



## Highlights & WWII

Especially Designed for Student

8 nights /9days

Palermo (3 nights) Agrigento (1 night) Syracuse (2 nights) Taormina (2 nights)

**Black-out dates:** Easter Week (5-12 April); 8-16 August; 20-31 December

**Admission fee:** The price of these tours does not include the Admission Fees, which are usually around Euros 8,00 per person payable directly on the spot. If you are over 65 or under 18 years old and you have EU or Commonwealth Passport, the admission fees are free of charge for you showing your document (or copy of your document) on the spot.

### Language: Sicilian

*Duranti la Sicunna guerra munniali, lu 10 di giugnaiu 1943 li forzi anglu-ammericani sbàrcarunu ntê costi dâ Sicilia. Lu pianu d'occupazzioni, dicisu a Casablanca ri Roosevelt e Churchill ntô misi di jinnaiu, venni chiamatu **Opirazziuoni Husky**. Doppu 38 jiorna di battaghê, li forzi alliati agghiucunu a Missina, ma nun rinèscinu a' mpediri l'evacuazzioni in Calabria dî forzi di l'Assi. Italiani e tidischi arrivunu a trasportari ntô cuntinenti la maggior parti di l'òmini e dî mezzî. Â fini, lu 8 di sittèmmiru a Cassibbili veni firmatu l'armistizziu. Lu governu ufficiali italianu passa dû latu dî forzi alliati. Lu sbarcu in Sicilia, marcau l'inizziu di la libirazzioni italiana, e ristau nta li mimorî dû pòpulu, e resta comunque unu di l'abbinimenti cchiù mpurtanti dâ storia ricenti dâ Sicilia e di l'Italia.*

### Language: English

*The Allied invasion of Sicily, codenamed **Operation Husky**, was a major World War II campaign, in which the Allies took Sicily from the Axis (Italy and Nazi Germany). It was a large scale amphibious and airborne operation, followed by six weeks of land combat. It launched the Italian Campaign. Husky began on the night of July 9, 1943, and ended August 17. It was the largest amphibious operation of the war in terms of men landed on the beaches and of frontage. Strategically, Husky achieved the goals set out for it by Allied planners. The Allies drove Axis air and naval forces from the island; the Mediterranean's sea lanes were opened and Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was toppled from power. It opened the way to the Allied invasion of Italy.*

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Tradizione Turismo Tour Operator by Chat & Tour

Via Autonomia Siciliana 23/25 - 90143 Palermo (Italy, Sicily) ☎ Ph. +39 091 6269685 - Fax +39 091 3809900





### **Day 1 (Sunday) Palermo**

Welcome to the warm, beautiful and pleasant island of Sicily!

Upon arrival at Palermo airport please proceed through the Passport Control and collect your luggage inside the customs area. Outside of customs, you will find the driver waiting holding a sign with your full name. Transfer to the hotel. This afternoon enjoy a **Lecture by a local expert**. Later, Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**

### **Day 2 (Monday) Monreale & Palermo**

Today we will visit one of Palermo's great villa palaces, built in the Liberty style, sits within a spectacular garden. The villa was constructed in 1886 by Joseph Whitaker -- grandson of the famous English gentleman and wine merchant, Ingham, who moved to Sicily in 1806 and made a fortune producing Marsala wine. Whitaker had trees shipped to Palermo from all over the world to plant around his villa. These included such rare species as Dragon's Blood, an enormous banyan tree that happens to be the only one found in Europe. Local high society flocked here for lavish parties, and even British royalty visited. In **World War II, Gen. George Patton** temporarily stayed here as he planned the invasion of southern Italy-- . Later continue to Monreale to see where the Arab-Norman art and architecture reached the pinnacle of its glory with the Duomo, launched in 1174 by William II. It represents scenes from the Old and New Testaments all in golden mosaics. This afternoon to explore the lively *Capo Market*, a large open street market that captures the flavor of Palermo's Saracen Arab past. Capo is a blend of general confusion and a jumble of vendors' stalls, winding toward the old gate (Porta Carini) of what used to be the city wall. We continue by seeing Piazza Pretoria and Via Maqueda, whose "four corners" converge Palermo at a quartet of baroque palaces left over from the heyday of Spanish rule dating from 1560. **(BB)**

