



Passport to Sicily

Experience art, tradition, food and wine inside the most intriguing island of the Mediterranean!



May 13-23, 2022

Itinerary

<p>Fri., May 13</p> 	<p>Depart USA for Rome, Italy!!</p> <p>We'll have an overnight flight from Pittsburgh to Rome.</p>
<p>Sat., May 14</p> 	<p>Arrival in Palermo, Italy!</p> <p>We'll arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, from where we'll take the connecting flight to Palermo, Sicily.</p> <p>On arrival at Palermo Airport, we'll transfer and check in at the <i>Hotel Opera Plaza</i> (http://www.hotelplazaopera.com/it/).</p> <p>In the evening, we'll have a welcome dinner at the restaurant <i>Pizza e Cucina</i>, (http://www.pizzaecucina.it/) a farm-to-table restaurant that, in addition to marvelous pizza, serves super-fresh seafood!</p> <p>Overnight in Palermo at the <i>Hotel Opera Plaza</i> (D)</p>

Sun., May 15



Palermo

This morning, our guide will pick us up and give us a wonderful tour of the town, visiting the **Palatine Chapel**, the **Cathedral** and the **Market** in the morning and **Monreale Church and Cloister** in the afternoon. Palermo is the best combination of Arab and Norman architecture, with golden tiles and Moorish courtyards inside and austere Northern European naves and transepts around. Also the Market has a typical Arab structure with the same vibe of a Maghreb Souk.

The lunch will be in a nice restaurant in the center called *La Galleria*. (<https://www.facebook.com/lagalleria2014/>). After lunch, we will have time to walk in the beautiful pedestrian area and admire the famous **Massimo Theater**, including a private tour of the interior, backstage and panoramic terrace. An optional class, “**Cooking with the Ducess**” is also offered today.

For dinner, we will suggest some nice places you can go on your own.

Overnight in Palermo at *Hotel Opera Plaza*. (L)

Mon., May 16



Cefalù and Palermo, Sicily

This morning we visit the beautiful area of **Cefalù**!

A bus will take us to explore first the medieval town of **Castelbuono**, inside the national park of **le Madonie**. We'll have lunch in a restaurant that specializes in mushrooms, and then go to **Cefalù** and have a walking tour with our guide. Cefalù is a fortified medieval town by the water with a lot of interesting sites such as the magnificent Arab-Norman **Duomo**. It also boasts some of the best gelato in Sicily! We will also have time for shopping inside the small artisanal stores.

Later in the afternoon we'll go back to Palermo.

Overnight in Palermo at *Hotel Opera Plaza*. (L)

Tues., May 17



Siracusa, Sicily

Today, we will check out of the hotel in Palermo and drive to **Siracusa**. Here, we'll check into the very nice *Boutique Hotel Gutkowsky*. (<http://www.guthotel.it/>).

You will explore the beautiful area before going for dinner at the restaurant *La Foglia*.

Siracusa is the most important Greek town in Sicily. The harbor was the gate of the *Magna Grecia*, very important for trade and military actions from about 250 BCE. The oldest part of the town is called **Ortigia**, where both the hotel and the restaurant are located, and it's an island linked to the mainland with 2 small bridges.

Overnight in Siracusa at *Boutique Hotel Gutkowsky*. (D)

Wed., May 18



Siracusa

Today we will explore the fantastic town of **Siracusa** with our guide, having lunch inside the colorful **Spice Market**. You will visit **Ortigia** and the **Archaeological Park**.

During the visit you will see the beautiful **Baroque Duomo**, the **Fonte Aretusa**, full of papyrus brought by the Egyptians, and the **Mikveh**, testifying to the presence of a Jewish population in Siracusa. We will end the day visiting the **Archaeological Park** with the **Greek Theater** and the **Ear of Dionysus**.

For those who are interested, we can book seats at the **Greek Theater** for the performance of classical works.

Overnight in Siracusa at *Boutique Hotel Gutkowsky*. (L)

Thurs., May 19



Noto, Marzamemi and Siracusa, Sicily

Today is dedicated to the nearby town of **Noto**, famous for its Spanish Baroque architecture. It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1998 because the Baroque architecture represents the best Sicilian style in several buildings and churches that are available for us to visit.

You won't want to miss the special *granita* at *Café Sicilia* and the dinner in **Marzamemi** at *Trattoria Campisi*, (https://www.facebook.com/ristorantecampisimarzamemi/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel) inside a small, characteristic fisherman's village.

Overnight in Siracusa at *Boutique Hotel Gutkowsky*. (D)

Fri., May 20






Siracusa and Taormina, Sicily

We will check out of our hotel in the morning and go to **Taormina**.

In **Taormina**, we will check in at *Hotel Piccolo Giardino*, (<http://www.ilpiccologiardino.it/en/>) right in the center of the town, inside the pedestrian area.

Taormina is composed in 3 villages, the one by the sea linked with a gondola, the one on the highest peak of the mountain called **Castelmola**, and the central one, with a medieval base and fantastic panoramic terraces, where the hotel and most of the restaurants and shops are located. You will have time to walk and explore the old town with our guide, including the famous **Greek Theater**, before going for dinner at the restaurant *Villa Zuccaro* (<http://villazuccaro.com/?lang=en>).

Overnight in Taormina at *Hotel Piccolo Giardino*. (D)

<p>Sat., May 21</p> 	<p>Taormina and Etna Volcano, Sicily</p> <p>This morning, our bus will take us to the Etna Volcano, an incredible experience that will end with lunch inside a famous winery located not far from the summit crater of the Volcano. Etna is the tallest active volcano in Europe and the area is famous also for the finest wines production. We will start with a soft hike to see the unforgettable volcanic backdrop, and finish with a great local cheese and wine tasting!</p> <p>In the afternoon, we will come back to Taormina and have free time and dinner on our own.</p> <p>Overnight in Taormina at <i>Hotel Piccolo Giardino</i>. (L)</p>
<p>Sun., May 22</p> 	<p>Savoca, Castelmola and Taormina, Sicily</p> <p>In the morning, we will visit an incredible small village called Savoca and famous around the world because the Sicilian scenes of <i>The Godfather 2</i> were entirely filmed here. We will also try the famous lemon <i>granita</i> at Bar Vitelli (https://www.facebook.com/barvitelliofficial/).</p> <p>After Savoca, we will also visit Castelmola, a medieval town above Taormina with one of the most spectacular views of Sicily.</p> <p>In the afternoon, we will return to our hotel in Taormina and have free time for some good shopping there and for a farewell cocktail!</p> <p>Overnight in Taormina at <i>Hotel Piccolo Giardino</i>.</p>
<p>Mon., May 23</p> 	<p>Arrivederci!</p> <p>Departures from Catania Airport.</p>

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