

# *Sicily... island of enchantment!*

## *September 2-12, 2025*



Join Patti from Bergan Travel on this 11-day small-group tour and be immersed into the culture and people that make Sicily the most popular island in the Mediterranean! Discover breathtaking coastal landscapes, gorgeous white-sand beaches, vineyards, dramatic volcanos, ancient ruins, quaint villages, mountains, authentic foods, local wines and so much more!

*Life is short....live each day to the fullest!*

### Your vacation package includes:

- ◇ 10-nights high-quality 4-5 star accommodations, many with stunning sea views
- ◇ 10 breakfasts, 4 complete lunches & 3 complete dinners
- ◇ Licensed English speaking local guides and Whisper audio system during the tour
- ◇ Private air-conditioned, 35 seat motorcoach transportation
- ◇ Fun interaction with the locals to discover the true Sicilian lifestyle
- ◇ Additional wine and food authentic experiences such as the making of sausage in the best butcher shop in Caccamo, making ricotta cheese and traditional bread in the countryside, a Cannoli experience, olive oil tasting and cooking show in a chef's house, making of chocolate in Modica and last but not least, wine tasting in a historic winery on the slopes of Mt. Etna!
- ◇ Entrance tickets to churches, archaeological sites, etc.
- ◇ Roundtrip airport transfers in Palermo and Taormina, all taxes
- ◇ Tour is planned so you stay multiple nights in hotels to minimize packing and unpacking

*Prices: \$4198 per person, double occupancy, \$5398 singles. Deposit \$1300 per person, final payment June 1, 2025. Optional travel protection highly recommended, please ask for a quote.*

*Add airfare from your preferred city, available 11 months prior to travel. Sicily extensions available.*

**ACTIVITY LEVEL: 4 out of 5**

**Contact Bergan Travel for details:**

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## ITINERARY:

**Day 1, Sept 1, 2025:** Depart the USA

**Day 2, Sept 2, 2025:** **Welcome to Sicily.** You will be met at the airport and transferred to Palermo, the capital of Sicily on the Northern coast of the island. The town boasts more than 2,700 years of history, art and culture. Check-in to your hotel, a 4-star hotel in the heart of Palermo. It is located on the most ancient street in Palermo, near the Fountain of the Shame and the Four Corners. This evening, meet your guides for an orientation, complimentary aperitif to toast the beginning of a great tour & dinner.

**Overnight: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa\*\*\*\*, Palermo. Meals included: Dinner accompanied by refined Sicilian wine.**

**Day 3, Sept 3, 2025:** **PALERMO:** Our day begins with a guided walking tour of Palermo, a safe, exciting place to visit. View the beautiful Cathedral, the Quattro Canti (the 4 corners), the Fountain of Shame, the Teatro Massimo Opera House (featured in The Godfather III), and many more must-see places. Your culinary venture starts with delicious ricotta filled pastries & Cannoli in a stunning Baroque church and discover Ballarò, the biggest open air market in Palermo. Lunch follows based on traditional Palermitan cuisine. The afternoon and evening are on your own.

**Overnight: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa\*\*\*\*, Palermo. Meals: breakfast, nuns' pastries and cannoli tasting, lunch.**

**Day 4, September 4:** **ERICE** A beautiful village with one of the most spectacular views in Sicily .Walk through the narrow, well-kept, cobblestone streets and be invited by a renowned chef at his house. Learn how he prepare authentic Sicilian dishes, paired with homemade olive oil followed with lunch together. Return to the hotel in Palermo in the late afternoon, the evening is on your own. **Overnight: Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa\*\*\*\*, Palermo. Meals included: breakfast, olive oil tasting, lunch.**

**Day 5, September 5, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel; morning on your own. (Palermo is a great place for shopping.) **MONREALE:** Venture off to Monreale by bus to visit the most beautiful cathedral in Sicily. Then it's off to **Cefalù**, a 'postcard-worthy' fishing village on the northern coastline & your home base for the next 2 nights. Enjoy a guided walking tour and then free time. Return to the hotel or keep strolling on your own in the old town. **Meals included: breakfast. Hotel Riva del Sole: 4-star hotel located** along the coast in front of a wonderful sandy beach, just few steps away from the heart of the historic town. Seaview rooms.

