



**SMALL GROUP TRAVEL GRAND TOUR OF SICILY
MAY 2020**

DAY 1/ MAY 1 - CATANIA

Arrival at Catania Airport

Private transfer to Hotel (based on group transfer) Welcome dinner and overnight in hotel in Catania.

Meals: **Welcome dinner**

Hotel Il Principe

<https://www.ilprincipehotel.com/new/en/>

DAY 2 / MAY 2- MT ETNA & GAMBINO WINERY / TAORMINA

After breakfast transfer to Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe and one of the most visited destinations in Sicily. Famous and fascinating not only for the volcanic phenomena, but also for the breathtaking views and the different types of vegetation visible during the ascent. At the end of the tour we will visit Gambino Winery for the tasting of 4 wines accompanied by a light lunch of typical Sicilian products. Overnight in Taormina.

Meals: **B-L**

Hotel Villa Diodoro 4* or similar

<http://www.hotelvilladiodoro.com/>

DAY 3/ MAY 3 - BREATHTAKING SAVOCA, GIARDINI NAXOS & TAORMINA DELIGHTS

After breakfast, this morning the tour takes you to visit the picturesque mountain village of Savoca, set on the foothills of the Peloritani Mountains. Here you'll visit the 18th century Bar Vitelli, one of Coppola's favorite spots and the church of St. Lucia. Continue to the stunning fishing village of Giardini Naxos, the site of the first Greek settlement in Sicily for an included lunch on a private sandy beach. In the early afternoon we continue to Taormina for an orientation tour and a visit to the Greek theater.

Clamped to a rocky bluff planted with cypresses, pines and lush subtropical vegetation is the exquisitely maintained medieval town of Taormina, Sicily's glitziest and most dramatically situated resort. Taormina's origin goes back to the time of Dionysus in about 400 BC. It remained an important city during the Greek and Roman periods and the Theater and Odeon still survive as reminders of those times. Taormina boasts a number of elegant mansions and palaces dating back to the Middle Ages, and several interesting churches including the 15th century fortified Cathedral and St Pancras which incorporates part of a Greek Temple. It is also a wonderful setting where to



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To live is to Travelshare the experience!

practice the “Dolce Far Niente” (the sweetness of doing nothing) while strolling the charming medieval city center and enjoy the stupendous views. The evening is on your own for more explorations. Overnight stay in TAORMINA.

Meals: B-L

Hotel Villa Diodoro 4* or similar

DAY 4/ May 4 – FREE DAY TO ENJOY TAORMINA

Meals: B

Hotel Villa Diodoro 4* or similar

DAY 5/MAY 5 – SIRACUSA

After breakfast departure for Syracuse. Encapsulating Sicily’s timeless beauty, Syracuse is a dense tapestry of overlapping cultures and civilizations. In the morning, you’ll explore this major outpost of the Greek empire with a local expert. The city boasts an incredible historical heritage, starting from the Archaeological Park, featuring the ancient Greek Theater now used for classical performances, the Latomie del Paradiso, the largest quarry in the ancient urban settlement and the Ear Of Dionysus, a subterranean artificial cave quarry used as a prison. You’ll see numerous elegant Baroque town houses, rebuilt after the earthquake that severely damaged the city in 1693; the elegant Piazza Duomo, dominated by the cathedral’s baroque facade and the Temple of Athena from the 5th century BC lying behind it. After an included street food experience at the lively market, you’ll be sailing around the fascinating island of Ortigia to discover some of its prehistoric caves (weather permitting). Overnight in SIRACUSA.

Meals: B-L

Siracusa: Hotel Livingston 4*

<http://hotel-livingston.siracusa.hotels-sicily.net/en/>

DAY 6/ MAY 6 – VENDICARI - NOTO

After breakfast you will be picked up by your private driver and transferred to Vendicari Reserve. In the afternoon travel to nearby Noto, Barocco Capital in Sicily and a UNESCO Heritage site. Along its main axis you will admire palaces, churches and convents such as the Cathedral, Nicolaci Palace, Villadorata and Ducezio Palace. Overnight in hotel in Siracusa. Will there be time for lunch at own expense.

