

Sicily

A Mediterranean Jewel
For All Seasons and All Reasons



10 Day Visit to Mediterranean Paul's Island

- 2 Centre Holiday - 3 Nights by TAORMINA 5 Nights in CEFALÙ



“And landing at Syracuse (Sicily), we tarried there three days. And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli.”

(Acts 28: 12-13)

The Itinerary

Day 1 -

FLIGHT DEPARTURE

U.S. flight departures to Sicily.

Day 2

SICILY ARRIVAL

On arrival at Catania Airport, transfer by private coach to the hotel for dinner and room allocation.

Dinner & Overnight
in TAORMINA AREA

Mount Etna



Day 3

TAORMINA & ETNA

The Morning:

Mount Etna -

Depart after breakfast by coach and ascend the 1800 metres to Etna's summit - the highest active volcano in Europe.

Time to view volcanic craters and learn the history of the mountain.
Lunch break on the mountain.



The Afternoon:

Taormina -

Return to the town for an orientation and visit to the Greek Theatre - Sicily's 2nd most important Classical Theatre.

Then time for a stroll through the quaint narrow streets.

Dinner & Overnight in

TAORMINA AREA



Taormina

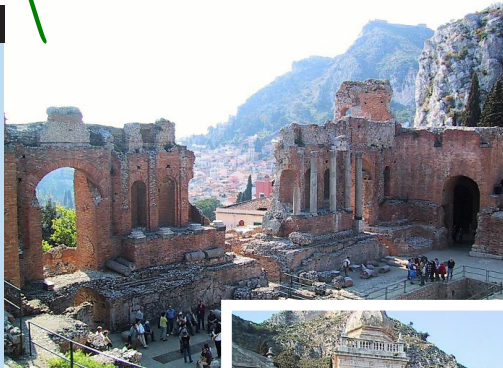
TAORMINA FACT FILE

Located in the province of Catania and situated in the eastern part of Sicily, on the shore of the Ionian Sea, it offers a wide variety of panoramas.

The municipality has 10,465 inhabitants and population density of 795 inhabitants per square kilometre.

It rises on a hilly area and is 206 metres above sea-level.

Taormina is one of the chief towns of Sicilian tourism. The pretty town bases its production upon vegetables, fruit and also upon fresh fish. Local handicraft is based upon wood, iron works and handmade embroideries.



Alcantara - Natures Art

Day 4

REGIONS OF TAORMINA

A day by coach and train:

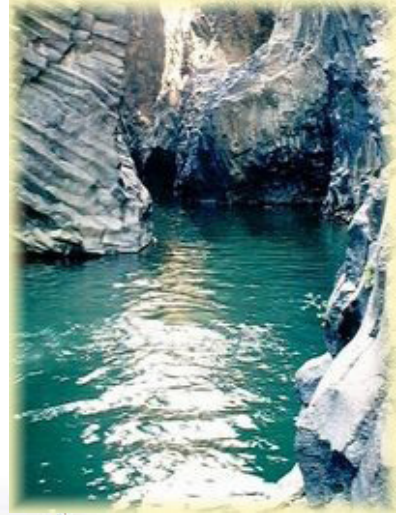
The Gorges of Alcantara -

A fascinating journey through the deep gorges created by the eruptions of the crater Mojo in the north of Etna with lava flows to the sea. See beautiful rock formations and water pools. The course of the lava river is followed by a water-course which cuts a channel through two high walls of basalt characterised by stunning prismatic shapes.

Randazzo -

A visit to this Medieval City by local train winding up into the mountain.

Situated over an intermediate area between the Alcàntara and Simeto rivers.



Randazzo is outstanding for its vineyards, olives, walnuts, almonds, and chestnuts. Cattle breeding, sheep farms, and goat farms are flourishing because of the vast pasture areas. Enjoy a stroll through the town to see some of its impressive Gothic churches. Dinner & Overnight in TAORMINA AREA

Alcantara

RANDAZZO FACT FILE

The town was founded in Byzantine times in a territory already settled by the Sicels, and it assumed considerable importance in the 13th and 14th C. It was the main stronghold of Peter of Aragon during the War of the Sicilian Vespers, and in 1305 Frederick II of Aragon chose it as his summer residence. It was successively populated by Greek, Latin and Lombard immigrants, who until the 16th C. spoke three distinct dialects (and until 1916 had three different cathedrals in three separate quarters).

Randazzo - the Three Cathedral Town



Day 5

CENTRAL & NORTH COAST

By coach through lush fertile rural regions to:

Piazza Armerina -

Stop to see the famous "Villa del Casale" which covers some 3500 square metres and once was Maximilian Hercules' hunting house. He was Diocletian's colleague and both managed the Roman Empire. The villa is extraordinary and its impressive mosaic floors give insight to ancient Roman lifestyle on the Island.

Valley of the Temples -

The best site in Sicily for a display of Greek civilisation and influence on the Island.

A host of temples including those of Juno, Concord, Hercules, Zeus, Castor and Pollux.

