



ITALY

SELF-DRIVE CATANIA (TOUR CODE: 14892)

STARTS AND ENDS

in Catania

TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 25 - 31 Mar 25

EXPERIENCE

Cultural
Self-Drive

TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Embark on a captivating self-drive tour of Catania and beyond. Discover Sicily's rich history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture, from Mount Etna to Palermo's markets and ancient Greek temples.

Highlights

- Stroll through **Catania's historic centre**, a UNESCO Heritage site, where grand Baroque architecture meets black lava stone, and visit Piazza Duomo, the vibrant fish market, and Palazzo Biscari
- Drive to **Europe's highest active volcano, Mount Etna**, and witness its awe-inspiring landscapes, craters, and lava fields, offering breathtaking panoramic views of Sicily
- Walk along **Corso Umberto**, lined with boutiques and cafés, before reaching **Taormina's stunning Greek Theatre**, where the view extends to Calabria's coast on clear days
- Explore the **picturesque seaside town of Cefalù**, home to a magnificent Arabic-Norman cathedral, then **savour artisanal panettone** and discover the unique production of manna in Castelbuono
- **Discover Agrigento's UNESCO-listed Valley of the Temples**, home to some of the most well-preserved Greek temples, including the impressive Temple of Concordia

This self-drive tour explores Sicily's iconic cities, historic sites, and breathtaking landscapes. Starting in Catania, visit Mount Etna, Taormina, and Messina before heading to Palermo, Monreale, and Segesta. Continue to Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, Piazza Armerina's Roman mosaics, and Ragusa's Baroque beauty before ending in Siracusa and Ortigia. The journey blends cultural heritage, stunning architecture, and local delicacies, making for an unforgettable adventure.



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

INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights in Catania at Catania International Airport Hotel - 4* or similar
- 2 nights in Palermo at Astoria Palace Hotel - 4* or similar
- 1 night in Agrigento at Colleverde Park Hotel - 4* or similar
- 1 night in Ragusa at Hotel Mediterraneo Palace - 4* or similar
- AVIS Car Rental (Opel Corsa or similar) included for 7 days
- Daily Breakfast

ITINERARY

Day 1

Catania

Arrive at Catania Airport, pick up your car, and start your adventure. Explore this vibrant city, where Baroque elegance (a UNESCO Heritage site) meets black lava stone. Visit the lively fish market, the iconic Piazza Duomo, and the stunning Palazzo degli Elefanti and Palazzo Biscari.

Overnight stay in Catania at **Catania International Airport Hotel** or similar.



PALAZZO DEGLI ELEFANTI

Day 2

Catania Etna Taormina Catania

Today you will drive to Mt Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe and one of the most active in the world. With its 3327

meters of height and an average basal diameter of 40 km, Etna dominates the entire island. Proceed to Taormina and enjoy a walk through its stunning streets and admire the panoramic view. During the walk along Corso Umberto, the shopping street full of boutiques, jewellers and antique shops you will reach the Greek Theatre: a breath-taking view, which when the air is clear reaches the coast of Calabria.

Overnight stay in Catania at **Catania International Airport Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **3**

Catania Messina Castelbuono Cefalù Palermo

Messina, “the door of Sicily” with panoramic view on the Messina Strait and the Calabrian coast. You cannot miss Piazza del Duomo with the Astronomical clock and the unique experience to taste a “Brioche with Granita”. Next stop is Castelbuono, a small village nestled in the Madonie Park with a delightful historic centre where you’ll have the chance to taste the famous “Panettone”. Castelbuono is renowned for the artisanal production of “manna” (sugary sap obtained from the ash tree bark).

Continue to Cefalù, one of the most beautiful villages in Sicily, overlooking the sea and famous for the imposing ArabicNorman Cathedral of the XI century. Proceed to Palermo.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Astoria Palace Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



CEFALÙ CATHEDRAL

Day 4

Palermo Monreale Palermo

Palermo, capital of the Norman reign, has an important architectural heritage: the remains of the Punic walls, Byzantine, Arab and Norman traces, Baroque and Gothic elements and twentieth-century Art Nouveau palaces. Visit the Cathedral, one of the most important architectural monuments and continue by walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to reach "I Quattro Canti di Città" Piazza Pretoria, Piazza Bellini and the Martorana Church. Then reach one of the most famous and historical markets of Palermo to experience the authenticity of this wonderful and colourful city.

