



Syracusa to Etna to Taormina Multi Adventure Tour - 8 days

Syracusa to Etna to Taormina Multi Adventure Tour - 8 days in Sicily, land of legends and natural beauty. History, hiking, climbing the volcano, visiting baroque villages and indulging your senses in the local dishes



Location

Modica



Days

8



Duration

ND



Category



Season

All Year



Tour Type

TOUR OVERVIEW

Season: all year available on request

7 nights/8 days

Syracusa (4 nights) Taormina (3 nights)

Hotel Package: not included but available on request

Airline Tickets: not purchased by us

Bike: included

Land: Catania airport - East Side

Leave: Catania airport - East Side

Day 1 – Catania airport > Syracuse

Day 2 – Syracuse Half Day Walking Tour

Day 3 – Syracuse > Hike and Swim Cava Grande Canyon > Syracuse

Day 4 – Syracuse > Hike Pantalica Necropolis and Anapo Valley > Syracuse

Day 5 – Syracuse > Ragusa Ibla, lunch with locals and Modica > Taormina

Day 6 – Taormina > Etna Hike and Descent on the Volcano Ash > Taormina

Day 7 – Relax in Taormina

Day 8 – Taormina > Catania airport

Featured Licensed Local Guide Recommended for the above tour

-Syracusa, half day | Already Included in the tour costs
The rates for the above services are available on request.

TOUR CODE: STTOUR

TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1

Catania Airport > Syracuse

Private vehicle and Italian speaking chauffeur disposal: transfer in only
Welcome to the warm, beautiful and pleasant island of Sicily! Upon arrival at Catania Airport please proceed through the Passport Control and collect your luggage inside the customs area. Then meet the driver showing a sign with your name and a short drive takes you to Syracuse.



Day 2

Syracusa Half Day Walking Tour

Private taxi disposal: from Ortigia to the Archaeological Park and return
English speaking guide disposal: half day from h 9AM
Today meet the local guide at hotel and catch on a taxi to move to the Archaeological Park (Admission fee: not included), highlights of which are the Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre and the Paradise Quarry. Then back to Ortigia, the heart of the city center. This delightful pedestrian small island, connected with Syracuse by the Umberto Bridge, is home to the wonderful Cathedral built on the site of an ancient Temple of Athena as can clearly be seen from the original Doric columns that were incorporated into the building's main structure. Also on this square is the beautifully symmetrical Baroque Palazzo Beneventano and the church of Santa Lucia, the town's patron saint. Later to the colourful daily Street Market, which sells a fantastic array of fruit, vegetables, fish and meat.

This afternoon is at leisure



Day 3

Syracusa > Hike and Swim Cava Grande Canyon > Syracuse

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal: full day from h 8AM
Dress Code: dress in layers, use hiking boots and beach facilities
Km: 8 | 450 mt elevation gain
Today departure for Cava Grande, a protected Natural Reserve in the province of Syracuse. Visiting Cava Grande is a great way to discover the hidden landscapes of the Hyblaean Mountains. The viewing platform offers a wonderful view over the gorge with its imposing limestone walls that plunge into the depths of the valley. This is the most fascinating canyon, cut into the limestone rocks by the river Cassibile, which formed natural swimming pools where hikers can have a refreshing bath. There are also

two ancient rock villages, dating back to the X-XI century BC, with graves in several caves and grottoes. The flora includes endemic species, tropical ferns, spurges, wild orchid and a plant you wouldn't expect to grow in Sicily: the snowdrop.

Time at leisure to swim in the Cava Grande natural pool.

This afternoon we then return to Syracuse.



Day 4

Syracusa > Hike Pantalica Necropolis and Anapo Valley > Syracuse

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal: full day from h 8AM

Dress Code: dress in layers, use hiking boots

Km: 16 | 500 mt elevation gain

Today departure for the rocky necropolis of Pantalica, one of the most impressive Unesco's world heritage sites in Sicily but also one of the most difficult to reach. It's a prehistoric archaeological site, belonging to the late bronze age --13th - 8th century B.C.-- and it contains a huge rocky cemetery consisting of thousand of graves digged in the walls of the Anapo canyon. The tombs are overhanging the Anapo Valley. Pantalica is worthy a visit also for it's wild natural panoramas. The whole area is inside the Anapo Valley nature reserve, a paradise for trekking and hiking with a lot of different pathways. Pantalica is the plateau over the canyons formed by the creeks Anapo, Bottigliera and Calcinara. This small rivers have digged impressive rocky walls: a great panorama but also a good defended position for the ancient populations of Sicily.

