

# 9/12 Days Tale of Sicily & Malta

Food, Culture and arts of the real Sicily

Trip code: 9-day Tour: TP09TS, 12-day Tour: TP12TS

7/10 nights at 4 Star Hotels

Round Trip Airfares

Daily breakfast, 5 Lunches, 2 Dinners

Daily Sightseeing

Seat-in Coach

Medium Size Group



## WHY YOU'LL OVE IT

The ancient architecture, distinctive culture, unbeatable cuisine, and history of Sicily and Malta surpass all expectation. Here, you will experience Europe's most amazing ancient Greek ruins, charming cobblestone piazzas and Baroque palaces, slow sunsets from seaside villages and taste the most delicious Sicilian. And You will discover the rich history of Malta.

- Explore Monreale's Norman Cathedral, Palermo's vibrant streets, Cefalù's medieval charm, and Mount Etna's majestic heights.
- ✓ Discover Baroque architecture in Noto and Ragusa, indulge in Modica's chocolate, and explore Agrigento's Valley of the Temples.
- √ Visit picturesque Taormina, historic Syracuse, and Marsala's salt roads.
- ✓ Tour Cottonera's fortified cities, explore Marsaxlokk's fishing village with colorful "luzzu" boats.
- ✓ Visit the Blue Grotto's natural cave and Dingli's countryside.
- ✓ Explore Valletta's Casa Rocca Piccola, Cathedral of St. John with
- Caravaggio's masterpiece, and Barraca Gardens.
- ✓ Visit the Grand Master's Palace and explore Mdina, the former capital, including Cathedral of St. Paul and its charming streets.



Day 1: North America - Catania

Day 2: Catania arrival

Day 3: Syracuse - Noto - Ragusa

Day 4: Ragusa Ibla - Modica - Piazza

**Armerina - Arigento** 

Day 5: Agrigento - Marsala -

Salt Road - Palermo

Day 6: Monreale - Palermo

Day 7: Cefalu - Catania

Day 8: Etna - Taormina

Day 9: Catania - North America

#### 12-Day Tour continue to Malta

Day 9: Catania - Valletta

Day 10: Cottonera - Marsaxlokk - Blue

Grotto - Dingli

Day 11: Valletta - Mdina

Day 12: Malta - North America

#### Day 1 North America - Catania

Depart to Catania.

#### **Day 2 Arrive Catania**

Individual arrival to your hotel in Catania or in the picturesque and delightful seaside village of Acitrezza, known for its famous Faraglioni (optional private transfer on request). Dinner on your own and overnight in hotel.

## Day 3 Syracuse - Noto - Ragusa

After breakfast in hotel departure to Svracuse to visit the most beautiful and greatest Greek colony in Sicily and World Heritage Site! The visit will start with the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, with its Greek Theatre, the Roman Amphitheatre, the Latomie of Paradise and the Ear of Dionysius. Proceeding on and visit of the splendid Ortigia, a small island which is the historical centre of Syracuse. In Ortigia you will admire the beautiful Cathedral which dominates the square with its authoritative presence. The façade is a powerful Sicilian-Baroque composition but it gives no hint that this building was once a Doric temple! From Piazza Duomo vou will reach a wide terrace on the waterfront surrounding the famous Arethusa's Fountain, one of the most famous freshwater sources of the Greek world. Free time for lunch. Departure to Noto, the capital of Sicilian Baroque, famous for its fine buildings of the early eighteenth century and declared Unesco World Heritage Site. Inspired by Baroque ideals of "open city", Noto is a rare masterpiece and the clearest example of theatrical tastes in 18th century architecture whose local limestone has been burnt gold by the sun. Noto's Baroque is a game of elegant curves, floral weaves, perspective views, palaces and gardens, capitals and ornaments that adorn the facades of churches and monasteries. Visit of Palazzo Villadorata, beautiful noble residence in Baroque style. Free time for a walk along the town. Transfer to Ragusa for dinner and overnight in hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## Day 4 Ragusa Ibla - Modica -Piazza Armerina - Arigento

