

A scenic view of a Sicilian town, likely Agrigento, featuring ancient ruins in the foreground and a mountain in the background. The image is a promotional graphic for a cultural adventure.

Sicily

CULTURAL ADVENTURE

STRADA *Toscana*

ITINERARY

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DAY 1 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8: *Palermo* (1 night)

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Arrival at hotel, walking tour Palermo, aperitivo and welcome dinner
- **MEALS:** Dinner

In the afternoon we meet up with our exceptional local guide in the hotel lobby for a fascinating walking tour in the heart of baroque Palermo, including a special visit inside a private palazzo. This evening we enjoy a special welcome aperitivo and dinner at an authentic, local restaurant, featuring a delectable menu and regional wine.

DAY 2 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 9: *Monreale, San Leone* (1 night)

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Scala dei Turchi
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

This morning, after breakfast, we make a stop just outside Palermo at Monreale for a visit inside the spectacular cathedral with its incredible byzantine mosaics. After lunch here on your own, we're off to Agrigento and our characteristic accommodations overlooking ancient temples. After check in, we're off to explore nearby Porto Empedocle and the Scale dei Turchi, followed by sunset aperitivo and dinner from our boutique hotel, with the temples lit up in the distance. Spectacular!

DAY 3 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10: *Valley of the Temples, Siracusa* (2 nights)

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Valley of the Temples, walking tour Ortigia
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning, after breakfast, we're in for an exciting morning as we join our local guide at the Valley of the Temples for a private guided tour of this incredible site. After visiting the adjacent archeological museum, we'll make a lunch stop starting our journey to Siracusa. Upon arrival, you'll have time to check in and relax before we meet up for a fascinating walking tour in the historic center of this fascinating, historic city.

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11: *Siracusa*

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Shopping, Coastal boat ride
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we're off to visit the ancient ruins of Siracusa, with our expert guide, followed by free time for shopping and exploring, before we meet up for a

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light lunch together. This afternoon you're in for a treat as take a scenic boat ride along the spectacular coast, where you'll view seaside villages and castle towers from the sea, along with stunning views of Mt. Etna. This evening we'll enjoy a delightful aperitivo on a panoramic terrace in the heart of Siracusa, followed by dinner on your own.

DAY 5 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12: *Bronte, Taormina* (2 nights)

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Pistachio tasting in Bronte, seaside aperitivo
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning, after breakfast, our driver will be transporting us to the village of Bronte, along the slopes of Mt. Etna and a region of Sicilia that is unlike any other. This area is famous for its exceptional pistachios, so we head to a pistachio farm for a tour of its lush groves, followed by a delectable lunch, featuring a variety of dishes made with pistachios. Afterwards, we continue to our chic, seaside accommodations in Taormina, where you can take in stunning views of the sea, from our private beach, followed by aperitivo and dinner.

DAY 6 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13: *Taormina*

- **HIGHLIGHTS:** Walking tour Taormina, visit to the ruins of Siracusa
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

This morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we'll make our way by scenic funicular to Taormina, on its breathtaking bluff, overlooking the sea. After a tour of the fascinating Roman amphitheater, you'll have free time to explore and shop your way through this charming village. Lunch is on your own, followed by a relaxing afternoon on our private beach. This evening we'll enjoy a special aperitivo and farewell dinner together.

DAY 7 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14: *Departure*

Group transport to Catania Airport



MEALS: From breakfast to dinner, the foods are Sicily vibrantly reflect the culture of Italy's southern-most region. Our insider connections will introduce you to delectable authentic dishes, including homemade arancini, pasta alla Norma - made with delicious, fresh tomatoes - savory caponata and brioche con gelato. Plus all dinners are served with excellent local wines that pair perfectly with hand-selected menus.

4-STAR & 5-STAR ACCOMMODATIONS

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GRAND HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA - PALERMO

We begin our adventure with a luxurious night's stay at the Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa in the historic center of Palermo. Here you'll explore the Baroque avenues and dine on some of Sicily's finest cuisine. The hotel is also a convenient reach from the Palermo Airport.



HOTEL BAGLIO DELLA LUNA - AGRIGENTO

Our next night brings us to Agrigento and Hotel Baglio della Luna, complete with its 13th century guard tower, and one of few accommodations with a view of the Valley of the Temples. From here we'll explore a seaside village, dine on regional specialties and enjoy sunset aperitivo overlooking the magnificent Greek temples.



BOUTIQUE HOTEL CAPORTIGIA - SIRACUSA

The next two nights bring us to 5-star Caportigia, a small gem, situated in historic structure that overlooks the Siracusa forum, in the very heart of Siracusa. From here, we'll walk to ancient sites and enjoy stunning views of the sea - all just steps away.



LA PLAGES RESORT - TAORMINA

Our final two nights bring us to 5-star La Plage Resort in Taormina, situated on the Isola Bella Nature Reserve. From this spectacular, seaside property, with its shady gardens and private beach, we'll explore and shop the avenues of charming Taormina, and enjoy sunset aperitivo on the beach.

TRIP DETAILS

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DATES:

October 8-14, 2023

TRIP PRICE:

- Double Occupancy: **\$4,195 USD per person**
- Single Occupancy **\$4,195 USD per person + \$850 USD single supplement**

INCLUSIONS:

- 7 days/6 nights at hand-selected, 4-5 star accommodations
- Private group transportation to Catania Airport on departure day
- Private ground transportation for all transfers and trip excursions
- All breakfasts
- 3 Lunches
- 5 Dinners with regional wines
- Tour of the Valley of the Temples
- Private, coastal boat tour
- Tour of pistachio farm and tasting
- Visits to historic ruins
- Free time for shopping and exploring
- Invigorating, guided walks
- Accompaniment throughout the itinerary by our own private, local guide
- Exclusive visits, tours and experiences
- Not included: Airfare, meals, alcoholic drinks, buses, trains or boat transportation outside of that which is specifically listed in the trip package, gratuities for hotel staff, drivers and guides

The Unexpected is Part of the Journey: At Strada Toscana we weave amazing, authentic experiences into every trip, but sometimes unexpected things come up. If a site has an unscheduled closing, we improvise to include something equally as wonderful and interesting. The quality of the trip is never at risk, as our team is committed to excellence, along with our vast, local, Italian connections.

WALKING AND LUGGAGE:

Walking is an integral part of this tour. You can expect to walk on uneven cobblestones, up steep hillsides, and on steps, steps and more steps. This is not normal street walking! You must also be prepared to handle your own luggage - including up stairs in hotels, since some do not have elevators. We advise that you do not book this tour if you have a physical or health-related condition, including dependence on a cane, walker or wheelchair, that impedes your ability to walk freely and safely - especially when handling luggage.

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