### **Day 3 (Tuesday) Palermo/Erice/Olive Oil Factory/Palermo**

Early departure to tour western Sicily where we will reach Erice city center. The Elymians settled the medieval town of Erice, which was an important religious site associated with the goddess Venus. Wander through its ancient streets and visit some of the famous homemade pastry shops—world-famous for marzipan candies and other delicacies like almond and pistachio pastries. Then, to an olive oil factory & farmhouse to enjoy a light lunch. In the afternoon, we travel to Trapani on the Salt Way Road. We will tour the historic saltpan works, where the ancient tradition of harvesting salt from the sea is still practiced. Later back to Palermo. **(BB L)**

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#### **Day 4 (Wednesday) Palermo/Agrigento**

Today's drive across the vast countryside showcases Sicily's great variety of sceneries. We soon arrive in Agrigento whose history dates back to 580 BC. A guided tour leads us through the Valley of the Temples, a magnificent cluster of Greek ruins overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. This afternoon at leisure to explore the town on your own or independent visit to the Archaeological Museum. Tonight dinner at local trattoria. Before ending at the hotel, we will admire a great view to the illuminated valley **(BB D)**

#### **Day 5 (Thursday) Agrigento/WWII-Husky Campaign: Licata, Gela/Syracuse**

Today we will travel to the three important places famous during the **WWII** and the **Husky Campaign** by *British-Canadian-American*. The invasion of Sicily began on 10 July 1943 with both amphibious and airborne landings at the Gulf of Gela and north of Syracuse. We will drive from **Licata to Gela**. On arrival to Gela we will see the bunkers and the WWII monument. Later we will continue to Syracuse. Dinner at hotel **(BB D)**

#### **Day 6 (Friday) Syracuse**


Today our guided visit through the Archaeological Park highlights the Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre and the Paradise Quarry. Later stroll through the streets of Ortygia Island, the heart of the city center. This afternoon at leisure or independent visit to the Museum or shops. **(BB)**

#### **Day 7 (Saturday) Syracuse/Etna Volcano/Taormina**

This orning we drive to the main visitor elevation on the slopes of Mt. Etna. Those interested in experiencing the Etna craters will have the option to purchase cable car tickets on the spot (weather and volcanic conditions permitting) to experience the lava fields and incredible landscape view from Europe's highest and most active volcano on their own. Light lunch at local farmhouse to taste typical local dishes. Then this afternoon, continue to Taormina. **(BB L)**

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### **Day 8 (Sunday) Taormina**

All day long at leisure to visit Taormina on your own. Tonigh we gather for a Fareweel Dinner at local restaurant (**BB D**)

### **Day 9 (Monday) Taormina/Catania**

Time to say goodbye to Sicily as we are transferred to Catania Airport (CTA) for our return flight. (**BB**)

**MEAL LEGEND: BB** Buffet Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner

### **FEATURED PROPERTIES USED**

#### **3 star**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Palermo</b>   | Hotel Mediterraneo |
| <b>Agrigento</b> | Hotel tre Torri    |
| <b>Syracuse</b>  | Hotel Helios       |
| <b>Taormina</b>  | Hotel Continental  |

#### **4 star**

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Palermo</b>   | Hotel Residenza diAragona |
| <b>Agrigento</b> | Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace |
| <b>Syracuse</b>  | Hotel Roma                |
| <b>Taormina</b>  | Hotel Villa Diodoro       |

*Note: Hotels may be substituted with similar category*

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**PRICES ARE EUR PER PERSON, LAND ONLY, AND DOUBLE/TWIN OCCUPANCY**

**3 star**

| <b>Group Size →</b>                       | <b>15 + 1</b> | <b>20 + 1</b> | <b>25 + 1</b> | <b>30 + 1</b> |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rate per person in double/twin            | 925,00        | 849,00        | 794,00        | 756,00        |
| Surcharge for single room                 | 200,00        | 200,00        | 200,00        | 200,00        |
| Surcharge for DUS (double for single use) | 300,00        | 300,00        | 300,00        | 300,00        |
| Reduction for 3& 4 bed                    | -100,00       | -100,00       | -100,00       | -100,00       |

