



On your Sicily travel adventure, you'll discover an Italian island with more than 3,000 years of history. Once home to a Greek colony, a Roman province, an Arab emirate, a Norman kingdom, and more, traces of ancient conquerors can still be found in Sicily's well-preserved ruins, elegant architecture, and gastronomic delights. You will go off the beaten path, where you'll discover authentic cultural experiences with the friendly, fiercely proud Sicilian people that includes zipping along Modica's narrow streets in an iconic, vintage Fiat 500; spending the night in an agriturismo, a traditional Sicilian farmhouse; and even sitting down to a home-cooked meal with a farming family in the pastoral Sicilian countryside. The island beckons...so bring an open mind, a spirit of adventure, and a hearty appetite.

For more information and registration, visit us at

www.uaf.edu/summer/travel

or call (907)474-7021

Important note: Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

Note about Mobility: Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

Tour Dates:

Mar 7-21, 2025

Tour Cost:

\$5,900

Single Supplement

\$750

Inclusions

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground transportation
- Entry fees
- Educational programs
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from Sicily are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.

Day 1, March 7: Palermo

- Arrive in Sicily. Welcome orientation and dinner.

Day 2, March 8: Palermo

- Explore Palermo on a walking tour. Highlights include the Piazza Pretoria, where we'll learn why its 16th-century fountain is referred to as the "Fountain of Shame," and the Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele, a prominent opera house located on the Piazza Verdi.

- We'll also stop at the Capo Market to sample some Sicilian treats.

- Later, gather for an enlightening Controversial Topic about the Sicilian Mafia (also known as Cosa Nostra).

Day 3, March 9: Palermo

- Today we'll spend A Day in the Life of Castelbuono, an ancient hilltop town crowned with a medieval castle.

- Learn about the town's garbage-collecting donkeys, tour the castle and adjacent museum, and stroll through the Piazza Margherita.

- This is a great opportunity to interact with local Sicilians and see what life is really like in rural Sicily.

Day 4, March 10: Monreale

- Drive to Monreale and enjoy a guided visit. View the town's twelfth-century Norman Cathedral, which sits in the hills overlooking Palermo.

- Then, head to Segesta for a local agriturismo and learn about wine and olive oil production from the owner.

- Later, continue to Mazara del Vallo.

Day 5, March 11: Mazara

- Embark on a walking tour of the UNESCO-protected city of Mazara. Here, some 3,000 Tunisians and other Maghreb Arabs live and work, a mingling of cultures and faiths that has deeply influenced the city.

- In Mazara's historic Kasbah quarter, we'll visit a museum built to house the famous "Dancing Satyr."

- Later, enjoy a Home-Hosted Lunch with a local family, dining on North African-influenced Sicilian cuisine.

Day 6, March 12: Mazara

- Visit Museo del Sale, a semi-working salt museum, and learn about the Trapani tradition of salt production and refinement.

- Then, take a boat ride (weather permitting) to the small island of Mothya. There, explore the ancient island fortress and a local museum, enjoy a picnic lunch, and take a gentle hike on one of the many foot paths that crisscross the island.





Day 7, March 13: Piazza Armerina

- Depart for Piazza Armerina.
- En route, stop at the Valley of the Temples, situated outside the city of Agrigento, and view the archaeological remains of several Greek temples.
- Then, arrive at an agriturismo, our home for the night.

Day 8, March 14: Ragusa

- Depart for Villa Romana del Casale, home to the ruins of a Roman villa—a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Then, visit a family-run winery and meet the owners. Enjoy a wine tasting and lunch.
- Afterward, continue to Ragusa and explore the town's Sicilian Baroque churches.



Day 9, March 15: Ragusa

- Explore Ragusa Ibla, one of Sicily's best-preserved old towns, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Then, journey to nearby Modica, part of the Val di Noto UNESCO World Heritage Site and board vintage Fiat 500 cars to explore the city's winding streets in true Sicilian style.

Day 10, March 16: Ragusa

- This morning, visit a family farm nestled in the Val di Noto and discover some of Sicily's renowned culinary traditions. Then have lunch with the family before returning to Ragusa.
- This afternoon, join an optional tour across the Irmínio Valley to the 18th-century town of Scicli.



Day 11, March 17: Catania

- After breakfast, we depart for Siracusa, known as the birthplace of the famed mathematician Archimedes and as one of the most powerful ports of the ancient Mediterranean world. At 2,700 years old, Siracusa boasts a rich and storied history—evident today in the city's Greek, Roman, and Baroque architecture, which has helped earn Siracusa UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. When we arrive, we'll set off on a discovery tour of Ortigia. Highlights include the fountain of Arethusa, the Temple of Apollo, and the Piazza del Duomo.
- Then, continue to Catania.

Day 12, March 18: Catania

- Explore Catania, a vibrant city perched on the edge of the Ionian Sea. We'll set out to discover the city on foot, stopping along the way at the UNESCO-protected Cathedral of Catania. Originally erected in the eleventh century, it has endured damage from numerous earthquakes over the years and today features a rich blend of Norman and Baroque architecture from its many repairs. Afterwards, visit Catania's local World War II Museum, dedicated to the Allied landing on the southern coast of Sicily.
- Later, meet with a local volcanologist to learn about life in a volcanic region.



Day 13, March 19: Catania

- Visit hillside Taormina, home to a Greco-Roman theater that is one of the most highly regarded ancient sites in Sicily. Get to know the city during a walking tour. We'll visit the famous amphitheater and take in a commanding view—perched atop a hill, the brick and stone structure offers a view of the building-speckled coastline, the Ionian Sea, and Mount Etna.
- Moving on, we'll explore Taormina's more contemporary delights: winding streets lined by pastel-hued buildings, many accented by wrought-iron balconies.

Day 14, March 20: Catania

- Journey to Mount Etna, Europe's tallest active volcano, and enjoy a 4-wheel-drive experience to explore traces of Etna's lava flows before enjoying lunch.
- Then transfer back to Catania.
- This evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 15, March 21: Homeward Bound

- Transfer to the airport and catch your return flight home.

