

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-departure Itinerary

## *Classic Sicily*

**9 DAYS: Saturday, October 26 – Sunday, November 3, 2024**

“THE GORGEOUS ISLAND OF SICILY CONTINUES TO SEDUCE TRAVELLERS WITH ITS DAZZLING DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPES AND CULTURAL TREASURES.” --Lonely Planet. Join us next Fall as we explore Sicily --from the storied streets of Palermo to the most famous of all Italian resort towns –Taormina. Explore Palermo’s Norman Palace and the Palatine Chapel’s splendid mosaics. Continue to Monreale and its magnificent Duomo. We’ll enjoy a funicular ride up to the picture-perfect town of Erice and see the famous Greek Temple in Segesta. Explore the Valley of the Temples archaeological site in Agrigento --the most important testimony of ancient, classical culture in Sicily. Experience a city tour and lunch at a local agriturismo in Catania. An ancient town perched high above blue seas and decorated with blazing red bougainvillea framing white-washed buildings, Taormina is Sicily’s jewel. During our stay we’ll enjoy a guided walking tour, a visit to Mt. Etna and dinner with wine at a local restaurant.

### **RATES**

**\$3,799 per person double occupancy** INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and fees. **Single supplement is \$365.** Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.

### **FEATURES**

Full-day excursion to Palermo and Monreale. Excursion to Erice, lunch, visit Segesta and the Greek Temple. Agrigento: walking tour of Valley of the Temples. Taormina guided walking tour including the Greek-Roman Theatre. Visit to Catania with local agriturismo lunch. Excursion to Mt. Etna.

### **INCLUDES**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled Alitalia Airlines flights from Boston to Palermo and Catania to Boston, via Rome (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Seven nights' three- and four-star accommodations
- Welcome beverage at the hotel
- Thirteen meals: seven breakfasts, two lunches, four dinners with wine
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/ hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston  
DAYS 2–4 Hotel Vecchio Borgo, Palermo  
DAY 5 Hotel della Valle, Agrigento  
DAYS 6–8 Hotel Continental, Taormina  
DAY 9 Return flight to Boston

### **Day 1: Overnight flight from Boston to Palermo, via Rome**

### **Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Palermo – hotel check-in**

After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim. Pass through customs and meet our Tour Manager, who will assist with boarding the transfer coach to Hotel Vecchio Borgo in Palermo. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant. **(D)**



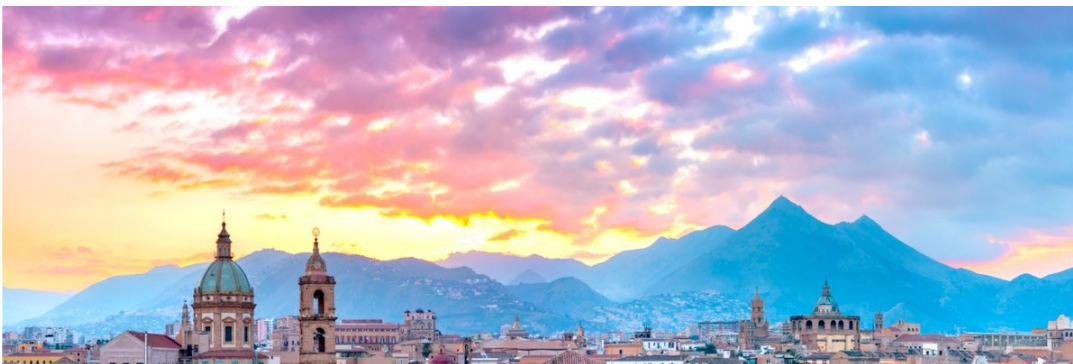
### **Hotel Vecchio Borgo**

Four-star Vecchio Borgo is located just 328 feet from Palermo's Politeama Theater. Hotel Vecchio Borgo offers free Wi-Fi, rooms with a satellite flat-screen TV. A generous breakfast of local homemade food is served daily. The Borgo Vecchio open-air market is next to the hotel. Palermo Port is a 10-minute walk away.



### **Day 3: Full-day sightseeing Palermo & Monreale**

After breakfast depart for a full day's sightseeing of Palermo. Begin in Palermo's old town where we'll find Quattro Canti di Citta, an ostentatious square complete with fountains, statues and a large portion of the city's important sites. Visit the Cathedral, the Norman Palace and the Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti (St. John of the Hermits) – a 12th-century Norman church with five, Arab-inspired red domes. Admission is included to The Palatine Chapel, the royal chapel of the Norman kings of Sicily located in the Palazzo Reale. In the afternoon we transfer to Monreale to visit the Cathedral – famed for its glorious golden mosaics. In the late afternoon return to the hotel and dinner will be on our own. **(B)**







