



TOUR BEST OF SICILY & MALTA

A blend of escorted and independent touring ★★★★★

11 Nights / 12 Days exclusively English
Departures guaranteed

1st Day /Saturday CATANIA

Independent arrival at the hotel in Catania, accommodation, welcome cocktail, dinner at Hotel and overnight.

2nd Day /Sunday CATANIA – SIRACUSA – CATANIA

After a buffet breakfast, departure to Syracuse: visit the World Heritage Site "Neapolis". The visit of this archaeological area includes the famous Greek theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the "Dionisios Ear". Continue to the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city centre of Siracusa; free time for lunch. In the afternoon visit of the beautiful Cathedral, which is built upon the site of the Doric Temple of Minerva, the legendary Arethusa's Fountain and the Temple of Apollo. Free time at disposal to stroll through the streets of the centre and for shopping. Return to your hotel in Catania. Free evening at your disposal to experience the city and its nightlife and to dine in one of the typical restaurant in the city centre. Overnight.

3rd Day /Monday CATANIA (fish market & street food) – RAGUSA (cheese taste)

After a buffet breakfast, departure for a nice walking tour of Catania, stroll through the city centre with your professional guide who will charm you with the history of the city and visit the famous **fish market** "A PISCARIA", one of the largest fish markets in Sicily. As old as the city itself, it's a great way to experience the abundant fishing and seafood culture of Sicily, with a very special and authentic atmosphere. Here you will have the chance to taste the delights of typical Catania's street food. Depart to Ragusa and visit of the enchanting historical centre "Ibla", with its stunning baroque palaces and churches; together with other seven cities in the Val di Noto, Ragusa is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Ragusa is also renowned for its cheese production, therefore we will not miss a tasting of artisan cheeses. We will continue to the reserved hotel where we will have time at disposal to relax at the swimming pool or at the Spa. Dinner in hotel and Overnight

4th Day /Tuesday RAGUSA – AGRIGENTO – MARSALA (wine tasting & Marsala at sunset or by night)

After a buffet breakfast, departure to Agrigento, a hillside town famous for its magnificent Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; visit of the Valley, including the Temple of Concordia, which is in almost perfectly preserved condition, the temples of Juno and Heracles. Free time at disposal for lunch. In the afternoon we'll proceed to Marsala a city on the western coast famous for its production of sweet Sicilian wine. Arrival at Baglio Oneto dei Principi di San Lorenzo Resort. Here we will do a tour of the resort's wineries, starting from the vineyards, where the whole wine-making process begins. We'll explore the historic courtyard and the Palmento Room, where grapes were laid down in berries to be crushed before being transferred to barrels. We will visit the Ageing Cellar, a room that has never stopped keeping its fascinating atmosphere intact. We will taste 3 different fine wines, accompanied by a selection of Sicilian cured meats, cheeses, and cookies. Free time at disposal to relax at the swimming pool or to enjoy magic moments at sunset at your hotel. In the evening, we'll reach Marsala city centre and have free time at disposal to discover the historical centre by walking and free time for dinner. Return to the hotel and overnight.

5th Day /Wednesday MARSALA – ERICE (taste of traditional pastries) – PALERMO

After a buffet breakfast departure to Erice, via the spectacular "Salt Route", a road flanked by the salt pans, windmills, and the "salt houses" where they still extract the sea salt as the Phoenicians. Arrival in Erice, placed on the top of a hill overlooking the city of Trapani and the Egadi Islands: walk through its tiny and characteristic streets, the winding lanes and, inner courtyards and stop for marzipan and biscuit tasting. Free time at disposal for lunch. Continue to Palermo, the capital of Sicily. We will visit the visit of the Cathedral, one of the most important architectural monuments. We will continue our visit by walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to reach "I Quattro Canti di Città" Piazza Pretoria, Piazza Bellini and we'll visit the Martorana Church, one of the most beautiful churches of Palermo. We will then reach one of the most famous and historical markets of Palermo to experience the authenticity of this wonderful and colorful city. We will end our tour with a taste of the delights of typical **Palermo's street food**, one of the most renowned all over the world. Accommodation at hotel and free time at disposal for shopping and dinner. Overnight.

6th Day /Thursday PALERMO – MONREALE – CEFALU' – TAORMINA

After a buffet breakfast departure to visit the town of **Monreale**, situated on a hill at few kms far from Palermo in panoramic position. Visit of the Cathedral, one of the most beautiful monuments in the world with its Moorish architecture, housing very fine mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments in Arab-Norman style. Continue to Cefalù, a former fishing village, now a charming coastal town. Enjoy a walk to the city centre and down main street to reach the Arab-Norman Cathedral and the medieval wash-house built in the rock. Free time at disposal to explore the town and shopping and lunch on your own. Proceed to Taormina through the coastal road passing through **Messina** from where we'll have the chance to admire the suggestive scenery of the Strait of Messina. Accommodation at your hotel and free time at disposal for dinner. Overnight.