Later on proceed to Monreale, a little town on the heights of Palermo. It is world famous for the golden mosaics in its Dome and the Benedictine cloister and classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site monument.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Astoria Palace Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



PALERMO

Day 5

Palermo Segesta Erice Agrigento

Drive to Segesta, a mythological destination. Its Doric Temple has a stunning scenic impact as well as its theatre opposite the sea. Proceed to Erice a beautiful little town located on the top of the homonymous mountain.

Take the opportunity to stroll in the alleys, narrow streets and small squares, flanked by churches and noble palaces which allow glimpses of majestic and amazing views. Experience a unique local Marzipan and almonds pastry tasting. Drive to Agrigento.

Overnight stay in Agrigento at **Colleverde Park Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



Day 6

Agrigento Piazza Armerina Ragusa

Today you will visit the magnificent Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, one of the most important archaeological site in the Mediterranean area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Valley consists of several impressive Doric temples: the temple of Hera Lacinia, Concordia, Eracle, Giove Olimpo and Castor and Pollux.

Proceed to Piazza Armerina where you will discover the amazing “Villa Romana del Casale”, built in the Imperial Rome and worldwide known for its spectacular polychrome mosaics.

Overnight stay in Ragusa at **Hotel Mediterraneo Palace** or similar.

Breakfast



VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES

Day 7

Ragusa and Siracusa Catania

Ragusa is a city with two souls. It has a modern area and an ancient, Baroque-style area called Ibla. Ragusa has the refined elegance that characterises the late-baroque towns of the Val di Noto. You will have the chance to visit the Cathedral of S. Giovanni, the church of Purgatory, Madonna dell'Itria, palazzo Battaglia, palazzo Casentini, palazzo Cancellaria, palazzo La Rocca. Continue to Siracusa. Prestigious city of the ancient world, the most powerful rival of Athens and Rome, Siracusa preserves important remaining of its glorious past. You will visit the solemn and spectacular Greek Theatre, the Ear of Dionysus the most famous of Syracuse's caves.

Then proceed to the small Baroque Island of Ortigia, the historic center of Syracuse. It is widely considered one of the most beautiful destinations in Sicily. Dotted with impressive church facades, outdoor restaurants, elegant squares and surrounded by a crystalline sea. Here you will visit the temple of Minerva transformed in a Christian Cathedral, the legendary source Aretusa, the Apollo temple

Overnight stay in Catania at **Catania International Airport Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



EAR OF DIONYSIUS

After breakfast, check out of your hotel.

End of services.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Catania International Airport Hotel

Catania

Just 400 metres from Catania's Vincenzo Bellini Airport, Catania International Airport Hotel offers a perfect blend of comfort and accessibility. Conveniently located near the city centre, this prestigious hotel features spacious and bright rooms, including single, double, triple, and quadruple options, as well as elegant suites. Guests can enjoy premium amenities such as a wellness centre, swimming pool, and gym, making it an excellent choice for both business and leisure travellers. Experience one of Catania's finest hotels, where relaxation meets convenience in the heart of Sicily.



Astoria Palace Hotel

Palermo

Situated at the foot of Monte Pellegrino, this modern hotel boasts stunning views of Palermo and a prime location near the harbour, city centre, and Mondello Beach. Combining traditional Sicilian hospitality with international comfort, it offers exclusive deals, a convenient GHS shuttle service, and a dedicated concierge for a seamless stay.



Mediterraneo Palace Hotel

Ragusa

Mediterraneo Palace Hotel is a modern and elegant 4-star property located in the historic centre of Ragusa close to the town's major attractions, such as Piazza Libertà, Corso Italia and the imposing Cathedral of San Giovanni Battista. All rooms are bright, spacious and equipped with every comfort.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
Italian	EURO

- Please note that additional services may apply for the Car Rental such as Gasoline / fuel load, additional insurance, additional driver charges, special equipment; and pick-up supplement applicable depending on the exact point.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means we may need to offer an alternative hotel of equivalent or better quality. Our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit.

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