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Mark Mathews_Sicily 10 days_ SICILY: A JEWEL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN_Ollami

Aug 1, 2022 - Aug 10, 2022

Period: August 2022

Total days: 12 days/ 11 nights

Guests: 6 adults

Destinations: Palermo - Trapani - Agrigento - Syracuse - Taormina

ILT Travel consultant: Giulio Abbate

August 1 - Day 1 Palermo



Private transfer - Mercedes Class V

This morning your personal driver will pick you up at the airport to reach your hotel in Palermo. The will wait for you outside the airport with a welcome board with your names written on it.



Palermo - Private walking guided tour

In the afternoon you will enjoy a half-day walking guided tour of Palermo, one of the World's most splendid cities with its unique and charming African, Arabic and Italian blends of architecture. Start the visit from the old part of the city with the Norman Palace and Palatine Chapel, **Piazza Bellini and Piazza della Vittoria and the Arab-Norman Cathedral, Martorana church, Massimo Theatre and fountain in Pretoria Square.**



Palermo

Palermo, Sicily, IT



Palermo - Optional tours (not included)

Optional tour: Anchovy Museum. The anchovy and marine arts museum of Aspra is a reality, unique in the Mediterranean panorama, it is an act of passion and love created by the brothers Girolamo and Michelangelo Balistreri who carefully collected elements of the marine art of the family business and many factories operating throughout Sicily. A unique, exclusive and exciting journey through memorabilia, documents and tools that photograph and document centuries of anchovy salting in Sicily

Optional tour: In the afternoon, discover more about **Teatro Massimo**. In Palermo you will do the backstage and a guided tour in Teatro Massimo to get to know the Opera House. In the evening you will attend an Opera at Teatro Massimo in Palermo (according to the theatre performance schedule).

Optional tour: In the afternoon you will learn and taste more about **Sicilian Pastry**. Visit a Pastry laboratory where they are going to show you how to prepare a *Cannolo Siciliano* and have a taste of these delicious foods.

Optional tour: you will visit **Isola delle Femmine** and you will relax along the wonderful seaside in a lovely small island

August 2 - Day 2 Palermo - Cefalù - Palermo



Full day - Mercedes Class V



Cefalù by yourselves

This morning your driver will pick you up at the hotel to reach **Cefalù**.

Cefalù is a gorgeous town located on the northern coast of Sicily, and one of the major tourist attractions in the region. Built on a promontory dominated by a sheer cliff, Cefalù has grown around the Norman Cathedral wanted by Ruggero II, still keeping its ancient print. The Cathedral, began in 1131, is one of the most interesting medieval monuments of the island and boasts outstanding mosaics and a wonderful cloister. An impressive mosaic of Christ Pantocrator stands out above the altar, twinned with the Palatine Chapel in Palermo and the Cathedral of Monreale. A large part of the town is pedestrian; just stroll through the medieval narrow streets, and admire the picturesque houses on the sea and the long beach of fine sand; than, in the afternoon, take a bath in the amazingly blue water of its sea: an experience really worth remembering!

Enjoy a great **fresh fish lunch** in a restaurant on the sea side. (lunch not included)



Cefalù

Cefalù, SICILIA, IT



Cefalù - Table reservation

Enjoy a great **fresh fish lunch** in a restaurant on the sea side.

(Lunch not included)



Cefalù

Cefalù, SICILIA, IT, 90015

August 3 - Day 3 Palermo - Segesta & Erice - Trapani



Private transfer - Mercedes Class V

Transfer from Palermo to the hotel in Trapani with a stop in Segesta and Erice. Pick up at the hotel.



Segesta - The archaeological site - Private guided tour

Before reanchoring Trapani, you will stop in **Segesta** where you will see the beauties of the fifth century BC Doric Temples. The archaeological site of Segesta is one of the most valuable historic sites in Sicily. A center from ancient origins, the historical rival of Selinunte is located in the western part of the island, surrounded by a green and quiet countryside about 40 km from Trapani. The temple of Segesta, solemnly placed on a hill at the foot of Mount Barbaro, is certainly among the most exciting examples of Greek architecture. Completely isolated from the urban world, its white columns stand out among the green of the landscape. There is a beautifully preserved temple, harmonious in structure, and the most complete that has lasted to our days, as well as the theater, located in the scenic location on Mount Barbaro, approximately 400 meters high. Its construction dates back to the late fifth century BC, during the alliance with Athens. There are a total of 36 columns, not partly scalanated to avoid possible optical illusions (a technique also used in the Parthenon in Athens). The origins of Segesta are ancient enough to merge with the myth of Troy; Legend has it that the foundation of Segesta was the work of Aeneas.

