

SICILY WINE, FOOD & CULTURE



Palermo, Monreale, Cefalù, Erice, Taormina...



Scenic Travel Service S.r.l. - Tour Operator

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Program

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL & VISIT PALERMO & MONREALE:

Arrival at Palermo APT. Meet & greet with our local guide. Private transfer to Palermo for the visit of the city: the cultural and economic capital of Sicily, known for its blend of architectural styles. The tour will start with the visit of the 12th century Cathedral and Royal Palace, a true masterpiece of Sicilian-Norman architecture whose construction began in 1185 and lasted almost 700 years. Examine the exquisite mosaics in the palace's Palatine Chapel and visit the Opera House and the lively Capo Market before lunch. Lunch in local restaurant in Palermo. In the afternoon, it is a short drive to visit the 12th century Monreale di Cathedral, known for its splendid Byzantine mosaics and the cloister of the Benedictine abbey. Transfer to your hotel in Palermo Area. Dinner and overnight

DAY 2 – FD TOUR TERMINI IMERESE & CEFALU':

Breakfast at the hotel and departure with private coach. Drive to the ancient Greek-Roman city of Termini Imerese: walk among the ruins of the Roman Forum and Amphitheatre. Visit the Civic Museum with its famous Greek archaeological collection and the 18th century church. Proceed to the charming medieval coastal town of Cefalù, built on the site of an ancient Greek and Sicilian settlement. Lunch in traditional restaurant. Visit the medieval wash house and tour the Norman Cathedral built by King Roger II in 1130. Stop into a wine yard and visit. Arrive back in Palermo by late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel and overnight.

DAY 3 – FD TOUR SEGESTA, ERICE & TRANSFER TO AGRIGENTO:

Breakfast at the hotel and depart from Palermo for the abandoned ancient city of Segesta, built by the mysterious Elymians in 500 BC. Tour the majestic Doric temple, one of the world's best-preserved Greek architectural sites. Lunch at leisure. Continue to Erice, a small medieval town offering commanding views from its 2,000-foot location atop Mount Giuliano. Visit Chiesa Matrice, the town's main church, the massive Elymian-Punic Walls, and the fragrant public gardens of the Giardino del Balio. Continue to Agrigento, dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 4 – FD TOUR AGRIGENTO, PIAZZA ARMERINA & TRANSFER TO SIRACUSA:

Breakfast at the hotel. Walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Valley of the Temples a magnificent cluster of Greek ruins overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The temples are the remains of Akragas, a Greek city built about 582 BC of a unique amber sandstone. Explore the Temple of Hera, Temple of Hercules, and the Temple of Concordia, that was converted to a Christian church in the 6th century. Continue to Piazza Armerina and free time for lunch and then visit another UNESCO's World Heritage Site, the Roman Villa del Casale. Dating back to the 3rd century BC, it hosts the biggest display of Roman polychrome mosaics in the world. End the afternoon with a scenic drive to your hotel in Siracusa. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 – FD RAGUSA & MODICA:

Breakfast at the hotel, drive to Ragusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an ornate capital of the Baroque style. Explore the maze of streets and monuments in this ancient Sicilian village that was destroyed by the 1693 earthquake and then rebuilt by the most famous architects of the time. Continue to Modica and lunch. Modica is another jewel of the baroque style, exemplified best by its Teatro Garibaldi, Palazzo Tedeschi, and the Church of San Pietro, which stands at the top of a monumental Baroque staircase flanked by statues of the Apostles. Stop for a taste of the famous Modica chocolate before returning to Siracusa by late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 6 – FD SIRACUSA, ORTIGIA & TRANSFER TO TAORMINA:

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning walking tour of the classic Greek archaeological park of Ancient Siracusa. Visit the monolithic Greek Theatre, the Latomie of Paradise with the Dionysus' Ear grotto and the Roman Amphitheatre. Lunch in local restaurant. In the early afternoon wine tasting in a local Wine yard. Continue through the narrow streets of the ancient Greek colony of Ortigia. See the 7th century Duomo, the Fonte Aretusa, an ancient spring and the Temple of Apollo. Enjoy lunch in Ortigia before departing for Taormina. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 7 – ETNA & TAORMINA:

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning tour Mt. Etna, the highest and most active volcano in Europe. Ride the funicular up to 8500 feet, to get a fantastic view of 10,000-foot Mt. Etna and the surrounding countryside. After lunch at Etna walking tour of Taormina's old town, with its narrow streets filled with handcraft, embroidery and antique shops. Visit the 5th century BC Greek Theater, the public gardens, the 14th century Palazzo Corvaja, and the medieval St. Nicholas Church. Rest of the afternoon is at leisure to relax shop or explore more of beautiful Taormina on your own.

DAY 8 – DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel and departure.