



In cooperation with  
our local travel  
partners in Sicily:



## Cycling Through Sicily: From the Arabs to the Greeks

*Follow in the ancient footprints of the Normans, Greeks and Arabs to the cultural crossroads of Sicily. An island with unique history, architecture, breathtaking scenery and warm people waiting to welcome you to this magnificent island.*

**VOTED THE NO.1 ISLAND IN THE WORLD!**

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### ABOUT SICILY:

**Brief Area History:** After some 25 centuries of foreign domination, Sicilians are heir to an impressive cultural legacy, from the refined architecture of Magna Grecia to the startling artistic fusion of Arab craftsmanship and Norman austerity. Complexity of culture is only matched by stunning natural beauty and diversity of landscapes; rolling hills and valleys, brooding Etna, kilometres of aquamarine coastline and a necklace of encircling islands.

This bicycle tour will take you to discover charming cities like Palermo where the tour begins, Trapani, Marsala, Agrigento and the archaeological sites of Segesta, Mozia and Selinunte, apart from the amazing site of Eraclea Minoa where you can reach the Torre Salsa Natural Reserve. Detailed route map will lead you to hidden wonders on your ride; you will alternate culture and nature with visits to typical villages where famous novels took place. Accommodation in , farm houses and comfortable hotels where you will discover, through local traditions and welcoming people, the real part of Sicily which will impress you at every corner.

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### Technical Characteristics

Roads: Paved

Terrain characteristics: Hilly land alternated with some plain terrain.

Bike: Hybrid Road Bike

Grading: Easy

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**Day 1/ Saturday May 15** - This afternoon board your overnight TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHT from your home city to ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT.

**Day 2/ Sunday May 16** -

***Benvenuti in Sicilia!***

## Today's Program

Early morning arrival into ROME FIUMICINO AIRPORT. Upon your arrival claim your luggage and proceed to the domestic terminal for your flight from ROME to PALERMO, SICILY. Upon arrival to PALERMO AIRPORT claim your and exit into the arrival area where you will be met by our private mini bus driver who will provide our transfer to the lovely MONDELLO PALACE HOTEL. Check –in to our hotel. Balance of the day to rest and relax from your overnight flight. This evening at 7:30 p. m. we'll enjoy our group WELCOME DINNER in the dining room of the MONDELLO PALACE HOTEL. Overnight at our hotel. **(D)**

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## Day 3/ Monday May 17 - *Palermo and Monreale*

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

**Following breakfast at 9:00 a.m.** we'll meet with our local guide to board our private mini –bus and begin our half day walking tour of the magnificent city of **PALERMO** and **MONREALE**. You'll be enchanted by **Palermo's** wide boulevards, traditional Sicilian Old Quarter, and baroque palaces. You'll see the city's main sights, including Quattro Canti (the Four Corners) along with Palermo's extravagant baroque square.



The square is ringed by four buildings with baroque sculptures that depict the Four Seasons, Spanish kings, and the patron saints of Palermo's four old quarters. See the twelfth-century Cathedral of Palermo, which houses a pantheon of royal tombs. After we'll stop for a visit of **"LA VUCCIRIA"**, one of the oldest and largest outdoor food markets in the world, typical par excellence, full of colour and folkloric. Here you will taste typical street food such as **pani ca meusa, pannelle, arancini...** Then you'll discover the Arab-Norman splendour of the **MONREALE CATHEDRAL** and the **CLOISTER**. This nearby treasure dates from the 12th century and shows the diverse architectural influences of both the Normans and the Arab population.

Our local guide will suggest a typical Trattoria for today's lunch on our own. Later in the afternoon we'll return to our hotel for some relaxation. Meet with our BIKE TOUR leader for a SPECIAL BRIEFING. Dinner this evening on our own at leisure. Overnight at the MONDELLO PALACE HOTEL.

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## Day 4/ Tuesday May 18 -

### *Cycle through Vineyards and Orange Groves*

#### Today's Program

##### *Highlights Castellammare del Golfo and its Medieval Castle*

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Our route today takes us almost due west along the coast, past vineyards and orange groves to **Castellammare del Golfo**. Once the primary port for the ancient Greek towns of **SEGESTA** and **ERICE**, Castellammare clusters around its small fishing port and the medieval castle on the gulf with the same name.

