



ITALY

WONDERFUL ISLANDS: SICILY & MALTA (TOUR CODE: 11716)

STARTS AND ENDS

Catania to
Valletta

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 2022 - 20 Dec 2022

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Private Escorted Tours

An unmissable occasion to discover two of the most awe-inspiring islands in the Mediterranean Sea: Sicily and Malta.

Highlights

- Chocolate tasting in Modica and oil tasting in Caselvetrano, Sicily
- Visiting numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites of incomparable beauty
- Exploring the beautiful Maltese island of Gozo

So different in certain aspects, and yet so similar in others... Sicily and Malta are two incredible islands testifying to many cultures and civilizations who have left their mark during the centuries. Not only rich in culture and history, but also in culinary traditions, local folklore and mesmerizing nature: this itinerary is the perfect blend to uncover the highlights of both these amazing islands.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Catania at Hotel Principe (or similar)
- 2 nights in Ragusa at Hotel Poggio del Sole (or similar)
- 1 night in Agrigento at Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace (or similar)
- 1 night in Palermo at Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa (or similar)
- 2 nights in Taormina at Hotel Villa Diodoro (or similar)
- 4 nights in Malta at the Dolmen Hotel (or similar)
- Private arrival & departure transfers in Sicily
- Private transportation with English-speaking driver in Sicily as per itinerary
- Flight or catamaran from Catania to Malta
- Private arrival & departure transfers to/from Malta airport
- Daily Breakfast
- Welcome drink & dinner at Catania hotel
- 2 hotel dinners as per itinerary
- 6 lunches at local restaurants and/or Street Food as per itinerary
- Oil tasting at a local farmhouse in Selinunte area
- Chocolate tasting experience in Modica
- English-speaking local guides as per itinerary in Sicily
- FD tour of Valletta & Mdina with private car/minivan and local guide (ferry included)
- FD tour of Gozo with private car/minivan and local guide (ferry included)
- HD tour of Marsaxlokk with private car/minivan and local guide
- Porterage service at the hotels
- Whispers throughout the itinerary in Sicily
- Expenses for meals and accommodation for driver in Sicily

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Catania

Welcome to Sicily! Upon arrival at the airport in Catania, meet your driver for a transfer to your hotel downtown.
Enjoy your **welcome cocktail and dinner.**

Overnight in Catania at **Hotel Principe.**

Dinner



Day **2**

Catania Siracusa Ragusa

After buffet breakfast, departure to **Syracuse**: visit the archaeological area of "Neapolis", including its famous Greek theatre. Continue to the **island of Ortigia**, the small baroque city centre of Siracusa. You will visit its beautiful Cathedral, built upon the remains of the Temple of Minerva. You will be given some free time for lunch. In the afternoon, transfer to Ragusa for the check-in at your accommodation.

Overnight in Ragusa at **Hotel Poggio del Sole**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **3**

Ragusa Modica Ragusa

After buffet breakfast, explore the wonderful town of **Ragusa** and then depart towards **Modica**, a town whose architecture has been recognised as an outstanding testimony to the exuberant genius and final flowering of the Baroque art in Europe. Modica has been nicknamed "the city of a hundred churches" and some of its most representative monuments,

such as the Cathedral of San Pietro and the Church of San Giorgio, have been proclaimed World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. The tour will then continue with a visit inside an **artisan's chocolate workshop**, where you will have the chance to discover the techniques leading to the production of the famous Modican chocolate. **Lunch at a local restaurant**, followed by free time to explore the town and do some shopping.

Return to the hotel to relax and have dinner.

Overnight in Ragusa at **Hotel Poggio del Sole**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **4**

Ragusa Piazza Armerina Agrigento

After buffet breakfast, departure to **Piazza Armerina** to visit the renowned **Villa Romana del Casale**, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, thanks to its well-preserved mosaics depicting mythological themes and hunting scenes. **Lunch in a local restaurant** with a special menu, where you will have the chance to taste local specialities. Departure to Agrigento, famous for its magnificent **Valley of the Temples**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a guided tour of the Valley, including the Temple of Concordia (which is in almost perfectly preserved conditions), Juno and Heracles.

Overnight in Agrigento at **Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace**.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **5** Agrigento Selinunte Monreale Palermo

After buffet breakfast, departure to **Selinunte**, the largest archaeological park in Europe: an area of 270 hectares with over 2.500 years of history written on it! Admire "Temple E", the one in the best state of conservation in the entire archaeological area, and "Temple G", the largest known in Hellenic archaeology. After the visit, proceed to a local farmhouse and enjoy an **olive oil tasting and delicious lunch**.

Proceed towards **Palermo**, capital of Sicily. Upon arrival, you will first visit **Monreale**, perched on a hill at only few kilometres from Palermo: its Cathedral is one of the most beautiful monuments in Europe, with its Moorish architecture, fine mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments, and the Benedictine Cloister in Arab-Norman style.

