

MEDITERRANEAN GATE: Sicily & Malta

7 nights / 8 days

Palermo (2 nights) Taormina (3 nights) Malta (2 nights)

Departure: GUARANTEED (with a minimum of 2 clients)

Small size group: Maximum 20 clients

Style of Accommodation: 4 star standard

IMPORTANT: In order to guarantee all departures with a minimum of 2 clients, we operate this tour either with a Driver-Escort or Tour Director and driver. We do not use licensed Local Guides for this tour. Driver-Escort or Tour Director provide basic historical and site information preparing you to visit sites on your own. They may not accompany you on your visit of the sites.

If you require licensed Local Guides, it is your responsibility to purchase on the spot (if available). We **cannot** arrange licensed Local Guide services for you in advance.

Day 1 (Saturday) 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. Driver will transfer you to your hotel. Tonight, after a brief introduction made by your Tour Director, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. **(D)**

Day 2 (Sunday) Monreale & Palermo

Breakfast at hotel. Our first stop will be *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. Then on to Palermo to visit the Palatine Chapel, which was the crowning architectural achievement of William II's grandfather, Roger II. We then continue by seeing: Piazza Pretoria and Via Maqueda with its "four corners" converging Palermo at a quartet of Baroque palaces left over from the heyday of Spanish rule dating back to 1560. This afternoon at leisure to explore the town on your own or **OPTIONAL EXCURSION** . **(BB)**

Day 3 (Monday) Palermo/Cefalù/Polizzi Generosa/Taormina

Today depart for Cefalù, a charming coastal town home to a massive Norman Cathedral with outstanding mosaics. Here we will visit the city center and stroll down main street to reach the Cathedral. Afterwards, we drive across the vast countryside of the Madonie Park showcasing Sicily's great variety of landscapes. The territory of the Madonie mountains is a paradise of earth and sky, tucked away on the island. We soon arrive in Polizzi Generosa—a lovely town in the heart of the Madonie Natural Park in Palermo province. Step back in time viewing the ancient masserie transformed into a farmhouse, the flour mills evidencing the plentiful water supply of the area, and the furnaces used today, as in the past, to make ceramics. Light lunch at country trattoria to taste typical local dishes. This afternoon we will continue to Taormina, the world famous resort town of Sicily. **(BB L)**

Day 4 (Tuesday) Taormina/Syracuse/Taormina

Today we leave for Syracuse. Upon arrival, we will visit the magnificent Archaeological Park where we will admire the 5th-century BC Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre and the Paradise Quarry. Later we will walk through the island of Ortygia, the picturesque and densely built original center of Syracuse. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon we drive back to Taormina. **(BB L)**

Day 5 (Wednesday) Taormina

Today at leisure to relax, shop, explore or **OPTIONAL EXCURSION. (BB)**

Day 6 (Thursday) Taormina/Catania/Malta

Time to say goodbye to Sicily. Today transfer to Catania airport to independent flight to Malta. Upon arrival at Malta-Luga airport please proceed through the Passport Control and collect your luggage inside the customs area. Then driver will transfer you to your hotel. **(BB)**

Day 7 (Friday) Malta, Valletta, Mosta Dome, Mdina Medieval City & Rabat Tour

Following breakfast, our first visit is Valletta, here we include the Barraka Gardens which offer stunning views of the Grand Harbour and magnificent fortifications, a walk down Triq Republikka where you can admire numerous historical buildings built by the Knights of St. John including the Aubereges, the Grand Masters Palace and the St. John's Co. Cathedral, the church of the order and also home to Caravaggio's masterpiece "Beheading of St. John" amongst other treasures. Our next stop will be to Mdina. Mdina is a unique medieval city, built in the 9th century, the city was built on a plateau in the centre of the island and from the high bastion walls you can admire stunning views of the island. This medieval city is a maze of narrow alleys and magnificent architecture, the only way to appreciate this special city is to stroll through it and admire the living history. Free time will be given for lunch. After lunch we continue by visiting the old town of Rabat. Here we will make our way through the narrow streets to the centre which is dominated by the imposing St. Paul's Church which overlooks the piazza. Rabat, can claim the origins of Maltese Christianity. It was here in AD60 that the Apostle St Paul is said to have stayed after being shipwrecked on the Islands. We visit the St. Paul's Grotto which is said to be the resting place of St. Paul during his visit to the islands. Our final stop is one of Malta's most famous churches, Mosta Dome. The church's dome is the third largest unsupported in the world, exceeded in size only by St. Peter's in Rome and St. Sophia in Istanbul. Mosta Dome is also popular with visitors as it was at this church where the World War II bomb pierced the dome during a service, fell inside the church during a service and failed to explode, this locals hailed as a miracle. Our tour ends here and we make our way back to your hotel. **(BB)**

