



ITALY

BEST OF SICILY AND MALTA (TOUR CODE: 12391)

STARTS AND ENDS

Catania to
Valletta

TRAVEL PERIODS

03 May 25 - 18 Oct 25 | 02 May
26 - 17 Oct 26

EXPERIENCE

Escorted
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Go deep into the beauty of Mediterranean with a 12-day adventure across the greatest sites of Sicily and Malta.

Highlights

- Exclusive tour for small groups up to **20 People Maximum in Sicily!**
- A unique **blend of escorted tour** exclusively in English in Sicily and **independent touring in Malta** with multilingual local guides
- Enjoy **gastronomic and enological experiences** throughout your tour!
- Stay in **charming Hotels** located in the historical centres of the main sicilian towns!
- **One-Way Flight** included from Catania to Valletta

The tour's unique blend of escorted and independent touring will fill your wanderlust with unforgettable experiences in Siracusa, Ragusa, Agrigento, Taormina, and Valletta.

Gain insight into the fascinating culture and history of the largest island in the Mediterranean by visiting ancient towns and archaeological areas, including Agrigento, where remains of Doric temples are found; Syracuse, home of very ancient Greek ruins; and Erice, a medieval walled town with sweeping views of the sea.

To tick off from your bucket list the most active and highest volcano in Europe, you may join an excursion up Mount Etna. Take a splendid flight to Valletta, the beautiful capital of Malta, and explore the island's major attractions, such as the Upper Barrakka Gardens and St. John's Cathedral. Walk back in time as you wander around the silent city of Mdina, an old capital teeming with Baroque structures, ancient catacombs, and religious treasures.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 11-night accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Flight: Catania/Valletta in Economy class (1 piece of luggage max 20 kgs per person and a hand luggage max 10 kgs)
- Transportation by deluxe coach or minivan
- Transfer from Taormina Hotel to Catania Airport on day 8
- Daily Breakfast
- 2 Dinners (Catania on day 1 & Ragusa on day 3)
- Street food experience/tour in Siracusa
- Cheese tasting in Ragusa and Almond pastries tasting in Erice
- Visit of a cellar and Wine tasting in Marsala, on Mount Etna
- Half day Regular Tour of Marsaxlokk Market & Blue grotto
- Half day Regular Tour Valletta & Malta Experience
- Full Day Regular Tour to Mdina
- English-speaking tour escort in Sicily
- Local guides where necessary
- Porterage at hotels
- "Whispers" (audio guide) throughout the itinerary

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Catania

Make your way to the hotel in Catania. Tonight, you'll enjoy a welcome dinner.

Overnight stay in Catania at **Katane Palace Hotel** or similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Catania Siracusa Catania

After a buffet breakfast, travel to **Siracusa**.

Visit the World Heritage Site "Neapolis". The visit of this archaeological area includes the famous Greek theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the "Dyionisios Ear". Continue to the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city centre of Siracusa; Visit of the beautiful Cathedral, which is built upon the site of the Doric Temple of Minerva, the legendary Arethusa's Fountain, and the Temple of Apollo.

We will enjoy a "**street food**" **light lunch in the centre of Ortigia**. Afternoon at disposal to stroll through the streets of the centre and for shopping. Return to your hotel in Catania.

Return to **Catania** and enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure to experience the city on your own.

Overnight stay in Catania at **Katane Palace Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **2**

Catania Reggio

After a buffet breakfast, departure for a nice walk in Catania, stroll through the city centre and visit the famous fish market "A PISCARIA", one of the largest fish markets in Sicily. As old as the city itself, it's a great way to experience the abundant fishing and seafood culture of Sicily, with a very special and authentic atmosphere.

Depart to **Ragusa**, renowned for its cheese production; stop for a tasting of artisan cheeses and sicilian specialties (light lunch). We will enjoy an enchanting panoramic tour of the historical centre "Ibla" by the "Baroque train". We'll admire its stunning baroque palaces and churches; together with other seven cities in the Val di Noto, Ragusa is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

We will continue to the hotel where you have time at disposal to relax at the swimming pool or at the Spa. In the evening, have dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Ragusa at **Poggio Del Sole Resort** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ragusa Agrigento Marsala

After a buffet breakfast, proceed to **Agrigento**, a hillside town famous for its magnificent Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (*entrance tickets not included*). Enjoy a guided tour of the Valley, including the Temple of Concordia, which is in almost perfectly preserved condition, the temples of Juno and Heracles.

