



SICILY – THE CELEBRATION ISLE

With Fr Tommy Conway

October 15th – 25th, 2024

Tuesday, October 15th Depart USA

Today you will board your overnight flight from USA bound for bella Italia. Enjoy an In-flight meal and entertainment.

Wednesday, October 16th Arrive in Rome Italy

Today you arrive into Rome Airport in Italy. You will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel in **Lido di Ostia**, 10 minutes away. Situated on the sea front, this is perfect location! Check into the hotel where you can relax from your journey and enjoy one night, before traveling south to Sicily. This evening, we will enjoy dinner at local restaurant together.

Overnight & Dinner: Aran Blu Hotel, Rome, Italy

Thursday, October 17th Fly South to Sicily



This morning after breakfast, our local representative will escort us back to Rome airport to board your short flight to **Palermo**. Upon arrival you will collect your bags and proceed through customs where you will be met by our tour guide. Once everyone is together, we begin our exciting tour of **Sicily**, the largest island in the Mediterranean. You will enjoy a **city tour of Palermo**, Sicily's port capital. Highlights of our tour include the **Duomo**, the **Palace of the Normans** and the **Church of St. John of the Hermits**. You will visit the magnificent **Benedictine Cloister in Monreale** which was a part of a **Benedictine**

Abbey. After your tour you will board your coach and make your way to your hotel where you will spend the next 3 nights. Tonight, you will enjoy your welcome dinner, a 3-course meal at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel.

Overnight & Dinner: Splendid Hotel La Torre, Palermo, Italy

Friday, October 18th Palermo

After breakfast this morning you will board your private coach ahead of your next adventure. Today you will visit the breathtaking **Palazzo dei Normanni & Cappella Palatina**, the Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel. These are part of the Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedrals of Cefalu and Monreale **UNESCO World**



Heritage Site. The stunning Chapel is a mix of Byzantine, Islamic and Latin elements and it is decorated with the most wonderful Byzantine mosaics. Following this you will visit the **Cathedral of Palermo**, one of the most important architectural monuments in Sicily. It truly is a treasure of the Norman architecture in Sicily. The rest of the afternoon you will be free to do some shopping or simply relax. This evening dinner will be on own.

Overnight: Splendid Hotel La Torre, Palermo, Italy



Saturday, October 19th

Cefalu

Enjoy a light breakfast at the hotel as today you will venture 50 miles east to the **medieval town of Cefalu** know worldwide for the narrow streets and buildings with elaborate architectural decoration.

You will be met by a tour guide you will give you a 2-hour tour of Cefalu. You will visit the **Cefalu Cathedral (Duomo)**, which features the magnificent mosaics and the fishermen's quarter makes for Kodak moments. You will enjoy a seafood lunch at a local restaurant and there will be time for independent wandering before returning to Palermo where you will have the rest of the

day to yourself. Dinner on own.

Overnight: Splendid Hotel La Torre, Palermo, Italy

Sunday, October 20th

Trapani & Marsala

Bid farewell to Palermo and begin your journey to **Agrigento**, one of the oldest Sicilian cities rich in history where bustling modern city meets sprawling ancient ruins. You will stop along the way in **Trapani and visit Museo del Sale**, the Trapani Windmills which is still home to some of the windmills once used to drain water from the basins (containing ponds). Drawing salt from water remains a slow process, similar to desalination. You will make another stop in the **Marsala region** for a **wine cellar tour and tasting** before getting back on the road to Agrigento. Once you have arrived and checked into your hotel, you will have some time to freshen up ahead of your 3-course group dinner.



Overnight & Dinner: Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace, Agrigento, Italy

Monday, October 21st

Valley of the Temples



Today after breakfast you will board your private coach with a local guide for a half-day tour of **Agrigento & Valley of the Temples**. The Valley of the Temples is undoubtedly the most important vestige of ancient classical culture in Sicily. It lies in the rocky ridge bordering the plateau to the south on which ancient Akragas once stood. You will visit the **Valley of the Temples Museum** before a free afternoon of leisure. Dinner is own tonight.

Overnight: Hotel Dioscuri Bay Palace, Agrigento, Italy

Tuesday, October 22nd Syracuse

Today after breakfast, our journey will take us **exploring Southern Sicily**. You will stop in **Syracuse** on your way to your destination **Taormina**. Syracuse is known for the cultural and artistic heritage of the Greeks, a city over 2700 years old. A local guide will meet you upon arrival in Syracuse and take you on a half day tour. You will visit **the Archaeological Park Neapolis** one of the most visited archeological sites in Syracuse where it's possible to see the most important remains of the ancient Greek and Roman town. Continue your journey to Catania where you will spend your final 3 nights. Tonight dinner is on own.



Overnight & Dinner: Katane Palace Hotel, Catania, Italy

Wednesday, October 23rd Mt. Etna



This morning enjoy breakfast at the hotel, before you depart on an adventure up mighty **Mt. Etna**, the highest and largest active volcano in Europe. Your tour will allow you to see the opening of the lava flow, visiting the eruptions that have occurred in the last years. The elevation is about 10,000 feet! You will take a **Mt. Etna winery tour and tasting** including a 3-course lunch. You will conclude the day back in Catania a multicolored universe, from the glittering whiteness of it's Baroque stuccoes to the lava black of the Liotru, the elephant sculpted from basalt that greets us in Piazza Duomo in the heart of the city. This evening dinner

is on own.

Overnight: Katane Palace Hotel, Catania, Italy

Thursday, October 24th Taormina & Ancient Amphitheater of Taormina

After breakfast this morning you will set out and explore the beautiful hilltop town **Taormina**, perched on a rocky headland high above the sea. A local guide will meet you and take you on a 2-hour walking tour of Taormina. One of the highlights includes a visit to the **Ancient Amphitheater of Taormina** the most fascinating historical monument in the pearl of the Ionian Sea. It was born to accommodate dramatic performances or musical, it was transformed during Roman times to make rooms for games and gladiatorial battles. The remainder of your final day is at your own leisure. Tonight meet the group at a local restaurant for the farewell dinner.



Overnight & Dinner: Katane Palace Hotel, Catania, Italy

Friday, October 25th Depart Sicily

You will have breakfast at the hotel before departing for the airport. Check in for the same day return to the USA. Clear customs and return back to home. We hope you had a fantastic time exploring Sicily. Don't forget your passport and boarding pass! Please share your priceless memories online & tag *#CaraGroupTravel*