Day 8 (Saturday) Malta

Time to say goodbye to Malta while we are transferred to the airport for our return flight or optional trip. **(BB)**

Meal Legend:

BB Buffet Breakfast **L** Lunch or Light Lunch **D** Dinner

FEATURED PROPERTIES USED FOR: MADE IN SICILY TOUR

Palermo: Hotel Politeama
Hotel Mercure Palermo Centro
Hotel Residenza d'Aragona

Taormina: Hotel Miramare

Malta: Corinthia Marina Hotel
Hotel may be substituted with similar category

**Departs Palermo
(Saturday)**

10-Jan
24-Jan
7-Feb
21-Feb
14-Mar
28-Mar
18-Apr
25-Apr
2-May
9-May
23-May
30-May
13-Jun
20-Jun
27-Jun
4-Jul
25-Jul
29-Aug
12-Sep
19-Sep
26-Sep
3-Oct
10-Oct
24-Oct
31-Oct
7-Nov
14-Nov
12-Dec

Highlights:

Palermo	The Sicilian capital and capo market
Monreale	Dome and the golden mosaics
Cefalù	Norman cathedral
Polizzi Generosa	Lovely town in the heart of Madonie Natural Park
Taormina	Worldrenowned Mediterranean resort town
Syracuse	Archaeological Park and Ortigia Island
Malta	Valletta, Mostra Dome, Mdina Medieval City & Rabat Tour

PRICE ARE EUR PER PERSON, LAND ONLY, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

GROSS RATE:

Euros 1.580,00 per person in double/twin occupancy

Euros 1.535,00 per person in triple occupancy

Euros 1.975,00 per person in single occupancy

SURCHARGE

-Pre-night Palermo: Euros 70,00 per person per night in double occupancy.

-Pre-night Palermo: Euros 65,00 per person per night in triple occupancy.

-Pre-night Palermo: Euros 99,00 per person per night in single occupancy.

-Post-night Malta: Euros 132,00 per person night in double occupancy.

-Post-night Malta: Euros 202,50 per person night in single occupancy.

-Round Trip Airport transfers: based on a minimum of 2 paying people for services done from 8AM to 7PM (Night use surcharge for services done from 7:30PM to 7:30AM is Euros 20,00 per person each way)

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ One main round trip airport transfer for Sicily & Malta
- ✓ Palermo: Two nights accommodation
- ✓ Taormina: Three nights accommodation, NO sea view rooms
- ✓ Malta: Two nights accommodation
- ✓ Daily continental breakfast buffet
- ✓ Welcome Dinner with set group menu
- ✓ Vehicle/coach with air conditioning, no toilet
- ✓ English speaking Tour Director/Driver as per program
- ✓ All sightseeing, tasting and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ One light lunch at country restaurant in Polizzi Generosa with tasting of several typical local dishes
- ✓ One lunch at local restaurant in Syracuse
- ✓ Hotel & city taxes

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Intercontinental Flight
- ✓ Gratuities to Tour Director, Local Guide and Driver
- ✓ Porterage at airport
- ✓ Luggage handling at hotel
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Beverages and meals not mentioned in the program
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ Airport Transfers
- ✓ Admission fees payable directly on the spot (total rate is approximately Euros 16,00 per person)
- ✓ Optional Excursions

CANCELLATION POLICY, per person

Tradizione Turismo by Chat & Tour Srl reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any tour departure in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control. If cancellation is made anytime prior to departure of the tour, Tradizione Turismo's only liability will be to refund the passenger the amount it has received for the tour booking.

In the event clients need to cancel the tour, our Cancellation Policy is as follows:

Days Prior to Departure	Cancellation Fees
60 or more days	Euros 100,00
59 - 45 days	25% of the Tour cost
44 - 15 days	50% of the Tour cost
14 - 8 days	80% of the Tour cost
7 - 0 days	100% of the Tour cost

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT

A deposit of 20% per person is required at the time of reservation. At that moment a signed contract is required to hold your reservation. Final payment of the tour is due 60 days prior to departure.

