

Travel Program

The Wonders of Sicily

"Palermo & Taormina" October 2 - October 10, 2025 From \$3,999 Air & Land 9 Days, 8 Nights Including Hotels, Meals, Day Trips, & Airfare from New York Optional 3-Night Malta Extension



Embark on a mesmerizing odyssey through Sicily, starting with your arrival in Palermo, where you will marvel at Byzantine mosaics, Arabesque domes, & frescoed cupolas reflecting the history of Phoenicians, Moors, Normans, & Spanish conquerors. View landmarks such as the Palermo Cathedral, Palazzo dei Normanni, & Massimo Vittorio Emanuel Theatre. Immerse yourself in Palermo's bustling markets & sample local delicacies reflecting Sicily's rich culinary heritage. Witness the shimmering mosaics of the Benedictine Abbey in Monreale & explore Marsala, renowned for its world-class wines. Discover the ancient wonders of Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, & the Taormina region where Baroque architecture meets a spirited Sicilian atmosphere. Experience the ancient Greek Theater in Taormina with breathtaking views & visit Mount Etna, Europe's most iconic active volcano. Dive deeper into Sicily's past by exploring Catania, Syracuse, & the vibrant port town of Messina. Conclude your Sicilian escapade with a cinematic Godfather experience in Savoca, where each cobblestone street whispers tales of the iconic film. Consider extending your journey to the captivating Island of Malta. Explore its Mediterranean coastline, steeped in ancient history, & immerse yourself in a tapestry woven with the legendary Knights of St. John & the Crusades. Discover a vibrant culture resonating in every corner of this Mediterranean gem. This journey promises an enchanting tapestry of cultural immersion, historical marvels, & culinary delights, making Sicily & Malta an unforgettable chapter in your travel memoirs.

For more details & reservations contact: Terry Macary at the Waterbury Regional Chamber

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Click Here For More Information



Included Features:

- **ROUND TRIP AIR** Air transportation from New York
- FIRST-CLASS HOTELS First Class hotel accommodations for 7 nights
- MEALS 10 included meals consisting of 7 breakfasts & 3 dinners.
- THE PROGRAM Sightseeing, including local guide & all entrance fees as follows: a city tour of Palermo, a city tour of Taormina, Tour of Agrigento & the Valley of Temples, & Syracuse & Catania tour. Optional tours available
- JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY Our program encompasses cultural connections, in-depth learning on the local economy & social systems, & interaction with locals
- QUEST VOYAGER TOUR DIRECTOR Assistance of a professional tour director for the entire length of the tour upon arrival in Palermo
- FIRST CLASS MOTORCOACHES Touring by private first-class airconditioned motorcoach
- **BAGGAGE & TRANSFERS** Baggage handling for one piece of checked luggage outside of the airport

Optional Extension to Malta:

- FERRY SERVICE Highspeed ferry from Sicily to Malta
- AIR TRANSPORTATION A flight from Malta back to the USA
- FIRST-CLASS HOTEL First Class hotel accommodations for 3 nights
- MEALS 4 included meals consisting of 3 breakfasts & 1 dinner
- THE PROGRAM Sightseeing, including local guide & all entrance fees as follows: Valletta Walking Tour, & a tour of Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples
- QUEST VOYAGER TOUR DIRECTOR Assistance of a
 professional tour director for the entire length of the tour





The Tour Price: is \$3,999 per person, double occupancy **including a "free" Mount Etna tour (\$89 pp value)**. For single occupancy, add \$799 (limited availability). Fuel surcharges of \$350 & taxes & other fees of \$150 per person are included in the price. Fuel surcharges & taxes are valid at the time of printing but are subject to change. The price of \$3,999 is an early bird special if the program is reserved with a deposit by Mar 7, 2025. The price increases by \$100 per person (\$4,099) + the price of the Mount Etna tour after this date.

Optional Malta Extension: is \$799 per person double occupancy. For single occupancy add \$299 (limited availability). Please note: Hotel (when listed) & itinerary are subject to change.

For full pricing details & to reserve click the red link on the front page of this brochure.

Destination Highlights: Extended "cruise philosophy on land" stay in just two locations • Discover the history & the unique traditions & customs of Palermo • Enjoy Monreale, & its "La Conca d'oro" • Explore Marsala's archaeological sites & taste its local wines • Discover Agrigento & its impressive Greek ruins & a UNESCO World Heritage Site • Delve into romantic Taormina & its Greek Theater while drinking in the views of Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano • Explore Syracuse & see the Ear of Dionysius, participate in an unforgettable Godfather tour • Tour the Crusade town of Messina, "the rainbow of Italy" • Dive into the blue waters, landscapes & history of Malta • Hear of the Knights of St John, & explore Malta's capital city, Valletta, UNESCO World Heritage Site • Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples & much more...



Day 1: Depart USA. Depart the USA for Sicily, Italy. Meals & refreshments will be served on board.

Day 2: Arrive in Palermo, Italy. Upon arrival in Sicily, you will be met by your tour director & transferred to your hotel in Palermo. Palermo's history is marked by outside rulers who rose & fell, from the Phoenicians to the Moors to the Normans to the Spanish & beyond. Today, Palermo showcases all those influences fused into an ambiance, a range of customs, traditions, & a distinctively Sicilian culture! This evening, you will savor a delicious dinner to welcome you to Sicily. (D)

Day 3: Palermo/City Tour. After breakfast at your hotel, you will embark on a half-day tour of Palermo. Palermo bears witness to its rich history for centuries at the crossroads of civilizations, offering a unique mix of Byzantine mosaics, Arabesque domes, & frescoed cupolas. Discover Sicily's capital, see highlights such as Palermo Cathedral, the famous Palazzo dei Normanni, & Massimo Vittorio Emanuel Theatre, one of Europe's most prominent opera houses. Then visit the vibrant Palermo market & stop to sample some Sicilian delicacies. Continue to Monreale & visit the Benedictine Abbey & its Cloister, known for its exquisite mosaics depicting episodes from the Old & New Testaments. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Palermo. Start your day with breakfast at your hotel, then enjoy a day at your leisure or embark on an optional tour to Marsala, known worldwide for its world-class wines, including the traditional "Marsala." Drive along Trapani's coastline & visit the region's famed salt pans, where Sicilians still harvest salt using centuries-old methods. You will visit a historic winery in Marsala to learn about their wine production where hundreds of barrels & wooden kegs each tell their own story. This wonderful place is the theatre where the oenologist creates Marsala wine by slowly blending all its sensorial potentials. Here you will taste this wonderful libation. (B)

Day 5: Palermo/Agrigento Tour/ Taormina. This morning, depart for Sicily's east coast. Stop enroute in Agrigento, where Sicily's most impressive Greek ruins are found. Known for its fabulous archeological finds, you will participate in a guided tour of the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to the 5th century B.C. Afterwards enjoy some free time in Agrigento to explore the town's vibrant medieval center, local shops, trattorias, & bars. Like a precious gem between the barren volcanic Etna & the azure Ionian Sea, the Taormina region is a multi-faceted wonderland. Truly captivating thanks to the richness of its Baroque architecture & its historical & artistic heritage, but also because of the spirit of a young & vibrant Sicily. Dinner tonight is at the hotel (B,D)

Day 6: Taormina - Taormina City Tour. Your day starts with breakfast at your hotel before heading out to explore **Taormina on a half-day city tour** with a visit to the **Greek Theater built in the 3rd century B.C.** As we explore the streets of Taormina, learn the history & significance of **Granita in Sicilian culture, & then join a tasting of Granita**, a frozen dessert. This afternoon, keep the adventure going with an optional tour of **Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano**. Sweeping views from thousands of meters high in the mountain welcome you. A starkly different ambiance from the coastal vistas & azure seas down below, **Mt Etna's volcanic rock & black lava sand** surround you, offering a distinctive experience beyond the beaches & quaint towns that Sicily is best known for. A transfer back to the hotel will be provided for those not joining the Etna Tour. (B)

