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Globus Tours: Sicily

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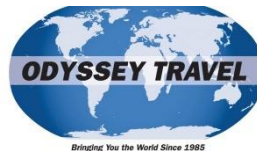
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Three Sicilian Escorted Tour Options:

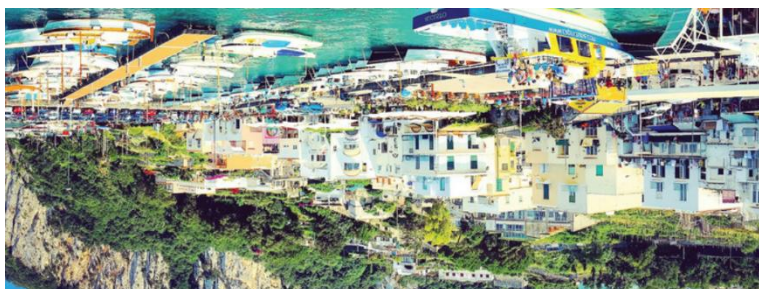
- 1. Highlights of Sicily & Southern Italy – 14 Days from Rome to Palermo**
- 2. The Sicilian – 10 Days from Palermo to Taormina Riviera**
- 3. Gems of Sicily & Malta – 10 Days from Palermo to Sliema**

****Pricing from \$2,629.00 - \$4,849.00PP Dbl Plus Airfare***



Highlights of Sicily & Southern Italy – 14 Days

Dates: April – November 2026





In Greek mythology, the Scylla and Charybdis were two sea monsters located in the Strait of Messina between Sicily and the Italian mainland, endangering ancient mariners, and inspiring the expression “being caught between a rock and a hard place.” Will you find yourself in such a predicament on this Undiscovered Tour of Southern Italy and Sicily? On the contrary, you’ll delightfully find yourself caught between Byzantine and Roman culture, flanked by Norman and Italian influences, and in the midst of a cross-cultural wonderland. Your comparison of cobblestones, customs, and cuisine gets underway in Rome, heads down to the dramatic Sorrento Coast, and then kicks the fun from Italy’s heel to its toe and all the way into the great melting pot of Sicily. From Italy’s lower half to its largest island, ruins, resorts—a rich history awaits.

Special Features Included in this Tour:

- Guided walking tour of the archaeological site of Pompeii
- Globus Choice excursions in Sorrento – Included in your tour with your choice of a Gelato Class at a family-run gelateria plus tasting, or visit to a family-run lemon grove for a limoncello-making (lemon liqueur) workshop plus local lemon-based specialties sampling
- Guided sightseeing in Capri features a funicular ride and a visit to the Augustus Gardens
- Guided sightseeing tours in Naples and Palermo
- Guided walking tour in Bari Vecchia includes a visit to San Nicola’s Church
- Lecce guided sightseeing features the Duomo and Santa Croce Basilica, plus taste a [LF] pasticciotto (filled pastry) with almond-infused iced coffee
- Guided walking tour in Alberobello includes a visit to a Trullo (traditional conical-roof house)
- [LF] traditional tartufo (ice cream dessert) tasting in Pizzo Calabro
- Visit to Taormina’s ancient Greek theater
- Guided walking tour of Agrigento’s Valley of Temples
- Visit to the Reggio Calabria museum that houses the Bronzi di Riace (famous bronze warrior sculptures)
- Orientation walk in Matera
- Jetfoil ride to Capri Island

Local Favorites

Every Globus tour includes our exclusive Local Favorites, specially included to share the authentic experiences that make each destination unique. Get to know the locals and local flavors you might just miss on your own!

Tour Highlights

Discover something unexpected and unforgettable in the special way only Globus can share—with sightseeing highlights to off-the-beaten-path surprises to out-of-this world moments you'll remember for a lifetime!

Freedom. Your Way.

With Globus, freedom is built into your vacation. Perfectly planned itineraries maximize your time. Where available, included Choice Excursions invite you to shape your experience. And insider tips from your Tour Director turn free time into discoveries. With Globus, flexibility is part of the plan.

