

The perfect time to visit Sicily and Malta: temperatures are moderate, crowds gone, and everyone is beginning to prepare for the Holidays. Our trip is the best itinerary of Sicily with optional taste of Malta. We include wonderful meals, excellent tour manager and guides. The itinerary is a mix of archaeological sites, gorgeous scenery, medieval hill top towns, farmhouse meals, loads of food and wine. The trip is operated at a fair but never killing pace. Famous Sicilian Foods include pistachio, pasta, arancini, cannoli, gelato, cassata, truffles, and the famous olive oil. Shopping includes: jewelry, ceramics, food, clothes, oils, Sicily shopping is known as less expensive than mainland Italy.

We arranged a series of transfers for flights. See below.

## **Sicily Nov 5-13 2024 and optional Malta Nov 13-16**

**Price: \$4199**

**Deposit: \$600**

**Single Supplement: \$525 and limited**

### **Day 1 - Tuesday Nov 5 : Depart US**

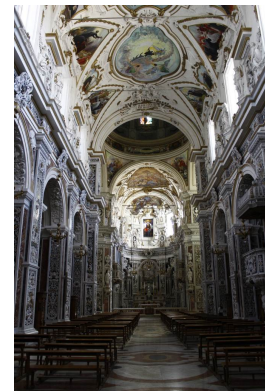
Depart on flights. (Dinner and Breakfast-in flight) On prior tours, some women overnighted at the Rome Airport Hilton, attached to the terminal. The hotel has a free shuttle to Central Rome. Our list of flights/transfers will include those overnighting and a suggested time to meet for dinner.

### **Day 2 - Wednesday Nov 6: Arrive Palermo**

This morning arrive Palermo, we meet our guide who accompanies us throughout our tour. After check in at our centrally located hotel enjoy leisure or start exploring Palermo, Sicily's capital. Here the architecture reflects conquerors over centuries: Normans, Arabs, Asians, and Greeks with styles ranging from Arabic to Baroque, Norman to Art Nouveau.



This evening welcome dinner at a local restaurant. **(Dinner with wine)**



### **Day 3 Thursday Nov 7: Palermo & Cefalù**

After daily breakfast meet our local guide for a guided tour of Palermo, explore old avenues and Arabic neighborhoods, iconic cathedrals, Teatro Massimo Palermo's elegant Opera House-remember The Godfather Movie? (from outside). Our tour includes the visit of the Palatine Chapel inside the Norman Palace. Continue discovering picturesque narrow streets with open-air markets selling fruit, vegetables, cakes, and delicious street food.

Afternoon, drive to Cefalù, on a hillside facing the sea, with amazing views of the coast. It retains a medieval appearance, its center around a Norman cathedral: 12<sup>th</sup> century. As a leading bishopric there are many churches. Homes have interesting architecture and many shops with crafts. Dinner at local restaurant facing the sea. Return Palermo. **(Breakfast, all Dinners with wine)**

### **Day 4 - Friday Nov 8: Palermo / Erice / Country Lunch & Salt Road / Palermo**

After breakfast a full day excursion, first to the hilltop town, Erice, a medieval town, built on Monte San Giuliano. It predated the Middle Ages, but little remains from this period. Instead, it has incredible city walls, fine paved streets, stone houses with decorated doorways, and open spaces with churches, all from the Middle Ages. Then we proceed to an Oil Mill and Farmhouse, locally called Baglio, Baglio Fontanasalsa, to experience Sicilian traditions and with a country lunch of delicious Sicilian products. We visit the oil mill and learn about oil production. After lunch, drive along salt pans and Sicilian windmills, with dazzlingly white mountains shimmering in the sun. These are hills of salt, an unreal scenario created



by the salt flats, which form an immense chessboard that ranges in color from off-green to pink. Return to Palermo. **(Breakfast, Lunch).**

**Day 5 - Saturday Nov 9: Palermo/ Agrigento / Piazza Armerina / Siracusa**

After breakfast check out. We depart by private coach for Siracusa. Along the way visit world famous Valle dei Templi in Agrigento, where the city's ancient architects erected most of their sacred buildings in 5c BC. The four major temples were - and are - stunning, reflecting the wealth and luxury of ancient Agrigento. The panoramic view of the Valley of the Temples is grand, overlooking some of the most impressive