7th Day /Friday TAORMINA – MT. ETNA – TAORMINA

After a buffet breakfast, excursion to Mount Etna, the highest active Volcano in Europe. Weather conditions permitting, across fascinating landscape with different kind of vegetation, a mixture of citrus groves, vineyards and fruit trees. We will reach a height of 1800 metres to visit the Sylvester Craters where we'll enjoy a spectacular panorama over the Ionian Sea. Stop at a local vineyard on the eastern slopes of Etna and visit a prestigious cellar. We will have the opportunity to taste different local wines accompanied by local cheese and cold cuts. In the afternoon back to Taormina, charming city called "the pearl of the Ionian Sea": enjoy time at leisure for shopping or walking through its tiny streets. Possibility to visit the Greek-Roman Theatre on your own (Ticket €12,00 p.p.), with its spectacular view of Giardini Naxos and Mount Etna. Free time for dinner and overnight.

8th Day SATURDAY: TAORMINA – CATANIA – MALTA

At the appointed time, transfer from Taormina to Catania airport. Flight to Valletta, Capital of Malta, delightful Mediterranean island. Transfer to Hotel located in St Paul's Bay or similar 4 stars. Arrival in Hotel and accommodation. Dinner in your Hotel and overnight.

9th Day SUNDAY: MALTA "MARSAXLOKK MARKET & THE BLUE GROTT" Extended Half Day Excursion

After Breakfast, departure to the idyllic fishing village of **Marsaxlokk** with its colourful luzzus and unique character make the unrivalled setting for the local market. Continue the tour with a visit to the **Blue Grotto** (weather permitting – boat ride price not included) and the nearby caves. Explore one of Malta's unspoilt village: the main square, the hub of the village with its parish church and band club. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner at your own and overnight

10th Day MONDAY: MALTA "VALLETTA + MALTA EXPERIENCE" Half Day Excursion

Breakfast. Enjoy a morning tour of Valletta – Malta's heritage-rich capital. Highlights include the Upper Barracca Gardens and St John's Cathedral, home to a splendid Caravaggio painting as well as an intriguing Museum. Going down Republic Street you will walk past the Grandmaster's Palace before watching the Malta Experience, an audiovisual show where Malta history throughout the centuries is brought back to life. Spend the rest of the day exploring at your leisure. Free time for dinner and overnight. **Please note:** from April to June and in October, the excursion "Valletta+Malta experience" will take place in the afternoon.

11th Day TUESDAY: MALTA "MDINA" Full Day Excursion – lunch included

After breakfast, today's excursion takes us to the central part of Malta, dominated by the medieval fortified city of Mdina, Malta's former capital city. The narrow streets, dating back to medieval times, lead to the imposing bastions. Leaving Mdina through Greeks' Gate, we stop at the early Christian catacombs in Rabat before proceeding to the cliffs at Dingli. After lunch we will visit the San Anton botanical gardens situated near the Presidential Palace, which you will be able to admire from outside. We shall also spend time at the crafts centre at Ta' Qali. At the end of the tour, allow us to astound you with Mosta's majestic dome, one of Europe's largest. Free time for dinner and overnight

12th Day: WEDNESDAY: MALTA

The tour ends after breakfast with a transfer to the port or the airport of Valletta.





Hotels 4 ^{*}

CATANIA

KATANE HOTEL ****
Mercure Exceljior ****
or similar

RAGUSA

POGGIO DEL SOLE RESORT ****
or similar

MARSALA

BAGLIO ONETO RESORT *****
or similar

PALERMO

GRAND HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA ****
Politeama Palace ****
or similar

TAORMINA

VILLA DIODORO ****
Hotel Caparena ****
Or similar

***MALTA**

DOLMEN RESORT ****
Qwara, St Paul's Bay
SPB 2402 - Malta or similar

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Experience a coach tour of Sicily's highlights before discovering the rich heritage of Malta, one of Europe most enchanting islands. A unique blend of escorted tour in Sicily and independent stay in Malta
- ✓ Visit to the two main **historical markets** of the island to have a full immersion in the "Authentic Sicilian life"
- ✓ **Free time at disposal** in each town for shopping or to enjoy a walk
- ✓ Exclusive tour for **small groups up to 20 People**
- ✓ **Exclusively In English**
- ✓ We have selected **Charming Hotels** located in the historical centres of the main sicilian towns or **Exclusive Resorts** with **swimming pools and spa**.
- ✓ Visit of the Main Sicilian **UNESCO SITES**
(The late Baroque towns of the "Val di Noto": Ragusa, Siracusa, Valley of Temples, Etna volcano*, the Arab-Norman Palermo itinerary and the Cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù)
- ✓ **Other visits:** Erice, Ragusa Ibla, Salt Route and Marsala walking tour by night, Cefalù, Palermo, Panoramic tour of the Messina strait, village of Marsaxlokk and Blue Grotto, La Valletta, Mdina
- ✓ **Flight** from Catania to Valletta
- ✓ **Regular sightseeing** with multilingual local guides in Malta (days 9,10,11) English Guaranteed
- ✓ **Porterage** at hotels (Sicily only)

