

Tour Plan International, Ltd.

presents



Simply Sicily

April 16 – April 26, 2023

10 Days/9 Hotel Nights - Land Price: **\$4,560** per person

Air Price: From **\$1,468**

Single Supplement \$850



TOUR FEATURES

- First class hotel accommodations for 9 nights
- 14 included meals, consisting of:
 - 9 breakfasts
 - 1 lunch at a local farmhouse
 - 4 dinners
- Touring by private air-conditioned car/minivan
- Assistance of an English-speaking professional tour director for the entire length of the tour
- Sightseeing, including all entrance fees and English-speaking guide as follows:
 - Etna and Taormina
 - Savoca & D'Agro Valley
 - Modica, Noto and Siracusa
 - Piazza Armerina
 - Agrigento
 - Erice
 - Palermo and Monreale
 - Godfather Tour
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Baggage handling at hotels
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Hotel taxes and service charges

HOTELS (or similar)

Date	City	Hotel
April 17-20 (3)	Taormina	Hotel RG Naxos
April 20-22 (2)	Ragusa	Hotel Mediterraneo
April 22-24 (2)	Agrigento	Hotel Della Valle Palace
April 24-26 (3)	Palermo	Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa

DAY 1 | SUN | APR 16 | DEPART USA Depart on an overnight flight to Sicily.

DAY 2 | MON | APR 17 | TAORMINA Arrive Catania airport and meet our local representative and transfer to Taormina. Check in the hotel. Dinner and overnight Taormina. (B,D)

DAY 3 | TUE | APR 18 | ETNA | TAORMINA Morning excursion to the slopes of Mt. Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. This afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of Taormina's charming city center including the Greek/Roman amphitheater with breathtaking views looking over the bay of Naxos. (B)

DAY 4 | WED | APR 19 SAVOCA | D'AGRO VALLEY Today enjoy a once in a lifetime experience: the "Godfather" tour. See the real Sicily while exploring Savoca and D'Agro Valley, the towns and area that served as location when filming the "The Godfather" trilogy. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening, enjoy dinner with delectable cuisine and sparkling wine in a fashionable restaurant. (B,D)

DAY 5 | THU | APR 20 | TAORMINA | RAGUSA This morning we will drive to Ragusa; On the way we will stop along the way in Acitrezza & Acireale; 2 beautiful villages located along the seaside. Free time for lunch where we will taste the delicious Arancini. We will arrive in Ragusa in the afternoon and we will enjoy a guided tour of the town. One of the most fascinating towns in Sicily, Ragusa has caused many a visitor's jaw to drop as they first set eyes on the lower part of the town. Essentially Baroque, the Ragusa you will see today dates almost entirely from 1693. Indeed, it was in this year that Ragusa, along with its neighbors, Noto, Modica, Scicli and Catania, was razed to the ground by a terrible earthquake that hit most of the eastern side of Sicily. Public opinion on where to rebuild the town was divided, and so a compromise was made. The wealthier, more aristocratic citizens built a new town in a different site, now Ragusa "Superiore", while the other half of the population decided to rebuild on the original site, on a ridge at the bottom of a gorge, now Ragusa Ibla. The two towns remained separated until 1926 when they were merged to become the chief town of the province, taking the place of Modica. Dinner at the hotel and overnight Ragusa. (B,D)

DAY 6 | FRI | APR 21 | RAGUSA | MODICA | NOTO | ORTIGIA (SYRACUSE) Today's first stop will be in Modica, a quaint historic town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boasting some very fine Baroque architecture, picturesque views and historic sites, Modica is also known for its chocolate. Rich, dark and crumbly, it is produced in a traditional method imported from the New World by Sicily's Spanish overlords. After a chocolate tasting session at one of the most prestigious chocolate makers, we resume our journey to Noto, part of the "Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto", a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to the enchanting island of Ortigia, the old town center of Syracuse. Highlights of Ortigia are the cathedral square with its church built over an ancient Greek temple and the beautiful promenade with its panorama over the sea and the natural bay of the town. (B)

DAY 7 | SAT | APR 22 | PIAZZA ARMERINA | AGRIGENTO On the way to Agrigento, we will stop in Piazza Armerina to visit the beautiful Mosaics at Villa del Casale. Free time for lunch then in the afternoon we continue to Agrigento. Arrive in Agrigento and accommodation at the selected Hotel (B)

DAY 8 | SUN | APR 23 | AGRIGENTO This morning enjoy a guided tour of "The Valley of the Temples", a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the main archaeological treasures of the Mediterranean, this site is immersed in a rural landscape of rare beauty characterized by the presence of century-old olive and almond trees. Your guided walking tour will cover about one mile in a mostly downhill direction, with stops along the "Via Sacra" (holy pathway) to admire the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Heracles and ruins of the Temple of Zeus. Delicious afternoon Wine Tasting in a local Winery. (B)



DAY 9 | MON | APR 24 | AGRIGENTO | MARSALA | ERICE | PALERMO This morning we will travel along a coastline mostly made up of salt pans built back in Roman times and we'll arrive in Marsala. After enjoying a cooking lesson followed by a lunch accompanied by Marsala wine at a local farmhouse, we take a breathtaking scenic drive up to the medieval town of Erice. After the Elymians settled here, it became an important religious site associated with the goddess Venus. Wander through its ancient streets, each cobbled with rectangular stones, and take some time to stop by one of the famous homemade pastry shops selling delicacies such as marzipan candies and pistachio pastries. Continue on to Palermo and check in the hotel. Free evening and overnight. (B,L)

DAY 10 | TUE | APR 25 | PALERMO This morning enjoy a tour of Palermo featuring the Massimo Theater, Quattro Canti, a splendid example of Spanish Baroque architecture, the Palace of the Normans, and the Cathedral housing the shrine of Santa Rosalia. The last stop will be at the Abbey of Monreale, an Arab-Norman Cathedral built in the 12th century famous for its magnificent Byzantine mosaics and the adjacent Benedictine cloister. In the evening, bid arrivederci to your travel companions during a festive farewell dinner. (B,D)

DAY 11 | WED | APR 26 | PALERMO TO USA (OR EXTEND YOUR STAY IN PALERMO OR ROME) After breakfast in hotel, transfer to Palermo airport for your return flight. *Arrivederci Italia!*

(B) Breakfast - (L) Lunch - (D) Dinner



OPTIONAL PRE TRIP TO PUGLIA

Enjoy 3 nights in Puglia before you visit Sicily. Tour Alberobello, Castel Del Monte, Trani, and Matera. Pre trip includes four star hotel accommodations, transportation, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, guides, entrance fees, cooking class and mozzarella tasting. Please see our website for more details and pricing.

For Detailed Pricing, Payment Schedules and Cancellation Policy, please see www.tourplaninternational.com



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