**Group Dinner this evening on our own at a local Sicilian restaurant along the port. Overnight stay at our Hotel Cerri in Castellammare del Golfo.**

**Bike Distance Covered: 65 km (41 miles).**



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## Day 5/ Wednesday May 19 -

### *Bicycle to the Ruins of SEGESTA and on to NUBIA*



#### Today's Program

*Highlights of today's program: Ancient Greek ruins and coastal riding*

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. We follow a remote valley inland this morning to discover the ruins of ancient **SEGESTA** lost among the hills of western Sicily. Perhaps because of its isolated site, Segesta boasts one of the best-preserved temples from all of ancient Greece. The temple was built around 430 BC and together with the nearby theatre dating to the 3rd century BC, Segesta is one of the most evocative of ancient sites in Sicily. We will visit with the local licensed guide the site and then we'll head on along the hills and ridges of western Sicily to our hotel located in the small fishing port of **BONAGIA**. Accommodation and dinner is included this evening at **RELAIS ANTICHE SALINE**. Overnight stay at our hotel.

**Bike Distance Covered: 78 km (50 miles).**

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## Day 6/ Thursday May 20 -

### *NUBIA to MARSALA*

#### Today's Program

*Highlights of today's program: Marsala wine tasting, 8th century BC Phoenician Ruins*



Buffet breakfast at our hotel. We head inland from our mountain fortress this morning, pedalling by miles of wheat fields. We'll be back on the coast for a late lunch on your own. Visit the Phoenician ruins of **Motya**, dating to the 8th century BC, and a visit to the natural marine reserve and saline (salt pans).

This afternoon we'll be in **MARSALA** where we'll visit a winery producing the famous, fortified Marsala wines. Enjoy wine tasting of their best wines.

Accommodation at **Hotel Villa Favorita** in Marsala. Dinner is included at the villa this evening. Overnight at the Villa Favorita.

**Bike Distance to be Covererd: 65 km (41 miles).**

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## Day 7/ Friday May 21 -

### *Bicycle MARSALA to MARINELLA*

#### Today's Program

*Highlights of today's program::Limestone quarries in Cusa, vineyard landscapes*

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Our route today takes us along the shore south of **MARSALA** today, and by acres of vineyards producing the famous Sicilian wines. We'll suggest lunch at the **Mazara del Vallo** or enjoy a picnic lunch at **Cusa Cave**, site of the ancient limestone quarries near the temples of **SELINUNTE**.



At **CUSA** you'll see gigantic blocks of limestone columns abandoned, it seems, just as they were ready for shipping. We are in **MARINELLA** this evening, adjacent to the ruins of **SELINUNTE**.

Accommodation at **Hotel Admeto** in **SELINUNTE**. Dinner is included this evening. Overnight at the Hotel Admeto.

**Bike Distance to be Covered Today: 65 km (41 miles).**

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## Day 8/ Saturday May 22 - Bicycle **SELINUNTE** to **SCIACCA**

### Today's Program

**Highlights of today's program: Ruins of Selinunte, Thermal Spas of Sciacca**



Buffet breakfast at our hotel. Our ride is short today, so we suggest first taking your bicycle to explore the vast ruins of **SELINUNTE**. The ruins are divided between two ridges, one with the temples and one with the ruins of the ancient city. Once we get on the road it's a wonderful ride through citrus and olive groves to **SCIACCA**. Go explore the beach at Porto Palo if you'd like a little extra mileage. We are in Sciacca this evening, a thermal spa and major fishing port. Accommodation at **Hotel Villa Palocla** in **SCIACCA**. Dinner is included this evening. Overnight at the Hotel Villa Palocia.

**Bike Distance to be Covered Today: 46 km (29 miles)**

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## Day 9/ Sunday May 23 - Bicycle **SCIACCA** to **AGRIGENTO**

### Today's Program

**Highlights of today's program: The Greek Temples of Agrigento**

Buffet breakfast at our hotel.

Our ride today takes us inland through dry wheat lands, vineyards, the village of **RIBERA** famous for its oranges and olive groves, and through a tremendous variety of geologic formations as we wind our way to **AGRIGENTO** having one of the finest collections of ancient Greek temples anywhere in the Mediterranean basin.



**Visit on your own the Valley of The Temples.** Our hotel is not far from the ruins so you'll want to have a rest, then go exploring as the setting sun turns the limestone columns to a golden colour.

