

ISLAND IN THE SUN

Splendors Of Sicily

ITINERARY

TOUR PREPARATION

PRICING & ACCOMMODATIONS



Date

April 24 – May 3, 2019

Price

\$4,500

Duration

10 DAYS

Availability

Open

[BOOK NOW](#)

About This Tour

Sicily is the largest island in all the Mediterranean Sea, a sun-kissed land with warm breezes and rich volcanic soil that once made it truly a paradise on earth. The land and sea offered up in abundance fresh seafood, olive trees, orange groves, lemon trees, date palms, almond fields, grape vineyards, rolling wheat fields, and dense forests. Although largely deforested over the centuries in all but the northeastern corner, the island is still one of Italy's great breadbaskets.

Writers, poets, historian, and even a few locals have claimed that the gods personally took part in the creation of Sicily. One look and the first-time visitor will know what they mean. The world's first multicultural society, Sicily is more than just an island full of art, archaeology, history, folklore, scenery and great food. It is a world unto itself.

Tour highlights

- Arab-Norman city of Palermo *
- Cathedral of Monreale *
- Selinunte, 7th century Greek city
- Architectural Area of Agrigento *
- Villa Romana del Casale *
- Baroque town of Ragusa *
- Siracusa, ancient Greek center *
- Taormina
- Mt. Etna *

* UNESCO World Heritage Sites

ITINERARY

Wednesday 24 April, 2019

Welcome to Palermo, Sicily

Arrange your international flights to arrive by 4pm today in Palermo. Use the airport code PMO when researching your best routes. Upon arrival, make your way to our hotel. Transfer options will be described in Final Documents emailed prior to departure. Upon arrival, check into your hotel room and enjoy some free time to explore. This evening we gather in the hotel for introductions over drinks, then proceed to a local restaurant for our Welcome Dinner (*Dinner Included*).



[Click to enlarge](#)

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Palermo / Monreale

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Palermo, seeing the rich and varied buildings and monuments which give the city its flavor. Later visit Monreale, a town located on the slopes of Mount Caputo overlooking the Conca d'Oro, the beautiful valley just beyond Palermo. Monreale is world-renowned for its UNESCO-listed cathedral, a dazzling mixture of Arab, Byzantine and Norman artistic styles framed by traditional Romanesque architecture. This is a perfect start to our trip, as it provides a context for the multicultural melting pot that Sicily has been for centuries. The afternoon and evening are free to explore Palermo in more depth on your own *(Breakfast)*.



Palermo Cathedral

Friday, April 26, 2019

Selinunte / Agrigento

After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and depart Palermo. Our first stop is Selinunte, an abandoned ancient Greek city, founded in the 7th century B.C., with ruins of an acropolis and numerous temples. We enjoy a guided tour of the primary archaeological areas here. After a break for lunch, continue on to Agrigento, located on a plateau overlooking the southern coast of Sicily. We visit the UNESCO-listed Valley of the Temples, seeing the remains of several ancient Greek temples overlooking the coast, and enjoy what we hope will be a spectacular sunset. Dinner is included this evening. Overnight in Agrigento *(Breakfast / Dinner)*.



Selinunte

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Piazza Armerina / Ragusa

Depart our hotel after breakfast and cross the center of the island to Piazza Armerina, where we visit the UNESCO-listed Roman Villa Romana del Casale. The villa, dating to the 4th century, contains over 35,000 square feet of mosaic flooring, featuring some of the finest examples to have come to light. Enjoy a guided tour of this incredible site. This afternoon, we continue deep into the countryside to the Baroque UNESCO-listed city of Ragusa for overnight *(Breakfast)*.