**The Norman Palace**



**Monreale**



### **Day 4: Excursion to Erice**

After breakfast we'll depart for Trapani where we take a funicular for an exciting panoramic ride up to Erice – one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. The cableway is the best way to reach the summit of Erice mountain. It is comfortable and fast with beautiful panoramic views of Trapani and the Egadi Islands. Enjoy a walking tour Erice - a wonderfully preserved medieval town with breathtaking views. Enjoy a seafood lunch with wine at a local restaurant before continuing on to Segesta to see the famous Greek Temple. Return to hotel. Evening at leisure. **(B, L)**



**Erice**





Segesta

### **Day 5: Palermo - Agrigento**

After breakfast we'll transfer by coach to Agrigento. Pindaro called Agrigento "the most beautiful city of the Earth's cities" and you'll see why on a guided walking tour of the Valley of the Temples, one of the most important archaeological centers of the Mediterranean. Enjoy dinner with wine and overnight accommodations at Hotel della Valle. **(B, D)**







### **Hotel della Valle**

In the midst of beautiful gardens, Hotel Della Valle offers comfortable, elegant and air-conditioned accommodations. Facilities include a bar, 2 restaurants and an outdoor swimming pool. In both restaurants, lovers of fine food can enjoy the best of international cuisine, and traditional Sicilian dishes. One restaurant is located in the splendid park, and the other offers views of the swimming pool. All rooms at the Della Valle are simply decorated and modern, offering air conditioning and an private bathroom with toiletries. Some feature views of the Valley of Temples. San Leone, with its beautiful beaches, is just a 10-minute drive.







### **Day 6: Agrigento – Catania – Taormina**

Depart Agrigento and travel to Catania where our guide will take us on a city highlights tour followed by lunch with wine at a local agriturismo. In the afternoon we'll head north to the coastal resort city of Taormina, known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean. After check-in at the Hotel Continental, we are free for dinner tonight. **(B, L)**





## Hotel Continental

The Continental is a welcoming 3 star hotel in central Taormina located just steps from Corso Umberto and Piazza Duomo Square and several outstanding historic sites, traditional shops and restaurants. Located in the heart of Taormina, the hotel boasts a spacious terrace with breathtaking panoramic views across the beautiful Bay of Naxos and Mount Etna. The Ancient Theatre, the Odeon, the Naumachie and the other main tourist attractions and historical sites can be reached via a leisurely stroll through the old town's picturesque streets. This nice hotel is the best choice for a great holiday in Sicily thanks to its comfortable rooms and welcoming spaces. Hotel facilities also include an Internet point and wireless Internet access, both available at the reception, and a lounge bar. Several restaurants, cafés and bars are located within walking distance.



### **Day 7: Taormina – Excursion to Mount Etna**

After breakfast we'll meet with our guide and head to Mount Etna where we'll ascend the winding road and enjoy a photo stop at Rifugio Sapienza to see the spectacular view. In the afternoon we'll return to Taormina for our walking tour including the historic medieval center, the Greco-Roman theatre, Baroque architecture, quaint street and romantic gardens. Dinner with wine this evening at a local restaurant. **(B, D)**



### **Day 8: Taormina – day at leisure**

Today you'll have a free day to explore on your own and enjoy a farewell dinner tonight at the hotel. **(B, D)**





### **Day 9: Return to Boston**

Transfer to Catania airport and board your flight to Rome. Upon arrival proceed to your international flight to Boston.

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## Palermo



## Monreale



## Erice



## Agrigento





## Taormina



Sicily's greatest resort, Taormina, and its fiercest attraction, Mount Etna, can be combined in one powerful trip. Such writers as Goethe and D. H. Lawrence, besotted with the glories of Taormina's panoramic views of the bays beyond and Mount Etna looming in the background, spread word of the area's charm.

Taormina was built on a cliff, Monte Tauro, overlooking the sea. To the surprise of many first-time visitors, Taormina has no beach of its own. To reach the sands, you must take a steep cable-car descent down the hill. But the medieval charm of Taormina makes a stay high on the hill well worth your time.

Taormina was just too good to remain unspoiled. Dating from the 4th century B.C., it hugs the edge of a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea. The sea and even the railroad track lie below, connected by bus routes. Looming in the background is Mount Etna, an active volcano. Noted for its mild climate, the most beautiful town in all of Sicily seems to have no other reason to exist than for the thousands upon thousands of visitors who flock here for dining, barhopping, shopping, and enjoying the nearby beaches.

International visitors stroll back and forth along the one main street, Corso Umberto I, from April to October. After that, Taormina quiets down considerably. In spite of the hordes that descend in summer, Taormina has remained charming, with much of its medieval character intact. It's filled with intimate piazzas and palazzi dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries. You can dine in a different restaurant for every day of the week,



linger at the many cafes, and browse the countless stores that sell everything from souvenir trinkets to antiques for well-heeled visitors.

**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.