

Grand Tour 2027 Preliminary Itinerary

Subject to change due to conditions at active worksites and ongoing efforts to maximize your experience. We do not recommend making airline reservations at this time. APT will communicate when the schedule is firm enough for travel planning.

Day 1 – Palermo

Theme: Adaptive Reuse and the Conservation of Historic Buildings

- Arrive in **Palermo**.
- Introductory tour of the historic centre, focusing on the city's architectural heritage and ongoing restoration projects.
- Visits to selected restoration sites.
- Meeting with representatives of the Sicilian Regional Government and the Municipality of Palermo to discuss heritage conservation policies, restoration strategies, and institutional cooperation.

Day 2 – Monreale & Palermo

Theme: The Conservation of Monumental Heritage and Mosaic Restoration

- Visit to **Monreale Cathedral**, exploring the conservation of Norman architecture, Byzantine mosaics, and decorated surfaces.
 - Return to Palermo for additional visits to restoration sites and conservation laboratories.
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Day 3 – Cefalù & San Marco d'Alunzio

Theme: Preserving Historic Towns and Cultural Landscapes

- Visit to **Cefalù Cathedral**, focusing on the restoration of UNESCO World Heritage monuments and medieval architecture.
 - Visit to **San Marco d'Alunzio**, one of the most picturesque villages in the Nebrodi Mountains, with particular attention to the conservation of historic centres, traditional building techniques, and vernacular architecture.
 - Overnight stay in **Capo d'Orlando**.
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Day 4 – Taormina & Messina

Theme: Archaeological Heritage and Structural Conservation

- Visit to **Taormina**, with particular attention to the conservation of the Ancient Theatre and the relationship between archaeological remains and the surrounding landscape.
 - Visit to a restoration site in the Province of **Messina**, focusing on structural conservation and current restoration practices.
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Day 5 – Syracuse

Theme: Integrated Conservation of Multi-layered Heritage

- Visit to **Syracuse (Siracusa)**, exploring the coexistence of Greek, Roman, Medieval, and Baroque heritage and the challenges of conserving a multi-layered historic city.
 - Visit to a restoration site, examining integrated approaches to the conservation of archaeological and architectural heritage.
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Day 6 – Catania

Theme: Restoration in Volcanic Environments

- Visit to **Catania**, exploring the conservation of Baroque architecture built with lava stone and the challenges posed by volcanic materials and seismic activity.
 - Visit to a restoration site illustrating conservation techniques for historic buildings in volcanic environments.
 - Meeting with representatives of the **Sicilian Regional Government** and the **Municipality of Catania**.
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Day 7 – Piazza Armerina & Return to Palermo

Theme: Archaeological Heritage Management and Conservation

- Departure for **Piazza Armerina**.
- Meeting with the Regional Archaeological Superintendency, with a presentation of current conservation and archaeological management projects.
- Meeting with **Cooperativa Archeologia** to explore ongoing archaeological excavation, documentation, and restoration activities in Piazza Armerina.
- Return to Palermo.