What we do know, is that the center was of primary importance to the population of the Elimi, whose ancestry comes from the east and later merged with the local population.

Strongly influenced by Greek culture, it soon came into conflict with Selinus, marking in fact its own destiny: after the first clashes came in the sixth century BC, Segesta became the scale tipper for the fate of western Sicily.



Tempio di Segesta

Contrada Barbaro, Segesta, Calatafimi, Sicilia, IT



Erice - Private guided tour

After the visit of Segesta you will reach **Erice**.

Erice is a corner of paradise at the top of a mountain where a magical panorama offers itself to the visitors. Both in winter and in summer, Erice gives away some special views of its land but through two versions, based on the weather of the season.

Erice is located in the west coast of Sicily, half an hour by car from Trapani, perched 751 m high on the mountain overlooking the sea. The history tells about many peoples who settled in Erice thanks to its altitude where it is easier to defense oneself but still close to the sea to exploit the maritime navigation. So that's the reason why Erice is full of ramparts and ancient walls useful to protect the town and nowadays they became important to feature the landscape. Tourists who visit Erice are enchanted by its atmosphere because, as already said at the top, this town is able to offer two different magical view: immersed in the fog during winter, illuminated by the sun during summer. The fog makes Erice something of never happen, like a ghost town detached from the rest of the world, while in summer, thanks to the sunlight, you will be able to appriceted better its beauties but without the medieval atmosphere of the winter. Anyway, Erice is always something of special, a unique town you have to find out during your holiday in Sicily!



Erice

Erice, Sicilia, IT, 91016

August 4 - Day 4 Trapani



Trapani - Bike tour at the Oriented Reserve of Salt pans of Trapani and Paceco

Today you will enjoy an amazing bike tour. At the gates of Trapani one of the most famous protected areas in Europe extends: the **Oriented Reserve of Salt pans of Trapani and Paceco**. A 40-minute bike ride, interspersed with a couple of stops in the various points of interest.

During the first stops, the guide will explain the operation and difference of the windmills, stopping to admire a mill over 400 years old.

You will come to the Salt Museum of Nubia, where you can see and discover the salt extraction and processing techniques that have always characterized this land.



Centro visite Riserva Naturale Orientata Saline di Trapani e Paceco - Mulino Maria Stella

Trapani, Sicily, IT, 91100



Trapani area - Optional tour (not included)

Optional tour: This morning you will meet your personal guide at the hotel reception and start an half day city tour. The city of salt and wind mills, **Trapani** is located in the northwestern part of Sicily. An ancient city and one of the most important, many times, over the centuries, in the fate of Sicily, Trapani boasts its old town, great religious events, its proximity to important cultural sites, and beautiful seaside resorts and its cuisine. **The historic center** of Trapani is elegant and full of interest things to see. The main street is Corso Vittorio Emanuele, an elegant pedestrian area, along which you can admire the Cathedral and the Senatorial Palace. Another main street is Viale Regina Margherita, near which lies the garden, a very relaxing place to enjoy a carefree stroll. **The Cathedral of Trapani**, dedicated to St. Lawrence, has an elegant baroque façade and architectural features of different styles. The church, located in Corso Vittorio Emanuele, was in fact built in 1635 on an existing fourteenth century building and massively changed later: the bell tower, domes and the side chapels were completed in 1743.

Optional tour: Visit an oil olive mill in the south of Trapani. The farm is located in the center of a vast olive grove that stretches between the slopes of Mount Erice and the Stagnone lagoon, where the island of Mozia is located, in the province of Trapani, at the extreme western tip of Sicily. Enjoy an oil tasting.

Optional tour: Visit Scopello. It is a small but charming seaside village, it is the southern gate of the Zingaro Nature Reserve about 40 kilometers from Trapani. The town is organized around the central square, Piazza Nettuno, near which is the famous farmhouse, dating back to the eighteenth century. According to some, the beauty of the place was captured by Homer, who set it as the final stage prior to the return of **Ulysses** to Ithaca: the Island of the Phaeacians would be just the bay of Scopello.

Optional tour: Visit Zingaro Natural Reserve. The wild beauty of the Zingaro Nature Reserve extends over 1600 hectares, with 7 kilometers of unspoiled coast, a scenario of extraordinary charm on the western side of Sicily. Located between San Vito Lo Capo and Scopello, along a marvelous coast, behind it opens a hilly territory in which more than 650 plant species typical of the Mediterranean maquis are located. The Reserve also constitutes the ideal habitat for hawks and eagles, which come to reproduce.

It is possible to visit the Reserve through several paths, some simpler, others a little more busy, so don't forget your hat and bottle of fresh water. The Zingaro Reserve, established in 1980, was the first Nature Reserve to protect the Sicilian territory.

August 5 - Day 5 Trapani - Marsala - Agrigento



Private transfer - Mercedes Class V

Transfer from Trapani to the Hotel in Agrigento with a stop in Marsala. Pick up at the hotel.



Marsala - Wine experience

Today you will travel along the "*Via del Sale*" (salt way) toward Marsala, stopping to admire the windmills on the seaside. On the way you will also stop in **Marsala** where you will visit a winery and cellars to learn more about the production of Marsala wine. You will enjoy a guided tour and taste this famous local wine. **The Marsala is the oldest Italian DOC wine**, with an average alcohol content of about 18 degrees. The aromatic and sugary richness of the grapes of Marsala is born from the method of growing them in a 'sapling' style, a very ancient method, dating back to the culture of vine itself. **Enjoy your tasting!**



Marsala

Marsala, Sicily, IT, 91025



Agrigento - Valley of the Temples by night (optional tour not included)

The archaeological and landscape park of the **Valley of the Temples** is one of the most representative sites of classical Greek civilization. The temples are illuminated every night year round at nightfall. In the summer season (schedule changes every year), the archaeological park stays open late for evening and night visits. You will enjoy the summer night cool, observe the changing colors of the temples sandstone- between twilight and nightfall- and finally admire them lit up by lights.



Valley of the Temples

Agrigento, Sicily, IT, 92100
0922 621657

August 6 - Day 6 Agrigento - Syracuse



Agrigento - Valley of the Temples guided tour

This morning you will meet your guide to enjoy a **walking tour** to visit the **Valley of the Temples** which is certainly one of the most outstanding sites of the ancient world and one of the highlights of the tour. A string of imposing temples stands on a ridge facing the sea designed both to be visible to sailors and to signify that the gods protected the sacred city from danger. You will explore the Temple of Juno built around 450 BCE, the Temple of Concord c.440 archaic Doric style in 520 BCE, and the Temple of Zeus. The tour takes from 2 to 3 hours walking on a track.



Agrigento

Agrigento, SICILIA, IT, 92100
+39 0922 595923



Private transfer - Mercedes Class V

Transfer from Agrigento to Syracuse. Pick up at the hotel



Agrigento and province - Optional tour (not included)

Optional tour: Walking tour of Agrigento City Center. Today you enjoy a half day private guided tour of the most beautiful quarter of Agrigento city center, the pretty Via Atenea: convent, narrow streets, baroque churches, the beautiful opera house, squares and boulevard. You will explore Via Atenea, which is the place where locals go for shopping or enjoy an ice cream, an espresso or the aperitive.

Optional tour: Gourmet tour. Today you will enjoy an authentic food experience in Agrigento in the best places of the city. It is a mix of a gastronomic and cultural experiences tasting local delicacies in the best pastry shops, wine bars of the city and discovering the beauty of the most beautiful neighborhood of Agrigento. Don't miss the Sicilian cannoli, the pastry shop where you can taste the freshly made cannoli. At the end you will enjoy a glass of local wine and Sicilian finger food.

Optional tour: Valley of the Temples and Kolymbetra Garden. This morning you will meet your personal guide to enjoy a **walking tour** to visit the **Temple's Valley** which is certainly one of the most outstanding sites of the ancient world and one of the highlights of the tour. A string of imposing temples stand on a ridge facing the sea designed both to be visible to sailors and to signify that the gods protected the sacred city from danger. You will explore the Valley of the Temples. Temple of Juno built around 450 BCE, the Temple of Concord c.440 archaic Doric style in 520 BCE, and the Temple of Zeus. The tour takes from 2 to 3 hours walking on a track. After the tour of the Valley of the Temples we will visit the beautiful Garden of Kolymbetra, an old water reservoir dating back to Greek times today a beautiful Sicilian style garden rich in citrus, pomegranate, olives, pistachio, vegetables and many varieties of Mediterranean trees and plants.



Piazza Armerina - Private guided tour (optional tour not included)

On the way to Syracuse you will stop in **Piazza Armerina**.

