



SmallGroup Travel Tour of Sicily

A Special Celebration for 2012

10 June 2012- 30 June2012



SICILY AND AEOLIAN ISLAND TOUR FOR VIP CLIENTS OF SMALLGROUP TRAVEL

10th June DAY 1 / PALERMO

Arrive at Palermo. Day at leisure As everyone will be arriving at different times, transfers will be on a private basis. Please inform me of your arrival details.

11th June -DAY 2 : PALERMO

After breakfast, we will have a full day tour of Palermo with a local guide. Visit Palatina Chapel, Norman Palace, the Cathedral, Market "Il Capo" and Monreale with its exquisite Cathedral. Return to the Hotel. Welcome dinner in a restaurant in the historical centre Overnight Hotel Garibaldi . B,D

12th June DAY 3 : PALERMO

This morning you are free till lunch After lunch we will proceed to Cefalu wedged between a dramatic mountain peak and a sweeping stretch of sand- a truly lovely historic centre with a grandiose cathedral; and winding medieval streets lined with restaurants, boutiques and small, intriguing shops. We will then proceed to Mondello another beachside town famous as an escape from the city of Palermo –independent dinner(not included) Overnight Hotel Garibaldi .B



13th June-DAY 4 PALERMO - - MADONIES (COLLESANO, ISNELLO, CASTELBUONO)

We will depart at 0800 to make our way to Madonie Natural Park to discover a real botanical paradise. At Collesano meet with the guide for a 3 hour visit to some of the main medieval centres: Collesano, Isnello, Castelbuono. In Collesano, you will visit the church of Santa Maria La Vecchia. Isnello, dominated by the ancient byzantine castle and the medieval Cathedral. Proceed to Castelbuono, famous centre in the Madonie mountains, well-known thanks to the production of the "manna" (sweetened substance crushed from the ash tree).



Lunch at restaurant or in a farm-house.

In the afternoon we will visit the Church Matrice Vecchia dated XIV century which preserves the statue of Madonna Delle Grazie by Antonello Gagini. Walking through the typical alleys of the village, we will stop at Fiasconaro pastry-shop where you can buy the typical cakes of Castelbuono (Testa di Moro with chocolate and pastries based on manna). Time permitting we will proceed to Santa Anastasia Abbey built on XII century, to visit the wine cellar and to taste some of the local wines. Return to the hotel at Palermo. Overnight Hotel Garibaldi .B,L

14 June Day 5 PALERMO – ERICE – MARSALA

After breakfast we will proceed to Erice (unguided visit of the town)and the on to Marsala WE WILL HAVE CANNOLI HERE AND THEN HAVE LUNCH IN MARSALA On the way we will visit the salt marsh of Marsala and a windmill, built following Dutch techniques. Proceed to Mazara del Vallo, the most important fish port in Sicily: you will visit the Kazba, the Cathedral, the Church of San Nicolò Regale and



the well-known museum of Satiro Danzante (bronze statue found in the open sea). Transfer to the Hotel at Marsala. Overnight Baglio Oneto B,L

15 June Day 5 MARSALA

After breakfast, we will visit Marsala (unguided). We will then journey on to the famous winery of DONNA FUGATA with a wine degustation included. There is free time for organizing other excursions in the surrounding places, visiting other wineries or just enjoying the surrounding countryside. Overnight Baglio Oneto B,D

16th June DAY 7 AGRIGENTO-

After breakfast, we depart for Agrigento where we will have a guided visit (professional local guide) of the world famous Valley of the Temples. We will then transfer to the farm, Mandranova about 30 Km from Agrigento. In the afternoon relax by the swimming pool of the farm or Optional organize a cooking demonstration at the farm (Euro 40 p.p.) Overnight Villa Mandranova olive oil farm. B,D

17th June DAY 8 :- AGRIGENTO -

After breakfast, we will visit Palma di Montechiaro, where we will visit the Palace of Family Giuseppe Tommasi di Lampedusa, well known as it was well reported in the movie "The Leopard". Time permitting we may also visit NARO. Back to the farm to relax at swimming pool. Overnight Villa Mandranova olive oil farm. B,D



18th June DAY 9 -AGRIGENTO RAGUSA-MODICA

After breakfast we will proceed by the coast road to Ragusa. We will have a guided visit of Modica and Ragusa Ibla. Here you will discover the Sicilian Baroque style. First stop Ragusa.

