

italian tours & travel by diana

*Travel*

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## Customized Tour to Sicilia

Day 1 Depart the USA for Sicilia

Day 2 Arrive Palermo.

Private transfer to hotel. Day at leisure for rest and relaxation. Overnight in Palermo.

Day 3 Palermo.

Breakfast at hotel. 9am tour to discover the monuments and lesser-known sights of Palermo. From the Quattro Canti you will walk to Piazza Sant'Anna where in times past spices and perfumes were sold, near Palazzo Gangi, one of the city's most important aristocratic homes. Passing Via Paternoster you will reach Piazza San Francesco with its 13th century Romanesque-Gothic church. Next to the church is one of the more important oratories (chapels) of the city, the Oratory of San Lorenzo with the famous gesso statues of Giacomo Serpotta. At the end of the tour, if you wish, you may sample some of the specialties of Palermitano cuisine in the nearby Focacceria. Overnight in Palermo.

Day 4 Palermo

Breakfast at Hotel and then independent day in Palermo. Overnight in Palermo

Day 5 Palermo/ Segesta and Erice/ Cefalu'

Breakfast at hotel. Depart from your hotel in Palermo at 8am. Your first stop today is the magnificent temple of Segesta. This temple was built by the Elimian, an ancient people thought to be of Turkish origin. With 36 columns, this temple is the first of its kind to be built in the Doric Style. You will also visit Pepoli Castle, with a foundation dating back to Seracen times as well as the castle of Venus which was built upon the remains of the ancient temple dedicated to Venus during the times of the Normans. Your senses will be overwhelmed today by the beauty of this area. Many, many opportunities for fabulous photos today. Finally, do not forget to sample the delicious pastries which are made in this area. One of the more famous pastry shops to seek out is Grammatico. Sit, have a coffee and take time to relive the fine details of the past several days. Transfer to Cefalu' for overnight.

Day 6 Cefalu'/Taormina

Breakfast at hotel. Independent exploration of Cefalu'. Early evening transfer to Taormina for overnight..

Day 7 Taormina

Breakfast at hotel and then all day at leisure in Taormina. Shopping and browsing is great here. Maybe a visit to the beach is of interest. Either way, do not forget to taste the home made granita which is so famous here. If there is an interesting performance at the Teatro, it would be nice to partake in that. Overnight in Taormina.

Day 8 Taormina

Breakfast at hotel. Independent exploration of Taormina. Overnight in Taormina.

Day 9 Taormina/ Siracusa

Breakfast at hotel in Taormina and then transfer to Siracusa for late morning guided tour. Siracusa is home to some of the oldest and most significant archeological ruins in the world. Dating back to the time of ancient Greece, Siracusa was founded in 733 BC by Greek settlers from Corinth and Tenea. Located in the Southeastern corner of Sicily and near the Ionian Sea, Siracusa is listed by Unesco as a World Heritage Site. Overnight in Siracusa.

Day 10 Siracusa/Noto/Piazza Amerina

Breakfast at hotel. Depart Siracusa. Also under the umbrella of precious sites as declared by Unesco, is the Baroque city of Noto. You will stop here for leisurely exploration. Dating back to Roman times and subject to Arab invasion in the year 866, Noto has survived the centuries. Today it offers its visitors exquisite charm and many artful treasures. At this point you will have a guided visit to the village of Piazza Amerina. View the most important Roman monuments ever found in Sicily. The unique Patrician Villa, Villa Romana Del Casale was founded in the second century after Jesus Christ and it is covered with spectacular and perfectly preserved mosaics from that era. Early evening transfer to Licata. Overnight in Licata

Day 11 Licata

Day 12 Licata/Agrigento

Day 13 Licata

Day 14 Catania/Roma

Transfer to Catania for flight to Roma. Private transfer to hotel in Fiumicino. Overnight in Roma. 2.5 hours drive from Licata to Catania. Prefer as late a flight as possible.

Day 15 Roma/USA

Depart Roma for USA