Greek ruins of the Mediterranean. Later Piazza Armerina and visit the Roman Villa Villa del Casale to admire amazing mosaics a UNESCO heritage qn extraordinary site. Continue to Siracusa. Check in at hotel, a historic palace. Dinner at hotel tonight. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Day 6 - Sunday Nov 10 : Siracusa**

Today full day tour Siracusa, founded by the Greeks, and once the most important city in the Western World. In the unique Parco Archeologico, the impressive ruins include the magnificent Greek Theatre, one of the biggest and best preserved n the entire Mediterranean, situated adjacent to a large Roman Coliseum and an ancient quarry possessing acoustics that Caravaggio called the ear of Dionysis. Following lunch on own, we visit the beautiful island of Ortigia. Here, amid the artistic vestiges of over 2500 years of history, we walk streets once trod by Pindar, Aeschylus, Plato, Cicero and Archimedes. We explore the Piazza Archimede, the legendary Fonte



Aretusa (Fountain of Arethusa), and Siracusa's historically unique Duomo. Dinner local restaurant. Overnight Siracusa. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Day 7 - Monday Nov 11 : Modica & Ragusa.**

Today is dedicated to two baroque jewels. Our first is Ragusa for a historical town Ragusa Ibla, damaged after the earthquake in 1693 rebuilt in impressive Baroque architecture. See the evolution of the Sicilian baroque by walking along the narrow streets. We visit a local farm house taste great local dishes. After lunch we stop in Modica a picturesque city with its peculiar houses built in the mountains. Modica is also famous for the production of chocolate, it is an ancient tradition, still made with ancient recipes. Evening at leisure. **(Breakfast, Lunch)**



**Day 8 - Tuesday Nov 12 : Taormina**

We travel to Taormina. Standing high on Monte Tauro and dominating the two grand, sweeping bays below, Taormina is Sicily's best-known resort and a strong contender for the title of most beautiful place on earth! Taormina forms a balcony

overlooking the sea, facing Mount Etna. This climactic resort of worldwide repute has beautiful monuments, spectacular views and lovely gardens. Our walking tour of Taormina includes Via Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, on the site of Roman Forum, Palazzo Corvala, recently unearthed an imperial Roman bath, and magnificent Teatro Greco, a Roman reconstruction of a Greek theatre, where, we may see Taormina to the right, Mt. Etna directly ahead and the Sicilian coast, the Ionian Sea and Calabria to the left, in one spectacular sweeping view. In the afternoon free to explore this extraordinary town on own or do some last minute shopping. Going back to Siracusa we stop for a Farewell Dinner in a special setting. **(Breakfast, Dinner).**

#### **Day 9 - Wednesday Nov 13: Depart Catania**

After breakfast depart to the Catania airport for flights to US or Malta. (B) Please see transfers below.

#### **Trip includes:**

- 3 nights Palermo Hotel Federico II 4\* or similar.
- 4 nights Siracusa Hotel Villa Politi 4\* or similar.
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Buffet breakfast daily, four dinners, two lunches including mineral water and a glass of wine
- Visit to Oil Mill and Winery
- Guided tours on itinerary: Palermo, Agrigento, Piazza Armerina, Taormina, Siracusa, Ragusa
- Entrances as per program
- English speaking local tour manager throughout tour
- Deluxe touring coach for all transfers, tours, excursions
- Headphones on guided tours
- Baggage handling at hotels, one piece per person
- All local taxes and service charges. City tax
- Water in the coach during the tour
- One group transfer airport to hotel in each direction. Palermo estimated noon. Catania early AM. For Malta, flights are not yet posted. We might use the modern ferry via Syracuse, 1 hour 45 minutes.

#### **The trip DOES NOT include:**

- Airline tickets
- Travel Insurance
- Everything not mentioned under "Price includes"
- Tips for driver and guides. We suggest \$75 driver and \$100 guide/tour manager, \$5 per visit for local guides
- Palermo Airport arrival private transfer 1-2 passengers: \$105 per car (1 piece of luggage + 1 handbag per person)
- Palermo Airport arrival private transfer 4 – 6 passengers: \$200 per car (1 piece of luggage + 1 handbag per person)
- Catania Airport departure private transfer 1-2 passengers: NET \$235 per car (1 piece of luggage + 1 handbag per person)
- Catania Airport departure private transfer 4 – 6 passengers: \$300 per car ( 1 piece of luggage + 1 handbag per person).

