

Bucketeer May 2020 Tour of Sicily

Escorted by Tony & Nancy Cassano, Go Bucket List Travel



An escorted tour of Sicily - Palermo to Taormina

Total of 10 days /9 nights in Sicily.

Come with us: Tony and Nancy Cassano of Go Bucket List Travel escort up to five international tours annually. For 2020 Tony and Nancy have teamed up with Globus Journeys to introduce you to the wonderful culture, gastronomy and history of Sicily. This Globus tour is not yet open to the public, but we have locked in 2019 pricing less an extra discount for our Bucketeers and other special “Bucket of Benefits” amenities on the 5/2/20 departure date.

Most Sicily tours simply dash between Palermo and Taormina, but we will take a relaxing 9 day pace around the island, taking in the sites off the beaten path of most tours. We’ll include a full day exploring the ancient Greek “Valley of the Temples” at Agrigento and the Roman villa in Armenia and Greek ruins of Syracuse, along with many other UNESCO heritage sites. Of course, we’ll take you Mt Etna and find time for amazing gelato, chocolates and cannoli.

Come with us to explore enchanting mountaintop villages and vibrant city markets, experience Sicilian wines at the vineyards and marvel at architecture with the flavor of Byzantine, Arab, Gothic and Norman traditions. Enjoy meeting the locals and get to understand their pace of life, foods and culture.

Visit: Palermo-Erice-Matya-Marsala-Sciacca-Agrigento-Villa Romana del Casale-Caltagirone-Ragusa-Modica-Noto-Syracuse-Catania-Savoca-Mt Etna-Taormina

Overnight: Palermo [2]-Marsala [1]-Agrigento[1]-Ragusa[2]-Syracuse[1]-Taormina[2]

Meals included: Breakfast [9], Lunch [1], Dinner [6]

Program Per Person Cost:

Escorted Tour: \$2,399 p/p, dbl occ

Single Room Supplement: \$490

\$2,258 p/p, dbl occ when you book by December 31, 2018



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ITINERARY

SATURDAY – MAY 2 – TOUR DAY 1

GATHER IN PALERMO

Today we fly in from around Europe and the USA to gather for our Sicily tour.

Hotel: Central Palace Hotel Frederico II; Meals: Dinner

SUNDAY – MAY 3 – TOUR DAY 2

PALERMO

We'll discover the capital of Sicily with a Local Guide and enjoy a panoramic view of the Conca d'Oro. Visit the 12th-century Norman cathedral in Monreale, famous for its 50,000 square feet of precious byzantine mosaics. Back in Palermo, we'll see the major sites like the ornate Piazza Bellini, Capo Market, the baroque Church of Immacolata, and visit the magnificent Cathedral. We'll have lunch with Sicilian specialties like panelle (chickpea fritters), arancini (stuffed rice balls), and cannoli (fried pastry rolls with sweet ricotta cheese).

Hotel: Central Palace Hotel Frederico II; Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

MONDAY – MAY 4 – TOUR DAY 3

PALERMO-ERICE-MOTYA-MARSALA AREA

We say goodbye to Palermo and head west today for an orientation of the hilltop town of Erice, ending at the well-known Pasticceria Maria Grammatico to savor the traditional almond biscuits and Marsala wine. Next, we'll visit a traditional salt mill. Then, the highlight of the day, a relaxing boat ride to the island of Motya for a perfect view of the lagoon and visit to the museum. Later, dinner with local specialties and couscous will be served.

Hotel: Hotel Giardino di Costanza Resort; Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

TUESDAY – MAY 5 - TOUR DAY 4

MARSALA AREA-SCIACCA-AGRIGENTO

In Sciacca, we may run into a distant Cassano cousin. Otherwise, take pictures from the panoramic viewpoint over the Straits of Malta before we continue to Agrigento. Here, our Local Guide will take us for a spectacular walk through the magnificent "Valley of the Temples." You'll be awed by the gigantic yet graceful Greek structures that miraculously survived 24 centuries.

Hotel: Grand Hotel Mose; Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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WEDNESDAY – MAY 6 - TOUR DAY 5

AGRIGENTO-PIAZZA ARMERINA-CALTAGIRONE-RAGUSA

This morning we'll drive to Piazza Armerina for our guided visit of the Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire the largest and most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world, including the famous "Bikini Girls," discovered in 1960. Before arriving in Ragusa, we'll stop in Caltagirone and see the mosaic staircase of the Santa Maria del Monte, covered with different tiles in a beautiful pattern.

Hotel: Poggio Del Sole Resort; Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

THURSDAY – MAY 7 - TOUR DAY 6

RAGUSA AND EXCURSION TO MODICA

After breakfast we'll walk through Ragusa's oldest district, the IBLA, where we'll marvel at the UNESCO World Heritage Site with its beautiful palaces and churches. Then it's the nearby Giardini Iblei, the pleasant public gardens laid out in the 19th century and then the iconic baroque St George Cathedral. Enjoy time on your own to further explore or maybe relax at an outdoor café! In the late afternoon we'll reassemble to travel to nearby Modica with its steeply stacked medieval center and spectacular baroque churches, but today we're on the hunt for chocolate! Our goal is to visit the famous Dolceria Bonajuto, Sicily's oldest chocolate factory, for a tasting. Back in Ragusa we'll end the day with a dinner at a local restaurant.

Hotel: Poggio Del Sole Resort; Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

FRIDAY – MAY 8 - TOUR DAY 7

RAGUSA-NOTO-SYRACUSE

The baroque town of Noto is renowned for its beautiful historic center that was almost entirely rebuilt in the early 18th century following the 1693 earthquake. We'll meet our local guide for a walking tour along Corso Vittorio Emanuele to admire the magnificent architecture, and visit San Nicolo Cathedral. Then, we'll continue to Syracuse for a guided visit of the 5th century BC sparkling-white Greek Theater, the Garden of Paradise, the Ear of Dionysus, the Altar of Hieron II, the Roman Amphitheater, and the Cordmakers' Cave. Tonight, you may wish to join an optional excursion or dinner with your new Bucketeer friends.

Hotel: Mercure Siracusa Prometeo; Meals: Breakfast

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SATURDAY – MAY 9 - TOUR DAY 8

SYRACUSE-CATANIA-SAVOCA-TAORMINA RIVIERA

In Catania, we'll visit the magnificent St. Agata Cathedral – St Agata is the Patron Saint of Sicily - and spend some time on Piazza del Duomo and Via Etna for coffee and cannoli. Then, we'll head north to the village of Savoca to see the Church of Santa Lucia, made famous as a location for Michael Corleone's wedding in the movie The Godfather. Be sure to enjoy a granita and brioche at Bar Vitelli. Later, arrive at our seaside resort hotel on the stunning Taormina Riviera.

Hotel: Hilton Giardini Naxos; Meals: Breakfast

SUNDAY – MAY 10 - TOUR DAY 9

MOUNT ETNA-TAORMINA RIVIERA

In the morning we're off to Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. Later, in hilltop Taormina, we'll visit the ancient Greek Theater, dating back to the 3rd century BC. This evening, a farewell dinner will be served at restaurant Villa Antonio, an excellent way to say arrivederci Sicilia!

Hotel: Hilton Giardini Naxos; Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SUNDAY – MAY 11 – TOUR DAY 10

HEADING OUT

Our tour ends this morning with breakfast. We'll arrange transfers for you to the Catania Airport for your trip back to the USA or elsewhere in Europe, or you can extend your stay here in Taormina Riviera. Thank you for joining us!