Casale Mosaic

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Ragusa / Siracusa

Take a guided walking tour through the labyrinthine lanes of Ragusa this morning. Badly damaged in the massive earthquake of 1697, a new Ragusa, known as Ragusa Superiore, was rebuilt in the years that followed on the highest part of the hill. Lower down, the local aristocracy refused to leave their decrepit palazzi and rebuilt many of them on the spot in what became known as Ragusa Ibla over the ruins. See the Duomo, dedicated to St. George, the lovely Piazza del Duomo, and the heart of the old town. Following free time for lunch, we cross to the east coast, and the UNESCO-listed city of Siracusa for dinner and overnight. *(Breakfast / Dinner).*



Ragusa

Monday, April 29, 2019

Siracusa / Taormina

In ancient times, Siracusa was the city of Archimedes, Pindar and Aeschylus, founded in the 8th century BC, and for a time it rivaled Athens as the most important city of the Greek world. Visit the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, comprising the Greek Theatre, one of the best preserved anywhere in the world, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Altar of Ierone, some 650 feet long, and the so-called Ear of Dionysius, where limestone was quarried in antiquity. Then cross to the older quarter, on the island of Ortigia, mentioned by Virgil in The Aeneid. Visit the Cathedral, built around a temple dedicated to Athena first erected 2500 years ago and visible between the newer walls, and see the Fountain of Aretusa, a freshwater spring just yards from the sea, where papyrus still grows. Following lunch, drive north along the coast, passing Mount Etna on the way to Sicily's most elegant town, Taormina. *(Breakfast / Dinner).*



Syracuse

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Taormina

Located on a wide plateau beneath Mount Tauro, for which it is named, Taormina is Sicily's most famous resort town. It was a 19th century haunt of the English aristocracy, including D.H. Lawrence, who wrote *Lady Chatterly's Lover* here. Taormina's most famous gay resident, Baron Wilhelm von Gloeden, helped to put the place on the map for gays in the late 1800s with his famous photographs of local youths. Enjoy a morning orientation walk through the vibrant town, seeing the botanical gardens, the Greek Theatre, the Corso Umberto I and the main square of Taormina, Piazza IX Aprile, for fantastic views of Mt. Etna.

Reconvene in the late afternoon to take minibuses up to Castelmola, a village at the top of the mountain, viewing what we hope will be a spectacular sunset, and visiting the famous Bar Turrisi (*Breakfast*).

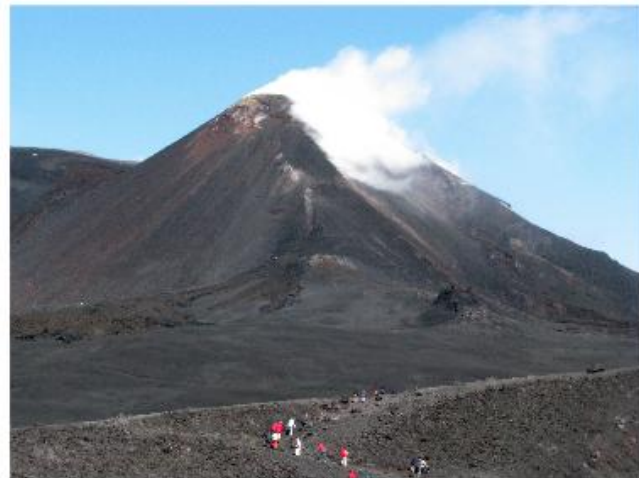


Taormina Amphitheatre

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Taormina / Mount Etna

On this morning's excursion we ascend UNESCO-listed Mount Etna, Sicily's greatest natural attraction, its highest mountain and one of the world's most active volcanoes. Weather permitting, we travel by cable car and 4-wheel drive to get as close to the 10,902 foot crater as safety allows. The volcano has undergone major eruptions several times in the last twenty years, but it is considered safe as lava is constantly escaping. Returning to Taormina in the early afternoon, the rest of the day is free to stroll the winding medieval passages and atmospheric streets and explore secluded gardens hidden by stone walls or seaside terraces. *(Breakfast).*

