

Santa Fe Council on International Relations presents ...

Small groups: Never more than 10-16 travelers—guaranteed!

Sicily's Ancient Landscapes & Timeless Traditions

PALERMO • MAZARA DEL VALLO • PIAZZA ARMERINA • RAGUSA • CATANIA

14 days—Land Tour only—

from **\$3795**

15 days—including international airfare

from Albuquerque—from **\$5605**

Additional departure cities are available

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION:

Puglia: Italy's Undiscovered Heel

5 nights from \$1395



ITINERARY SUMMARY

MAY 12, 2016

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION: Puglia: Italy's Undiscovered Heel

DAYS	DESTINATION	LODGING
1-4	Fly to Palermo, Sicily	<i>Hotel Plaza Opera or similar</i>
5-7	Mazara del Vallo	<i>Visir Resort & Spa or similar</i>
8	Piazza Armerina	<i>Gigliotto Agriturismo or similar</i>
9-11	Ragusa	<i>De Stefano Palace or similar</i>
12-14	Catania	<i>Hotel Una Palace or similar</i>
15	Return to U.S.	

It's Included

- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation
- Accommodations for 13 nights
- 29 meals—daily breakfast, 8 lunches, and 8 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Lunch)
- 23 small group activities
- Services of a resident, English-speaking OAT Trip Leader
- **NEW:** Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure—an average of \$267

Please mention this code when booking:

G6-26437

Reservations & Information: Call Toll-Free: **1-800-353-6262** • Press 2



Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive Palermo, Italy. Today, arrive in Sicily. After you are met and transferred to your hotel, you'll enjoy an orientation walk and Welcome Drink with your fellow travelers and Trip Leader. You'll also meet those who traveled on our optional *Puglia: Italy's Undiscovered Heel* extension. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

D—Hotel Plaza Opera or similar

Day 3 Explore Palermo. After breakfast, we visit Monreale, where we view the town's twelfth-century Norman Cathedral, which sits in the hills overlooking Palermo. See Byzantine art come to life within the cathedral's nave, where nearly every surface is covered with intricately-detailed mosaics depicting biblical scenes in rich colors and gold filigree. Then we explore the city's historic quarter, with a walk through a traditional market to enjoy a lunch featuring the local street food—some of which originated from Africa's Mediterranean coast. After returning to our hotel for some free time, our group will gather for a discussion about the Sicilian Mafia. Dinner is on your own tonight.

B,L—Hotel Plaza Opera or similar

Day 4 Palermo • Optional Cefalù & Castelbuono tour. After breakfast, you may wish to join a half-day optional tour to Cefalù & Castelbuono on Sicily's northern coast. After exploring Cefalù, visit Castelbuono, a medieval town in the Madonie Mountains. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then return to Palermo in early afternoon. Travelers choosing not to join our optional tour will enjoy a day at leisure in Palermo.

B—Hotel Plaza Opera or similar

Day 5 Palermo • Erice • Segesta • Mazara del Vallo. After breakfast, we'll drive to Erice, a wonderfully preserved medieval town that towers over Sicily's western coast. After a walking tour of the ancient mountain-top town, we'll head to Segesta, a region that was home to the ancient Elymians, one of Sicily's indigenous peoples. We'll walk in the countryside surrounding this idyllic setting to a nearby *agriturismo* set in the foothills of Monte Pispisa, with views of the surrounding olive groves, vineyards, and temple ruins. After lunch, we continue to Mazara, where we'll check into our hotel. Later, we'll enjoy an included dinner at our hotel.

B,L,D—Visir Resort & Spa or similar

Day 6 Mazara walking tour • Sicilian cooking lesson • Mazara Kasbah quarter.

After breakfast, we depart to Segesta, a region that was home to the ancient Elymians, one of Sicily's indigenous peoples. In a reminder of Segesta's ancient Greek heritage, the columns of a beautifully preserved unfinished Doric temple still stand proudly in a majestic hilltop location. We'll walk in the countryside to a nearby *agriturismo* (a traditional farm house sanctioned for lodging by the Italian government) set in the foothills of Monte Pispisa, with views of the surrounding olive groves, vineyards, and temple ruins. After lunch, we'll take a short drive to Erice, a medieval town that towers over Sicily's western coast. We'll enjoy scenic views over Trapani and the Tyrrhenian Sea, followed by an included dinner back at our hotel in Mazara.

B,L,D—Visir Resort & Spa or similar

Day 7 Mazara • Boat ride to Mothya Island • Marsala wine tasting. After breakfast, we take a boat ride (weather permitting) to the small island of Mothya. Some 2,700 years

What to expect ...

Pacing

- 5 locations in 14 days with one 1-night stay
- International flights to Sicily depart around midnight
- Airport transfers in Palermo and Catania can take more than 30 minutes

Physical requirements

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6 hours of physical activities each day
- Agility and balance are required for embarking a small boat, climbing steps, and for a donkey ride

Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-95°F
- Sicily has a typical Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and warm, rainy winters
- Sicily can sometimes reach temperatures of 100°F with high humidity in the summer

Terrain

- Travel on some rugged paths and many cobblestoned streets on foot, as well as over bumpy, narrow rural roads by bus

Transportation

- Travel by 30-53-passenger motor coach, 16-40-passenger boat, Fiat 500 car, local bus, and donkey
- 4-hour drives

Accommodations & Facilities

- