



ITALY

BEST OF SICILY AND MALTA (TOUR CODE: 12391)

STARTS AND ENDS

Catania to
Valletta

TRAVEL PERIODS

08 Apr 23 - 14 Oct 23

EXPERIENCE

Escorted
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Go deep into the beauty of Mediterranean with a 12-day adventure across the greatest sites of Sicily and Malta.

Highlights

- Exclusive tour for small groups up to **20 People Maximum**.
- A unique **blend of escorted tour** exclusively in English in Sicily and independent touring in Malta with multilingual local guides
- Enjoy **gastronomic and enological experiences** throughout your tour!
- Stay in **charming Hotels** located in the historical centres of the main sicilian towns!

The tour's unique blend of escorted and independent touring will fill your wanderlust with unforgettable experiences in Siracusa, Ragusa, Agrigento, Taormina, and Valletta.

Gain insight into the fascinating culture and history of the largest island in the Mediterranean by visiting ancient towns and archaeological areas, including Agrigento, where remains of Doric temples are found; Syracuse, home of very ancient Greek ruins; and Erice, a medieval walled town with sweeping views of the sea.

To tick off from your bucket list the most active and highest volcano in Europe, you may join an excursion up Mount Etna. Take a splendid flight to Valletta, the beautiful capital of Malta, and explore the island's major attractions, such as the Upper Barrakka Gardens and St. John's Cathedral. Walk back in time as you wander around the silent city of Mdina, an old capital teeming with Baroque structures, ancient catacombs, and religious treasures.



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

INCLUSIONS

- 11-night accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Flight: Catania/Valletta in Economy class (1 piece of luggage max 20 kgs per person and a hand luggage max 10 kgs)
- Transportation by deluxe coach or minivan
- Transfer from Taormina Hotel to Catania Airport on day 8
- Daily Breakfast
- 3 Dinners (Catania on day 1, Ragusa on day 3 & Malta on day 8)
- Street food experience/tour in Palermo and in Catania
- Cheese tasting in Ragusa and Almond pastries tasting in Erice
- Visit of a cellar and Wine tasting in Marsala, on Mount Etna
- Half day Regular Tour of Marsaxlokk Market & Blue grotto
- Half day Regular Tour Valletta & Malta Experience
- Full Day Regular Tour to Mdina with lunch included
- English-speaking tour escort in Sicily
- Local guides where necessary
- Porterage at hotels
- "Whispers" (audio guide) throughout the itinerary

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Catania

Make your way to the hotel in Catania. Tonight, you'll enjoy a welcome dinner.

Overnight stay in **Catania** in a 4* hotel.

Dinner



CATANIA

Day **2**

Catania Siracusa Catania

After a buffet breakfast, travel to **Siracusa**.

Visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park, including the famous Greek Theatre, the Latomia del Paradiso (*entrance tickets not included*) and the Ear of Dionysus. Continue to the Island of Ortigia, the small baroque city centre of Siracusa. Visit the Cathedral, which is built on the site of the Temple of Minerva, the legendary Arethuse Fountain and the Temple of Apollo. Free time at disposal to stroll through the streets of the centre and for shopping.

In the afternoon, return to **Catania** and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to experience the city on your own.

Overnight stay in **Catania** in a 4* hotel.

Breakfast



SYRACUSE

Day **3**

Catania Ragusa

After a buffet breakfast, departure for a **nice walking tour of Catania**, stroll through the city centre with your professional guide who will charm you with the history of the city and visit the famous fish market “A PISCARIA”, one of the largest fish markets in Sicily. Here you will have the chance to taste the delights of typical Catania’s street food.

Depart to **Ragusa** and visit of the enchanting historical centre “Ibla”, with its stunning baroque palaces and churches; together with other seven cities in the Val di Noto, Ragusa is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We will continue to the hotel where you have time at disposal to relax at the swimming pool or at the Spa. In the evening, have dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in **Ragusa** in a 4* hotel.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **4**

Ragusa Agrigento Marsala

After a buffet breakfast, proceed to **Agrigento**, a hillside town famous for its magnificent Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (*entrance tickets not included*). Enjoy a guided tour of the Valley, including the Temple of Concordia, which is in almost perfectly preserved condition, the temples of Juno and Heracles.

Free time at disposal for lunch. In the afternoon we'll proceed to **Marsala**, a city on the western coast famous for its production of sweet Sicilian wine. Arrival at Baglio Oneto dei Principi di San Lorenzo Resort .

Here you will do a tour of the resort's wineries, starting from the vineyards, where the whole wine-making process begins. In the evening, we'll reach Marsala city centre and have free time at disposal to discover the historical centre by walking and free time for dinner.

Overnight stay in **Marsala** in a 4* hotel.

Breakfast



Day **5**

Marsala Erice Palermo

After a buffet breakfast, departure to **Erice**, via the spectacular "Salt Route", a road flanked by the salt pans, windmills, and the "salt houses" where they still extract the sea salt as the Phoenicians. Arrival in Erice, placed on the top of a hill overlooking the city of Trapani and the Egadi Islands: walk through its tiny and characteristic streets, the winding lanes and, inner courtyards and stop for marzipan and biscuit tasting.

Free time at disposal for lunch.

