

Cultures & Flavours of Sicily

Palermo, Erice, Marsala, Agrigento, Ragusa, Syracuse, Taormina

8 days / 7 nights

From

\$2,949

Per person/Double Occupancy/Land package

For travel between April 1 and October 31, 2024/4* hotels

Sicily, the biggest island in the Mediterranean, is a melting pot of cultures, where Greek and Arab influences can be found in the architecture, in the ancient ruins from different civilizations and in the unique cuisine; a land where the earth spills fire from ancient volcanoes and the sun warms the emerald waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Sicily is not only a place of extraordinary monuments, enchantingly beautiful scenery, and beautiful towns, it is also a land that offers an incredible variety of excellent vintages, ancient cellars and vineyards, typical dishes and traditional foods rediscovered in their original style.

Discover at your pace, rent a car, or travel by bus from place to place.

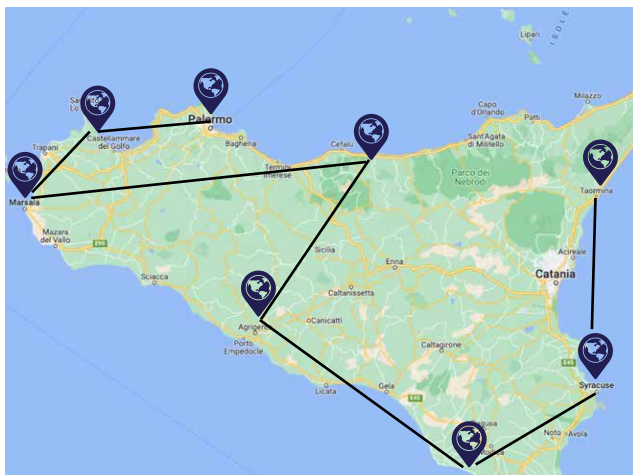


Slow Food Presidia and Other Recommended Products

Enjoy a unique chance of sampling several Slow Food Presidia products - high-quality, traditional foods and beverages at risk of "extinction" - and other local delicacies from Slow Food recommended quality producers

Highlights

The Manna, a natural sweetener with a very low glucose and fructose content, is obtained from a bluish resinous substance extracted from the bark of ash trees in the Madonie Mountains. When exposed to the sun, this substance solidifies into manna. The collection technique is very ancient and has survived only in this small corner of the Mediterranean. The purest is the manna eletta, which runs down in "stalactites" without touching the bark.



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Typical Restaurants from the “Osterie D’Italia” Slow Food Guide

Taste the delicious, authentic dishes of the regional cuisine eating at restaurants selected among those recommended by Slow Food in the “Osterie d’Italia” guide, small “trattorie” that still use fresh, local produce and traditional recipes for their dishes.

Wineries and More

Sample wines and/or local typical products at wineries, bakeries, pastry shops, fresh produce markets and more.

Day 1: Sicily/Palermo arrival

Arrive in Palermo and check-in to your hotel. Time to settle in, welcome dinner and overnight stay. (D)

Overnight in Palermo

Day 2: Palermo - Montreale - Palermo

Embark on a walking tour through the center of Palermo. Taste five local food specialties and a drink to wash them down tastefully. Blend a historical and foodie walking tour into one. See and learn about historical landmarks, including Opera dei Pupi (traditional puppet theater), Piazza Beati Paoli, the Cathedral, the Quattro Canti, and the Pretoria fountain en route. Walk through the bustling Capo Street Market with its local meats, seafood, produce & Sicilian bites.

Day 2: Cont'd

Tuck into some sfincione, panelle, croccché, arancine, and cannolo. Refresh yourself with a drink, to close off your tour in style. Afternoon depart to Monreale, Visiting the Cloister of Santa Maria La Nuova in Monreale means discovering the best Italy has to offer, a place recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Cloister belonging to the complex of the Benedictine abbey of Santa Maria la Nuova, founded in 1174 on the orders of Norman king William II, is a magnificent example of Byzantine architecture in Sicily. Square in shape, it is the linchpin of the entire abbey complex built around it. It is cadenced with arches supported by little columns decorated with mosaics with geometric and floral motifs. The wonderful decorations on the capitals depict scenes from the Old and New Testament as well as animal figures and floral motifs. (BB, LL)

Overnight in Palermo



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Day 3: Erice, Marsala, Agrigento