This afternoon we then return to Syracuse.



Day 5

Syracusa > Ragusa Ibla, lunch with locals and Modica > Taormina

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal: full day from h 8.30AM

Today we drive to Ragusa Ibla, one of the most picturesque towns in Sicily. The view from the upper town over Ragusa Ibla on its own separate hilltop is quite breathtaking. One of the UNESCO-listed Baroque towns of south-eastern Sicily, Ragusa is also one of the principal filming locations for the Sicilian Detective Saga Il Commissario Montalbano (Montalbano Inspector), a series which has done wonders for publicising the beauty of this area.

Lunch with local, an amazing meal experience to taste the real home dishes.

This afternoon departure for Modica. Like the other towns in the Val di Noto, was badly damaged in the 1693 earthquake and largely rebuilt in Sicilian Baroque style. Modica is custodian of a 400 year tradition of Sicilian chocolate-making. Being part of the Spanish kingdom for so many years meant that Sicily was often one of the first recipients of the new foodstuffs being brought back from South America. Cacao was one of these and today Modica still specialises in making granulous chocolate, often flavoured with chilli pepper, cinnamon or vanilla, that is based on Aztec methods and recipes. Chocolate shops abound and, for the real chocoholic, it is sometimes possible to watch the "chocolatiers" at work. Tasting of Modica chocolate is a must.

Later we drive onto Taormina, the world famous resort town of Sicily.



Day 6

Taormina > Etna Hike and Descent on the Volcano Ash > Taormina

Private vehicle and English speaking driver disposal: full day from h 8AM

Dress Code: dress in layers, use hiking boots and do not forget your coat/wind jacket

Km: 10 | 1100 vertical meters downhill | 400 meters of elevation gain

Cable Car Ticket: included one way | Return: fun descent on the volcanic ash

Note: this excursion is not accessible to carpaths, asthmatics and people suffering from joint problems. To participate, you must be in perfect physical condition and be used to hiking on difficult terrain at high altitude

Today departure for the Etna Volcano. We arrive at Rifugio Sapienza and from here we catch on the first cable car up to 2.500 mt. Then walk on the volcanic sand, away from the crowds. This excursion is a trekking of around 10 km to visit Valle del Bove, a large horseshoe-shaped caldera on the active Sicilian volcano. Our trail crosses fascinating places: it is a unique opportunity to observe the recent eruptive activity and the lava flow of 2001, you will also see a lava tunnel. The most fun moment of this excursion is the descent on the fine volcanic ash, in the Valle del Bove caldera, over 900 meters of descent. The beauty of this painting, painted by the volcanic forces of nature, leaves hikers breathless. Hiking on the volcanic sand in the Valle del Bove caldera is an unforgettable memory that will remain in your memories.

This afternoon we then return to Taormina.



Day 7

Relax in Taormina

Today is at leisure for your independent walk in the Corso Umberto Street, the core of the town. From here you can join the Greek Theatre (Admission fee: not included), built for the most part of brick, and is therefore probably of Roman date, though the plan and arrangement are in accordance with those of Greek, rather than Roman, theatres; It is one of the world's most popular tourist attractions, so that Johann Wolfgang Goethe in his famous "Journey to Italy" wrote: "No theater audience has never had such a sight in front of him." The highlight of today walking tour is for sure go up using the old steps up to the top of the theatre to admire an amazing view of the Taormina Bay and the Etna volcano, the view from here is amazing and unforgettable.

The balance of the day is at leisure.



Day 8

Taormina > Catania airport

Private vehicle and Italian speaking chauffeur disposal: transfer out only

Today transfer to the airport.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

NOT INCLUDED