Today visit of Ragusa Ibla and its historical centre cradle of Sicilian Baroque. Used as a location of the extremely popular Police Inspector Montalbano Tv series, it is today stated among the 44 Italian World Heritage Sites. This little precious ancient town hosts more than 50 churches and many Baroque architectural treasures! You will be fascinated by its Cathedral,

situated in the beautiful Dome square and you will love the "Giardino Ibleo", the oldest of the four main gardens in Ragusa... At 383 meters above sea level. from this beautiful garden you can admire a spectacular panorama! The tour proceeds towards Modica chest of innumerable Baroaue architectural treasures and for this reason stated Unesco World Heritage Site. Walking along the tiny streets of this charming town, you will have a stop to visit Sabadì, one of the most renowned chocolate manufacturers whose chocolate has been awarded as the best Modica chocolate in the last 9 years! You will enjoy a multisensorial chocolate tastina discoverina authentic Sicilian the perfumes... the local nepitella (wild mint). the orange blossom honey, the raw PGI quality Sicilian lemon and the PGI - quality Sicilian red orange are just some of the many flavours you can taste! Then you will eniov savorina some local delicacies under the shadow of the amazing Orti di San Giorgio: 7 gardens suspended between light and beauty. A breath-taking panorama will be the setting of your relaxing lunch! The day goes on to the charming Piazza Armerina to visit the famous Villa Romana del Casale, Unesco World Heritage Site, to admire the polychrome splendid mosaics! majestic villa, belonged to a member of the Roman Senatorial aristocracy, hosts representing prestigious mosaics mythological and historical episodes and scenes of hunting and entertainments: you will love it! Departure to Agrigento. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### Day 5 Agrigento - Marsala -Salt Road - Palermo

This morning the tour continues in Agrigento visiting the famous Valley of the Temples stated World Heritage Site. It was defined by Pyndar "the most beautiful city of mortals". As one of the most prosperous of the ancient Greek cities on the island, Agrigento presents a remarkable series of Doric Temples of the 5th century. Among hundreds of almond trees you will admire the rests of the ancient Akragas. You will see the "Temple of Hera", the "Temple of Concordia" and the "Temple of Heracles". Proceeding on, visit of the charming and well-known town of Marsala, where Garibaldi went ashore in May 1860. Marsala is a Mediterranean modern city, divided between sea and land, featuring unforgettable colors: bright yellow, intense blue, strong red, dazzling white and natural green.

#### Day 6 Monreale - Palermo

After breakfast in hotel, the morning will be spent visiting Monreale, its huge Norman Cathedral, proclaimed the Eighth Wonder of the World, and its splendid Cloister in Arab-Norman style: admirable masterpiece of art, sculpture, and semiprecious stones marquetry! Later you will discover the stunning Palermo, one of the richest towns in the island for its history and art. Palermo stands on a bay dominated by Mount Pellegrino, headland described by Goethe as the loveliest he had ever seen. While the Baroque predominates, there is profusion of different architectural styles reflecting the city's multicultural past: Punic walls, Art Nouveau villas, noble residences. 17th century squares, including an elegant opera house. Visit of the eclectic Cathedral. wonderful astonishina Martorana Church and the amazina Cappella Palatina, admirable example from an historical and an artistic point of view, and a prove of how different cultures, religions and way of thinking apparently incompatible can coexist. Ruggero II employed Bizantyne, Muslim and Latin workers. During the day, you will have a stop to enjoy a typical lunch with local food. Along the path you will admire the famous Teatro Massimo and the debated fountain in Pretoria Square, situated in the ancient Kalsa area and adorned with 16th century sculptures. Dinner on your own and overnight in hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 7 Cefalu - Catania

After breakfast transfer to Cefalù. charming Medieval town situated at the northern coast of Sicily. Visit of its stunning Norman Dome, free time to stroll through the town or to visit the famous and wellknown Mandralisca Museum. You will have a stop to have lunch in a famous restaurant. Arrival in Catania o visit Catania's historical centre stated Unesco World Heritage Site, with its original Baroque style and its unique streets built with black lava stone. The colour scheme of the city-centre buildings is black and dark grey, relieved with white limestone details around doors and windows. The effect is extremely elegant! The walking tour will start from the scenic Duomo square with its magnificent Cathedral and the famous "Liotru" statue, antique lavastone elephant, symbol of the city.



Catania, where we will admire the famous S. Benedict Monastery, Unesco World Heritage Site. Continuing the visit enjoy a break in a historical bar of the city centre to taste the typical "granita & brioche". Dinner on your own and overnight in hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 8 Etna - Taormina

This morning after a short visit of the famous "pescheria" (the ancient fish market) in Catania, the tour will continue with an excursion to the Mount Etna, the highest (c. 3350m) volcano in Europe and one of the largest and most active in the world, nowadays Unesco World Heritage Site. Its regional park protects 59.000 hectares of unique geology, flora and fauna, villages and farms, and traditional methods of forestry, bee-keeping, wine manufacture, stonework and carpentry. Views of stunning landscapes will amaze you heading to Rifugio Sapienza. You will reach the "Crateri Silvestri", small volcanic cones now inactive, surrounded by ancient lava flows. The view beyond the mountain's hundreds of subsidiary cones and craters, can extend across the whole of Sicily, the Aeolian islands and Calabria. The spectacle is unique! You will have the chance to enjoy the local homemade honey and some typical products of the area. Then you will have lunch in a lovely restaurant. The tour continues towards Taormina, charming town renowned for its magnificent position above the sea commanding a celebrated view of Etna. Visit of Taormina's fascinating Greek theatre which will leave you breathless for its commanding view on Giardini Naxos bay and the Etna mountain! Free time for a nice walk among the picturesque Medieval typical narrow streets, to go shopping and looking around the local handicrafts (coral jewels, precious laces, ceramics, pastries and much more). The day will end with an overview of the beautiful Riviera dei Ciclopi. Back Catania for dinner on your own and overnight in hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

12-Day Tour Continue to Malta

## Day 9 Catania - Valletta

After breakfast, free time to discover the city centre of Catania. According to flights' schedule, private transfer to the airport and depart to Malta. The tour continues now without the tour leader. Arrive to Malta and private transfer to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

## Day 10 Cottonera - Marsaxlokk - Blue Grotto - Dingli

Today the tour continues with a full day excursion with private driver and auide to discover the beauty of this magical Island. You will reach Cottonera, also called "The Three Cities": the three fortified cities of Senalea, Vittoriosa and Cospicua.

Afterwards you will visit the charming fishing village of Marsaxlokk whose waterfront is decorated with traditional colorful fishing boats called "luzzi". Free time to stroll along the streets of the city centre and browse among the stalls of the famous local market.

Continuing you will visit the town of Wied iz-Zurrieq where you will embark on an excursion sea towards the famous Blue Grotto, a beautiful and picturesque natural cave that reflects the fluorescent colors of the underwater flora. Your tour will continue on board of a private vehicle in the direction of Dingli through the Maltese countryside. Return to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

#### <u>Alternatively: Comino - Blue Lagoon</u> - Gozo - Malta Caves boat Excursion

After breakfast in hotel, a private driver will pick you up for another day of excursion in the Maltese archipelago. You will be accompanied to Bugibba, where you will board on a comfortable boat for a fantastic mini cruise. Sailing through the north of the Maltese coast to the island of Comino; you will stop at the famous Blue Lagoon for about an hour.

Time to take some pictures, sunbathe and have a swim in the turquoise waters of the bay or, if you prefer, you can relax in the bar of the boat which is equipped with drinks and snacks. Afterwards you will reach Gozo for a visit of about 3 hours. discovering the most charming places of the island: Ta 'Pinu, Dwejra, the capital Victoria with its historic market square and the Citadelle St. Georges. At the end of tour, you will return on board to circumnavigate Comino and visit the famous caves. Return to Buaibba at late afternoon. Transfer to your hotel and overnight.

#### Day 11 Valletta - Mdina

After breakfast in hotel, our guide will lead you through a half day excursion to discover the treasures of the charmina capital Valletta. You will visit the wonderful Casa Rocca Piccola, ancient palace of the sixteenth century belonged to the Maltese nobility and still today private residence of the Marquis De Piro; proceeding on you will visit the Cathedral of St. John where you will admire the beautiful "Beheading of St. Baptist". John the Caravaaaio masterpiece and the Barraca Gardens from where you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the picturesque port of Valletta. Later on, you will visit the Grand Master's Palace, nowadays seat of the Maltese Parliament. Your tour continues on to Mdina, the former capital of Malta. You will visit the Cathedral of St. Paul and then you'll have free time to walk along its lovely streets and discover its viewpoint from which to enjoy a splendid view. After the visit, transfer to your hotel. Free afternoon. Overnight at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

#### Day 12 Malta - North America

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight.

Meals: Breakfast



## **2024 Departure Dates**

SEP 06, 13, 20, 27

> OCT 04, 11, 18, 25

> > NOV 01, 08, 15

## 2025 Departure Dates

MAR 07, 14, 21, 28 APR 04, 11, 18, 25 MAY 02, 09, 16, 23

### **Price Notes**

Single room supplement fee
9-Day Tour: \$699
12-Day Tour: \$799

 Tour prices are subject to change without prior notice.

## Upgrade to Superior Hotel Rooms

9-Day Tour: \$400 per person 12-Day Tour: \$470 per person

## 9-Day Tour

#### **Package Includes**

- International round trip airfare from Toronto to Catania in economy class
- (Other departure cities available with add-on airfare.)
- · Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guide(English, Italian, Spanish).

English speaking only departures: April , May , end of August to 14th of October

- Transfers in/out
- Deluxe bus from day 3 to day 8
- Whisper kit
- 7 nights Accommodation in charming 4 stars hotels mostly located in the city centre, international breakfast included
- 7 international breakfast, 5 Lunches, 2 dinners in hotels to have a taste of Sicilian traditional cuisine
- Visit of the main suggestive Unesco World Heritage Sites: Syracuse, Noto, Ragusa, Modica, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Monreale, Palermo, Cefalù, Catania city centre, Etna.

#### Package Does Not Include

- Visa fees
- Insurance of any kind
- Beverages
- Optional Check Bag fees CAD\$180 per piece for round trip
- Prepaid City Taxes (Where compulsory) and
- Entrance fees at monuments/museums EUR €145 per person
- Gratuities
- Personal expenditure such as laundry service, souvenirs and telephone calls

## 12-Day Tour

#### **Package Includes**

- International airfare from Toronto to Catania and Malta to Toronto in economy class
- (Other departure cities available with add-on airfare.)
- Flight from Catania to Malta
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- Multilingual Tour leader and professional travel guide(English, Italian, Spanish). English speaking only departures: April , May , end of August to 14th of October
- · Transfers in/out
- Deluxe bus from day 3 to day 8
- Private vehicle from day 9 to 11
- Whisper kit
- 9 nights Accommodation in charming 4 stars hotels, international breakfast included
- 7 international breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 dinners in hotels to have a taste of Sicilian traditional cuisine
- Visit of the main suggestive UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Syracuse, Noto, Ragusa, Modica, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Monreale, Palermo, Cefalù, Catania city centre, Etna.

#### Package Does Not Include

- Visa fees
- Insurance of any kind
- Beverages
- Optional Check Bag fees CAD\$180 per piece for round trip
- $\bullet$  City Taxes (Where compulsory) and Prepaid
- Entrance fees at monuments/museums EUR €198 per person
- Gratuities
- Personal expenditure such as laundry service, souvenirs and telephone calls

## **Important Notes**

- Leading price is based on specific low season departure dates. Price may increases for shoulder and peak season.
- Please visit **tripoppo.com** for updated price & departure dates and detailed itinerary.
- Please remember they are multilingual groups just in the following months: March, June, July, August, second mid of October, November, December & February
- English speaking only departures: April, May, last week of August to 14th of October.