**Day 6, September 6, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel and then free time in **Cefalù**. Enjoy the sandy beach or browse the handcraft shops. Later, visit **CACCAMO**, a part of Sicily that is off the beaten track and still unknown to tourists. The town's medieval architecture and ancient narrow streets set a timeless atmosphere. Here, you meet a local meat producer and enjoy a unique hands-on experience, making of traditional Caccamo sausage. You will enjoy an unconventional dinner based on sausage, homemade cold cuts and other great Sicilian dishes accompanied by a group of musicians performing traditional Sicilian folk music. It's time to dance all together! You will return to Cefalù and **overnight: Hotel Riva del Sole. Meals included: breakfast, folk dinner.**

**Day 7, September 7, 2005:** Breakfast at the hotel. **AGRIGENTO: THE STUNNING VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES.** Cross Sicily from north to South to the **Valley of the Temples**. Enjoy a guided walking tour of this amazing archaeological site, surrounded by olive and almond trees that are hundreds of years old. Next is a great Sicilian lunch at one of the most renowned restaurants in the area serving "parmigiana", and "tiramisù". Finally it's off to reach the island of **Ortigia**, separated from the mainland by a narrow canal and is accessible by bridge. Your hotel is the beautiful **5-star Grand Hotel Ortigia**, ideally located a few steps away from the Marina and your home base for the next 4 nights. Evening at leisure. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch**

**Day 8, September 8, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel. **SYRACUSE: A CHARMING SEASIDE WHITE TOWN** Enjoy a guided walking tour of Ortigia, the historic center of Syracuse. This area is almost 2700 years old and combines a rich culture, small town charm, beautiful scenery, and a great variety of activities. In the city center, you will have the chance to admire the remains of Sicily's Greek past: the temple of Apollo (the oldest temple in Sicily), and the temple of Athena (incorporated into the town's Cathedral, which is also one of the first Christian churches in Europe). Syracuse's white limestone buildings are sure to amaze you. During the walking tour you will also visit the outdoor market of Ortigia and experience a delicious 'granita' (traditional Sicilian puree of fruit and sugar). Try the pistachio and almonds flavors, a wonderful combination from the East side of Sicily, but don't forget to also order the brioche. In the afternoon you will depart to **Carlentini**. Your local guide will let your discover the highlights, flavors, traditions, and character of this area. You will return to Ortigia in the evening.

**Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia\*\*\*\*\*, Ortigia, Syracuse. Meals included: breakfast, granita tasting.**

## **ITINERARY:**

**Day 9, Sept 9, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel. Today travel to **Modica**, in the South East of Sicily! This area's popularity is thanks to its unique architectural style, the Val di Noto Baroque. The area was destroyed by the devastating earthquake in 1693 and the most important architects of that time were involved in its reconstruction, creating artistic wonders. We then board a vintage Fiat 500 from the late 60s or early 70s, an unusual and funny iconic Italian vehicle, ideal for exploring the narrow streets of Modica. With expert local drivers you will enjoy an unconventional ride along the cathedral of Saint George and the other highlights in Modica. Next, meet a chocolate maker and discover the secrets of the traditional chocolate along with tasting it. Freetime for lunch in the heart of Modica. After lunch, it's off to reach the nearby **Ragusa**, to enjoy a guided walking tour to see true postcard landscapes, narrow cobbled streets, churches, and palaces from the 17th and 18th century. You'll return to Ortigia in the evening.  
**Overnight: Grand Hotel Ortigia\*\*\*\*, Ortigia, Syracuse. Meals included: Breakfast at the hotel, chocolate tasting**