Day 7: Taormina - Syracuse & Catania. This morning, after breakfast, join a full-day tour of Catania & Syracuse. Start with a half-day exploration of Catania, the vibrant heart of Sicily, rich in history, culture, & architecture. See the ancient Roman Amphitheaters & Ursino Castle & delve into the city's evolution with your guide's fascinating stories. Experience the lively local market, filled with fresh produce & aromatic spices. In Syracuse, your guide will lead you through the historical Neapolis archaeological park, showcasing ancient wonders like the 5th-century B.C. Greek Theatre & the unique Ear of Dionysus cave, known for its acoustics & historical significance. (B)



Day 8: Taormina. Today, you can join an optional tour of **Messina**, with its storied port & history as a trading city. As the closest city to mainland Italy, Messina is unique compared to Sicily's smaller villages & towns. Your tour through Messina offers a window into its rich cultural tapestry. Here marvel at the architectural wonders such as the **Church of San Francesco & the Fountain of Neptune**. As you explore, you'll cross the historic landmarks of **City Hall, the revered Church of the Annunziata dei Catalani, & the bustling Piazza del Duomo,** where the town's grand cathedral stands proudly. Take advantage of the opportunity to witness the awe-inspiring astronomical clock, celebrated as the world's largest. Later today, you will participate in an unforgettable **Godfather tour**, where you can relive the renowned Godfather movies as we explore the **medieval hilltop town of Savoca**. This town served as the backdrop for scenes from the famed films. The tour includes visiting the **famous "Bar Vitelli" for a gelato tasting**. Dinner this evening is included at your hotel. (B,D)

Day 9: Taormina to the USA or extend your stay with an optional Malta extension. After breakfast, your departure transfer awaits you to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Optional Valletta, Malta Extension

DAY 9: Taormina to Malta. Today depart from Sicily to Malta via **highspeed ferry**. Upon arrival relax & check-in to your hotel. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight. (B,D)

DAY 10: Valletta Walking Tour. Today, start your **Valletta experience with a guided walking tour**. Your guide will take you through the charming narrow streets for external visits to key sites such as **Valletta City Gate, Triton Fountain, the new parliament building, Republic Street, St. George Square, & the Court of Justice** while outlining the rich history of Valletta. See the **Manoel Theatre, built in 1731, showcasing the Maltese embrace of operas & theatrical productions**. You will also visit St. John's Co-Cathedral, a Roman Catholic cathedral in Valletta dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, known for its stunning Baroque interior & masterpieces by Caravaggio. Then you head back to the hotel, enjoy some free time for lunch, & relax. In the afternoon you can take an optional tour to **Birgu & the fabulous Maltase military museum**. Start your adventure by **boarding a typical Maltese boat to Birgu** (Città Vittoriosa). This old fortified city has a rich history with maritime, mercantile, & military activities. Then, head to the **War Museum, which is housed in an 18th-century army barracks** & features a restored underground rock-cut air raid shelter. (B)

DAY 11: Valetta/Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples. Set off from the hotel & journey to the Megalithic Temple Complex of Hagar-Qim & Mnajdra, with a panoramic stop above the Blue Grotto before reaching the temple entrances. Hagar Qim, unearthed in 1839, is a testament to the ancient civilizations that once thrived here, dating back to c. 3600 -3200 BC. Perched on a cliff, it offers a breathtaking view of the sea & the islet of Filfla. Nearby, you'll find Mnajdra, a remarkable temple site nestled in a hollow above the Southern cliffs. The impressive complex of Mnajdra comprises three temples, with the most notable featuring an intact façade & bench from 3150–2500 BC. (B)

DAY 12: Departure to the USA. As your journey in Malta comes to an end, enjoy breakfast & then transfer to the airport. Reflect on the memories you've made & the experiences you've had as you prepare for your flight home. (B)

(B) –Breakfast, (L) –Lunch, (D) –Dinner. Itinerary are subject to change. On some dates the ferry to Valletta will be replaced with a flight.

This tour is classified as a level 2 program - A light activity tour. There is easy walking throughout the day. Plan to get on and off the coach/boat, with light walking tours, some stairs and uneven surfaces, through cities and sights such as museums.