After lunch, we proceed towards **Palermo**, the capital of Sicily. We will visit the Cathedral, and continue our visit by walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to reach "I Quattro Canti di Città" Piazza Pretoria, Piazza Bellini and we'll visit the Martorana Church (*entrance tickets not included*). We will then reach one of the most famous and historical markets of Palermo to experience the authenticity of this wonderful and colorful city. We will end our tour with **a taste the delights of typical Palermo's street food**. Enjoy a dinner in your hotel

Overnight stay in **Palermo** in a 4* hotel.

Breakfast, Dinner



After a buffet breakfast, departure to visit the town of **Monreale**, situated on a hill at few kms far from Palermo in panoramic position. Visit of the Cathedral (*entrance tickets not included*), one of the most beautiful monuments in the world with its Moorish architecture, housing very fine mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments in Arab-Norman style.

Then departure to **Cefalù** a former fishing village, now a charming coastal town. Enjoy a walk to the city centre and down main street to reach the Arab-Norman Cathedral and the medieval wash-house built into rock. Proceed to **Taormina** through the coastal road passing through Messina from where we'll have the chance to admire the suggestive scenery of the Strait of Messina.

Overnight stay in **Taormina** in a 4* hotel.

Breakfast



After a buffet breakfast, excursion to **Mount Etna**, the highest active Volcano in Europe. Weather conditions permitting, across fascinating landscape with different kind of vegetation, a mixture of citrus groves, vineyards and fruit trees. We will reach a height of 1800 metres to visit the Sylvester Craters where we'll enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Ionian Sea. Stop at a local vineyard on the eastern slopes of Etna and **visit a prestigious cellar**. We will have the opportunity to taste different local wines accompanied by local cheese and cold cuts.

In the afternoon back to **Taormina**, charming city called "the pearl of the Ionian Sea": enjoy time at leisure for shopping or walking through its tiny streets. The remainder of the day is at your leisure.

Overnight stay in **Taormina** in a 4* hotel.

Breakfast



Day **8**

Taormina Catania Valletta St Paul

At the appointed time, transfer from Taormina to Catania airport.

Enjoy a flight to Valletta, Capital of Malta, delightful Mediterranean island. Then, you'll be transferred to your hotel in St Paul's Bay.

Tonight enjoy a dinner in your hotel.

Overnight stay in St Paul at **Dolmen Resort** or Similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **9**

St Paul Marsaxlokk St Paul

After Breakfast, departure to the idyllic fishing village of **Marsaxlokk** with its colourful luzzus and unique character make the unrivalled setting for the local market.

Continue the tour with a visit to the **Blue Grotto** (weather permitting – boat ride price not included) and the nearby caves.

Explore one of Malta's unspoilt village: the main square, the hub of the village with its parish church and band club. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Tonight enjoy a dinner in your hotel.

Overnight stay in St Paul at **Dolmen Resort** or Similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 10 St Paul Valletta & Malta Experience St Paul

After breakfast, enjoy **a morning tour of Valletta**, Malta's heritage-rich capital.

Visit the highlights like the Upper Barracca Gardens and St John's Cathedral (*entrance tickets not included*), home to a splendid Caravaggio painting as well as an intriguing Museum. Going down Republic Street you will walk past the Grandmaster's Palace before watching the "Malta Experience", an audiovisual show where Malta history throughout the centuries is brought back to life.

Spend the rest of the day exploring at your leisure. Free time for dinner and overnight.

Overnight stay in St Paul at **Dolmen Resort** or Similar.

Please note: from April to June and in October, the excursion "Valletta+Malta experience" will take place in the afternoon.

Breakfast



Day 11 St Paul Mdina St Paul

After breakfast, today's excursion takes us to the central part of Malta, dominated by the medieval fortified city of **Mdina**, Malta's former capital city.

The narrow streets, dating back to medieval times, lead to the imposing bastions. Leaving Mdina through Greeks' Gate, we stop at the early **Christian catacombs in Rabat** before proceeding to the cliffs at Dingli. After having lunch, we will visit the **San Anton botanical gardens** situated near the Presidential Palace, which you will be able to admire from outside. We shall also spend time at the crafts centre at Ta' Qali.

At the end of the tour, allow us to astound you with **Mosta's majestic dome**, one of Europe's largest. return to your hotel and the rest of the day is on your own.

Overnight stay in St Paul at **Dolmen Resort** or Similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day 12 St Paul Valletta

The tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the port or the airport of Valletta

Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Entrance tickets Supplement

The Entrance tickets to sites and museums include:

- The Neapolis in Siracusa and the Dome;
- Valley of Temples in Agrigento;
- Martorana Church in Palermo;
- The Dome in Monreale;
- St. John's Co-Cathedral in Malta.



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

| OFFICIAL LANGUAGE | LOCAL CURRENCY |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Italian | 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.
- A minivan with driver/guide, normally not equipped with wifi, will be provided if the number of participants is equal to or less than 6. In this case, the tour could be operated in two languages.
- For organizational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice. In this case, our supplier ensures similar visits and excursions in accordance with the spirit of the tour program.
- It is important to know that the Catania Malta flight (on day 8), operated by the Air Malta Company, is scheduled for the morning at 7:00am. The arrival at the Hotel in Malta is expected at around 9:30 am; Conventionally, check-in is scheduled from 13.00pm. Only based on the availability of ready rooms, the hotel may assign the room before this time but it is not an obligation.

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 (Entrance tickets to sites and museums)