

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-departure Itinerary

## *Classic Sicily*

**9 DAYS: Saturday, May 22-Sunday, May 30, 2027**

**Saturday, September 11 – Sunday, September 19, 2027**

“THE GORGEOUS ISLAND OF SICILY CONTINUES TO SEDUCE TRAVELLERS WITH ITS DAZZLING DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPES AND CULTURAL TREASURES.” --Lonely Planet. Come with The Travel Club – next May or September – on one of our most popular and enjoyable vacations as we explore the enchanting island of Sicily. From our seaside accommodations at Hotel Al Madarig, Castellamare del Golfo we'll begin our discovery with the rich history and architecture of **Palermo and Monreale**. Take an exciting panoramic funicular ride from Trapani to **Erice** and enjoy a walking tour of one of the most beautiful villages in Italy, followed by lunch and a visit to the famous **Greek Temple in Segesta**. We'll be astonished by the ancient Greek ruins at the **Valley of the Temples in Agrigento** and enjoy dinner with wine and a one night's stay at Della Valle Hotel. We'll depart Agrigento and travel to **Catania** for a city tour followed by lunch at a local agriturismo. Later we'll travel to **Taormina**, the “Pearl of the Mediterranean” - an ancient, picture-perfect town whose cliff-top perch high above the sea shows us breathtaking scenery and quintessential narrow, cobbled streets line with shops, cafes and stunning architecture. During our three-night stay at the Hotel Continental we'll journey to Mount Etna and ascend the winding road to the photo stop at Rifugio Sapienza and enjoy our guide's walking tour of the historic medieval center of Taormina. Our holiday ends with a day of leisure in Taormina.

### **RATES**

**\$3199 Prices are LAND ONLY per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: May \$540; September \$580.**

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. [Airfare from Boston is available starting at \\$950 per person. Finalized air rates will be posted in May 2026.](#) Passport required. Per person deposit is \$500. Please note – if you wish to extend your tour or request air or hotel upgrades, please advise at time of booking.

### **INCLUDES**

- Seven nights' three- and four-star accommodations
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner at Hotel Al Madarig
- Lunch with wine at a local restaurant in Erice
- Dinner with wine at Della Valle Hotel
- Lunch with wine at an agriturismo near Catania
- Dinner with wine at a local restaurant in Taormina
- Farewell dinner at Hotel Continental
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston

DAYS 2–4 Hotel Al Madarig, Castellamare del Golfo

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**

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. In Rome, clear immigration and passport control and proceed to our connecting flight to Palermo. Upon arrival we retrieve our luggage before we make our way into the arrivals hall. Here we'll meet our Tour Manager who will assist us to our private motorcoach for the transfer to Hotel Al Madarig in Castellammare del Golfo. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner with wine. **(D)**



### **Hotel Al Madarig    Castellammare Del Golfo**

The three-star Hotel Al Madarig (the Steps) is situated on a wide piazza which faces the sea. Strolling along the hotel street, a very panoramic walk, you will reach the Norman Arabic castle, and from there, stepping down a stone stairway, you can admire the quaint little harbor. The hotel has 38 rooms, bar, lounge room, restaurant, banquet room, free internet point and two conference rooms. The warm colors and welcoming intimate atmosphere of all the environments makes it an ideal place to spend a pleasant stay. Located in Castellammare Del Golfo's historic center, Al Madarig is set in a square overlooking the sea. It offers free Wi-Fi. All rooms at Al Madarig Hotel offer air conditioning, a private bathroom and a flat-screen TV with cable and satellite channels. The hotel is a 15-minute drive from the Segesta temple

