

# Sicilian Secrets TOUR OF SICILY

DISCOVERING HIDDEN TREASURES



## Tour Catania/Catania - 8 days / 7 nights in half board From March 31st to October 20th - departures every Saturday

### 1<sup>st</sup> Day/Saturday : CATANIA – (hotel in Catania)

Self arrival in hotel in Catania. Meeting with our tour-leader; dinner and overnight in hotel.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Day/Sunday: ETNA – TAORMINA – (hotel in Catania)

After breakfast, departure to Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe. We will reach the “Crateri Silvestri”, small volcanic cones now inactive, surrounded by ancient lava flows. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit Taormina, charming town offering a lovely panorama of the Ionic Sea and Etna, famous for its fascinating Greek theatre, the ancient Cathedral and Palazzo Corvaja. You can have a nice walk among the typical small streets and go shopping (coral jewels, precious laces, ceramics, sweets and much more). Back to hotel in Catania for dinner and overnight.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Day/Monday: AIDONE – PIAZZA ARMERINA – (hotel in Palermo)

After breakfast in hotel we will leave to visit the Archaeological Museum in Aidone to see the statue of the “Goddess of Morgantina” carved in the 5th century BC. Transfer to Piazza Armerina where you will have free time for lunch and where you will admire the splendid polychrome mosaics of the famous Villa Romana del Casale, representing mythological and historical episodes and scenes of hunting and entertainments. We will proceed to Palermo for overnight. Dinner at the hotel or in a restaurant nearby.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Day/Tuesday: PALERMO - MONREALE – GIBELLINA – (hotel in Salemi) - ERICE\*

After breakfast in hotel, the whole morning will be spent visiting the capital of Sicily, one of the richest towns in the island for its history and art. We will visit the Cathedral, the Palazzo dei Normanni with its precious Palatine Chapel, the fountain in Pretoria Square, adorned with sculptures. We will go on to Monreale to visit its huge Norman Cathedral, proclaimed the Eighth Wonder of the World, and its splendid Cloister. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon, transfer to Salemi passing through Gibellina where you will see the “Ghost Town” of Poggioreale, destroyed by an earthquake in 1968. Still today, its ruins testify how life was before that terrible disaster. We will also visit the “Cretto di Burri” (Burri’s Crevice), one of the widest works of contemporary art, whose giant slabs just follow the paths of the town’s streets and alleys; this huge monument of death is what remains today of the old city. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Salemi. After dinner it will be possible to make a night excursion to Erice, suggestive medieval town, located in a charming position, offering a striking panorama of the Egadi Islands.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Day/Wednesday: SEGESTA – ERICE – MOTHIA - MARSALA

Breakfast in hotel and departure to Marsala, where we will visit a cellar and taste the strong sweet wine, famous all-over the world. We will go on to visit the small island of MOTHIA, situated at the centre of a large lagoon in Marsala, known today as ‘Stagnone’. Thanks to its particularly favourable location, in the past it was one of the most prosperous Punic colonies in the Mediterranean. Free time for lunch and continuation to Segesta to see its famous Doric Temple, unusually well preserved. Back to Salemi, in time to visit this nice town, proclaimed the first Capital of Italy in 1860; the visit will start with the Museum (of Sacred Art, of Risorgimento, of the Mafia) and will end in Piazza Alicia, proclaimed the sixth most beautiful square in Europe: there lies the Norman Castle, erected in 12th century and also the rests of the Mother Church, destroyed in 1615 by an earthquake and restored in 1968 by a Portuguese architect, appearing today as a magnificent theatre in the open air. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Salemi.

INDIVIDUALS

in cooperation with





**6<sup>th</sup> Day/ Thursday: SELINUNTE – AGRIGENTO – MODICA – (hotel in Modica) - RAGUSA IBLA\***

Breakfast in hotel and departure to Selinunte where, surrounded by a splendid landscape near the African Sea, we will walk among the rests of the ancient Greek city, which today represents the largest archaeological site in the Mediterranean. We will proceed to Agrigento. Free time for lunch and visit of Valley of the Temples where, among hundreds of almond trees, the rests of the ancient Akragas rise. It was defined by Pindar "the most beautiful city of mortals". You will see the "Temple of Hera", the "Temple of Concordia" and the "Temple of Heracles". Transfer to Modica, where we will visit the Church of San Giorgio and taste the delicious chocolate, typical of this city. Dinner and overnight in hotel in Modica. After dinner you may make a night excursion to Ragusa Ibla, entirely rebuilt in baroque style after the earthquake of 1693.

**7<sup>th</sup> Day/Friday: NOTO – SIRACUSA – (hotel in Catania)**

After breakfast in hotel we will reach Noto, the capital of Sicilian baroque, passing through the countries of Ragusa region. Noto, famous for its fine buildings of the early eighteenth century, is considered one of the main masterpieces in the Sicilian baroque style and the town was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002. Departure to Siracusa, the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon the visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the Dyonisios "Ear" and it will continue with the visit of Ortigia, a small island which is the historical centre of Siracusa. In Ortigia you will admire the beautiful Cathedral and the famous Arethusa's Fountain. Transfer to Catania for dinner and overnight in hotel.

**8<sup>th</sup> Day/Saturday: CATANIA**

Breakfast in hotel and end of services.

THE PROGRAM MAY BE MODIFIED

**GROSS RATES PER PERSON:**

**€ 710,00 in double room**

Single room supplement: **€ 196,00**

FB supplement (all lunches from day 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>):: **€ 99,00**

3<sup>rd</sup> bed reduction: **€ 35,00**

\* "OPTIONAL" NIGHT EXCURSIONS (a min. number of travelers is required): ERICE on day 4th and RAGUSA IBLA on day 6th – rate € 10,00 p.p. each, to be paid on the spot  
You may also make further optional night excursions (Catania and Palermo) to be agreed on the spot with the tour leader.

**The rates include:**

Transport service for the whole tour (from the 2<sup>nd</sup> day to the 7<sup>th</sup>), half board (dinner), driver escort/tour-leader for the whole tour (from the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> day to the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> day), local guides or audio-guides where necessary, visit of a cellar in Marsala and wine tasting (on the 5<sup>th</sup> day), chocolate tasting in Modica (on the 6<sup>rd</sup> day), VAT and taxes.

**The rates do not include:**

Transfers in/out, all lunches, beverages, boat from/to Mothia, entrance fees for monuments, tips and extras in general, anything not specified under "The rates include".

**(NET) SUPPLEMENTS:**

- Pre-night / Post-night in hotel in Catania (in B/B): € 48,00 p.p. in double room - € 78,00 in single room;
- Transfers from Catania Airport to hotel in Catania and vice versa: from € 27,00 (car 1/3 pax);

## Departure dates

**Saturday/Saturday:**

March	31
April	07...14...21...28
May	05...12...19...26
June	02...09...16...23...30
July	07...14...21...28
August	04...11...18...25
September	01...08...15...22...29
Ottobre	06...13...20

**HOTELS:**

**Carefully selected for their location and design to combine Sicilian tradition with comfort**

CATANIA (4\*\*\*\*) NH Bellini or Nettuno or similar  
PALERMO (4\*\*\*\*) Palazzo Sitano or Mercure or similar  
SALEMI (3\*\*\*sup.) Villa Mokarta or similar  
MODICA (4\*\*\*\*) Torre del Sud or Modica Palace or similar