Departure for Erice, a magnificent medieval city. Walk through the town streets and visit the Pasticceria Maria Grammatico, an old pastry shop that offers recipes from the Antico Convento. Try some of the local delights like almond pastries filled with candied lemon, Cannoli, Zibbibo (local wine) and the famous “brutti ma buoni” (“ugly but tasty”) biscuits. Proceed to Marsala, the city renowned for its production of the wine of the same name. Visit winery and wines tasting paired with local products. Free time to stroll through the old town. Proceed to Agrigento (BB, LL)

Overnight in Agrigento

Day 4: Agrigento - Syracuse

Guided tour of the Valley of the Temples, testament to the ancient Greek civilization in Sicily. Lunch in typical restaurant. We suggest to proceed to Piazza Armerina, where you can admire the Villa Romana del Casale, (entrance fee not included) built in the 4th century AD and a UNESCO World Heritage site for its splendid mosaics. Departure for Syracuse. Dinner in the town centre of Ortigia – of some traditional dishes and local wines in a typical local restaurant. (BB, D)

Overnight in Syracuse



Day 5: Syracuse - Ragusa - Modica - Syracuse

Departure for Ragusa to visit the city built in a region that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its Sicilian style baroque architecture. The city is divided into two parts: the old city and the new city. Proceed to Modica, the the ancient capital of the county full of amazing examples of architecture that pay homage to the old Sicilian baroque style, where you will have a visit and tasting at the old pastry famous for chocolate, (BB, T)

Overnight in Syracuse

Day 6: Syracuse - Mount Etna - Taormina

After breakfast tour of the city, one of the most important and strategic political centres in ancient Greece, visit the archaeological park and walk around the heart of the old city – Ortigia. Departure for the Etna area, stopping on route to visit of winery, where prestigious wines are produced, a real find in terms of wines from Etna. There will be a tasting accompanied by local product. (BB, LL)

Overnight in Taormina

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Day 7: Taormina

Guided tour to discover Taormina, the small medieval village called "the pearl of the Ionian Sea". Every Church, street, and buildings are full of the colors, people, and magic that make Sicily famous. During this walk you will visit the famous Ancient Theatre, the beautiful Palazzo Corvaja, the Odeon - a small Roman theater, the church of Saint Catherine, Vicolo Stretto - the narrowest street in Taormina, Corso Umberto - the fashionable and charming main street, and Piazza IX Aprile - the main square with a magnificent view of the majestic profile of Etna and the coast of the Bay of Giardini Naxos stretching up the hill to the Greek Theater. Taste the best granita in town at the colorful Bam Bar (or equivalent) and enjoy the refreshing tastes of lemon, strawberry, coffe and many others depending of what the season offers. (BB, T)

Overnight in Taormina

Day 8: Departure

Your experience comes to an end. Check out from the hotel. (BB)

Meal legend: BB=Buffet Breakfast, L=Lunch, LL= light lunch, D=Dinner, T=Tasting

Land package 8 days / 7 nights, per person

2024	Double occupancy
April 1 - October 31, 2024	\$ 2,949
Single room supplement	on request

The Package Includes:

- 7 nights accommodation in 4* charming hotels and/or historical residences
- 7 Continental buffet breakfasts
- 4 meals based on traditional regional dishes:
 - 1 welcome dinner
 - 2 light lunches with wine tasting
 - 1 dinner at "Osterie d'Italia" typical Slow Food restaurant
- 4 guided tastings of Slow Food wines and/or Presidia products from the Sicily region
- 1 private guided tour (3 hours) of Palermo
- 1 private guided tour (2 hours) of Valley of the Temples Archaeological Park, Agrigento
- 1 private guided tour (2 hours) of Archaeological Park, Ortigia
- 1 private guided tour (2 hours) of Taormina
- Entrance fee to: Palatine Chapel, Valley of the Temples, Archaeological Park, Greek Theatre

The package does not include:

- Any flights
- Car Rental
- Any transfers
- Hotel tax payable at hotel, 4euro per person per night
- Gratuities
- Meals not included, and beverages
- Optional: Additional lunch/dinner, Car rental, Private car with driver, Pre/post tour

Hotel or equivalent category:

Palermo: Quintocanto Hotel & Spa****
Agrigento: Hotel Della Valle****
Syracuse: Grande Albergo Alfeo ****
Taormina: Grand Hotel Excelsior ****

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