Meals: B

Siracusa: Hotel Livingston 4*

DAY 7/ MAY 7 – WINE & HERBS TOUR: COS & AROMI FARM – PIAZZA ARMERINA - MANDRANOVA

After breakfast you will be transferred to “Gli Aromi Farm” where the owner Enrico will meet you. This farm cultivates autochthon plants and aromatic herbs. It also holds an important leadership position in sales and marketing, focusing on local species of the Sicilian coast and in particular of the Iblean area. The farm produces more than 120 different varieties of plants and herbs using old traditional methods of manual cultivation. You will sample the different varieties of herbs and see how they are used alongside other local products in Sicilian cooking



Today, COS is synonymous with Cerasuolo di Vittoria. Their love for the region and its singular terroir produces some of the finest wines Italy has to offer. You will be transferred to Vittoria and visit the COS

Winery. The winery decided to adopt the principles of biodynamic culture. This decision helped the owners find and keep a harmonious balance with nature.

Continue to Piazza Armerina known worldwide for the mosaics of the Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fascinated by ancient cellar practices, COS decided to work with amphorae, clay jars that were used by the ancient Greeks. Then, enjoy lunch at the winery and finally continuation for Mandranova, overnight.

Meals: **B-D**

Hotel Agrigento: Mandranova 4*

<http://www.mandranova.com/>

DAY 8/ MAY 8 - VALLE DEI TEMPLI & SANT' ANGELO MUXARO

After breakfast you will visit Agrigento where, with a guide, you'll visit the beautiful Valley of Temples, UNESCO World Heritage.

After the visit we will travel to reach the hinterland of Agrigento to a little village called Sant'Angelo Muxaro. Our guide will then take us to a bakery to taste biscuits and homemade cookies; this is followed by a visit a Shepard's house to taste soft pecorino cheese and ricotta cheese, still warm. This walking itinerary really takes us far from the classic tourist routes. Here you will meet the local guide who will show you the historical city center and you will the visit the archaeological museum, and the old bakery



You can taste the typical food: sfincione, sicilian pizza with pecorino, olive oil, anchovies, onion and oregano). Return to Mandranova and overnight.

Meals: **B-D**

Hotel Agrigento: Mandranova 4*

DAY 9 / MAY 9 - SCALA DEI TURCHI- ENCHANTED GARDEN - CASA MUSEO DEL SAPONE - MARSALA

After breakfast transfer to Scala Dei Turchi, a living cliff made of a spur of white marl and soft limestone sculptured by the sea and weather.

Continue to Sciacca, to tour the Soap Museum. Casa Museo del Sapone an old rural building which has been completely restored from the early nineteenth century. Here you can discover the wonderful world of soaps dating back to 2800 BC. The olive oil soap represents in all respects a product typical of the Mediterranean tradition, where it has always been produced, contributing to the economy of many cities in the area.

We visit the enchanted Garden, a museum-garden that houses thousands of sculptures created by Filippo Bentivegna, a unique Sicilian artist and one of the greatest exponents of art brut or of outdoor art It is in the western part of Sicily, Continue to Marsala, overnight

Meals: **B-D**

Hotel Baglio Oneto.

<https://www.bagliooneto.it/en/>

DAY 10/ MAY 10 – SALINE DI MARSALA – MOZIA - MAZARA



After breakfast transfer to the salt mines of Marsala, from where we can admire the islands of the Lagoon and the windmills, It is situated inside a natural reserve of great historical and environmental value. Continue to Mazara, visit Museo del Satiro. This exhibits the famous statue of the Dancing Satyr found by some fishermen of Mazara in 1998: the famous bronze Satyr, dating back to the 4th century BC, is depicted during a rough dance, typical of the Dionysian cult. Return to hotel.

Meals: **B-D**

Hotel Baglio Oneto.

DAY 11/ MAY 11 – ERICE – TRAPANI- PALERMO

After breakfast transfer to Erice , a town situated about 1000m above sea level, with a view of the archipelago of the Egadi islands.

Lunch at leisure.

In the afternoon visit the old town and the medieval castle and then we will stop at the Pastry of Maria Grammatico, to taste the famous Ericini sweets. Finally, you will enjoy a Walking Tour of Trapani. Overnight in Palermo.

Meals: **B**

Hotel Piazza Borsa 4* or similar

<https://piazza Borsa.it/en/>

DAY 12/ MAY 12- PALERMO & MONREALE

After breakfast, we will explore Palermo. We will start with a visit in the Capo Market, the oldest market in Palermo, where you see and taste the famous street food: panelle, arancine, crocchette and pani ca meusa. This will be followed by a tour of Palermo city centre.

