

Come experience the unique legacy of the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, crusading Knights of St. John, Ottoman Turks and even the Mafia!



Medieval fishermen's dwellings line the sea-front in the charming town of Cefalù

## Sicily in Depth with Malta Option

### TOUR PACE

This tour operates at a reasonable pace. Sicily is remarkably compact and the driving distances are short. If you want to wind down after the tour then the relaxing three night extension on Malta is highly recommended.

### HOTELS

The Best Western Ai Cavalieri lies on a quiet Piazza, within walking distance of Palermo's main sights. The Colleverde is ideally located for the visit to Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, while the more traditional Sant Alphio offers views towards Taormina and Mount Etna.

On Malta you are locally hosted, so Valletta's stylish Grand Excelsior has been selected for its facilities and convenient location.

**🍷 DAY 1 – ARRIVE CATANIA – GIARDINI NAXOS.** Welcome to Sicily, the largest of the Mediterranean Islands, and compendium of the greatest civilisations and cultures of all time. On arrival at Catania Airport, your *airport transfers* leave for the tour hotel in *Giardini Naxos* at 10:00, 12:30 & 15:30. Tonight, join your Tour Director and fellow guests for a *Welcome Drink*, before enjoying dinner 'Sicilian style' at the hotel. Hotel: Sant Alphio Garden (D)

**🏞️ DAY 2 – TAORMINA EXCURSION.** Drive up to *Taormina*, clinging to the side of Mount Tauro. Walk with your *guide* to the tiny courtyard of the *Palazzo Corvaja*. Visit the *Greek Theatre*, overlooking the sea and *Mount Etna*. Now stroll along elegant *Corso Umberto* to *Piazza IX Aprile* for more *panoramic views*. The rest of the day is yours to relax and enjoy at your own pace. (BB)

**👑🏞️📷 DAY 3 – GIARDINI NAXOS – CEFALÙ – PALERMO.** Cross over to the northern side of the island and drive along the coast to the small fishing town of *Cefalù*, *hemmed between the sea and a rocky promontory*. Visit the *cathedral which was erected to fulfil a vow made by the Norman King Roger II*. Stroll down to the *medieval stone fountain*, and seek out the *Gothic arch of the Porta Marina* for a *picture perfect view of the little harbour*. Continue to the Sicilian capital of *Palermo*. Tonight, *for your dining pleasure, you are offered a selection of local restaurants*. Hotel: Best Western Ai Cavalieri (BB,DA)

**📷🏞️ DAY 4 – PALERMO SIGHTSEEING.** *This morning, if you wish, learn from our guest lecturer and local expert about the 'Sicilian Way' the folklore, traditions and the Sicilian Mafia, known as the 'Cosa Nostra'*. A *local guide* then shows you the highlights of the city. Pass the huge *Teatro Massimo* to the baroque *Quattro Canti Square* and glimpse the beauties of the '*fountain of shame*'. Then visit the *Palace of the Normans* where the *dazzling mosaics in the Palatine Chapel* are a masterpiece of Arab-Norman art. In contrast, *Palermo Cathedral* is a mixture of styles, having been altered over the years. The afternoon is at leisure. (BB)

**👑🏞️ DAY 5 – PALERMO – ERICE – AGRIGENTO.** Head for the hill top walled city of *Erice*, *with its labyrinth of quiet alleyways*. Enjoy sea views from the gardens next to the *Castle of Venus* – on a clear day you see the *Tunisian coast*! The rolling hills around *Marsala* have been producing wine for centuries. Visit a *typical cellar and taste some of the product*. Continue around the coast to *Agrigento*. Hotel: Colleverde (BB,D)

**🏞️ DAY 6 – AGRIGENTO – RAGUSA.** Explore the *Valley of the Temples*, considered the finest Greek sanctuary in Sicily. Especially impressive are the massive *Temple of Concordia* and cliff-top *Temple of Juno* overlooking the sea. Along the southern part of the island now, past the oil producing town of *Gela* to *Ragusa*, one of the *most fascinating towns in Sicily*, a magnificent blend of *narrow streets, old churches and scenic views*. Hotel: Mediterraneo (BB,D)