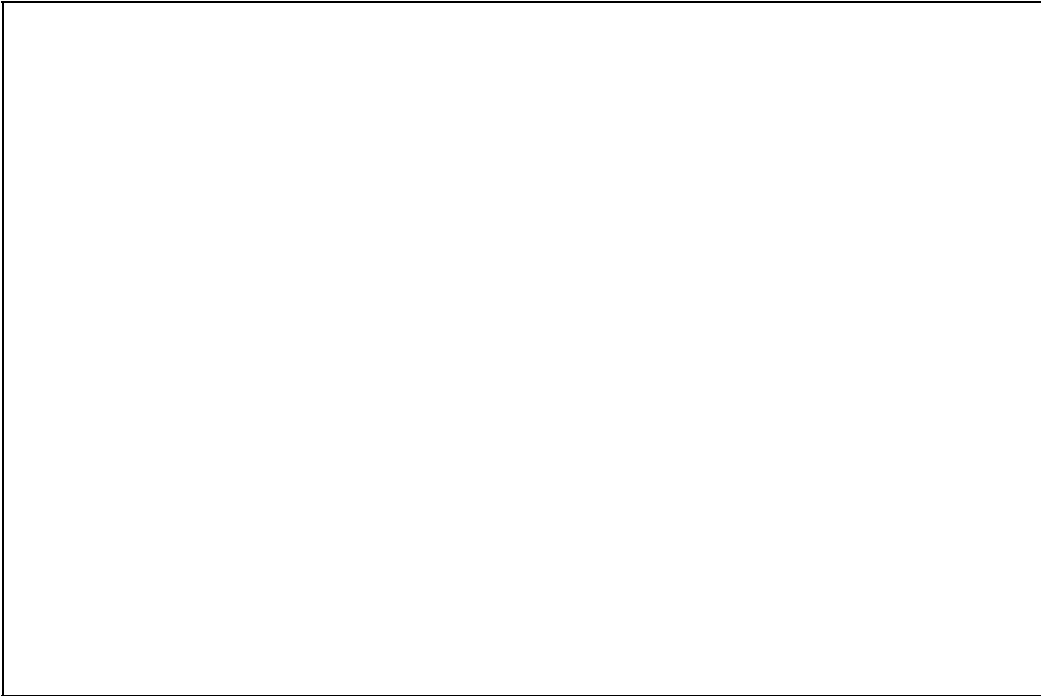




### **Day 3: Full-day sightseeing Palermo & Monreale**

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)**



**Palermo**



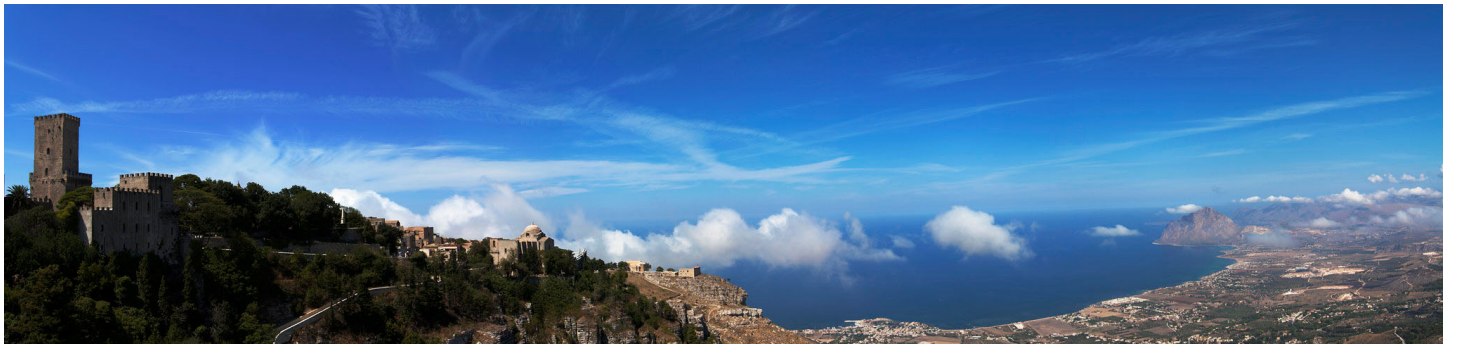
**Monreale**

#### **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 of 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. **(BL)**