14 Days | 13 Breakfasts & 6 Dinners

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Rome, Italy - Welcome to Rome! - At 5 pm, meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2: Spend your day your way in Sorrento - Together with a Local Guide, visit the incredible excavations of Pompeii. As you walk along the ancient streets, hear about day-to-day life under the Roman Empire and discover what happened when Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD. After some free time for lunch, enjoy a scenic drive around the Bay of Naples towards Sorrento. Enjoy an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 3: Coves, Cliffs & The Clear Blue Sea - Relax on a jetfoil as you cross the Bay of Naples to the captivating island of Capri. Join your Local Guide for a funicular ride from the harbour to Capri village followed by a guided sightseeing. Visit the Augustus Gardens and admire views of the iconic Faraglioni rocks. Return to the clifftop town of Sorrento for free time to explore this friendly town; browse the artisan stores, try local specialties, or just sit and watch the world go by. Explore more of Sorrento with your choice of included Globus Choice excursions. Dinner at your hotel tonight. (B, D)



Gelato Passion: Pure Delight

You scream, I scream, we all scream for gelato! Dig into the secret of Italy's irresistible frozen favorite with a gelato class led by a master gelato maker. Scoop up tips and techniques for the perfect confection at a family-run gelateria, then choose your flavor and delight in freshly made gelato. A very cool experience with sprinkles on top!



Zest For Life

When life gives you lemons, make limoncello! Sorrento's cool and delicious, signature citrus liqueur. Visit a family-run lemon grove and learn what makes Sorrentine lemons so special, then try your hand in a limoncello-making workshop and enjoy tasting local lemon-based specialties.

Day 4: A Slice of Life in Naples - This morning, take a scenic drive to the charismatic and vibrant city of Naples and join your Local Guide for a sightseeing tour of the main highlights, featuring an orientation drive and stop in the iconic Piazza Plebiscito. Enjoy some free time to discover more and perhaps try one of Naples most famous specialties – the pizza. Return to Sorrento for a leisurely evening.

CULTURE & TRADITION Naples delivers Old World charm in spades as one of Italy's oldest cities. From its regal Palazzo Reale to the 13th-century Duomo di San Gennaro's frescoed masterpieces to nearby Mount Vesuvius to the most famous pizza in the world served throughout the city in Neapolitan style. A stroll along the promenade beside the Bay of Naples reveals why locals and visitors choose this spot to soak in the sunset on the Mediterranean Sea. (B)

Day 5: Spectacular Apulia - A scenic drive towards Apulia, the charismatic region with the longest coastline, that forms the heel of Italy's "boot." Arrive in the vibrant port city of Bari and enjoy free time this evening.

PICTURE PERFECT Apulia has lots to offer – with charming, whitewashed towns, centuries-old pastoral landscapes, and the magnificent Mediterranean coastline. It is famed for its agricultural produce; it has more olive trees than any other region, often referred to as "the breadbasket" of Italy thanks to its durum wheat production (B)

Day 6: Sweet Strolls in Apulia - This morning, follow your Local Guide on a walking tour of Bari Vecchia, the city's oldest district, and visit the Basilica of San Nicola. Drive to Lecce, often called the "Florence of the South," for a guided walking tour of the beautiful historic center. Visit the Duomo and Basilica of Santa Croce, before stopping at a local caffè to taste traditional pasticciotto (filled pastry) with almond-infused iced coffee.

CULTURE & TRADITIONS Traditional pasticciotto is the beloved cream-filled pastry of Lecce, which graces the shelves of Apulia's bakeries and restaurants. Legend has it that this ubiquitous confection was invented by happy accident when chef Andrea Ascalone made too much cake batter, using the excess ingredients to mix up the original pasticcio (meaning mishap or mess in Italian) - a smaller cake with a creamy filling. Sink your teeth into this heavenly pastry with an almond iced coffee to complete the experience. (B,D)

Day 7: Stone House - Visit Alberobello, one of Italy's most recognizable towns. Join your Local Guide for a walking tour through the trulli lined streets, including an interior visit of a Trullo (traditional conical-roof house) to discover how people live there. Free time this afternoon and evening.

ART & ARCHITECTURE The iconic round houses (Trulli) date back hundreds of years. These Trulli, constructed of dry stone and cone-shaped roofs include the oldest structures built in the 16th century and were used as grain storage or residences. Made without cement in the masonry techniques of the day, these whitewashed homes were easily disassembled to avoid property taxes when the collectors came calling! Today, you can stroll the streets lined with Trulli houses to see their conical rooftops decorated with symbols such as a cross, heart, astronomical symbol, or the evil eye. (B)

Day 8: Creamy Desserts & Cave Dwellings - This morning, stop in Matera for an orientation walk which includes a panoramic view of the picturesque sassi houses, the ancient cave dwellings that have become popular as a film location. Enjoy a scenic drive along the Gulf of Taranto before stopping in Pizzo Calabro for a traditional tartufo (ice cream dessert) tasting. Continue to Reggio Calabria, once an important city in Magna Grecia, for a guided visit of the museum that houses the Bronzi di Riace (famous Greek bronze warrior sculptures).

LOCAL TASTES The only thing better than a taste of gelato is having a few different tastes inside a chocolate-shelled truffle! Indulge in a tartufo dessert that will melt in your mouth during a visit to Pizzo Calabro, the "ice-cream city." (B, D)

Day 9: Grand Greek Drama - A short ferry crossing takes you across the Strait of Messina to Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean. Drive to Taormina, dramatically located on a hill overlooking the sea. Visit the ancient Greek theatre. Free time to explore the town and stroll along stylish Corso Umberto.

ART & ARCHITECTURE The Greek Theatre of Taormina is considered one of the most impressive examples of auditorium engineering and architecture for its superb natural setting and acoustical design. This ancient marvel was dug into the hard rock slopes of Mount Tauro in the 3rd-century BC, with seating to accommodate thousands of spectators. The Teatro Antico di Taormina was built in the Greek tradition of incorporating the natural surroundings to become part of the performance, with light and air permeating the columns to become part of the story. (B)

Day 10: The Pearl of the Mediterranean - Spend a full day at leisure on the Taormina Riviera: explore more sights, browse the stores, relax on the beaches, or simply sit in a café savoring local specialties and watching the world go by.

CULTURE & TRADITION With a backdrop of the Volcanic Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea providing the cinematic setting for the resort town of Taormina, this Pearl of the Mediterranean is a picturesque coastal gem that will spoil you with its stunning beaches, village beauty, and sumptuous culinary specialties. (B)

Day 11: Sicilian Summits - Enjoy a free day on the Taormina Riviera or join an optional excursion to Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano. This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

EXPLORE MORE What better way to spend this free day than with an excursion to Mount Etna, Europe's tallest volcano and one of the most active in the world. Learn how in 1669, an eruption that lasted 112 days developed a record long stream of lava that destroyed the city of Catania. (B, D)

Day 12: Timeless Temples - Drive across the island to Agrigento, location of a real cultural treasure, the UNESCO nominated Valley of the Temples. Join your Local Guide for a walk through this remarkable archaeological site to see the beautiful Greek temples. Continue to Palermo, Sicily's capital city.

ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGY The ruins of Akragas remain Sicily's most amazing archaeological site. The impressively well-preserved Tempio della Concordia sits in spectacular setting upon a ridge where it served as a beacon for homecoming sailors and today draws enthralled visitors to revel in the remarkable Valley of the Temples. (B)

Day 13: Cathedrals & New Beginnings - This morning join your Local Guide for a sightseeing tour of Palermo's highlights, including a visit to the cathedral. Take a scenic drive to Monreale for a panoramic view of the Conca d'Oro and a visit to the Norman Cathedral. Hear about one of the anti-mafia movements that support the local community. This evening, join your travel companions for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

LEGENDARY LIVES The story of the splendid Monreale Cathedral began as Arabs took control of Palermo. They transformed the cathedral into a mosque and banished the Bishop of Palermo from town. Not wishing to venture too far from his beloved cathedral, the bishop settled in a small village in the hills overlooking Palermo, the site of modern-day Monreale. There, he built a modest church to keep the flame of local Christian worship alive. Today the cathedral is known for its stunning mosaics that cover an area of over 64,500sq ft. (B,D)

Day 14: Safe travels until we meet again! - Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

World Heritage Sites are designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

The following UNESCO World Heritage Sites can be seen or visited on this vacation:

- Arab-Norman cathedral of Monreale
- Archeological area of Agrigento
- Archeological Site of Pompeii
- Historic Centre of Naples
- The Sassi of Matera (See only)
- The Trulli of Alberobello

Hotels:

- **Rome: Radisson Blu Rome**



- **Sorrento Area: Towers Hotel Stabiae Sorrento Coast**



- **Bari: Excelsior**



- **Alberobello Area: Grand Hotel Olimpo**



- **Reggio Calabria: Grand Hotel Excelsior**



- **Taormina Riviera: Hellenia Yachting Hotel**



- **Palermo: Central Palace Hotel Federico II**



YOUR LOCAL EXPERT

Tour Director

LINO NEFANDO

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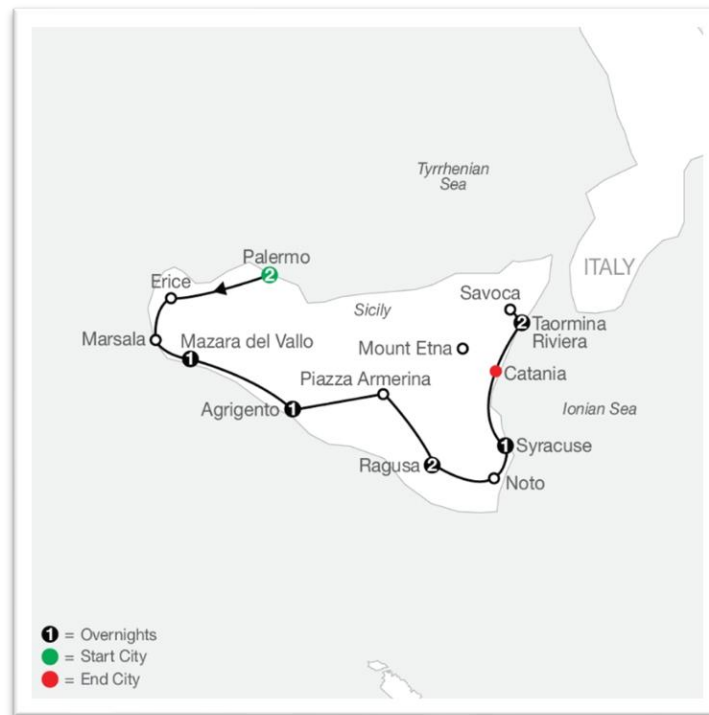


My life is a journey... Born in Southern Italy, my passion is history and rediscovering the traditions and the most refined art of this country. I love to share with my customers on the Globus tours moments of the breathtaking coastlines, the monuments and the unbelievable recipes of Italy. Follow me, I am going to make you live the Italian experience as if you were a part of this never-ending show.



The Sicilian – 10 Days

Dates: March - October 2026



Trekking by more than half of humankind's ancient world, modern day Sicily still offers off-the-beaten-path discoveries that reveal an undiscovered side of Italy. The Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, French, Germans, Spanish, Italians, and even the British have left an impression on this gorgeous island, and it shows in its diverse architecture, unique culture, and multinational cuisine. As you trace the sparkling coast from the flamboyant capital city of Palermo to the ultra-chic Taormina Riviera, you can expect stunning archaeological treasures, ancient works of art, and a warm welcome at every turn, and a cool gelato on every corner. Traditional granita, cannoli, and Marsala wine serve to sweeten the experience on this Undiscovered Tour of Sicily.

Special Features Included in this Tour:

- Guided sightseeing in Palermo followed by a scenic drive to Monreale
- Visit to a traditional salt mill with wine-tasting experience in Marsala
- Guided walking tour of Agrigento's Valley of the Temples
- Guided sightseeing in Mazaro del Vallo
- Guided visit to Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina
- Guided walking tour of Ragusa Ibla
- Globus Choice excursions in Ragusa – Included in your tour with your choice of a visit to an authentic Carrettieri (Sicilian carts) workshop or a visit to Palazzo Arezzo di Trifiletti with a guided owner-led tour
- Guided visit to Syracuse's Archaeological Park
- Complimentary [LF] Granita (semi-frozen drink) and brioche tasting at the Bar Vitelli of Savoca – "The Godfather" filming location
- Visit to Taormina's ancient Greek theater
- Orientation walks in Catania and Taormina
- Visit Erice and Noto

Local Favorites

Every Globus tour includes our exclusive Local Favorites, specially included to share the authentic experiences that make each destination unique. Get to know the locals and local flavors you might just miss on your own!

Tour Highlights

Discover something unexpected and unforgettable in the special way only Globus can share—with sightseeing highlights to off-the-beaten-path surprises to out-of-this world moments you'll remember for a lifetime!

Freedom. Your Way.

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10 Days | 9 Breakfasts & 4 Dinners

Itinerary:

Day 1: Welcome to Palermo! - At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2: Sicilian Sights - Your introduction to Palermo starts this morning with a guided sightseeing tour of Palermo's highlights, including a visit to the cathedral. Take a scenic drive to

Monreale for a panoramic view of the Conca d'Oro and a visit to the Norman Cathedral. This afternoon and evening, enjoy free time to see more of Palermo.

LEGENDARY LIVES The story of the splendid Monreale Cathedral began as Arabs took control of Palermo. They transformed the cathedral into a mosque and banished the Bishop of Palermo from town. Not wishing to venture too far from his beloved cathedral, the bishop settled in a small village in the hills overlooking Palermo, the site of modern-day Monreale. There, he built a modest church to keep the flame of local Christian worship alive. Today the cathedral is known for its stunning mosaics that cover an area of over 64,500sq ft. (B)

Day 3: Sweet & Salty Sicily - Stop at the medieval hilltop town of Erice. Enjoy some free time to meander the narrow, cobbled streets and admire the views. Drive to the coastal town of Marsala, learn about one of its oldest industries with a guided visit of a Salt Mill. Later, try the famous Marsala wine during a tasting experience.

CULTURE & TRADITION Lagoons, salt pans and windmills can be found along the coastline near Marsala. Learn all about the production of salt when visiting one of the original salt mills. (B)

Day 4: Timeless Temples - This morning, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Mazara del Vallo which includes a visit to the cathedral and old town. Appreciate the Arabic influence on the town when you follow a Local Guide through the alleyways of the Kasbah. Later, continue to Agrigento, location of a real cultural treasure, the UNESCO nominated Valley of the Temples. Join your Local Guide for a walk through this remarkable archaeological site to see the beautiful Greek temples.

ANCIENT ARCHAEOLOGY The ruins of Akragas remain Sicily's most amazing archaeological site. The impressively well-preserved Tempio della Concordia sits in a spectacular setting upon a ridge where it served as a beacon for homecoming sailors and today draws enthralled visitors to revel in the remarkable Valley of the Temples. (B, D)

Day 5: Ancient Artistry in Sicily - Travel through Central Sicily and stop in Piazza Armerina for a guided visit of the Villa Romana del Casale, housing one of the largest and richest collections of Roman mosaics, including the famous "Ancient Bikini Girls." Later, continue your journey to Ragusa.

ART & ARCHITECTURE Explore the extraordinary example of Roman power in one of the most luxurious villas of its kind in the Italian countryside. Marvel at the magnificently preserved mosaics that embellish the Villa Romana del Casale, designed and installed by African mosaic workers and the strength of the Roman influence and power throughout the Mediterranean region. (B, D)

Day 6: Spend your day your way in Ragusa - This morning, join a Local Guide for a walking tour of Ibla, Ragusa's historic center and admire the Baroque buildings. Visit the 19th century Giardini Iblei, and St. George's Cathedral. Explore more of Ragusa with your choice of included Globus Choice excursions. (B)



Echoes of Aristocracy

Feel the nostalgic allure of a historic noble residence with a visit to Palazzo Arezzo di Trifiletti. The owner takes you on a personal tour, featuring the palace's elegant furnishings, frescoed ceilings, and marble floors, while sharing fascinating stories of family ancestors and traditions.



Cart Art

Discover one of Sicily's beloved symbols, the Sicilian carretti (carts), an artistic tradition passed down through generations. Visit a workshop in Ragusa Ibla to learn how these donkey-drawn carts developed from work vehicles into vibrant works of art. Hear how this proud Sicilian tradition rolls on!

Day 7: World Stages - Enjoy free time in Noto, a town famed for its Baroque architecture. Walk along the Corso Vittorio Emanuele and admire San Nicolò Cathedral. Drive to Syracuse for a guided visit of the Archeological Park featuring the Greek Theater, the Roman Amphitheater, the Ear of Dionysus, and the Cordmakers' Cave.

ARCHITECTURE & ARCHAEOLOGY Discover the extraordinary evidence of history found at Neapolis Archaeological Park of Siracusa. The stars of this show are the magnificent ancient ruins of the Greek Theatre and remarkable Roman Amphitheatre which are revered as one of the greatest archaeological sites in all of Italy. (B)

Day 8: Coastal Treasures - Drive to the bustling city of Catania. After an orientation walk, enjoy free time in the main square, Piazza del Duomo, and to browse the stores along Via Etnea. Try some of the delicious local specialties such as arancini and cannoli. Later, drive to the Taormina Riviera for free time this afternoon and evening.

CULTURE & TRADITION Catania is an ancient port city on Sicily's east coast. It sits at the foot of Mt. Etna, Europe's tallest volcano. The city's wide central square, Piazza del Duomo, features the whimsical Fontana dell 'Elefante statue and richly decorated St. Agata Cathedral. Nearby, La Pescheria weekday fish market is a rowdy spectacle surrounded by seafood restaurants. (B)

Day 9: Frozen in Time - This morning visit Savoca, one of the film locations for "The Godfather." After an orientation walk enjoy a Granita (semi-frozen drink) and brioche tasting at Bar Vitelli. Later, join an orientation walk in Taormina with a visit to the ancient Greek theatre. Free time to explore the town, stroll along stylish Corso Umberto and enjoy a leisurely lunch. This evening, join your travel companions for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

LOCAL TASTES Not quite the same as sorbet, the Sicilian invention of granita is Sicily's take on frozen concoctions that varies with the delightful tastes of lemon, mandarin orange, jasmine, almond, mint, coffee, or berries. A frozen blend of Sicilian pistachios is also a tempting way to enjoy this traditional treat. (B, D)

Day 10: Safe travels until we meet again! - Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. The nearest airport is Catania. (B)

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The following UNESCO World Heritage Sites can be seen or visited on this vacation:

- Arab-Norman cathedral of Monreale
- Archeological area of Agrigento
- Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto: City of Catania
- Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto: City of Noto
- Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto: Ragusa
- Syracuse
- Villa Romana del Casale (Piazza Armerina)

Hotels:

- **Palermo: Central Palace Hotel Federico II**



- **Mazara Del Vallo: Mahara Hotel & Wellness**



- **Agrigento: Della Valle**



- **Ragusa: Poggio Del Sole Resort**



- **Syracuse: Grand Hotel Villa Politi**



- **Taormina Riviera: Hellenia Yachting Hotel**



YOUR LOCAL EXPERT

Tour Director



LINO NEFANDO

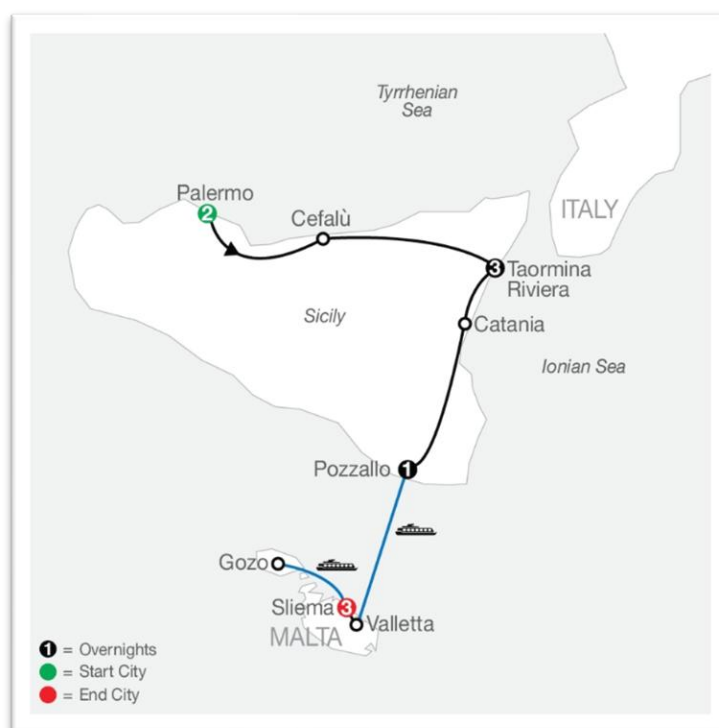
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Gems of Sicily & Malta – 10 Days

Dates: May - October 2026



Small groups translate to great experiences on this Small Group Discovery tour. Designed from the ground up for a maximum of 18 guests in Europe, this Small Group Discovery tour has everything you need to explore with up-close-and-exclusive experiences that go beyond traditional tours.

