

SICILY-MALTA DELUXE SMALL GROUP TOUR

March 27-April 8, 2020

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON 2 TO A ROOM..\$3795.00

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT..\$750.00

TRAVEL SAFE INSURANCE...\$289.00

MARCH 27 - Depart for Sicily

Depart for Palermo, Sicily. Dinner and breakfast served inflight.

MARCH 28 - Arrive in Palermo

Welcome to Sicily! Arrive in Palermo, the energetic capital of Sicily, and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to rest and relax.

Welcome Dinner this evening.

Overnight: Palermo – EUROSTARS CENTRALE PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR

Meals: Dinner

MARCH 29 - Palatine Chapel and Palermo City Tour

Start your tour of Palermo with the visit of the Palatine Chapel, a UNESCO Heritage Site, located inside the complex of Palazzo dei Normanni. Its glittering gold mosaics, complemented by inlaid marble floors and wooden ceilings, reflect Norman Sicily's cultural complexity. Continue with a walking tour including the Cathedral, Piazza dei Quattro Canti, Piazza Pretoria, and the church of Casa Professa, an expression of the Baroque style in its most amazing form. Visit a Puppet Theater, a traditional form of Sicilian entertainment that dates back to the 15th century and is still alive today. Discover Palermo on your own with its winding alleyways and colorful back streets during free time

Overnight: Palermo

Meals: Breakfast

MARCH 30 - Segesta, Farm Lunch, Erice

Morning drive through western Sicily where you will view the famous Doric Temple of Segesta rising high on a hill, constructed in the 5th century B.C., one of the greatest examples of this style of architecture. Enjoy lunch with an olive oil tasting at a local farm. Continue to the mountaintop Erice, a wonderfully preserved medieval town with breathtaking views and a great historical presence. Walk along the cobbled streets lined with superb examples of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture, home of the "Ericina" ceramic handicraft art. Continue to your hotel.

Overnight: Marsala – LE CASERIE OR SIMILAR.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

MARCH 31 -, Salt Mines, and Planeta Estate Winery

Today we follow the road from Marsala to Trapani that skirts round the edge of the lagoon and the island of Mozia providing fine views of the local saltworks: panels of mirror-like water, held by thin strips of earth, synchronise to form an irregular and multicoloured scene. In places, the profile of a windmill may be discerned, a reminder of times past when they provided the main means of pumping the water and grinding the salt. From the shallow water, the searing temperatures and arid winds was born a tough, but beneficial industry to produce the precious element, so vital to the survival of man.

This afternoon we will visit the Planeta Estate Winery for lunch and a wine tasting!

Overnight: Agrigento - FORESTERIA BAGLIO DELLA LUNA OR SIMILAR.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

APRIL 1 - Valley of Temples, Make your own Pizza and Piazza Armerina

This morning, discover Agrigento's celebrated Valley of the Temples the largest and best preserved temple ruins outside of mainland Greece. Tour this magnificent archaeological park, built between 430 and 510 B.C., all majestically positioned in the same area on rocky crests south of modern day Agrigento. This afternoon enjoy making your own Pizza using fresh ingredients in Licata. After tasting your own creation, travel to Piazza Armerina to view the intricate examples of Roman mosaics at the famous Roman Villa del Casale, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These extraordinarily vivid mosaics deal with numerous subjects, ranging from Homeric escapades and mythological scenes to portrayals of daily life. The Villa itself was rediscovered in the 19th century after being almost completely covered by a landslide.