Overnight in Palermo at **Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa**.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **6** Palermo Cefalù Taormina

After buffet breakfast, morning dedicated to the visit of the historical centre of Palermo, one of the largest in Europe! You will discover the magnificent Martorana Church, Piazza Bellini, Piazza Pretoria, the famous Corso Vittorio Emanuele and the ancient "Cassaro". You will then have the chance to taste **Palermo's street food** at a typical local market. Then departure to **Cefalù**, former fishing village, now a charming coastal town. Enjoy a walk in the city centre and down the main street to reach the Arab-Norman Cathedral and the medieval wash-house built in the rock. Then proceed to **Taormina** and check-in at your hotel.

Overnight in Taormina at **Hotel Villa Diodoro**.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **7**

Taormina

After buffet breakfast, enjoy a day at leisure in beautiful **Taormina**, known as "the pearl of the Ionian Sea": a perfect occasion to relax, do some shopping or walking through the town's tiny streets. Do not miss the Greek-Roman Theatre, with its spectacular view of Giardini Naxos and Mount Etna!

Overnight in Taormina at **Hotel Villa Diodoro**.

Breakfast



Day 8 Taormina Catania Malta

After breakfast, transfer to Catania airport (or port) for your departure to Malta. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your accommodation.

Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight in Malta at **Hotel Dolmen**.

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9 Valletta Mdina

After breakfast at the hotel, departure to the two most important towns of Malta: **Valletta and Mdina**. Valletta is the capital of Malta: the guided tour through the vibrant streets of Valletta will allow you to discover the beauty and charm of this fortified city, built by the Knights in 1566. The Order of St. John ruled over the islands for 268 years and left a unique cultural legacy of which Valletta is the prime example. In the Cathedral of St. John, you will admire several chapels of Malta's Knights. Then proceed towards Mdina, the ancient Arab capital, where you will explore its charming historical centre of Arab architecture and Saint Paul's Cathedral. The narrow, winding streets, dating back to the Arab period lead to the imposing bastions, with a beautiful panoramic view of the islands. On the way there, you will witness different styles of architecture, including the medieval Siculo-Norman palaces, and other baroque buildings of great historical importance. After **lunch at a local restaurant**, transfer back to the hotel in the afternoon.

Overnight in Malta at **Hotel Dolmen**.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **10** Malta Gozo Malta

After breakfast at the hotel, departure to the **island of Gozo**, Malta's sister island! After a twenty-minute ferry crossing, you will notice that although both islands are similar in history, Gozo is greener and more picturesque than Malta. You will visit the Azure Window at Dwejra, the citadel in Victoria and the bay of Xlendi. Free time for shopping will also be given – Gozo is renowned for its woollen goods and handmade laces! **Lunch at local restaurant** and transfer back to the hotel in the afternoon.

Overnight in Malta at **Hotel Dolmen**.

Please note: the date to visit Gozo island may change depending on weather conditions.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **11** Marsaxlokk

After breakfast at the hotel, departure to the idyllic fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**. Then continue with a visit to Malta's

famous Blue Grotto (weather permitting - boat price not included and to be paid locally) and the nearby caves.

Overnight in Malta at **Hotel Dolmen**.

Breakfast



Day 12 Malta

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

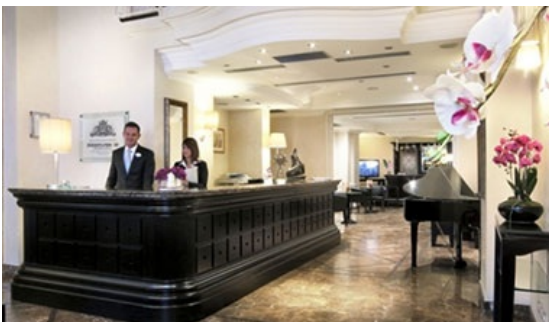
Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Il Principe

Catania

Hotel Il Principe is one of the most important hotels in Catania. Its structure is a recently restored aristocratic building in the baroque heart of the historical centre of the city, providing outstanding testimony to Sicilian architecture.



Hotel Poggio del Sole

Ragusa

Located between central Ragusa and the Mediterranean Sea, **Poggio del Sole** is an imposing **19th-century country manor**. The property features an outdoor swimming pool, a modern wellness centre and spacious, elegant and modern rooms.



Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace

Agrigento

Overlooking the sea and just a few kilometres from the Agrigento and the magnificent Valley of the Temples, Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace is the answer to all your travel needs. Featuring a semi-olympic pool with sea view, the hotel will offer you plenty of occasions to relax between a swim, a massage and a cocktail at sunset.



Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa

Palermo

The **4-star** Piazza Borsa hotel is located **in the heart of Palermo**. A unique **historical residence** of its kind, sumptuous and remarkable, its facade is the main protagonist of the square in which it resides. The **Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa** has an outstanding position and it is just few steps away from Teatro Massimo, Teatro Politeama, Piazza Castelnuovo.



Hotel Villa Diodoro

Taormina

Hotel Villa Diodoro is a wonderful property located just a few steps from the idyllic town of Taormina. It boasts a **beautiful pool area** looking out over Mount Etna and the Bay of Naxos.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

Excluded:

- Meals other than those specified, drinks, tips and city tax (to be paid locally)

Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package