BOOKING SERVICES PRE/POST TOUR

in case advanced arrival before the beginning, or an extension trip after the tour, it is possible to book the hotels of the tour through our booking department
For info **Prices & Booking services**, contact our department: **INFO@BARBACCIAVIAGGIETURISMO.COM** pre-night / post-night tour

Transfer shared or Private; English speaking driver optional

CANCELLATION FEES:

- 100 % penalty **from 2 days** before and **NO SHOW**
- 80 % **from 3 to 7 days** before the beginning of the Tour.
- 40 % **from 8 to 14 days** before the beginning of the Tour
- 20 % **from 15 to 30 days** before the beginning of the Tour

* For organizational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice; in this case Retevacanze ensures similar visits and excursions in accordance with the spirit of the tour program. If the number of participants does not reach the minimum of 6 pax, Retevacanze **will guarantee the departure**, reserving the right to make changes to the travel program by giving notice within 30 days before the departure date; in this case the tour could be operated in two languages

NOTE ⁽¹⁾ It is important to know that the Catania Malta flight (on day 8), operated by the Air Malta Company, is scheduled for the morning at 7:00am. The arrival at the Hotel in Malta is expected at around 9:30 am; Conventionally, check-in is scheduled from 13.00pm. Only based on the availability of ready rooms, the hotel may assign the room before this time but it is not an obligation





DEPARTURE DATES Summer 2023:

Catania: on Saturday

LOW SEASON (LS)

April ...08...
June03..17..24
September... 30
October...07..14

HIGH SEASON (HS)

May ..06..13..20..27
July..15
August....26
September..02..09..16..23

GROSS RATES:

Rate per Person	Low Season	High Season
In Double room	€ 2.580,00	€ 2.690,00
Suppl. Single room	€ 468,00	€ 555,00
3 rd pax in triple room	on Request	on Request

RATE INCLUDES:

- 10 nights accommodation in 4* hotels (Sicily & Malta)
- 1 night in a Luxury Resort (Sicily)
- Welcome drink (on day 1)
- **Board:** 3 dinners (Catania on day 1, Ragusa on day 3 and Malta on day 8) and 10 Breakfasts at Hotel; 1 Lunch at Restaurant (Mdina on day 11), 2 Street food in Catania and Palermo typical Markets (on days 3 and 5)
- **Two visit of a cellar and Wine tasting** in Marsala and Mt Etna
- **Almond pastries tasting** in Erice
- **Cheese tasting** in Ragusa
- **Mineral water** (1/2 bottle/person) at meals in Hotel (in Sicily only)
- **Transportation de Luxe motor coach*** with free wi-fi
- *a minivan with **driver/guide**, normally not equipped with wifi, will be provided if the number of participants is equal to or less than eight
- **English speaking Tour Escort*** (in Sicily only)
- **Local Guides** where necessary
- **Whispers Kit** for groups with more than 10 passengers Sicily only
- **Porterage** at hotels (in Sicily only)
- **Transfers:** Taormina Hotel to Catania Airport (day 8)
Airport/Harbour to Hotel in Malta RT (Days 8,11)
- **Flight: Catania/Valletta** in Economy class
(the ticket includes in addition to the passenger, 1 piece of luggage max 20 kgs per person and a hand luggage max 10 kgs)
- **Regular sightseeing** with multilingual local guides in Malta (days 9, 10, 11) English language guaranteed

RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- **Transfer in:** (Arrival in Catania)
- **Entrance tickets** to sites and museums (Sicily & Malta)
- **City Tax:** to be paid directly at the Hotel
- **Beverages:** (with the exception of water during the meals included in the program of Sicily)
- **Extra luggage:** to be paid at the airport of Catane by the passenger
- **Tiket** of Blue Grotto Boat Ride experience in Malta
- **Everything which is not clearly specified** under "rate includes"

OPTIONAL SERVICES

the following prices are net (not commissionable) in supplement

- **Early Check-in** ⁽¹⁾: Hotel in Malta p.pers. €80,00(LS);100,00(HS)
- **N.3 Half Board Package:** at the Hotel in Malta €60,00 p. person

ENTRANCE TICKETS SUPPLEMENT (OPTIONAL):

TOTAL € 56,50 approx. (net rate) per person up-to-date Sept. 2022

SIRACUSA: Neapolis € 16,50 + Dome € 2,00

AGRIGENTO: Valley of Temples € 12,00

PALERMO: Martorana Church € 2,00

MONREALE: Dome € 4,00 + € 5,00 presale fees

MALTA: St. John's Co-Cathedral €15,00 (approx.)

Note: *The above price is valid on September 2022. In case of price increases, we will have to update it.

For organizational reasons (related to measures against the spread of covid), the entrance tickets to the sites and museums, must be booked and purchased in advance. At this time, without a reservation, it is not possible to purchase tickets for groups at the box office on the same day of the visit.

For this reason it is mandatory to book the entrance package together with the purchase of the tour. Retevacanze cannot guarantee the purchase of the single ticket (and therefore also the visit together with the group) on the same day of the visit.