Photo sources for photos from [Italia.it](http://Italia.it) and [visitsicily.com](http://visitsicily.com)

**Malta is still undiscovered by N Americans. The island is unique as it was a former Crusader capital, was attacked by the Barbary Pirates, the Ottomans, Napoleon and The Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans, Arabs, and Byzantines,all left a mark. Food is Italian influenced. The**

Valletta harbor is a living movie set; in fact many movies are filmed in Malta. Language is English and Maltese.



## MALTA EXTENSION – POST TOUR

4 days / 3 nights

Nov 13 to 16 2024 Enjoy the video below



**Price \$999**

**Deposit: \$400**

**Single Supplement \$250**

**Day 9 - Wednesday Nov 13: Siracusa – Malta MDINA- Marsaxlokk,** After breakfast check out and transfer to the airport for a short flight to Malta; alternatively we might use the quick ferry to Valletta. Upon arrival we discover the Medieval Mdina. Walk the streets of this medieval town known as the 'silent city' with rich history. Be shown its secretive narrow winding streets to discover its dwarfed doorways, reach the city's bastions from where a stunning almost 360 degrees panoramic view of the island can be seen. The tour continues with a visit to the Dingli cliffs, the highest cliffs on the island. From here we can look out to the island of Filfla. A truly relaxing excursion in and around the old capital of Malta. We proceed to the serene bay of Marsaxlokk, the main fishing village in Malta. One cannot miss all the luzzus, which are the typical Maltese fishing boats, lined across the bay in traditional colors that complement the ever-popular open-air market held daily along the promenade. We reach our Hotel in Malta. **Check in and dinner. (Breakfast, Dinner)**

### **Day 10 - Thursday Nov 14: MALTA - VALLETTA**

Enjoy breakfast at hotel, our guided tour will take us to the lively streets of our capital city of Valletta. Our first stop will be the Barracca Gardens built atop the defensive bastions that surround this majestic city. These gardens, built by the Knights of St John, command breathtaking views of the Grand Harbor and the fortified Three Cities. Next we go to St John's Co-Cathedral that brims in riches with its contrasting decorated interior and an impressive display of Baroque art, including the acclaimed Caravaggio painting on display in the Oratory of this opulent Cathedral. We proceed with an interesting walk where we can appreciate the capital's buildings of historical importance including the Grand Master's Palace. **(Breakfast)**

### **Day 11 - Friday Nov 15: GOZO**

the video below is Gozo. After breakfast we depart for a special excursion, a unique way to see Malta's sister island, an excursion to the natural island of Gozo, conveniently situated a mere 20-minute ferry crossing away. Our day starts at the megalithic temples of Ggantija that are known to be the oldest freestanding temples in the world, followed by the ramparts of the capital Victoria, the fortified City that



dominates the island. As we approach sunset, we drive down to Dwejra where we capture the last rays of light as the sun disappears beyond the horizon and the remaining dark blues of the seas turn to an inky black. Farewell lunch in Gozo. Go back to Malta in the afternoon, evening at leisure **(Breakfast, Lunch)**

#### **Day 12 - Saturday Nov 16 : DEPART**

After buffet breakfast, one group departure transfer from the hotel to the airport for flights back home. **(Breakfast)**

#### **Price includes:**

- 3 nights in four-star centrally located Hotel, Hotel Dolmen or similar 4\*- Hotel taxes and service charges are included.
- Buffet breakfast daily, one lunch, one dinner including mineral water and a glass of wine
- Sightseeing and guided tours as indicated on itinerary
- Entrances as per program
- English speaking local tour manager throughout tour
- Deluxe touring coach for all transfers, tours, excursions. RT ferry for Gozo
- Headphones on guided tours (15 pax or more)
- Baggage handling at hotels, one piece per person
- All local taxes and service charges. City tax
- Group transfer from airport or ferry terminal to hotel/ one group transfer to airport in Malta.

#### **The Quote DOES NOT include:**

- Airline tickets
- Travel Insurance
- Everything not mentioned under "Price includes"
- Tips for driver and guides.
- Malta Airport departure private transfer 1-2 passengers: \$75 per car (one piece of luggage + 1 handbag per person)
- Malta Airport departure private transfer 4 – 6 passengers: NET \$150 per car

Photo and videos from [visitmalta.com](http://visitmalta.com)