Visit the historical centre palaces where you can admire the balconies decorated in the typical baroque style. Proceed to Modica, rich in Churches and Palaces.

Stop at the Chocolate factory of Bonajuto's family where you will assist in the different phases of the production of chocolate, following the techniques of the Aztecs, introduced in Sicily after the Spanish domination. Overnight at the Agriturismo Il Granaio at Modica. Dinner in farm house. B,D

19th June DAY 10 : RAGUSA - PIAZZA ARMERINA SYRACUSA

After breakfast we will drive to Piazza Armerina for a guided visit of this Roman Villa, famous for its mosaic floors. (Time permitting we will try to have a wine degustation on the way)

After visiting of Piazza Armerina we will proceed to Siracusa. . Dinner in a local restaurant at the "Ortigia" Overnight Hotel Roma B,D.



20th June DAY 11 - SYRACUSA – PANTALICA – PALAZZOLO ACREIDE -NOTO

After breakfast we will have a guided visit of the archaeological park of Syracuse (the Latomies, the legendary Dionysius's Ear, the Roman amphitheatre , the Greek theatre), Ortigia with its fish market. The markets of Ortigia, the island centre of the ancient city of Syracuse, abound with the finest products of the area, harvested from both land and sea. Why not sample some for lunch! Return to the hotel . Afternoon free for discovering the island on your own or if you wish we can organize a boat excursion to visit the port and surrounding area.

Tonight you will go to the Theatre Overnight Hotel Roma B

21st June DAY 12 – SYRACUSA

After breakfast, we will have a full day Visit of Pantalica (walking through a natural area) proceed to Palazzolo Acreide . Lunch will be in a farm house. Proceed to NOTO. (NO GUIDE) Late afternoon return to Siracusa. Overnight Hotel Roma B,L



22nd June DAY 13 SYRACUSA ETNA - TAORMINA

After breakfast, we depart for our trip to famous Mount Etna, the highest and the most active volcano in Europe, climbing to 1.800 metres. Stop at Nicolosi, the gate of Etna. **Nicolosi** is a village in the southern flank of Etna. (Possibility of an optional excursion by cable-car to approx 3.000 metres (to be paid on location).

Lunch in a winery with wine degustation.

After lunch proceed to Taormina, with a stop for visiting the House of Family Corleone, well reported in the Movie "The God father" Proceed to Taormina. Overnight Hotel Excelsior B,L



23rd June DAY 14: TAORMINA - ALCANTARA GORGES

After breakfast we depart to Alcantara Gorge, where it will be possible also to have a swim in the river water.

Picnic Lunch

In the afternoon proceed to Calatabiano where we will visit the Castle . Return to Taormina . Overnight Hotel Excelsior B,L

24th June DAY 15 TAORMINA - CATANIA - ACITREZZA

After breakfast, we will have a morning excursion to Catania and Cyclops Riviera, visiting Acitrezza** and Acicastello.

At 3 pm we will return to Taormina where you will have free time to visit the Greek-Roman Theatre

Overnight Hotel Excelsior B.

** At Acitrezza Optional . We can organize a special excursion , renting a boat so that you can snorkel or swim.



25rd June DAY 16 TAORMINA FULL DAY AT LEISURE

26th June DAY 17 TAORMINA - AEOLIAN ISLAND -SALINA

After breakfast, we depart to Milazzo to catch a ferry to beautiful Salina. The breathtaking and beautiful island of **Salina** takes its name from “saline” because of the salty deposits that are found in and around the island. Its more ancient name was Didyme (mountains twins) deriving from its twin volcanic peaks.

Overnight Hotel Signum B

27TH June DAY 18 SALINA -DAY AT LEISURE

Overnight Hotel Signum B

28th June DAY 19 - SALINA DAY AT LEISURE

Overnight Hotel Signum B Farewell dinner

29TH Day 20

Departure for those who need to go to Palermo for their ongoing fights. You will travel to Milazzo and then transfer to Palermo.

Accommodation at the Hotel San Paolo**** B

30th Day 21

The rest of the group who be travelling to Amalfi will catch a ferry .

I hope you enjoy the tour! Thank you for travelling with Smallgroup Travel . I look forward to sharing more travel with you!

Sue Kuti



To Live is to travel.....share the experience!