

SICILIAN HIGHLIGHTS

7 nights / 8 days

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

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.

ADVANCED BOOKING: Book 2009 tour departures by November 15, 2008 at the 2008 rates.

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. Then independently transfer 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 nestled 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 stone quarries, 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/Piazza Armerina/Agrigento

Following breakfast, we will drive through the interior of Sicily to reach Piazza Armerina where we will view the ruins of the Roman Villa of Casale. The mosaics discovered here are celebrated among scholars of antiquity. This afternoon continue to Agrigento where we will visit the finest of all ancient Greek sites—the complete Doric Temples. Dinner at local restaurant. After dinner, we enjoy an orientation tour of Agrigento by night to admire the Illuminated Temples. **(BB D)**

Day 7 (Friday) Agrigento/Marsala Winery/Salt Way Road/Erice/Palermo

Today we tour western Sicily and begin in Marsala. The town is the most famous wine producer on the entire island. Upon arrival, we transfer to a local winery and visit the cellars. Enjoy a Farewell Cocktail with snacks and wines. Following this visit, we reach the lovely Trapani province where we will admire the Salt Way Road and Sicilian windmills. Then continue on to the medieval hillside town of Erice. Upon arrival, walk through the town to reach the Castle built upon the remnants of the Venus Temple. Afterwards, we stop at a local pastry shop to taste the typical marzipans and almond pastries. Time at leisure. This afternoon we will drive to Palermo for our last night in Sicily. **(BB FC)**

Day 8 (Saturday) Palermo

Time to say goodbye to Sicily. Independent transfer to Palermo airport. **(BB)**

Meal Legend:

BB Buffet Breakfast **L** Lunch or Light Lunch **FC** Farewell Cocktail **D** Dinner

FEATURED PROPERTIES USED FOR: SICILIAN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

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

Agrigento: Dioscuri Bay Palace Hotel
Hotel della Valle

Taormina: Hotel Miramare
Hotel may be substituted with similar category

**Departs Palermo
(Saturday)**

10-Jan
24-Jan
7-Feb
21-Feb
14-Mar
28-Mar
4-Apr
11-Apr (Easter)
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

**Returns to Palermo
(Saturday)**

17-Jan
31-Jan
14-Feb
28-Feb
21-Mar
4-Apr
11-Apr
18-Apr
25-Apr
2-May
9-May
16-May
30-May
6-Jun
20-Jun
27-Jun
4-Jul
11-Jul
1-Aug
5-Sep
19-Sep
26-Sep
3-Oct
10-Oct
17-Oct
31-Oct
7-Nov
14-Nov
21-Nov
19-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
Piazza Armerina	Ancient mosaics in the Roman Villa
Agrigento	Valley of the Temples
Marsala	Winery visit and wine tasting
Trapani province	Saltpan works
Erice	Castle built on the remnants of Venus Temple

PRICE ARE EUR PER PERSON, LAND ONLY, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

GROSS RATE:

Euros 1.199,00 per person in double/twin occupancy

Euros 1.150,00 per person in triple occupancy

Euros 1.450,00 per person in single occupancy

Easter Departure (April 11): supplement Euros 120,00 per person

SURCHARGE

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

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

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

-Round Trip Airport transfers: Euros 70,00 per person (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)

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- ✓ Palermo: Two nights accommodation
- ✓ Taormina: Three nights accommodation, NO sea view rooms
- ✓ Agrigento: One night accommodation
- ✓ Palermo: One night accommodation
- ✓ Daily continental breakfast buffet
- ✓ Welcome Dinner with set group menu
- ✓ Farewell Cocktail and snacks at Marsala winery
- ✓ One visit to Sicilian cellars with Sicilian wine tasting
- ✓ 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
- ✓ One dinner at local restaurant in Agrigento
- ✓ 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 40,00 per person)
- ✓ Optional Excursions
- ✓ Licensed local guide

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 case 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