Overnight: Ragusa – SAN GIORGIO PALACE HOTEL OR SIMILAR

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

APRIL 2 - Ragusa-Ibla, Aromatic Herb & Plant Gardens

This morning, indulge in the baroque atmosphere of Ragusa-Ibla, with its breathtaking sights of houses, churches, and palaces that seem layered one on top of the other. Continue to visit a garden of aromatic herbs & plants. Learn how the herbs are grown and their uses while trying to recognize them, using all your senses. Return to your hotel in Ragusa in the evening

Overnight: Ragusa

Meals: Breakfast

APRIL 3- Noto, Siracusa with its Neapolis & Ortigia

Today, travel to Noto, a wonderful Baroque town, where you will have time to wander around and discover one of the most spectacular urban settlements. Arrive in Siracusa to admire the "Old City," also known as Città Vecchia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located on the island of Ortigia. After free time for lunch, continue with a visit to the archaeological area of the Neapolis and get a glimpse of Siracusa as it was in ancient times with its Greek theater, the remains of Roman Amphitheater, and the "Ear of Dionysius," an awe-inspiring artificial limestone cave renowned for its outstanding acoustics. Travel to Catania, a wonderful combination of ancient and modern, under the shadow of Mt. Etna

Overnight: Taormina – PANORAMIC HOTEL

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

APRIL 4 - Mt. Etna Summit & Taormina

Begin the day with a visit to the lava-crust slopes of Mt. Etna, which dominates the scenery and is the most active volcano in Europe! Ascend via cable car and bus to reach the altitude of 9,000 feet; step carefully on the varied layers of lava which have solidified over the centuries. Learn about Etna's impact on the surrounding area and its unique geology. Stop to sample some typical street food for lunch before heading toward Taormina, where you will take a walk on the main Corso, followed by free time to enjoy the city. Perhaps visit the massive Greek Theater, from where you can admire the remarkable panoramas of the city and countryside. Return to Taormina in the afternoon

Overnight: Taormina

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

APRIL 5- Arrival in Malta, Valletta Sightseeing

This morning, depart early for your flight to Malta. Begin your discovery of this new country in Valletta, the beautiful walled capital of Malta. The town was built by Knights of St John in the 16th century and

maintains the same feel with its gardens and baroque art & architecture. Afterwards, head across the Grand Harbor to discover the historical area known as the Three Cities: Vittoriosa, Cospicua & Senglea. Tonight, get your first taste of Maltese cuisine during dinner at your hotel

Overnight: Malta – LA FALCONERIA OR SIMILAR

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

APRIL 6- Explore Gozo

Today, you will start the day early in order to visit Malta's sister island of Gozo, an island where time stood still, where traditions and customs form part of the daily life of the islanders. Gozo is greener, more rural, and offers beautiful scenic views, having most of the population still following their forefathers' trades of farming and fishing. During this excursion, visit the Temple of Ggantija, which is the only major prehistoric site on the Island of Gozo. The temple is among the oldest and best preserved in the world. Afterwards, enjoy a Mediterranean tasting of wine and local delicacies followed by lunch. This afternoon, return to Sliema and spend the rest of your day at leisure

Overnight: Malta

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

APRIL 7- Mdina & Rabat

Your tour today will first take you to Rabat to explore St Paul's Catacombs, which feature an extensive underground system of tombs that date back to the medieval period. Continue to Mdina, the ancient capital of Malta, located in the central part of the island. This walled city dates back to prehistoric times and has witnessed Malta's major historical events, having a strategic position on one of the land's highest plateaus. During your walk in the silent city, visit the Mdina Cathedral and the imposing bastions that allow you to admire panoramic views of most of the island. Proceed to Naxxar, the oldest village on the island, to visit Palazzo Parisio, a unique 19th century palace with splendid gardens. Tonight, enjoy dinner together and bid farewell to your and newfound friends

Overnight: Malta

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

APRIL 8 - Depart Malta

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions in above prices:

- Round trip airfare
- First Class hotel accommodation as per itinerary based on twin share
- All transfers and transportation is by private, air-conditioned coach with driver/guide
- Arrival Meet & Greet guide assistance, departure guide assistance
- Qualified English Speaking guides on transfers and day tours.
- Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary
- Local taxes on accommodation and sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated on itinerary (B-full breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)

Exclusions in above prices:

- Seat selection
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary

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