**4 star**

| <b>Group Size →</b>                       | <b>15 + 1</b> | <b>20 + 1</b> | <b>25 + 1</b> | <b>30 + 1</b> |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Rate per person in double/twin            | 1.078,00      | 999,00        | 944,00        | 905,00        |
| Surcharge for single room                 | 250,00        | 250,00        | 250,00        | 250,00        |
| Surcharge for DUS (double for single use) | 350,00        | 350,00        | 350,00        | 350,00        |
| Reduction for 3& 4 bed                    | -140,00       | -140,00       | -140,00       | -140,00       |

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**WHAT IS INCLUDED:**

- ✓ One main round trip Airport Transfers for services done between 8:00AM to 7:00PM
- ✓ Sicily: eight overnights at hotel, standard rooms
- ✓ Daily breakfast buffet
- ✓ Coach 30/45 seats with air conditioning, no toilet, Italian speaking driver
- ✓ Welcome Dinner with set group menu
- ✓ Farewell Dinner with set group menu
- ✓ Licensed local guide (English or Spanish or French speaking) to visit: Monreale and Palermo (max 7 hours); Agrigento (max 5 hours); Syracuse (max 5 hours)
- ✓ All sightseeing, tasting and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ One light lunch at olive oil factory with set menù
- ✓ One dinner in Agrigento at local trattoria, with set group menù
- ✓ One dinner at Syracuse hotel with set menù
- ✓ One lunch at local farmhouse in Etna volcano with set menù
- ✓ Hotel & City Taxes

**WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:**

- ✓ Intercontinental Flight
- ✓ Gratuities to Local guide and Driver
- ✓ Portorage at airport
- ✓ Luggage handling at hotel; Tips
- ✓ Beverages and meals not mentioned in the program
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ Airport Transfers between 8:00PM to 7:00AM require payment of the night-use supplement of Euros 3,00 per person each way
- ✓ Tour Director (available on request); Optional excursions

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## WWII in Sicily

### Strategic background

Even prior to victory in the North African Campaign, there was disagreement between the Allies on the best strategy to defeat the Axis.

The British, especially Winston Churchill, advocated their traditional naval-based peripheral strategy. Even with a large army, but greater naval power, the traditional British strategy against a continental enemy was to fight as part of a coalition and mount small peripheral operations designed to gradually weaken the enemy. The United States, with an even larger army, favored a more direct strategy of fighting the main force of the German army in northern Europe. The ability to launch such a campaign depended on first winning the Battle of the Atlantic.

The strategic disagreement was fierce, with the US service chiefs arguing for an invasion of France as early as possible, while their British counterparts advocated a Mediterranean strategy. The American staff believed that a full-scale invasion of France as soon as possible was necessary to end the war in Europe, and that no operations should be undertaken which might delay that effort. The British argued that the presence of large numbers of troops trained for amphibious landings in the Mediterranean made a limited-scale invasion possible and useful.

Eventually the US and British political leadership made the decision to commit to an invasion of France in early 1944, but with a lower-priority Italian campaign reflecting Roosevelt's desire that to keep U.S. troops active in the European theater during 1943 and his attraction to the idea of eliminating Italy from the war. It was hoped that an invasion would knock them out of the war, or provide at least a major propaganda blow. The elimination of Italy as an enemy would also enable Allied naval forces, principally the Royal Navy, to completely dominate the Mediterranean Sea, massively improving communications with Egypt, the Far East, the Middle East, and India. It would also mean that the Germans would have to transfer troops from the Eastern Front to defend Italy and the entire southern coast of France, thus aiding the Soviets. The Italians would also withdraw their troops from the Soviet Union to defend Italy.

### **The campaign: Invasion of Sicily** (Main article: Allied invasion of Sicily)

A combined British-Canadian-American invasion of Sicily began on 10 July 1943 with both amphibious and airborne landings at the Gulf of Gela and north of Syracuse. The defending German and Italian forces were unable to prevent the Allied capture of the island, but succeeded in evacuating most of their troops to the Mainland, the last leaving on 17 August 1943. Allied forces gained experience in opposed amphibious operations, coalition warfare, and mass airborne drops.