

Tailor Made Sicily

14 nights/15 days itinerary

Itinerary details – these can be changed to make your trip as you would like it to be.

3 Nights Syracuse

Day 1 Arrival

Flying with Easy Jet from London Gatwick arrive to Catania. On arrival you will be met and taken to your hotel in Syracuse - Principe di Fitalia

Day 2 Syracuse

You will be met at your hotel and taken to enjoy a guided tour of the city of Syracuse including lunch on the island of Ortygia.

Syracusa was one of the richest and most beautiful cities in the ancient world, even rivaling Athens. Its most famous resident was Archimedes. Today the city is one of Sicily's most attractive with a wonderful collection of limestone buildings, dating mainly from the 17th and 18th centuries. There is an extraordinary Baroque Cathedral incorporating an ancient temple, with a lovely interior, and just opposite is the Bosco Palace. The old port area is extremely attractive and very traditional, full of small fishing boats unloading their catch and lined with restaurants and pavement cafes. We have a guided walking tour of the old town at the eastern end of the city, called Ortygia; actually an island, connected to the mainland by three bridges. After the tour we have time for lunch and also take in a panoramic view of the Archaeological Park, before returning to the hotel.

Overnight Syracuse

Day 3 Syracuse

Day to relax

1 Night Piazza Armerina

Day 4 Piazza Armerina

You will be collected from your hotel and driven to Piazza Amerina. On the way you will stop and visit the famous mosaics of Noto and Ragusa.

Piazza Armerina is the place of one of the most amazing archaeological discoveries of the last century: a 4th century Roman villa, possibly owned by one of the joint Emperors, which explains its size and richness of decoration. Buried for centuries, you can still see the remains of pastel-coloured frescoes on the walls, but the mosaics, showing animals and hunting scenes, are some of the finest from Roman antiquity. You will then be taken to your hotel and overnight – Demetra Resort.

2 Nights Agrigento

Day 5 Casale

Today you will visit Villa Imperiale and the 6th Century ruins of Morgantina and then travel on to Agrigento.

Overnight Agrigento

Day 6 Selinunte

This morning we visit what can truly be described as one of the wonders of the ancient world: the amazing Greek remains in the Valley of the Temples. There are nine of them in total, situated largely on a ridge looking out to sea. Visible for miles they must have made a statement of sheer and absolute power and confidence to any passing mariner or shepherd,

leaving no one doubt as to who were the masters. The best of them, Concordia, similar in design to the Parthenon in Athens, is almost perfectly preserved, with just the roof missing. With its wonderful tapering columns and beautiful light golden colour it is absolutely captivating. We enjoy a guided tour of the site and a visit to the excellent museum, displaying finds from both the temples and surrounding area, including a unique collection of vases.

Overnight Agrigento

2 Nights Marsala

Day 7 Marsala

Today you will be taken by car to Marsala in the famous wine area of Sicily. On the way you will stop and visit the town of Selinute and visit the Phoenician ship museum in Marsala.

Overnight Marsala – Hotel Carmine

Day 8 Marsala

Day to relax

Overnight Marsala

3 Nights Palermo

Day 9 Mozia & Erice

Today you will catch a ferry to see the tiny island of Mozia and then travel to the ancient hill settlement of Erice. You will then drive to Palermo stopping at Segesta to visit the wonderful Doric Temple.

Overnight Palermo – hotel Palazzo Sitano

Day 10 Palermo

You will be picked up to go to Monreale where you will visit the cathedral, an architectural masterpiece that dates back to the Norman period. Its walls are almost completely covered by Byzantine mosaics and it covers a very large area, including a magnificent cloister surrounded by 228 columns with inlaid capitals. In the late morning you will be transferred back to Palermo where you will continue your guided tour of the city. The visit includes the Palatine Chapel, a superb example of Arabic-Norman architecture built in the period 1130-1140. Nearby is the church of St. John of the Hermit which was built by Roger II in 1132. The features of the structure are unique in that it was first constructed as a mosque and then later converted to Church. Then stroll through il mercato della Vucciria, one of the oldest and most frequented fresh produce markets in the city, the Cathedral, Quattro Canti square, etc.

Palermo under Saracen and Norman rule became one of the most important cities in Europe, famous for the wealth of its court and as a great centre of learning. Today it has more of a 17th century appearance and is now the seat of the regional government and the Cathedral dates from the 10th century.

Overnight Palermo

Day 11 Palermo

Day of leisure and to explore the shops and local cafes.

Overnight Palermo

3 Nights Giardini Naxos

Day 12 Solunto

Today you will take a drive to visit the ruins of Solunto – a Roman town abandoned in 300AD. You will then go on to visit Cefalù, known for its long golden beach as well as for other monumental and artistic "jewels": the Norman Duomo, initiated under Roger II in 1131, preserves precious mosaics which adorn the apse. In the same period the Osterio Magno was the probable residence of King Roger II. Of great interest is the striking medieval wash-house and the Mandralisca museum, the latter preserving the famous portrait of an unknown man by Antonello da Messina. You can enjoy a stroll along the lanes in the historical centre where you can linger amongst the numerous shops of ceramics and souvenirs.

Then enjoy the drive to the seaside town of Giardini Naxos.

Your hotel will be Hilton Giardini Naxos

Day 13

Day to relax

Day 14 Taormina

Today you will be taken to visit the celebrated resort of Taormina and visit the Greek Theatre. Optional choice to go to Mount Etna – you can just visit the area – you don't have to climb to the top!!

Day 15 Departure

You will be collected from your hotel and taken to Catania airport to catch your flight home.

Please read the full terms and conditions last updated February 2014

From £1499 per person based on two people sharing a Hotel Room depending on dates of travel and availability of hotels and flights

Hotels: Subject to availability