Free time at disposal for lunch. In the afternoon we'll proceed to **Marsala** a city on the western coast famous for its production of sweet Sicilian wine. Arrival at **Baglio Donna Franca**, a perfectly restored nineteenth-century baglio, in the Marsala countryside, on the hills in front of the the Egadi Islands. The baglio was a property of Florio family. Here we will have the opportunity to visit the cellar and learn all about winemaking. At the end of the tour, we wil enjoy a **wine tasting and light dinner at sunset**.

Overnight stay in Marsala at **Baglio Donna Franca Wine Resort** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **5**

Marsala Erice Monreale Palermo

After a buffet breakfast, departure to **Erice**, via the spectacular "Salt Route", a road flanked by the salt pans, windmills, and the "salt houses" where they still extract the sea salt as the Phoenicians. Arrival in Erice, placed on the top of a hill overlooking the city of Trapani and the Egadi Islands: walk through its tiny and characteristic streets, the winding lanes and, inner courtyards and stop for marzipan and biscuit tasting. Departure to Monreale, light lunch with local specialties on the way.

Arrival in **Monreale**, situated on a hill, few kms far from Palermo in panoramic position. Visit of the Cathedral, one of the most beautiful monuments in the world with its Moorish architecture, housing very fine mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments in Arab-Norman style.

Proceed to Palermo. Accommodation at hotel and free time at disposal for shopping and dinner.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



After a buffet breakfast walking tour of Palermo, the capital of Sicily. We will start our visit by walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to reach "I Quattro Canti di Città" Piazza Pretoria, Piazza Bellini. We will visit the Cathedral, one of the most important architectural monuments. We will then reach one of the most famous and historical markets of Palermo to experience the authenticity of this wonderful and colourful city.

Continue to **Cefalù**, a former fishing village, now a charming coastal town. Enjoy a walk to the city centre and down main street to reach the Arab-Norman Cathedral and the medieval washhouse built in the rock. Free time at disposal to explore the town and shopping. Lunch on your own.

Proceed to **Taormina** through the coastal road passing through Messina from where we'll have the chance to admire the suggestive scenery of the Strait of Messina.

The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure.

Overnight stay in Taormina at **Hotel Caperna** or similar.

Breakfast



After a buffet breakfast, excursion to **Mount Etna**, the highest active Volcano in Europe. We will reach a height of 1800 metres to visit the Sylvester Craters where we'll enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Ionian Sea. Stop at a local winery on the eastern slopes of Etna and **visit a prestigious cellar**. We will have the opportunity to taste different local wines accompanied by local cheese and cold cuts.

In the afternoon back to **Taormina**, charming city called "the pearl of the Ionian Sea": enjoy time at leisure for shopping or walking through its tiny streets. Possibility to visit the Greek Roman Theatre on your own.

Overnight stay in Taormina at **Hotel Caperna** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **8** Taormina Catania Malta

At the appointed time, transfer from Taormina to Catania airport. Flight to Valletta, Capital of Malta, delightful Mediterranean island. Transfer to your hotel.

Tonight enjoy a dinner in your hotel.

Overnight stay in Malta at **Verdi Gzira Promenade** or similar.

Possibility to change your hotel in Malta, please ask our Team for your preferred location.

Breakfast



Day **9** Malta Marsaxlokk Malta

After Breakfast, departure to the idyllic fishing village of **Marsaxlokk** with its colourful luzzus and unique character make the unrivalled setting for the local market.

Continue the tour with a visit to the **Blue Grotto** (weather permitting – boat ride price not included) and the nearby caves.

Explore one of Malta's unspoilt village: the main square, the hub of the village with its parish church and band club. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in Malta at **Verdi Gzira Promenade** or similar.

**Possibility to change your hotel in Malta, please ask our Team for your preferred location.*

***Private excursions in Malta available upon request instead of shared options.*

Breakfast



Day **10** Malta Valletta & Malta Experience Malta

After breakfast, enjoy a **morning tour of Valletta**, Malta's heritage-rich capital.

Highlights include the Upper Barracca Gardens and St John's Cathedral (*entrance tickets not included*), home to a splendid Caravaggio painting as well as an intriguing Museum. Going down Republic Street you will walk past the Grandmaster's Palace before watching the "Malta Experience", an audiovisual show where Malta history throughout the centuries is brought back to life.

Spend the rest of the day exploring at your leisure.

Overnight stay in Malta at **Verdi Gzira Promenade** or similar.