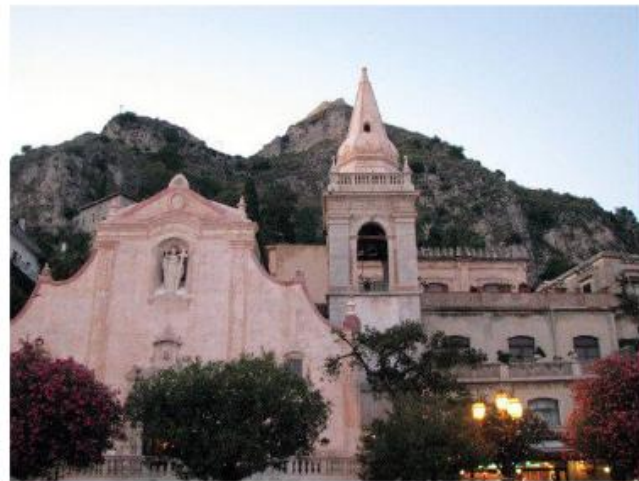


Mt Etna Hike

Thursday, May 2, 2019

Taormina

Today is completely free in Taormina for shopping, sightseeing, lazing around the hotel or heading down to the beach. Meet up again at one of the town's most famous restaurants for a special farewell dinner tonight. *(Breakfast / Dinner).*



Taormina

Friday, May 3, 2019

Departure

The tour officially ends after breakfast this morning. We will organize small group transfers to the airport by public taxis (not included). If you wish to extend your stay in Taormina, please let us know on your reservation form so that we can keep your room available for another night. *(Breakfast)*.



Farewell To Sicily

TOUR PREPARATION

Entry Requirements - For U.S. Citizens a valid passport is the only document required to enter Sicily for stays of up to 60 days.

Immunizations and Health - No immunizations are currently required for travel to Sicily, but it is wise to have your inoculations up-to-date. Is your tetanus booster current?

Exit Requirements - There is currently no separate departure tax required of visitors leaving Sicily other than that included with the cost of your airline ticket.

Making Travel Arrangements to Italy

On this tour, international airfare is NOT included. You will need to get your international air to Palermo, Sicily, and from Taormina, Sicily, back to the U.S.A. We encourage you to work with Steven Goldberg at Frosch Travel in Chicago, who knows the best flights to get you to and from Sicily. You will need to arrive in Palermo by 4:00 pm on April 24, 2019. Depart from Taormina on any convenient flight on May 3, 2019.

Steven Goldberg / Frosch Travel

Toll-Free in USA: 1-800-323-1276

International guests, please call +1-312-371-9686

Email: steven.goldberg@frosch.com

When calling, please identify yourself as a Toto Tours participant. If you leave a message on Steven's voice mail, he will return your call promptly. He will be happy to discuss your travel plans and help you decide when to purchase your ticket for the best rate.

NOTE: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible we often must turn away last minute registrants because we relinquish hotel space and air reservations 8 – 12 weeks prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

What to Bring

In April, average daily temperatures in Sicily range from 50 to 65 degrees. You won't need a suit jacket or tie, as the tour is informal and dinner attire will be casual, but you will want nice outfits for dinners. Try to pack light and bring only one piece of luggage plus your carry-on. Create mix and match outfits, and think about layering! Pack any medications you require in a carry-on bag and leave expensive jewelry at home.

Suggested Packing List:

- Proof of citizenship. Passport required.
- Nice casual wear for dinners.
- Long pants (2 – 3 pairs), belt.
- Long-sleeve shirts (3 – 4).
- Socks, underwear for 9 days.
- Light sweater and windbreaker as nights can get cool.
- Inexpensive poncho in case of rain.
- Comfortable walking / hiking shoes.
- T-shirts / polo shirts (3 - 4).
- Swimsuit.
- Fleece to add a layer for additional warmth.
- Personal toiletries.
- Camera, lots of digital memory, extra batteries.
- Ziploc Bags (sandwich size for documents, gallon size for wet items or toiletries).
- Electrical Adapter. The electricity supply in Sicily is 230 Volts/50 Hertz. Sockets are type E, requiring two round plugs. [Click here](#) to see examples and obtain more information.
- A good book for the long flights.