**Day 10, September 10, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel. Depart to **Mt. Etna** and reach Rifugio Sapienza (1900 mt – 6000 ft). Wear your sport shoes and wind jacket... you will get the opportunity to walk along the edge of an extinguished crater and see the remnants of previous lava flows. This is a very easy and pleasant trail! Mt Etna was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2013 and is the highest active volcano in Europe , but offers a wide range of activities to do at lower altitudes. The slopes of the volcano are also covered by many stunning wineries which produce some of the finest wines in the world. At lunch time we will bring you to Barone di Villagrande winery. An enologist-sommelier will show you the old cellars in which renowned Mt. Etna wines are aged. Then, you will enjoy a complete lunch serving the best Sicilian food paired with excellent wines.  
Next, **depart to Taormina** , the jewel of Sicily and your home base for the last two nights in Sicily. You will check-in at **Hotel Panoramic, your 4-star hotel by the sea in the bay of Taormina**. Your room boasts a stunning sea view on Isola Bella (Beautiful Island) and the best beach in Taormina. **Overnight: Hotel Panoramic\*\*\*\*, Taormina. Meals included: breakfast, lunch, wine tasting, dinner.**

**Day 11, September 11, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel. This morning is on your own to enjoy the stunning Isola Bella beach that is just few step away from your hotel. Here you may take one of the optional boat tours in order to admire Taormina's stunning coastline and enjoy snorkeling in pristine waters. Since the tour depends on the sea conditions, we recommend you to book the tour on the same day. Optionally, you may enjoy a cooking class with Massimo, a young local chef born in Taormina. In his warm and welcoming kitchen, you will engage in a hands-on cooking class and enjoy the four course Sicilian menu that you have prepared together. Supplement on request and booking is required in advance.

This evening, journey to the historic center of Taormina. Taormina was built by the ancient Greeks on a fertile hill above the Ionian Sea. It offers spectacular views on the bay of Naxos and Mt. Etna! We will stroll along the beautiful streets until we reach our favorite restaurant in Taormina. You will enjoy one of the tastiest pizzas in Sicily paired with other delicious food. After dinner you will return to the hotel independently: it will be your chance to enjoy the vibrant night life of Taormina. You will be free to stroll along Corso Umberto, the most elegant of streets in Taormina, and the town's fashion district. **Overnight: Hotel Panoramic\*\*\*\*, Taormina.**

**Meals included: breakfast, dinner**

**Day 12 September 12, 2025:** Breakfast at the hotel; leisure time according to your flight departure. Transfer to the Catania airport. **Farewell Sicily!**

Extensions available at an additional cost, airfare can be customized. We will do our best to offer group airfare once it is available.





Bergan Travel reserves the right to change or cancel components of the itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control. Minimum participation required for tour. If tour is cancelled prior to final payment, refunds will be made. A small non-refundable booking fee will be implemented for managing your reservation, booking/managing airfare and optional travel insurance.

Please call us for availability, complete the following forms and then mail to Bergan Travel along with check deposit.

<p><b>Trip: Sicily</b> (Name exactly as it appears on passport)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>(City) _____ (State) _____</p> <p>(Zipcode) _____ (Phone or cell) _____</p> <p>E-mail address: _____</p> <p>Gender ___ (Male) ___ (Female) Date of birth: _____</p> <p>Room requests: ___ (1 bed) ___ 2 beds) ___ Dbl ___ Triple ___ Single</p> <p>Passport # _____ Exp date: _____</p> <p><b>Preferred departure city for flights:</b> _____</p> <p>Food allergies _____ Special requests _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I wish to purchase travel insurance, please quote</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, I decline travel insurance</p>	<p><b>Trip: Sicily</b> (Name exactly as it appears on passport)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>(City) _____ (State) _____</p> <p>(Zipcode) _____ (Phone or cell) _____</p> <p>E-mail address: _____</p> <p>Gender ___ (Male) ___ (Female) Date of birth: _____</p> <p>Room requests: ___ (1 bed) ___ 2 beds) ___ Dbl ___ Triple ___ Single</p> <p>Passport # _____ Exp date: _____</p> <p><b>Preferred departure city for flights:</b> _____</p> <p>Food allergies _____ Special requests _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I wish to purchase travel insurance, please quote</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No, I decline travel insurance</p>
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