. Add \$470 for a single. **Deposit:** \$300. Balance due: Feb 28, 2023.

Rome Extension: Add \$350/double occupancy. \$450/Single. Last date for refunds unless space is filled.

Includes: 10 nights lodging, ground transportation, Ferries, 10 breakfasts, Food Tour, Cooking Class, 5 guided sightseeing tours with local guides, departing airport shuttle transfer.

Does not include: tips for guides or flights to Sicily. I suggest a flight to Rome & internal Italy flight from Rome to Catania on Ryanair, www.ryanair.com as the flights will be less costly. I will be glad to assist with flight arrangements.

Payment Methods: Tours by Sierra, P.O. Box 912, Green Valley, AZ 85622. Zelle or (credit card add 3%)

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