



A Week in Sicily: Palermo, Syracuse & Taormina

9 days | 12 days with Rome extension

Sicily's traditions and cuisine take on a new life as the summer comes to an end and locals take to the streets. From fresh fall harvests and beautiful blue-sky winters to warm spring weather, each season brings a unique reason to visit. Travel to lively Palermo, seaside Syracuse, and charming Taormina to uncover the island's beautiful landscapes and interesting history.



Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Cappella Palatina
- Monreale Cathedral
- Piazza Armerina
- Island of Ortygia
- Syracuse Cathedral
- Taormina's Greek theater
- Views of Mount Etna

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.

Group size

15-38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Palermo today.

Palermo → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Palermo

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your Tour Director and fellow group members at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Palermo & Monreale

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, 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

Spend a free afternoon in Palermo or add an excursion.

+ Cefalù Wine Tasting & Lunch

Syracuse → 2 nights

Day 4: Syracuse via Piazza Armerina

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

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

After, continue on to Syracuse and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Syracuse

Included meals: breakfast

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

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

Enjoy a free afternoon in Syracuse or add an excursion.

+ Baroque City of Noto

Taormina Region → 3 nights

Day 6: Transfer to Taormina & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

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

- Stroll along the city's cobblestone streets to see Taormina Cathedral and Palazzo Corvaja, seat of the first Sicilian parliament
- Visit the town's 2nd-century Greek theater which, on clear days, offers panoramic vistas of Mount Etna

Day 7: Free day in Taormina

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Taormina or add an excursion.

+ Sicilian Cooking Class & Lunch

Day 8: Free day in Taormina

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Taormina or add an excursion. This evening, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.

+ Hidden Sicily: Medieval Savoca & Forza d'Agrò

Flight Home

Day 9: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Catania airport for your flight home or continue on to explore Rome.

+ Rome extension

Have your sights on more art, history, and street life? Rome is sure to deliver. Only in the Italian capital can you sip cappuccino in front of the Pantheon and have an audience with the pope all in one morning. After a flight, admire the highlights during guided sightseeing.

Rome → 3 nights

Day 9: Flight to Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Rome this morning. Enjoy a free evening in Rome or add an excursion.

+ Rome Home-Hosted Dinner

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass by Palatine Hill to see Circus Maximus, the stadium where ancient Romans raced chariots, and the Baths of Caracalla

Spend a free afternoon in Rome or add an excursion.

+ Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

Day 11: Free day in Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Rome or add excursions. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

+ Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the 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/SIS | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Cefalù Wine Tasting & Lunch

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (7 hours, departs in the afternoon, lunch included)

Travel to Cefalù, a seaside jewel on the northern coast of Sicily. Along the way, stop to indulge in a wine tasting paired with a delicious lunch featuring regional cuisine inspired by fresh, seasonal ingredients and learn more about the varietals grown on the vineyard. Continue on a scenic coastal drive to Cefalù and enjoy free time to visit its cathedral. Built for Roger II in 1311 and features stunning examples of Arab-Norman architecture. Afterwards, just take it easy and get swept up in the laid-back, charming town—stroll the winding alleys, admire the unique medieval architecture, peruse some local craftwork, or just relax on the gorgeous, sandy beaches the area is known for.

Day 5: Baroque City of Noto

\$89CAD/\$99CAD* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Spend the afternoon in Noto, a quaint city at the foot of the Hyblaean Mountains. Noto has a multidimensional culture that ties back to Greek, Roman, Arabic, and Norman influence. A local guide gives you the lay of the land, highlighting the UNESCO-recognized cathedral, Palazzo Nicolaci di Villadorata, and the city's Baroque style architecture. As you stroll down Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the main street, you'll sample Sicilian chocolate and pastries. Then, enjoy free time to explore.

Day 7: Sicilian Cooking Class & Lunch

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (4 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Make your way outside of Taormina to take part in a hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Sicilian chef. The island's cuisine draws on the flavors prevalent in Spanish, Arab, and Greek foods. You'll learn how to make traditional Sicilian recipes, and pick up some culinary tips and tricks along the way. Then, sit down to enjoy the lunch you crafted with locally produced wines.

Day 8: Hidden Sicily: Medieval Savoca & Forza d'Agrò

\$89CAD/\$99CAD* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Delve into the traditional Sicilian villages that served as sets for Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather." First, visit Savoca and tour the Church of St. Lucia and the Bar Vitelli. Walk through this medieval village and marvel at its 15th-century buildings and panoramic views of the Mediterranean sea. Continue on to Forza d'Agrò, another "hidden" Sicilian village, where you'll visit the Church of the Annunciation. Please note: The order of villages visited is subject to change. In the event that the Church of the Annunciation is closed, it may only be viewed from the outside. Please note: the visit to Forza d'Agrò is weather dependent, due to safety.

Extension excursion options

Day 9: Rome Home-Hosted Dinner

\$99CAD (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Rome to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Italian. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Italian culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 10: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs

\$125CAD/\$135CAD* (4 hours, departure time varies)

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through the burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome. Originally founded by Constantine the Great, the Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the Basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be challenging for claustrophobic travelers.

Day 11: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$175CAD (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known: Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Day 11: Pasta-Making Class & Dinner

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

In this hands-on cooking class led by an experienced Italian chef, you'll learn to make pasta—perhaps pillowy ravioli or castellane, a ridged shell pasta that's rolled into a long, oval shape—using traditional techniques you can keep on practicing when you get back home. Then, sit down for dinner and enjoy the dishes you've prepared, along with wine.

*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