**🏞️👑📷 DAY 7 – RAGUSA – SYRACUSE – CATANIA.** Drive through the southeastern corner of Sicily to *Syracuse*, founded by *Corinthians* eight centuries before Christ. *Sightseeing with a guide takes you to the Paradise Quarry and its unusual 'Ear of Dionysius' - a grotto in the shape of an earlobe. Next door lies the*

*superb Greek theatre, carved out of solid rock*. There is also time to explore the *Old City*, a maze of narrow streets lined with palaces, sprawling over the island of *Ortygia*. It was here that the famous geometrician *Archimedes* ran naked through the streets, crying 'Eureka!' Return to Catania tonight where you can celebrate the *tour finalé at a Highlight Dinner*. Hotel: NH Bellini (BB,HD)

**DAY 8 – CATANIA.** Take your final glimpse of *Mount Etna* this morning. *Departure transfers* arrive at Catania Airport at 06:30 & 08:30. (BB)

### OPTIONAL 3 NIGHT MALTA EXTENSION

**🍷 DAY 8 – CATANIA – VALLETTA (MALTA).** Transfer to Catania airport for the short flight to island of *Malta*. Transfer to your centrally located hotel, adjacent to the magnificent sixteenth century bastions of *Valletta*. Relax and settle in. This evening enjoy a welcome drink and tour briefing from your local host. Hotel: Grand Hotel Excelsior. (BB)

**DAY 9 – MALTA AT LEISURE.** Today is free to laze by the pool or hit the beach. A couple of minutes walk brings you to the city gates. Maybe visit the *Grand Master's Palace* containing examples of medieval weapons used by the *Knights of St. John*. Later you can indulge in the local shops and restaurants. (BB)

**🏞️👑 DAY 10 – SOUTHERN DELIGHTS EXCURSION.** *Take in the awesome splendours of the Blue Grotto\* - a cathedral in stone, with nature as its architect, and famous for its crystal clear water with beautiful colours passing through it. The main fishing village off Marsaxlokk whose waterfront is lined with 'Luzzus' painted in traditional reds, blues, and yellows that add colour to this peaceful bay once the site of the first Turkish landing during the great siege of 1565. Take time to spend browsing around the local market stalls before returning to your hotel where the afternoon is at leisure.* (BB)

\*Does not include boat ride into the Blue Grotto.

**DAY 11 – DEPART VALLETTA.** *Departure transfers* arrive at Malta Airport at 05:15 & 12:30. (BB)



Inside the Ear of Dionysius, Syracuse



Palermo Cathedral - a mix of architectural styles

**Optional 3 Night Malta Extension**



**Includes**

- One way economy flight from Catania to Malta including taxes
- 3-nights accommodation at the Grand Hotel Excelsior in Valletta
- Welcome Drink and tour briefing
- Buffet Breakfast daily
- A half-day guided 'Southern Delights' sightseeing tour as described in the itinerary
- Services of local host in Valletta
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure days between Malta Airport and your tour hotel

**Prices**

Departures	Twn p.p.	Sgl p.p.	Trp p.p.
29 Apr - 23 Sep	\$790	\$980	\$690
7 Oct '11	\$750	\$940	\$670

Prices must be added to Sicily in Depth.

**Post tour Accommodation:**

Grand Hotel Excelsior, Valletta	Twn	Sgl	Trp
	\$154	\$216	\$123

Prices are per person, per night.

For tours departing 6th May, the hotel will be the Palace Hotel, Sliema. Smaller coaches or minibuses without toilet facilities may be used on this extension. Room mate matching is not available. Ask your Travel Agent about Savings and Discounts.



**Key**

- PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
- PERSONAL INSIGHTS
- DINE-AROUND & HIGHLIGHT DINNERS
- WELCOME DRINK
- GUIDED SIGHTSEEING OR ORIENTATION TOUR
- CENTRAL HOTELS + NIGHTS
- SCENIC HOTELS + NIGHTS

See hotel details on page 181-189

Choose from a selection of local restaurants on your Dine-Around evening

Visit a family run cellar and taste the Sicilian Marsala wine

Learn about the history, structure, secret rituals and codes of conduct of the infamous Sicilian Mafia

Agrigento's famous Valley of the Temples



Taormine and Mount Etna



**Included Premium Highlights**

- Visit the beautiful town of Cefalu, situated between the sea and rocky promontory
- Visit a family run cellar and taste the Sicilian Marsala wine
- A guided visit to Syracuse's archaeological area including the Greek theatre and Paradise Quarry

**Included Personal Insights**

- Hear from our guest lecturer about the 'Sicilian Way' the customs, superstitions and above all, the Sicilian Mafia, known as the 'Cosa Nostra'

**Included Other Excursions & Sights**

- Guided visit to the Greek Theatre in Taormina, with its views of Mt. Etna and the sea
- Visit the courtyard of Taormina's Palazzo Corvaja, seat of the first Sicilian parliament
- Stroll along Corso Umberto to Piazza 9 Aprile in Taormina for panoramic views
- See Quattro Canti Square, Fontana Pretoria and visit Palermo Cathedral
- Witness the dazzling mosaics adorning the Palatine Chapel in the Palace of the Normans
- Enjoy glorious views over the countryside as your ascend to the ancient walled town of Erice
- Hear the history and taste the wines grown in the region of Marsala
- Visit the Valley of the Temples, Temple of Concordia and the Temple of Juno in Agrigento
- See the famous Baroque buildings and churches of Ragusa
- Explore the ancient streets and delightful squares on the island of Ortygia

**Included First Class Services**

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
- Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portorage
- Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Airport arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times on Day 1 and Day 8

(Should your flights not coincide with these arrival and departure transfers, please make your own way to/from the airport or see page 191 to purchase a transfer)

**Included Quality Dining**

- Dine-Around evening at your own choice of restaurant from our selection in Palermo (DA)
- Highlight Farewell Dinner in Catania. (HD)
- 7 Buffet Breakfasts (BB), 3 three-course table d'hôte Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

TOUR CODE: E934B

Save up to \$175 p.p. - see reductions below

Starts Catania:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Starts Catania:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Starts Catania:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option	Starts Catania:	Twin Share p.p.	Single Supp. Option
Apr 29	\$1750	\$320	Jun 17	\$1750	\$320	Aug 12	\$1825	\$320	Oct 07	\$1775	\$320
May 06	\$1750	\$320	Jul 01	\$1750	\$320	Aug 26	\$1825	\$320			
May 20	\$1750	\$320	Jul 15	\$1750	\$320	Sep 09	\$1775	\$320			
Jun 03	\$1750	\$320	Jul 29	\$1750	\$320	Sep 23	\$1775	\$320			

**Reductions**

SAVE \$30 p.p. with Triple room reduction

**Insight's Great Savings & Discounts**

SAVE \$175 per person with Young Traveller Discount

SAVE up to \$91 per person with 2nd Tour Discount

SAVE up to \$91 per person with Frequent Traveller Discount

Early Payment Discount	12 months	10 months	6 months
SAVE per person	\$175	\$130	\$90

For additional information regarding Insight's great Savings & Discounts, please see page 18.

**Extra Accommodation**

Per person, per night	Twin	Single	Triple
St Alpho Garden, Giardini Naxos			
01-31 Aug '11	\$143	\$182	\$136
All other times	\$119	\$162	\$114
NH Bellini, Catania	\$112	\$162	\$106

**Notes**

Tours start and end on Friday.

**DEF** **Definite Departures (DEF)**

are tour dates guaranteed to operate.

These are regularly updated and listed on our website [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com) (see page 19 for details)

Included are worth approximately US\$139



For news, views & info visit the 'Insight Travel Forum' at [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com)