Treasures galore are yours to discover in Sicily and Malta. From the sacred sites of churches and cathedrals that have stood the test of time to timeless recipes passed down through the generations—now yours to master! Explore by catamaran, ferry, farming traditions, and fine art and architecture along the way to unwrap the gems of Sicily and Malta on this Small Group Discovery Tour for the ages!

Special Features Included in this Tour:

- Highlights of Palermo with a Local Guide, featuring a visit to the Church of Santa Caterina, and tasting of local pastries
- Visit to the Norman Cathedral of Monreale with views of the Conca d'Oro
- Guided sightseeing of Taormina including a visit to the Greek Theater
- Hands-on small-group Sicilian Street Food Cooking class
- Catania guided sightseeing tour featuring main highlights and a visit the Museo Storico dello Sbarco (Historical Museum of the Landing in Sicily) focusing on Operation Husky
- Small Group experience, including dinner with a visit to a farm specializing in medicinal and aromatic herbs
- Catamaran ride to Valletta, Malta
- Sights and tastes sightseeing tour of Valletta including pastizzi, coffee and chocolate tasting
- Guided sightseeing of Gozo Island, featuring a return ferry crossing, a visit to the Ggantija Temples, and a local farm experience with lunch
- Small Group Exclusive cooking workshop to prepare your own farewell dinner during a small group class with a professional chef

Tour Highlights

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10 Days | 9 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch & 3 Dinner

Itinerary:

Day 1: Your Small-Group Discovery Begins! - At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and travel companions for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2: A sweet start! - Your Sicilian discovery starts this morning with a guided sightseeing tour of Palermo, including a visit to the cathedral. End the sightseeing on a sweet note! Visit the Church of Santa Caterina and the “Segreti del Choistro” a historically significant bakery located in the cloisters. Sample the pastries, still made the traditional way using ancient recipes handed down by the nuns. This afternoon and evening, enjoy free time to see more of Palermo.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES Palermo is often referred to as the most “conquered city in the world”! It’s strategic location in the Mediterranean Sea, placed it on the “wish list” of many ancient civilisations. As you stroll around the city it is easy to see the blend of cultural influences which has given it many unique aspects, from its architecture to its traditions, to the delicious street food that can be found everywhere. (B)

Day 3: Picture Perfect Panoramas - This morning, take a scenic drive to Monreale for a panoramic view of the Conca d’Oro and a visit to the Norman Cathedral. Continue to the coastal town Cefalú famous for its stunning cathedral with soaring twin towers. Enjoy free time to explore the center with its charming medieval squares. Later, reach Taormina Riviera and enjoy and evening at leisure.

MESMERIZING MOSAICS The story of the splendid Monreale Cathedral began as Arabs took control of Palermo and transformed the cathedral into a mosque, banishing the Bishop of Palermo. Not wishing to venture too far, the bishop settled in a small village in the hills overlooking Palermo, the site of modern-day Monreale. There, he built a modest church to keep the flame of local Christian worship alive. Today the cathedral is known for its stunning mosaics that cover an area of over 64.500sq ft. (B)

Day 4: Grand Greek Drama - Follow your Local Guide on a walking tour of Taormina’s historic center. Stroll along Corso Umberto, see the Cathedral, and enjoy the view from Piazza IX Aprile. Visit the Greek Theater, one of the largest in Italy. Later, get to grips with Sicilian Street Food as a professional chef shares knowledge and tips during a hands-on small group cooking class, taste the dishes you’ve prepared accompanied by local wine.