**Possibility to change your hotel in Malta, please ask our Team for your preferred location.*

***Private excursions in Malta available upon request instead of shared options. Please note: from April to June and in October, the excursion "Valletta+Malta experience" will take place in the afternoon.*

Breakfast



Day 11 Malta Mdina Malta

After breakfast, today's excursion takes us to the central part of Malta, dominated by the medieval fortified city of **Mdina**, Malta's former capital city.

The narrow streets, dating back to medieval times, lead to the imposing bastions. Leaving Mdina through Greeks' Gate, we stop at the early **Christian catacombs in Rabat** before proceeding to the cliffs at Dingli. After having lunch, we will visit the **San Anton botanical gardens** situated near the Presidential Palace, which you will be able to admire from outside. We shall also spend time at the crafts centre at Ta' Qali.

At the end of the tour, allow us to astound you with **Mosta's majestic dome**, one of Europe's largest. Return to your hotel and the rest of the day is on your own.

Overnight stay in Malta at **Verdi Gzira Promenade** or similar.

**Possibility to change your hotel in Malta, please ask our Team for your preferred location.*

***Private excursions in Malta available upon request instead of shared options.*

Breakfast



Day **12** Malta Valletta

The tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the port or the airport of Valletta

Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Entrance tickets Supplement

The Entrance tickets to sites and museums include:

- The Neapolis in Siracusa and the Dome;
- Valley of Temples in Agrigento;
- Santa Caterina Church in Palermo;
- The Dome in Monreale;
- St. John's Co-Cathedral in Malta.

In case of price increases for the entrance fees, we will update you at the time of the booking.



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

Transfer from Catania Airport to Catania

One way transfer from Catania Airport to Catania Hotel.

*There will be a surcharge for arrivals between 22:00 and 07:00. In addition, a supplementary fee will be applied to all transfer services on the designated bank holidays: January 1st and 6th, Easter Sunday and Monday, April 25th, May 1st, June 2nd, August 15th, November 1st, December 8th, 25th, and 26th.

Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ACCOMMODATION

Katane Palace Hotel

Catania

The Katane Palace Hotel is in the historical centre of Catania, which is between the sea and Mount Etna and is one of the most beautiful parts of Sicily. The Katane Palace Hotel is close to Via Umberto and Via Etnea, which are in the centre of Catania. It is a good place to stay for business or pleasure. With period furniture, expensive tapestries, an arched ceiling, and paintings, the room has a sophisticated feel.



Hotel Poggio del Sole

Ragusa

Located between central Ragusa and the Mediterranean Sea, **Poggio del Sole** is an imposing **19th-century country manor**. The property features an outdoor swimming pool, a modern wellness centre and spacious, elegant and modern rooms.



Baglio Donna Franca Wine Resort

Marsala

Step into timeless elegance at Baglio Donna Franca, a beautifully restored 19th-century estate nestled in the rolling hills of Marsala, overlooking the Stagnone Reserve and the Egadi Islands. Once the birthplace of the legendary Marsala wine and home to the renowned Florio family, this historic baglio pays tribute to the pioneering spirit of Donna Franca Florio. Today, it invites guests to relive the splendour of Sicily's Belle Époque with an immersive journey through rich heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and the captivating culture of wine.



Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa

Palermo

The Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa is situated in the middle of the city, making it easily accessible to all of Palermo's most popular points of interest. The historical hotel that we have earned a rating of 4 stars for is full of allure and splendour.



Hotel Caparena

Taormina

In Taormina Mare, an emerald green paradise overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, rest and pleasant holidays are guaranteed. The Hotel Caparena's terracotta flooring, beautiful fabrics, pool, and patios offer entire sensory experiences.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.
- A minivan with driver/guide, normally not equipped with wifi, will be provided if the number of participants is equal to or less than 6. In this case, the tour could be operated in two languages.
- For organizational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice. In this case, our supplier ensures similar visits and excursions in accordance with the spirit of the tour program.
- Please note that in **Malta will be an independent touring** with multilingual local guides, option to upgrade to private touring.
- It is important to know that the Catania Malta flight (on day 8), operated by the Air Malta Company, is scheduled for the morning at 7:00am. The arrival at the Hotel in Malta is expected at around 9:30 am; Conventionally, check-in is scheduled from 13.00pm. Only based on the availability of ready rooms, the hotel may assign the room before this time but it is not an obligation.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package (Entrance tickets to sites and museums)