Accommodation this evening at the **Hotel Dioscuri by Palace in Agrigento**. Dinner this evening at a typical local Sicilian PIZZERIA on our own. Overnight at the Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace in Agrigento.

**Bike Distance to be Covered Today: 71 km (44 miles).**

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## Day 10/ Monday May 24 **MOUNT ETNA & TAORMINA**

### Today's Program

Buffet breakfast at our hotel. This morning we'll check out of our hotel and board our private mini-bus for a walking tour of **MOUNT ETNA**.



**MOUNT ETNA** is the highest volcano in Europe with its 3.323 mt. Ancient thought tells us that the Volcano was a favourite place of the Roman deity. During the past centuries its spectacular eruptions caused a lot of damages to the nearby land. Last eruption of 2002 has changed the territory once again. Very charming landscapes among vineyards, woods, until you find the deserted land that reminds a lunar landscape. FAREWELL LUNCH at **Murgo Winery** with tasting of their best wines produced here.

Afterwards we'll continue with a visit of **TAORMINA** considered by many travel writers to be the most beautiful coastal city in the world. Perched atop Mount Tauro and above two sparkling bays, **TAORMINA'S** mythical atmosphere and exceedingly pleasant climate has welcomed countless luminaries who have admired its beautiful landscape rising above the azure sea and Mt.Etna. We'll visit the Greek Theatre of III century B.C. where international shows still take place here, the Norman Cathedral and the Palazzo Corvaja of XV century which aspect seems to be of the Arabian age.

ACCOMMODATION IN the TAORMINA AREA. Farewell dinner on our own in **TAORMINA**. Overnight in Taormina.

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## Day 11/ Tuesday May 25

**ARRIVEDERCIA TO SICILIA!**

### Today's Program

This morning we'll meet in the lobby of our hotel with our **bus driver** for our private transfer to **CATANIA AIRPORT** for our return flight to **ROME** where we will connect to our flight back to the **USA**.

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## YOUR BIKE TOUR INCLUDED FEATURES

- English speaking Tour leader, briefing and technical assistance for the entire tour.
- Buffet breakfast & dinner at Mondello Palace Hotel\*\*\*\*;
- Buffet breakfast at Hotel Cerri\*\*\* in Castellammare del Golfo.
- Buffet breakfast & Dinner at the Hotel Relais Antiche Saline\*\*\*\* in Nubia
- Buffet breakfast & Dinner at the Hotel Villa Favorita\*\*\*\* in Marsala
- Buffet breakfast and dinner at the Hotel Admeto\*\*\* in Selinunte;
- Buffet breakfast and dinner at the Hotel Villa Palocla\*\*\*\* or Similar in Sciacca;
- Buffet breakfast at Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace\*\*\*\* in Agrigento;
- Buffet breakfast at Hotel Capo dei Greci \*\*\*\* or Similar in Taormina
- Hotel accommodations as indicated on the program for 9 nights.
- All included dinners including bottled water & local wine.
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers with luggage handling.
- Entrance fees included top the sites in Monreale, Segesta, Selinunte and Taormina.
- Half day local licensed English speaking guide in Taormina, Segesta, Palermo and Monreale.
- Visit and Wine tasting in Marsala.
- Visit, Tasting and lunch at Murgo Winery at Mt. Etna.
- Excursion by private bus in Taormina and on Mount Etna.
- Maps of the Island of Sicily and bike for 6 days.
- All Applicable hotel taxes and service charges including the Italian Govt. VAT TAX.
- Services and assistance of our local English speaking representatives during your bike tour of Sicily.
- DaVinci personal luggage tags, Sicily Guide & Italian Language pocket booklet.

**\$ 2489.00 USD per person\***

Land cost only in US Dollars based on a minimum of 14 or more passengers. Rate is per person based on double occupancy. Single rates available on request. Does not include roundtrip airfare. Airfare is available from any major city throughout the USA. Please call for airfare arrangements and rates.

## Bicycle Characteristics

Our bikes are aluminum-framed with a shock-absorbing front fork, Shimano TX50 gears, EZ Fire Plus shifting 21 speed, Bravo Soft seats, a repair kit, V. Brake, mud-guards, a rear baggage carrier, trekking tires, anti-slip pedals, a robust padlock, bottle-carrier, and, of course, a bell and pump.