Cefalù -

Continue to the Hotel for room allocation and evening meal.

Dinner & Overnight
in CEFALÙ

Agrigento



Day 6
CEFALÙ & LEISURE

Spend part of the day visiting:

Cefalù -
By coach to Rocca, the hilltop 5th century BC Temple of Diana with its splendid views overlooking the town.

This gracious little fishing town stretching towards the Gulf of Termini Immerse, with its considerable artistic-historic heritage, always enchants the visitor. Dominated by its majestic Cathedral and prominent rock, for many the rustic-roofed houses, narrow winding streets, and gentle lapping waves of the harbour, make time stand still. Perhaps, Sicily's best hide-a-way.

Then into the town itself for a walking tour of the centre, including visits to the famous Norman Cathedral, museum and other points of interest.

Leisure -

Either remain in the town and browse round the shops, or return to the hotel by coach to relax.

Dinner & Overnight in

CEFALÙ

Cefalù



PALERMO FACT FILE

Encircled by mountains and the sea, is a city steeped in history. The Phoenicians arrived in the 8th century BC and set up a trading station. The Phoenicians arrived in the 8th century BC and set up a trading station. Palermo later became part of the Byzantine Empire, then the Arabs arrived in 831 AD, the Normans in 1072 AD, followed by the Spanish, and then the Turks, British and finally, the Italians, each nation and culture leaving its distinctive mark on the architecture and language of the inhabitants.

Day 7
PALERMO

The best part of the day visiting:

Monreale Duomo - A visit to this stunning Cathedral built from 1174 featuring a refined mixture of architectural styles of Islamic, Byzantine and Romanesque with most impressive wall art depicting biblical scenes.

Palatine Chapel - Located in the Palazzo Reale (Royal Palace), residence of Sicilian Parliament.

Palermo Cathedral - 12th century showing numerous masterpieces of local and Sicilian skill.

Orientation -

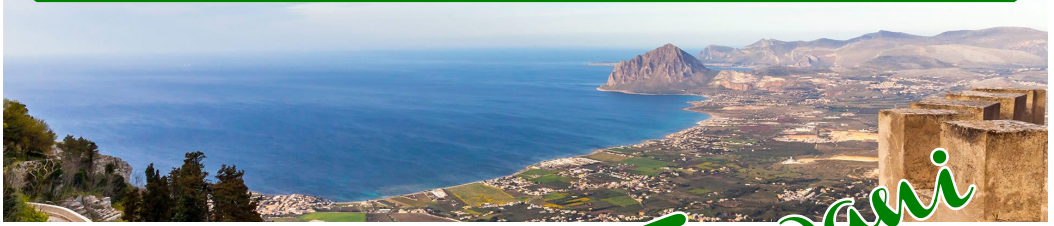
By coach round the main areas of the city and port area with time for a stroll and to browse.

Dinner & Overnight in CEFALU



Palermo





Day 8

THE NORTH WEST COAST

West by coach stopping at:

Erice -

Situated around 750m above sea level on Mount Erice, the town offers impressive views of the north-western coast. The town has two castles - one from Saracen times and one from Norman times. Stroll on the cobbled streets and by the ancient Phoenician walls and take the cable car (funivia) down to Trapani.

Trapani -

A stroll through this Baroque medieval town visiting:

The Cathedral built in 1421, but restored to the current appearance in the 18th century - it includes an Annunciation attributed to Anthony van Dyck.

The **Church of Sant'Agostino** (14th century), with the splendid rose-window.

The magnificent **Basilica-Sanctuary of Maria Santissima Annunziata** (also called "Madonna di Trapani") originally built 1315-1332 and rebuilt in 1760. It houses a marble statue of the Madonna of Trapani, which might be the work of Nino Pisano.

Marsala -

A visit to the **Stagnone Lagoon** - a marine area with salt ponds.

The archaeological site of **Motya**, an ancient Phoenician town, lies on an island about one kilometre from the mainland of Sicily, to which it was joined by an artificial causeway allowing chariots with large wheels to reach the town.

Marsala Cathedral (17th century) dedicated to Saint Thomas of Canterbury with an organ of some 4,317 pipes.

Marsala wine - opportunity to sample this Sicilian renowned produce.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

Dinner & Overnight

in **CEFALÙ**



Day 9

PALERMO/LEISURE

The Morning:

Palermo -

Catacombs of the Capuchins

The Catacombs contain around 8000 mummies that line the walls. The bodies were dehydrated on the racks of ceramic pipes in the catacombs and sometimes later washed with vinegar. Some of the bodies were embalmed and others enclosed in sealed glass cabinets. Monks were preserved with their everyday clothing and sometimes with ropes they had worn as a penance.

Markets & Shops

Some leisure time to perhaps browse and shop or visit places of personal interest.

The Afternoon:

Time to relax at the hotel and enjoy its facilities.

Day 10

RETURN FLIGHT

To Palermo airport for the return flight to the U.S.





Mount Etna, Elevation: 3,329 m (10,922 ft)