Erice





Segesta

**Day 5: Transfer to 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. **(BD)**





### **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.





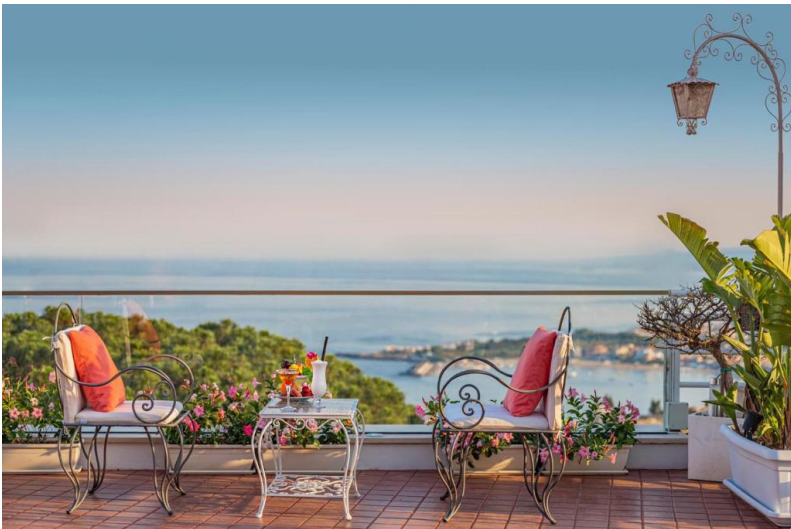
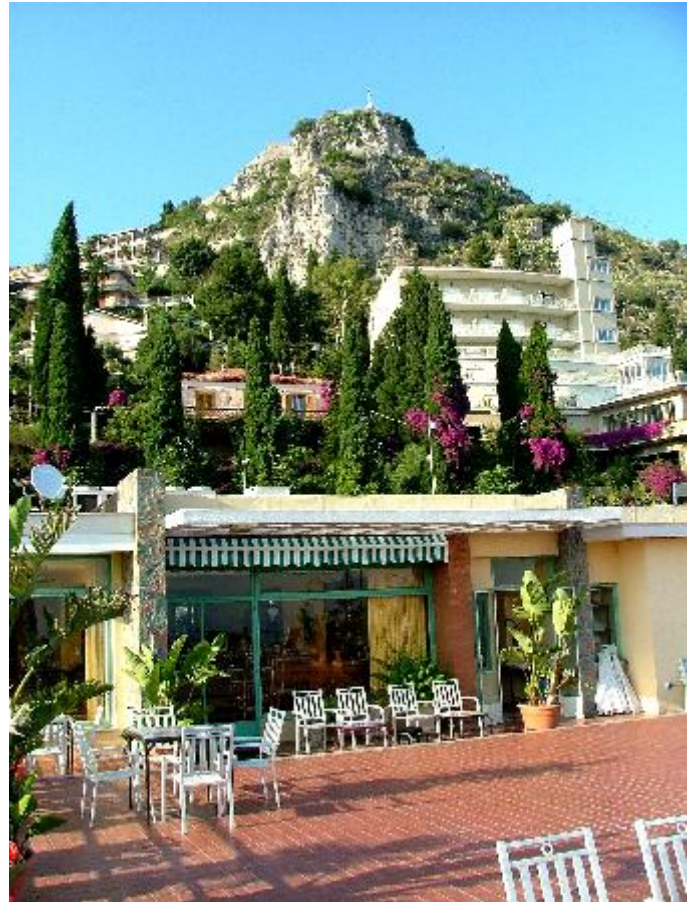
### **Day 6: Agrigento – Catania – Taormina**

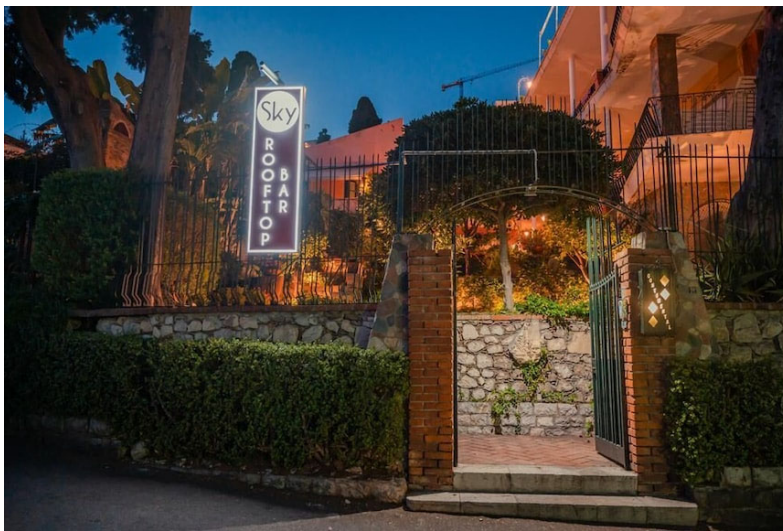
Depart Agrigento and travel to Catania where our guide will take us on a city highlights tour followed by lunch with wine at a local agriturismo. In the afternoon we'll head north to the coastal resort city of Taormina, known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean. After check-in at the Hotel Continental,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



## 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)**





## 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.*