

# Landscapes and Flavors of Sicily 2021

Palermo, Zingaro National Park, Marsala, Agrigento, Caltagirone, Modica, Noto, Siracusa, Taormina, Mt. Etna, Catania



## Day 1 Welcome to Italy - Palermo

Upon arrival at Palermo Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to our hotel. Dinner and overnight (D)

## Day 2 Palermo - Monreale - Palermo

After breakfast, we will drive to Monreale to visit its Cathedral and cluster. After lunch, we will enjoy a tour of Palermo which includes its imposing Cathedral; the Baroque church of St Giuseppe dei Teatini, Quattro Canti, the arabesque churches of Martorana and San Cataldo's and finally the Palazzo dei Normanni with Cappella Palatina. Tonight we will have a special dinner in a local restaurant to taste some of special Sicilian dishes. Overnight in Palermo (B, Special dinner)

## Day 3 Walking day: Zingaro National Park (4.4 miles) - Marsala

Today we will drive to the town of San Vito Lo Capo. From here we will be able to enter the Zingaro National Park, where sea and wild nature meet. The Zingaro Reserve is one of the most admired natural gems in Sicily. Walking along the coastal path, we will be able to experience the sea as it was centuries ago; the work of man lacks almost entirely, except for some rural houses. There is not one coastal road, there are no cars, no noise except the one coming from wind and waves. In the afternoon we will reach Marsala. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

**Day 4 Marsala - Agrigento** This morning we will enjoy a guided tour of the Marsala salt pans and the ancient mills. We will walk across the pond and the banks of crystallization tanks, listening about the main tools for raising water and refining salt. Then we will enjoy a visit to the historical center of Marsala and a tasting at the "Donnafugata" winery. In the afternoon we will continue to Agrigento. Dinner and overnight in our hotel (B, D)

## Day 5 Agrigento

After breakfast, we will visit the Archaeological Park of the Valley of the Temples, dated around 5th century B.C., that belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage. We will walk through the finest of all ancient Greek sites such as Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Hercules and the

Temple of Zeus. After lunch, we will reach the Turkish Steps, a rocky cliff of unusual white color that lies between two sandy beaches. Enjoy a brief walk on the cliff, then return to Agrigento. Dinner and overnight (B, D)

## Day 6 Caltagirone - Modica - Noto

Today we will continue our drive to the city of Caltagirone, famous for the quality and sophistication of its ceramics. We will be able to see La Scala di Santa Maria del Monte, or simply the Steps of Caltagirone or "La Scalinata". It was built in 1608 to join the upper and the lower part of the city. In 1953, the 142 steps that constitute it were completely rebuilt in lava stone and were elaborately decorated with hand-painted works from local craftsmen. In the afternoon we will stop in Modica to enjoy a walk through its historical center and to enjoy a tour in the laboratory of the oldest and most famous pastry shop in Modica, with the tasting of the inimitable chocolate known all over the world. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Noto (B, D)

## Day 7 Noto - Marzamemi - Noto

Following breakfast, we will enjoy a visit of Noto, a jewel of Sicilian Baroque, UNESCO heritage. We will visit its main street coming from the Porta Reale, passing by the Church of St. Francesco with the majestic staircase. We will visit also the Cathedral Church with the Bishop's Palace and the Church of San Salvatore. Then we will drive to the fishing village of Marzamemi. In 10th century, Arabs founded the village and built the tonnara that, although is no longer in function, left to the city a deep-rooted fishing



### This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: [anton@travelwithus.com](mailto:anton@travelwithus.com)

tradition. After a special lunch, we will have some free time to enjoy a nice walk in the old town, surrounded by the sea and the breeze. Later in the afternoon we will return to our hotel in Noto for dinner and overnight (B, L, D)

### **Day 8 Siracusa - Taormina**

This morning we will continue our drive towards north. We will stop in Siracusa to visit the Neapolis, the famous archaeological park in the countryside of Siracusa. This place houses, amongst the others, the Greek Theatre, Ear of Dionysius and the Latomie. Then we will reach the lovely peninsula of Ortigia. Starting from the ruins of the Temple of Apollo, with a lovely walking, we will finally admire the Duomo square with its beautiful white Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, erected on the Ancient Greek temple of Athena. The walk will continue till the Fountain of Arethusa. After lunch, we will continue to Taormina to set into our hotel. Dinner and overnight (B, D)

### **Day 9 Mt Etna - Taormina**

After a good breakfast, we will reach Rifugio Sapienza (mt. 1923), on Mont Etna. From here we will be able to start an easy-going short tracking to see some craters. Then we will drive back and stop for a light lunch at a winery overlooking the sea. After lunch we will enjoy a guided tour of Taormina which includes cathedral, the Baroque Fountain, and the Greek Theatre. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Taormina (B, L, D)

### **Day 10 Catania**

Today we will head Catania to enjoy a walking tour of the city centre. We will walk along Via Etnea to Piazza Università. Then we will take the Alessi Staircase to reach Via dei Crociferi, a street known for its 16th-century churches and as a set for the filming of many movies. We will arrive in San Francesco Square to visit the church where six of the eleven "candelore" that parade during Saint Agatha's feast are kept. We will have also the chance to see the small section of a Roman theatre. The tour will end in Piazza Duomo, with its stunning Cathedral of St Agata and the quirky Elephant Fountain. We will have lunch in the famous fish market with special street food. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Catania (B, D)

### **Day 11 Departure**

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to Catania airport for return flights home (B)

