



The Best of Sicily and Malta

11 nights/ 12 days

Land Only

Escorted

April – October 2024

from \$ 3,289



Day 1, Saturday, Catania: Arrive in Catania and private transfer to your hotel.. Enjoy a welcome drink and dinner this evening. **(D)**

Day 2, Sunday, Catania-Siracusa-Catania: This morning after breakfast, depart to Syracuse: visit the World Heritage Site “Neapolis”. The visit of this archaeological area includes the famous Greek theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the “Dyionisios Ear”. Continue to the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city center of Siracusa; Visit the beautiful Cathedral, which is built upon the site of the Doric Temple of Minerva, the legendary Arethusa’s Fountain, and the Temple of Apollo. Enjoy free time for lunch and strolling through the streets of the city center and for shopping. Return to your hotel in Catania. Free evening at your disposal to experience the city and its nightlife and to dine in one of the typical restaurants in the city center. Overnight. **(B)**

Day 3, Monday, Catania (fish market)-Ragusa (Tasting of Sicilian specialties/light lunch): After breakfast, depart for a walking tour of Catania, stroll through the city center 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. As old as the city itself, it’s a great way to experience the abundant fishing and seafood culture of Sicily. Depart to Ragusa, renowned for its cheese production; enjoy tastings of artisan cheeses and Sicilian specialties (light lunch). We will visit the enchanting historical center “Ibla”, with its stunning baroque palaces and churches. We will continue to the reserved hotel where you will have time at your disposal to relax at the swimming pool or at the Spa. Dinner in hotel and Overnight **(B, L, D)**

Day 4, Tuesday, Ragusa-Agrigento-Marsala (wine tasting & overnight at a wine resort): After enjoying breakfast, depart to Agrigento, a hillside town famous for its magnificent Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; visit 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 Donnafranca, a perfectly restored nineteenth-century Baglio, which rises in the Marsala countryside, on the hills in front of the Stagnone Reserve and the Egadi Islands. The Baglio was a property of Florio. Here we will have the opportunity to visit the cellar and learn all about winemaking. At the end of the tour, you will enjoy a wine tasting/light dinner at sunset and overnight **(B, D)**

Day 5, Wednesday, Marsala-Erice (taste of traditional pastries)-Palermo (street food/light lunch): Enjoy breakfast with your group, and depart 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 did. Arrive in Erice, situated 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 a marzipan and biscuit tasting. Continue to Palermo, the capital of Sicily. You will enjoy a “street food” lunch in the center of the town, visit the Cathedral, one of the most important architectural monuments. You will continue your visit by walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to reach “I Quattro Canti di Città” Piazza Pretoria, Piazza Bellini and you will visit the Church of Santa Caterina. Arrive at the hotel and enjoy dinner at your leisure. Overnight. **(B, L)**

Day 6, Thursday, Palermo-Monreale-Cefalù-Messina-Taormina: After your breakfast, depart to visit the town of Monreale, situated on a hill at few kms far from Palermo. Visit of the Cathedral, 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. Continue to Cefalù, a former fishing village, now a charming coastal town. Enjoy a walk to the city center and down the main street to reach the Arab-Norman Cathedral and the medieval washhouse built in the rock. Free time at your disposal to explore the town and shopping and lunch on your own. 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. Arrive at your hotel and enjoy dinner at your leisure. Overnight. **(B)**

Day 7, Friday, Taormina-Mt. Etna (wine tasting)-Taormina: After breakfast, enjoy an excursion to Mount Etna, the highest active Volcano in Europe. Weather conditions permitting, you will travel across fascinating landscapes with different kinds of vegetation, a mixture of citrus groves, vineyards, and fruit trees. You will reach a height of 1800 meters to visit the Sylvester Craters where you’ll enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Ionian Sea. Stop at a local winery on the eastern slopes of Etna and visit a prestigious cellar. You will have the opportunity to taste different local wines accompanied by local cheese and cold cuts. In the afternoon you will return to Taormina, “the pearl of the Ionian Sea”: enjoy time at leisure for shopping or walking through its streets. Visit the Greek-Roman Theatre on your own, with its spectacular view of Giardini Naxos and Mount Etna. Free time for dinner and overnight. **(B)**

