



Sicilian Gateway Tour - 5 days

5 days private tour of Sicily with English speaking driver exploring a simple showcase of the Island with a nice sense of the most important sites



Location

Agrigento



Days

5



Duration

ND



Category



Season

All Year



Tour Type

TOUR OVERVIEW

Season: all year available on request

4 nights/5 days

Palermo (2) Taormina (2)

Hotel Package: not included but available on request

Airline Tickets: not purchased by us

Land: Palermo airport - West Side

Leave: Catania airport - East Side

Day 1 – Palermo airport > Town

Day 2 – Palermo Street Food Walking Tour and Monreale

Day 3 – Palermo > Agrigento and Piazza Armerina > Taormina

Day 4 – Relax in Taormina

Day 5 – Taormina > Catania airport

Featured Licensed Local Guide Recommended for the above tour

-Monreale, to visit the Dome | Already Included in the tour costs

-Agrigento, to visit the Valley of the Temples

-Piazza Armerina, to visit the Roman Villa

-Taormina, to visit the Greek-Roman Theatre

The rates for the above services are available on request.

TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1

Palermo Airport > Town

Private vehicle and Italian speaking chauffeur disposal: transfer in only

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 meet the driver showing a sign with your name and a short drive takes you to the town.



Day 2

Palermo Street Food Walking Tour and Monreale

Palermo Street Food Small Size Group Tour starts: h 10.30AM

Taxi Service: from Palermo to join Monreale and return

Monreale, English speaking guide disposal: to visit the Dome

Today indulge your senses in the Palermo Street Food Gastronomy which has a centuries-old culinary tradition, with Greek, Arab, Spanish and French influences. This immersion into Palermitan street food will give you a good understanding of the provenance and use of many Sicilian foods, as well as of local gastronomy. During the walk we highlight many of Palermo's artistic and architectural landmarks, including its Norman heritage, which has recently been included on the World Heritage List.

This culinary and cultural immersion commences with a stroll through the Ballarò Market, one of the liveliest places of the city, with its shouting vendors, and colourful and fragrant stalls. Your guide will discuss the history of Palermo's historical markets, and relate it to the peculiarities of some local food specialties, some of which can be traced back to the influence of the Arab, Norman and Spanish dominations. While exploring the market and other family-run speciality food shops, we will indulge in savoury snacks such as Arancine --fried rice balls filled with either meat ragù, béchamel, ham or butter--, Sfincione --deep pan pizza with tomato sauce, onions, anchovies and caciocavallo cheese--, Pane e Pannelle --fried chickpea flour pancakes seasoned with fresh lemon juice -- Pani Cca Meusa --spleen sandwich--. Our Palermo walk continues through other parts of the historical center, to explore the complexities and layering of the city's history, cultures and artistic expressions. We will pay particular attention to three buildings of many styles, La Martorana, the Four Corners, the Cathedral and the Palazzo Reale, which reveal the sometimes harmonious, sometimes incongruous composition of different architectural and artistic cultures (Arab, Norman and Spanish) that has characterized Palermo for centuries.

This afternoon meet the Local Guide in the area around the Cathedral and catch on a taxi to move to Monreale to see where Arab-Norman art and architecture reached its pinnacle in the Duomo (Tips: not included), launched in 1174 by William II. It represents scenes from the Old and New Testaments all in golden mosaics.

We then return to Palermo.



Day 3

Palermo > Agrigento and Piazza Armerina > Taormina

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

Today departure for Agrigento to enjoy the finest of all ancient Greek sites—the complete Doric Temples (Admission fee: not included), one of Sicily's most famous historical attractions. This is one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greece art and architecture, and is one of the main attractions of Sicily as well as a national monument of Italy.

Later departure for Piazza Armerina, situated deep in the Sicilian hinterland, at 721 metres above sea level. Upon arrival we visit the Roman Villa (Admission fee: not included), built in the middle of the 4th Century AD as a hunting lodge by a Roman patrician. The Villa is home to some of the best preserved and extensive examples of Roman mosaics spread over around 3500mt and is one of the most luxurious of its kind. These extraordinarily vivid mosaics, probably produced by North African artisans, deal with numerous subjects, ranging from Homeric escapades and mythological scenes to portrayals of daily life, including the famous tableau of girls exercising in their “bikinis”.

We then continue to Taormina.



Day 4

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 5

Taormina > Catania airport

Private vehicle and Italian speaking chauffeur disposal: transfer out only

Today transfer to the airport.

TOUR MAP



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ All sightseeing, tasting and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- ✓ English speaking Driver
- ✓ VAT
- ✓ Vehicle with air conditioning

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ Admission fees
- ✗ Beverage and meal not specified
- ✗ City taxes
- ✗ Gratuities and tips
- ✗ Hotel accommodation
- ✗ Intercontinental/Local Flights
- ✗ Licensed Tourist Guide
- ✗ Travel Insurance