You will be enchanted by the wide boulevards of the city, the historical center and the baroque buildings. You will visit the main attractions of the city such as the Norman palace, Quattro Canti (the four corners in the city), baroque square of Cathedral. In the afternoon, departure for Monreale to visit the beautiful Byzantine-style mosaics depicting scenes from the Old and New Testament. Return in hotel in Palermo, Overnight.

Lunch at leisure

Hotel Piazza Borsa 4* or similar

Meals: **B-D**

DAY 13/ MAY 13: CEFALU & CASTELBUONO

After breakfast we will leave by bus to visit with our guide Cefalù where we will see the ancient Cathedral, one of the most beautiful Sicilian churches of the Norman period and the medieval wash house. Lunch at leisure.

We continue to Castelbuono hamlet of the Madonie, to visit the Castle with Cappella Palatina decorated with Serpotta stucco. In Castelbuono you can appreciate one of the typical products that made it famous, the Manna, resin produced by the ash, it is used in the confectionery industry, for example among all the Fiasconaro pastry. Return to the hotel in Palermo, overnight.

Meals: **B**

Hotel Piazza Borsa 4* or similar





DAY 14/MAY 14- PALERMO FREE DAY WITH FAREWELL LUNCH

Enjoy your last day in beautiful Palermo. Today farewell dinner has been organized for you at a restaurant on one of the prettiest beaches of Palermo.

Meals: **B ,D**

Hotel Piazza Borsa 4* or similar

DAY 15/ MAY 15 – CIAO SICILIA

After breakfast private transfer to Palermo airport.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Private air-conditioned Minibus (as scheduled, including the transfers from airport to hotel return)

- Travel Director: services of a professional English-speaking Tour Leader throughout, for days 1 to 14.
- Local Expert guides where required and as noted on the itinerary.

Excursions:

- Visit Winery at Mount Etna and wine taste & light lunch with typical Sicilian products
- Boat excursion and dinner in Siracusa
- Visit Aromi Farm
- Visit Winery Cos and wine taste & soft lunch with typical Sicilian products
- Sant'Angelo Muxaro village and soft lunch with typical Sicilian products
- Boat for Mozia
- Entrance to the monuments

Please note that Hotel city taxes must be paid on departure and cannot be included the tour

PRICE EXCLUDES

Extras • Tips • Optional excursions • Anything not mentioned in "Price Includes"

HOTELS

- 1 night Hotel Catania: Hotel Il Principe 4* or similar – comfort room**
- 2 nights Hotel Taormina: Hotel Villa Diodoro 4* or similar – classic room**
- 2 nights Hotel Siracusa: Hotel Livingston 4* or similar – comfort room**
- 2 nights Hotel Agrigento: Mandranova 4* or similar – superior room**
- 2 nights Hotel Marsala: Hotel Baglio Oneto 5* or similar – classic room**
- 4 nights Hotel Palermo: Hotel Piazza Borsa 4* or similar – deluxe room**



COST OF THE TOUR

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM (13 people):	\$7270.00
PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM (16 people):	\$6890.00
SINGLE ROOM SURCHARGE:	\$2020.00

All rates are per person in AUD. Should there be a major change in the exchange rate prices may need to be modified.

Transfers are based on all passengers arriving and departing together. If your transfer is outside of this time, additional charges may apply.

Duration for excursions mentioned in the descriptions are approximate, and can vary for operational reasons.

SmallGroup Travel is not responsible for visa and vaccination regulations.

Travel Insurance is mandatory to travel on a SmallGroup Travel tour. I can help you with this.

Conditions of Payment:

You are required to fill in the SmallGroup Travel Booking Form. Once completed you will receive an invoice with payment details. Credit card payments will incur a fee of 1.1% for Visa and 3% for American Express.

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person is required to secure your reservation.

Full payment is required by 31 January 2020.

Please ensure you have read and understand SmallGroup Travel Privacy Policy and Booking Conditions.

<https://www.travelmanagers.com.au/terms-and-conditions/>

Please contact me if you have any further questions

I look forward to introducing you this amazing island!



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ACN 113 085 826 Member: IATA, AFTA, CLIA

M: 0414 598 157

E: Sue.Kuti@travelmanagers.com.au