Piazza Armerina is a splendid art city woven into the heart of Sicily. It boasts a slew of monuments that tell of its glorious past. Meanwhile, the apple of the citizens' eyes is the **Villa Romana del Casale**; originally the property of a powerful Roman family, it dates back to the 4th Century A.D.

This majestic Imperial villa, standing tall in the Province of Enna (perhaps the most "Roman" of places on the Island), is a magnificent rural abode, fascinating, above all, for its captivating mosaics, considered the most beautiful and best-preserved of their kind. The fruits of meticulous labor, these precise yet moving images make for a significant adornment to what remains of this extravagant residence – made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.



Piazza Armerina

Piazza Armerina, Sicilia, IT

August 7 - Day 7 Syracuse



Syracuse - Private Guided tour

This morning you will meet your personal guide at the hotel to enjoy a half day guided walking tour of **Syracuse**.

Syracuse is one of the great ancient capitals of Western civilization. More than any other city, Syracuse (Siracusa) encapsulates **Sicily's timeless beauty**. Ancient Greek ruins rise out of lush citrus orchards, cafe tables spill onto dazzling baroque piazzas, and honey-hued medieval side streets lead down to the sparkling blue sea. It's difficult to imagine now, but in its heyday this was the largest city in the ancient world, bigger even than Athens and Corinth. Its 'once upon a time' begins in 734 BC, when Corinthian colonists landed on the island of Ortygia (Ortigia) and founded the settlement, setting up the mainland city four years later. Almost three millennia later, the ruins of that then-new city constitute the Parco Archeologico della Neapolis, one of Sicily's greatest archaeological sites. Across the water from the mainland, Ortygia remains Syracuse's most beautiful corner, a deeply atmospheric quarter with an ever-growing legion of fans enamoured with its beautiful streetscapes and attractive dining, drinking and shopping options. The birthplace of Archimedes, Syracuse attracted one of the several Baroque Hill towns which are listed as **UNESCO World Heritage** sites and located at the foot of the Iblean Mountains.



Siracusa



Half day Mercedes Class V

Half day. Pick up at the hotel



Noto area - Avola Wine experience

In the afternoon you will reach a winery in Noto area where an expert will explain all secrets about the local famous wine: the **Nero d'Avola**.

Nero d'Avola grape variety, as the prince of Sicilian viticulture with its own different nuances, reveals its personality noble and ductile at the same time. A wine tasting based on different Nero d'Avola wines is followed by a tasty food-wine pairing experience of Sicilian delicacies.

You will enjoy visit of the vineyards and the winery and guided tasting.

August 8 - Day 8 Syracuse - Ragusa - Modica - Syracuse



Full day Mercedes Class V

Full day. Pick up at the hotel



Ragusa - Private guided tour

Today your personal driver will escort you to Ragusa to enjoy a private guided tour.

Ragusa, classified as **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2002, is one of the most important cities of arts in Italy due to its varied artistic and archeological riches, a legacy of its history which dates back several thousand years. Ragusa was originally built on a small steep-sided hill with deep valleys on three sides. After the earthquake of 1693, which destroyed many of south-eastern Sicily's buildings, it was decided to rebuild Ragusa on higher, more level ground nearby.

So, nowadays, Ragusa has two parts: **Ibla** (or Ragusa Ibla), the older nucleus on its hilltop, and **Ragusa Superiore**, the more modern upper town.

Charming combination of old and new, the new city with a modern layout and Ragusa Ibla that preserves its atmosphere of picturesque medieval village on its ruins, but rebuilt in **Sicilian Baroque** style with a lot of very elegant buildings. Dry walls, golden fields of grains, farms, olive and carob trees, sandy beaches enrich the landscape, historic result of different cultures from Greece to the Liberty. Unique literary setting, now Ragusa is also one of the principal filming locations in Sicily.

Ragusa invites you to discover high quality products through **flavours and aromas**, perfumes and colours, in a vertiginous involvement of all senses.



Province of Ragusa

Sicily, IT



Modica - Chocolate experience with tasting

After the guided tour of Modica, you will visit **the oldest chocolate factory**. They have been producing chocolate for six generations and for more than 150 years they have also handed down sweets, nougats of the Modican and Sicilian tradition, mostly of Arab or Spanish origin. In 2008 it was included by Eurispes in the list of 100 Italian excellences.

During the tour in Fattojo you will witness the entire chocolate processing cycle.

It will show how the Bean to Bar tablet is produced - a tablet that is produced from the bean - and the "typing" phase - the moment in which the tablet is created.