Reservations: 1.866.446.1897

www.ez-italy.com

email: info@ez-italy.com



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Day 8, Saturday, Taormina-Catania-Malta: At the appointed time, transfer from Taormina to Catania airport. Flight to Valletta, Capital of Malta, a delightful Mediterranean island. Transfer to Hotel located in St Paul's Bay. Arrival in Hotel and accommodation. Dinner in your Hotel and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 9, Sunday, Malta “Marsaxlokk Market & The Blue Grotto”: Visit the idyllic fishing village of Marsaxlokk and its local market. Continue your day with a tour of the Blue Grotto (*weather permitting*) and the caves. Explore one of Malta's villages, the main square, the hub of the village with its parish church and band club. Spend the rest of the day relaxing or exploring at your leisure. **(B)**

Day 10, Monday, Malta “Valletta + Malta Experience” After breakfast, enjoy a morning tour of Valletta – Malta's heritage-rich capital. Highlights include the Upper Barracca Gardens and St John's Cathedral, home to a splendid Caravaggio painting as well as an intriguing Museum. The excursion ends with a visit to the Grandmaster's Palace, before you watch the Malta Experience, an audiovisual show where Malta history is brought back to life. Spend the rest of the day exploring at your leisure. (*From April to June and in October, the excursion “Valletta+Malta experience” will take place in the afternoon.*) **(B)**

Day 11, Tuesday, Malta “Mdina”: 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 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. Free time for dinner and overnight. **(B, L)**

Day 12, Wednesday, Malta: The tour ends after breakfast with a private transfer to the port or the airport of Valletta. **(B)**



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Departures on selected Saturdays from Catania

- * Roundtrip airport transfers
- * 11 nights 4* hotel accommodations (2 in Catania, 1 in Ragusa, 1 in Marsala (wine resort), 1 in Palermo, 3 in Taormina, 3 in Malta)
- * Daily breakfast
- * 1 lunch
- * 1 Street food lunch experience
- * 3 dinners
- * 2 Wine Tasting and Cellar Visit
- * Almond pastry tasting
- * Cheese & Sicilian product tastings
- * Deluxe motor coach transportation throughout
- * Transfer from hotel to Catania airport
- * Flight from Catania to Valletta
- * Transfer from Malta airport to hotel
- * Porterage at the hotels in Sicily
- * English tour escort throughout
- * Local guides where necessary
- * Whisper Kit (for groups larger than 10)
- * Regular sightseeing with multilingual local guides in Malta (days 9, 10,11) English language guaranteed
- * Transfer from hotel to Malta airport

*Meals: B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner

* Sightseeing tour as per itinerary, entrance fees to be paid locally approximately 50,00 Euros per person

* ASK ABOUT OUR OPTIONAL AIRFARE FROM U.S.A. TO CATANIA

RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- * Transfer in: (Arrival in Catania)
- * Entrance tickets to sites and museums (Sicily & Malta)
- * City Tax: to be paid directly at the Hotel
- * Beverages: (except for water during the meals included in the program of Sicily)
- * Extra luggage: to be paid at the airport of Catania by the passenger
- * Ticket of Blue Grotto Boat Ride experience in Malta
- * Everything which is not clearly specified under “rate includes”

All rates are per person in U.S. Dollars

Double	Single	Double	Single
\$ 3,289	\$ 3,999	\$ 3,469	\$ 4,199
April 20		May 4, 11, 18, 25	
June 1, 15, 22		July 13 & August 24, 31	
October 5, 12, 19		September 7, 14, 21, 28	

Triple Rate on request.

NOTE: City taxes to be paid locally at the end of your stay up to Euro 6,00 per person per night.

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