Money Matters

The Euro (EUR) is the standardized monetary currency of Sicily. Major credit cards are accepted widely and may be used at most hotels, restaurants and major shops, but you will need cash at local markets and small shops. As of May 7, 2018, the exchange rate was approximately \$1.20 to the Euro. [Click here](#) to see the current exchange rate.

Tippling in Italy: Italy is for exceptional service, and there are not standard rules. A service charge on the restaurant bill probably will not go to the waiter. If you are pleased, leave a few Euros to show your appreciation. Tip a porter for carrying your bags, and even a small amount to a taxi driver is greatly appreciated. We present collective tips to guides and drivers throughout the tour and will suggest a per-person amount for the group tip contribution before departure.

The Toto Spirit

Toto Tours provides Adventure Travel Experiences as differentiated from tours in the traditional sense. Adventure Travel allows (even encourages) you to be an active participant. Adventurers can be identified by certain traits. They are:

- fun-loving optimists who have a sense of humor and accentuate the positive;
- good natured realists who are willing to accept situations as they exist;
- undaunted by the unexpected, like occasional delays or bad weather;
- willing to forego some of the amenities we normally take for granted;
- eager to try new things & test limits;
- punctual;
- not whiners!

Join us for an extraordinary experience on the sun-kissed Island of Sicily! If you have any questions, please email us at tototours@gmail.com.

Travel Insurance

We recommend you purchase travel insurance with Travel Guard to cover for unforeseen events prior to and during your trip. Please follow the link below or call us for more information.

Travel Guard®

[LEARN MORE](#)

Cover your trip with a Travel Guard
travel insurance plan.



PRICING

Tour prices per person

Price: \$4,500 in double occupancy hotel accommodations.

Private Room: \$450 additional in a single room, for a total tour price of \$4,950. Single rooms in Europe tend to be smaller than rooms for two persons.

Double Room for Sole Use: \$600 additional, for a total tour price of \$5,100. (Paying a single supplement is not required. Toto Tours will try to match you with a roommate if you are traveling alone and prefer to share a room. If this is not possible, a single supplement will be applied to your reservation before the final payment date.)

Deposit: \$600 (Due at time of registration for the tour. May be paid with a credit card.)

Remaining Balance: \$3,900 double / \$4,350 single / \$4,500 DSU

Remaining Balance Due: February 3, 2019 (80 days prior to departure. Full payment required with reservation form if enrolling after this date.)

Note: The tour price does not include bank service charges for processing credit card payments, and assumes that the balance of the tour price will be paid by check. If you would like to pay the final balance with a credit card, a 4% service charge will be applied. Let us know if you wish to pay by credit card, and we will adjust your invoice accordingly.

Included: 9 nights hotel accommodations; hotel breakfasts daily plus Welcome & Farewell Dinners; other meals as specified in the itinerary; ground transportation in climate controlled motorcoach; sightseeing activities and entrances as listed in the itinerary. This is a fully guided and escorted tour.

Not Included: International airfare to Palermo, Sicily (PMO) and returning from Catania, Sicily (CTA); hotel transfers; ground transportation for sightseeing on your own (taxis, local guides, etc.); meals and optional activities not specifically listed in the itinerary; camera fees; alcoholic beverages; insurance; laundry, telephone calls, faxes, or any other expenses of a personal nature. Tips to drivers and guides and other conveyance attendants are not included; tipping guidelines for our group tips will be provided prior to departure.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Click hotel name to read description

- Palermo (2 nights): [Hotel Principe di Villafranca](#)
- Agrigento (1 night): [Hotel della Valle Wellness and Spa](#)
- Ragusa (1 night): [Hotel Mediterraneo Palace](#)
- Siracuse (1 night): [Grand Hotel Ortigia](#)
- Taormina (4 nights): [Hotel Villa Diadoro](#)