The tour is followed by a tasting that includes different types of products, in addition to chocolate.

August 9 - Day 9 Syracuse - Mt Etna - Taormina



Private transfer - Mercedes Class V

Transfer from Syracuse to Taormina with a stop in Mt. Etna. Pick up at the hotel.



Mt. Etna: Wine tasting in a typical Agriturismo

Before reaching the hotel in Taormina, you will stop on Mount Etna for an excursion. Then you will stop in a typical *Agriturismo* to taste local **wine and food**. After lunch you will reach **Taormina**, an elegant town situated at the foot of Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe.



Etna



Taormina - Private guided tour

In the afternoon you will meet your personal guide at the hotel lobby to have a walking tour around Taormina. From the **Greek theatre**, you will be able to see a blend of architectural influences of old Greek, Roman and Etna. Look out over the magnificent Bay of Naxos and Mt Etna.

Don't miss the walk along the main street of **Corso Umberto**, an excellent place to visit interesting boutiques.



Taormina



Taormina - Optional tour (not included)

Optional tour: this morning your personal driver will pick you up at the hotel lobby to participate in a **cooking class** to learn how to prepare Sicilian dishes. In a pasta making class they will show you how to prepare handmade pasta. Lunch included.

Optional tour: weather conditions permitting, you will reach a height of 1800 meters on the **Volcano Etna by Jeep**, where you will enjoy a fantastic panorama of the Ionic Sea.

Optional tour: wine taste in the upcoming wine region of the Etna mountain.

Optional tour: this morning you will meet your personal driver to reach the pier to enjoy a half day of **private boat** with a professional English speaking skipper. You will admire Naxos Bay, Day Cave, Capo Taormina, Isola Bella, Blue Cave, Mazzarò Bay, Siren Bay, Capo Sant' Alessio

August 10 - Day 10 Taormina - Departure



Private transfer - Mercedes class V

Transfer from the hotel in Taormina to Catania airport to catch your flight back home. Pick up at the hotel.

Information & Documents



Services included in the itinerary:

- **Hotels as in the itinerary with breakfast included. N.1 Double room. City tax not included.**
- **Private Mercedes Class V, NCC Professional English speaking driver, free internet wifi on board.**

Day 1) Transfer from the airport to the hotel

Day 2) Full day

Day 3) Full day

Day 4) No service

Day 5) Transfer from Trapani to Agrigento with a stop in Marsala

Day 6) Half day

Day 7) Full day

Day 8) Full day

Day 9) Transfer from Syracuse to Taormina with a stop on Mt. Etna

Day 10) Transfer from the hotel to Catania airport

- **Professional guides, English speaking**

Day 1) Half day

Day 2) No service

Day 3) Full day

Day 4) Half day

Day 5) Half day

Day 6) Half day

Day 7) Half day

Day 8) Half day

Day 9) Half day

Day 10) No service



Other services included in the itinerary:

- Entry tickets for the museums and other attractions and services as in the itinerary. No queue, VIP access when available, all tax.

- All tax, VAT (city tax not included)
- 24 hours phone assistance in English
- Bike tour in Trapani
- Wine tasting in Marsala
- Chocolate experience in Modica
- Avola wine experience
- Lunch at tipycal Agriturismo on Mt. Etna



Payment Terms

Payment details: 10% in advance, at the booking. The difference is paid one month before the departure.

For the payment you can make a bank money transfer to:

Bank:

Unicredit - Filiale di Sora-

Via Napoli

03039 Sora FR

Italy

IBAN: IT 09 Q 02008 74601 000103919480

BIC/SWIFT: UNCRITM1527

Account num: 000103919480

Account name: GIVI SRL

Via Chiesa nuova 1

03039 Sora FR

Italy

You can also pay by credit card.

Visa and Mastercard +1,5% fee

American Express + 3% fee



Cancellation Policy

10% of the total amount in advance, at the booking. The difference is paid 30 days before your arrival.

Italy Luxury Travel requires 10% non-refundable deposit to secure the booking.

Travelers may cancel or postpone the trip — for any reason — up to 30 days prior to their trip start date and we offer full credit towards future travel with Italy Luxury Travel. Travelers can postpone their travel dates to any date, within 18 months of original travel date, without penalty

Any cancellation made between 30 days to 15 days prior to trip will qualify for a 50% refund.

No refund will be issued for cancellations within 15 days of departure.

All tickets and hotels are non-refundable