



Sicilian Heritage Tour: Palermo to Taormina

11 days

Spectacular landscapes, enduring culture, mouthwatering flavors—experience the best of Sicily on this one-of-a-kind trip, created in collaboration with Ancestry®. You'll journey from Palermo to Syracuse and Taormina, uncovering pieces of your genealogy along the way. As you gain new perspective on the place your ancestors came from, the country just might start to feel like home to you, too.



Your tour package includes

AncestryDNA® kit
Pre-trip family history review with AncestryProGenealogists®
9 nights in handpicked hotels
9 breakfasts
5 dinners with beer or wine
5 guided sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Genealogist from AncestryProGenealogists®
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Special AncestryProGenealogists® sessions
Cappella Palatina
Monreale Cathedral
Agrigento's Greek ruins
Piazza Armerina
Syracuse Cathedral
Views of Mount Etna
Taormina's Greek theater

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved roads, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

14–28

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11 days

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Palermo today.

Palermo → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Palermo

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director, genealogist from AncestryProGenealogists®, and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Palermo & Monreale

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, get an introduction to Sicilian genealogy and the ways you will be tracing your heritage with your genealogist from AncestryProGenealogists®.

Then, embark on a guided tour of the bayside city of Palermo and the hilltop town of Monreale.

- Discover the city's Baroque architecture as you pass the Quattro Canti piazza in the historic center
- Step inside the Cappella Palatina to see the stunning mosaics and artwork
- Head to nearby Monreale and enter Monreale Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site that combines Norman, Arab, and Byzantine architectural styles

Day 4: Free day in Palermo

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Palermo or add an excursion.

+ Tracing Heritage: The Trapani Region

Enna Region → 1 night

Day 5: Enna Region via Agrigento

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel south through the Sicilian countryside, stopping in Agrigento for a guided walking tour of the city's fascinating Greek ruins.

Then, continue on to the Enna region and enjoy an included dinner at an *agriturismo*, or farm stay.

Syracuse → 3 nights

Day 6: Syracuse via Piazza Armerina

Included meals: breakfast

On the way to Syracuse, stop for a guided tour of Piazza Armerina and view the stunning mosaics in Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Syracuse

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Embark on a guided tour of Syracuse, a city known for its rich Greek history.

- Enter the ancient Greek theater, the most complete of its kind still in existence
- Tour the massive Paradise Quarry and gardens, featuring the cave that artist Caravaggio dubbed "The Ear of Dionysius" for its unique acoustics
- Visit the Roman amphitheater, then cross a bridge to the Island of Ortygia to see the Temple of Apollo and Syracuse Cathedral

Sit down for an included dinner featuring local cuisine.

Day 8: Free day in Syracuse

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Syracuse or add an excursion.

+ Traditions of Sicily: Villa Lunch & Noto Village

Taormina Region → 2 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Taormina & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Transfer to Taormina, where a local guide introduces you to this scenic town perched high above the sea.

- Enjoy views of Mount Etna, Taormina Cathedral, and Palazzo Corvaja, seat of the first Sicilian parliament
- Visit the town's 2nd-century Greek theater

This evening, venture into the foothills surrounding Mount Etna for a traditional Sicilian dinner and wine tasting at a local vineyard.

Day 10: Free day in the Taormina Region

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Spend a free day in the Taormina region or add an excursion.

Tonight, your genealogist from

AncestryProGenealogists® shares a summary of all you've learned about Sicilian heritage. Then, say goodbye to your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

+ Mount Etna: Sicily's Volcanic Landscapes

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Catania airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/QSF | 1-800-754-5066

Day 4: Tracing Heritage: The Trapani Region

\$85CAD/\$95CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Venture to the coastal town of Castellammare del Golfo, known for its deep Sicilian-American ties. Pay a visit to the Ethno-Anthropological Museum, where you'll delve into the agricultural history of the region. End your day in the region's capital of Trapani, where many Sicilian-Americans emigrated from. After enjoying free time to explore the city center, return to Palermo for the evening.

Day 8: Traditions of Sicily: Villa Lunch & Noto Village

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (8 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Start off the day in Noto, a quaint city at the foot of the Hyblaean Mountains. As you stroll along Corso Vittorio Emanuele a local guide will give you the lay of the land, highlighting the UNESCO-recognized cathedral and the city's Baroque-style architecture. Next, travel to a rustic villa, Casa Bianca, owned and run by a Sicilian contessa. With its warm climate, open fields, and fertile soil, Sicily is home to some of Italy's finest foods. Today's authentic family-style meal showcases many of the region's delicious and varied flavors. Please note: On some departures, the excursion may depart in the afternoon and include dinner instead of lunch.

Day 10: Mount Etna: Sicily's Volcanic Landscapes

\$129CAD/\$139CAD* (7 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel from Taormina to the base of Mount Etna, Europe's largest and highest active volcano. Here, a local guide will board your bus and you'll ascend up to 5,000 feet, stopping at a scenic vantage point to snap photos and learn about the mountain's long history of eruptions, as well as its native flora and fauna. Continue up to 6,600 feet, where you'll have free time to walk among the volcanic craters and peruse the mountainside shops before sampling local delicacies at an included three-course lunch. Please note: Comfortable shoes and layered clothing are recommended. Temperatures on the mountain are cool in the summer and can be quite chilly the rest of the year.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms