

Celtic Rovers Adventure to Sicily, The Celebration Isle

with Fr. Jim Borstelmann & Sr. Mary Mazza

September 10th - 19th, 2025

Trip Overview:

4 Nights - Palermo, Sicily

4 Nights - Taormina, Sicily

Features & Excursions:

- City Tour of Palermo
- Cathedral of Palermo
- Royal Palace & Palatine Chapel
- Agrigento Day Tour
- The Valley of Temples
- Trapani & Marsala of Trindari
- Mt. Etna Tour
- Mt. Etna Winery & Lunch
- Boat Tour to Aeolian Islands



Your Trip Itinerary:

Day 1: Palermo

After going through passport control and collecting our bags at Palermo Airport, we will be greeted by our driver and guide to begin our tour of Sicily. On our journey to our hotel, we will have a panoramic tour of the city. Palermo is celebrated for its dynamic mix of architectural styles from Byzantine to the Baroque. After our tour, we will check into our hotel and have time to relax before our Welcome Dinner.



Overnight: Palermo Breakfast & Dinner

Day 2: Palermo

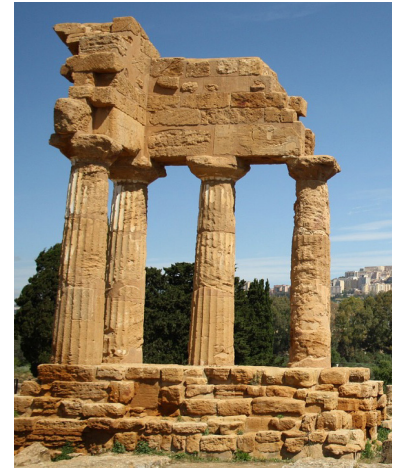
This morning after a Sicilian breakfast, we'll enjoy a city tour of Palermo and explore numerous sites: the breathtaking Cathedral of Palermo, one of the most important architectural monuments in Sicily. Afterwards we will journey to Palazzo dei Normanni & Cappella Palatina, the Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel. We end our tour with a wine and food tour. The rest of the day is free for us to enjoy on our own.



Overnight: Palermo Breakfast

Day 3: Day trip to Agrigento

Today after breakfast we journey down the west coast of Sicily to the ancient city of Agrigento. We will have a tour of Agrigento and The Valley of Temples. The city of Agrigento was founded in 500BC by the Greeks. The Valley of Temples is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an outstanding example of Greek art and architecture. Here we will find the Temple of Heracles, and Zeus' Temple among other historic sites. We will also visit the Valley of the Temples Museum. After we'll have time to explore and have lunch on our own before we journey back to the city of Palermo. Once we arrive back at our hotel, there will be time to relax before having dinner as a group.



Overnight: Palermo Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4: Day trip to Trapani & Marsala

Today, after breakfast, we journey across the coast and stop in the charming city of Trapani, an ancient old town filled with fantastic coastlines. We will tour the Trapani salt flats and iconic windmills. The salt trade that began in the 15th century is why Trapani is a thriving city today. Although the salt trade today is on a smaller scale, the windmills and salt fields are a sight to behold. We continue to the city of Marsala, known for chocolate and wine. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a wine and food tasting and time to explore the city before journeying back to our hotel in Palermo. The rest of the night we're free to relax and explore on our own.



Overnight in Palermo Breakfast

Day 5: Palermo to Taormina

This morning, we depart from Palermo and journey east to the ancient city of Taormina. Our first stop will be 50 miles east in the medieval town of Cefalu, known worldwide for the narrow streets and buildings with elaborate architectural decoration. A local tour guide will give us a 2-hour tour of Cefalu. We will visit the Cefalu Cathedral (Duomo), which features the magnificent mosaics and the fishermen's quarter which make for Kodak moments. We will continue to the Roman-Greek town of town of Tindari founded in 395BC and visit the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Tindari. The famous Black Madonna has been attributed for granting favors to those who pray to her. Then we continue to Taormina . Once we arrive, there will be time to relax before our group dinner.



Overnight in Taormina Breakfast & Dinner

Day 6: City of Taormina

This morning after breakfast, we set out and explore the beautiful hilltop town of Taormina, perched on a rocky headland high above the sea. A local guide will meet us and take us on a 2-hour walking tour of Taormina. One of the highlights includes a visit to the Ancient Amphitheater, the most fascinating historical monument in the pearl of the Ionian Sea. It was born to accommodate dramatic performances or musicals and, during Roman times, it was transformed to make room for games and gladiatorial battles. After our tour, we will be free for the rest of the day to enjoy Taormina on our own.



Overnight in Taormina Breakfast

Day 7: Mount Etna

This morning after breakfast, we journey towards the mighty Mount Etna, the highest and largest active volcano in Europe. Your tour will allow you to see the opening of the lava flow and visit the eruptions that have occurred in the last years. The elevation is about 10,000 feet! We will enjoy a Mount Etna winery tour and wine tasting and 3-course lunch. After, we will journey back to our hotel in Taormina. The rest of the day is free.



Overnight: Taormina Breakfast & Lunch

Day 8: Aeolian Islands

Today, after breakfast we journey to Milazzo to board our boat to the famed Aeolian Islands. The islands were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for their natural environment. The Greeks called these islands the home of the God of the Winds (Aeolus) and have been inhabited for more than 3000 years. We will explore Lipari, the most developed with fine museums from the Stone and Bronze ages, and have lunch before heading back to the mainland. Once we arrive back in Milazzo, we will be transported back to our hotel in Taormina to enjoy our Farewell Dinner.



Overnight in Taormina Breakfast & Dinner

Day 9: Depart

This morning we will bid farewell to Sicily as we board our flight in Catania to begin your journey back to the USA.