



Itinerary

Splendid Sicilia featuring Palermo, Siracusa and Taormina

Nov 2, 2019 - Nov 11, 2019

Day 1: Overnight Flight



You are on your way to Sicily. Experience the sights, sounds and charms of this sparkling Mediterranean island.

Day 2: Palermo, Italy - Tour Begins



Welcome to Palermo (UNESCO), Sicily's vibrant and welcoming capital. Bursting with Arab-Norman architectural masterpieces, this island's history is waiting to be discovered. This evening, come to know your fellow travelers over a welcome dinner.

Hotel

Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa
Palermo

Culinary

Dinner

Weather

High 66°
Low 57°
Rain 3"

Day 3: Palermo - Monreale - Palermo



Set out this morning on a comprehensive panoramic tour of Palermo. Drive along the Via della Libertà avenue and its English-inspired gardens; admire the Neo Classical architecture of the Politeama Concert Hall and the Massimo Opera House. Delve into the city's exotic blend of Moorish, Norman and Baroque styles while passing the medieval ruins of Castello a Mare – Palermo's seaside fortification once protecting La Cala port. Drive by the Spanish Walls and City Gates and admire the University's Botanical Gardens. Afterward, head to nearby Monreale, where the town's 12th-century cathedral dazzles from the moment you step inside. Return to Palermo for a visit of the Cathedral and admire the imposing exterior of the Palace of the Normans before stopping at an open-air market for a taste of traditional Sicilian "street food." Later, you are invited to a medieval palace where a countess welcomes you on a tour of her family's home and joins you for an aperitif and hors d'oeuvres in one of the palace's chambers.

Hotel

Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa
Palermo

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 66°
Low 57°
Rain 3"

Day 4: Palermo - Corleone - Palermo



Head to the heart of Sicily. Find a warm welcome in the village of Corleone, the namesake of the family from the movie *The Godfather*. Here, the villagers have fought the connection to the Mafia for decades, and you'll learn the history behind their struggles as a local resident guides you through the CIDMA (International Documentary Center of the Mafia and the No-Mafia Movement). Hear tales of the Mafia's past and the plight of the Sicilian people to eradicate the Mafia altogether. Tonight, join a sommelier for a quick wine class before sitting down to a delectable 4-course meal, complete with curated wine pairings.

Hotel

Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa
Palermo

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 66°
Low 57°
Rain 3"

Day 5: Palermo - Cefalù - Sicilian Countryside - Palermo



Journey to the countryside and stroll the medieval streets of Cefalù, a seaside town that's home to one of Sicily's most magnificent cathedrals. Then we are off to experience a day on a family farm where Sicilian folk music greets your arrival. Learn about the variety of products they create on the farm and observe how they make a Sicilian favorite – ricotta cheese!* Watch a chef prepare local specialties before sitting down for a hearty lunch featuring family recipes made from their own products. Return to Palermo for an evening at leisure.

Hotel

Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa
Palermo

Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

Weather

High 66°
Low 57°
Rain 3"

Day 6: Palermo - Agrigento - Taormina



Epic history and stunning scenery lie ahead in the Valley of the Temples (UNESCO), a place filled with ancient Greek ruins. Join an expert on a guided tour as you explore this once-prominent Greek colony and the temples of Juno, Concordia, Hercules and Jupiter. Your journey continues past the Erei Mountains to Sicily's stunning Ionian Coast. The gorgeous coastal city of Taormina is your home for the next four nights.

Hotel

Hotel Villa Diodoro
Taormina

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 69°
Low 51°
Rain 2"

Day 7: Taormina



Today explore Taormina, "the jewel of Sicily." A local guide leads you on a tour of this picturesque city where you'll see the well-preserved Greek theatre, the Duomo and the public gardens. Spend the afternoon on your own getting to know this city perched high above the sea. Dine at a sidewalk café, shop in the town's boutiques, or choose to join an optional excursion that gets up-close to majestic Mount Etna.

Hotel

Hotel Villa Diodoro
Taormina

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 69°
Low 51°
Rain 2"

Day 8: Taormina



It's your choice! Visit the hilltop village of Savoca, one of the settings for the classic film *The Godfather*. Follow the quaint alleyways of this remarkably-preserved settlement, founded in 1134. Journey to the historic Bar Vitelli and the 14th-century church, Chiesa di Santa Lucia (film buffs are sure to recognize these two landmarks) -OR- you may prefer visiting beautiful Castelmola. Resting on a mountaintop above the community of Taormina, this quaint village offers unparalleled views of Mount Etna, Taormina, the Bay of Giardini Naxos, and the Strait of Messina.

Hotel

Hotel Villa Diodoro
Taormina

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 69°
Low 51°
Rain 2"

Day 9: Taormina - Siracusa - Taormina



Reflect on the grandeur of ancient Greece while uncovering its archaeological treasures in historic Siracusa. An expert shares stories of Siracusa's creation while leading you through the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its impressive collection of Greek and Roman antiquities. This evening, toast Sicilian culture as you're serenaded by local musicians during your farewell dinner.

Hotel

Hotel Villa Diodoro
Taormina

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 69°
Low 51°
Rain 2"

Day 10: Taormina - Tour Ends



Your journey through Sicily comes to a close today. Return home with cherished memories of an unforgettable adventure.