ART & ARCHITECTURE The Greek Theatre of Taormina is considered one of the most impressive examples of auditorium engineering and architecture for its superb natural setting and acoustical design. This ancient marvel was dug into the hard rock slopes of Mount Tauro in the 3rd-century BC, with seating to accommodate thousands of spectators. The Teatro Antico di Taormina was built in the Greek tradition of incorporating the natural surroundings to become part of the performance, with light and air permeating the columns to become part of the story. (B)

Day 5: The Pearl of the Mediterranean - Enjoy a free day on the Taormina Riviera, take a stroll on the seafront, browse the stores, laze on the beach, or try local specialties at a traditional eatery.

CULTURE & TRADITION With a backdrop of the Volcanic Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea providing the cinematic setting for the resort town of Taormina, this Pearl of the Mediterranean is a picturesque coastal gem that will spoil you with its stunning beaches, village beauty, and sumptuous culinary specialties. (B)

Day 6: Natural Aromas - This morning, drive to the vibrant city of Catania. Visit the Museo Storico dello Sbarco (Historical Museum of the Landing in Sicily) which focuses on Operation Husky, the Allied invasion of Sicily, an important factor in Europe’s liberation. Join a guided walking tour of the center, featuring Piazza del Duomo with views of the Cathedral. Later, enjoy a special small group experience; drive to a farm that specializes in medicinal and aromatic herbs. A guided visit will

introduce you to their unique characteristics and uses before you are served a delicious dinner of local products accompanied by live music.

CULTURE & TRADITION Catania is an ancient port city on Sicily's east coast. It sits at the foot of Mt. Etna, Europe's tallest volcano. The city's wide central square, Piazza del Duomo, features the whimsical Fontana dell 'Elefante statue and richly decorated St. Agata Cathedral. Nearby, La Pescheria weekday fish market is a rowdy spectacle surrounded by seafood restaurants. (B, D)

Day 7: Island Hopping - This morning leave Italy behind and board a catamaran for a ride across the Mediterranean Sea to Malta. After disembarking, start your small group Maltese discovery with a sightseeing tour of Valletta, the capital city. As you explore the city you will also discover local food traditions when you stop to try pastizzi (savory pastries), Maltese coffee, and chocolate. Later, arrive at Sliema.

TRADITIONAL DISHES Maltese cuisine may not be as famous as that of its neighbour Italy, but it definitely packs a punch! Mediterranean flavors, with strong Italian and North African influences. Some of the best dishes are the rustic ones that are found easily in local shops and bakeries. The pastizzi is a golden pastry parcel, with a delicious filling that is much loved by the locals. (B)

Day 8: Home of the Giants - Enjoy a scenic ferry ride to Gozo, Malta's sister island. Highlights of the day include a visit to the awe inspiring Ggantija Temples, one of the world's oldest and best-preserved sites. Plus, visit a local farm to learn about the age-old process of cheese making with a tasting and light lunch.

ANCIENT SITES The Ggantija temples are a unique prehistoric complex and are among the oldest free-standing stone buildings in the world, said to outdate even the Egyptian Pyramids. They demonstrate amazing engineering skills as they were built using only stone tools, quite a feat! Although local legend does say that they were actually built by giants! (B, L)

Day 9: Grandma's Cooking - Enjoy free time to explore more. Later, take advantage of the small group size for a hands-on cooking class to prepare your farewell dinner! Don your aprons and chef's hats to learn the rustic tricks of Grandma's cooking as you prepare a three-course meal. Together with your traveling companions sit down to enjoy the meal you have prepared.

SMALL GROUP EXCLUSIVE Local heritage and family history are preserved and continued through traditional home cooking. During your small group cooking class don't just learn the recipes and technical tips, the chef will share with you the family stories and local traditions that are connected to the dishes being prepared. (B, D)

Day 10: Safe travels until we meet again! - Your tour ends with breakfast this morning. The nearest airport is Valletta. (B)

World Heritage Sites are designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

The following UNESCO World Heritage Sites can be seen or visited on this vacation:

- Arab-Norman cathedral of Monreale
- City of Valletta
- Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto: City of Catania
- Megalithic Temples of Malta

Hotels:

- **Palermo: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa**



- **Taormina Riviera: Unahotels Naxos Beach Sicilia**



- **Pozzallo: Danieli**



- **Sliema: Courtyard By Marriott Sliema**



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