List of Hotels will be advised 20 days before departure.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS (Based on a minimum of 2 paying clients):

Segesta

Day 2 (Sunday) Palermo/Segesta/Palermo

This afternoon depart for Segesta -- it looks as if it were built yesterday. Segesta's ancient Greek temple makes a valid claim to being the best preserved in the world, and its amphitheatre boasts a hilltop position on Mount Barbaro second to none. The magnificent Doric temple--whose roof was never added and the pillars never fluted-- is impressive as one of the highlights of a large archeological park. The archaeological site reflects the presence of several ancient civilizations, beginning with the elusive Elymians. Later back to Palermo.

GROSS RATE: Euros 40,00 per person

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ Vehicle/coach with air conditioning, no toilet
- ✓ English speaking Tour Director/Driver as per program
- ✓ All sightseeing, tasting and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ City taxes

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Gratuities
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Admission fees
- ✓ Amphitheatre shuttle bus
- ✓ Licensed local guide

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS (Based on a minimum of 2 paying clients):

Etna Volcano experience by Jeep ride with light lunch at farmhouse

Day 5 (Wednesday) Taormina/Mount Etna in Jeep Ride/Taormina

Today you will be picked up at your hotel by an off-road driver/escort and transferred to Etna Volcano. You will enjoy a lovely Jeep experience through the Etna area: Mount Fontana (view of Bove Valley), the Thieves Cave (grotta dei ladroni), extinct craters of Sartorius Mounts, and lava flow from the 2002 eruption. Light lunch at a farmhouse to taste typical Sicilian dishes. Off-road drive along the Linguaglossa-Castiglione and Alcantara Gorges area. This afternoon return to Taormina hotel. (L)

GROSS RATE: Euros 110,00 per person

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ One collective jeep ride to Etna Volcano with pick-up and drop-off at Taormina hotel
- ✓ Basic English speaking jeep driver as per program
- ✓ One light lunch at farmhouse in Etna district, 3 course menu including water and local wine
- ✓ All sightseeing and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ City Taxes

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Gratuities to jeep driver
- ✓ Tips

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS (Based on a minimum of 2 paying clients):

Etna Volcano experience with light lunch at Etna Winery

Day 5 (Wednesday) Taormina/Mount Etna Winery/Taormina

A short drive takes us 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. Then to a winery and farmhouse. This estate also produces olive oil, grappa, sparkling wine and artisan food. We indulge in a typical Sicilian light lunch at the farmhouse. This afternoon, back to Taormina. (L)

GROSS RATE: Euros 75,00 per person

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ One visit to Sicilian cellars with Sicilian wine tasting
- ✓ Deluxe vehicle/coach with air conditioning
- ✓ English speaking Tour Director/Driver as per program
- ✓ One light lunch at winery/farmhouse with tasting of typical Etna dishes
- ✓ All sightseeing, tasting and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ City Taxes

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Gratuities to Driver/Tour Director
- ✓ Basic Etna cable car ride payable directly on the spot
- ✓ Etna cable car ride + crater Jeep ride + Alpine guide ticket payable on the spot
- ✓ Tips
- ✓ Beverages not specified

OPTIONAL GOURMET COOKING EXPERIENCE WITH LUNCH
(Based on a minimum of 2 paying clients):

Day 5 (Wednesday) Taormina & Gourmet Cooking Course
(h 9:00AM - h 1:00PM)

This morning independently transfer to a local restaurant in Taormina where we are greeted by *Chef Antonio Orlando* and *Chef Donna Maria*. A brief walk takes us to an open air market where we'll purchase fresh fruit, vegetables and all the ingredients necessary for the cooking course. Then back to the restaurant to start cooking. At the end of the cooking course, we will enjoy our scrumptious creations with the perfect compliment—a beautifully paired Sicilian wine. Dessert follows accompanied by a typical local Dessert wine. (L)

GROSS RATE: Euros 110,00 per person

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ One gourmet cooking course
- ✓ One lunch at the local restaurant to taste your creations
- ✓ Beverage: water, ½ bottle local wine, dessert wine
- ✓ All sightseeing and tasting as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ City taxes

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ Gratuities
- ✓ Round trip restaurant transfers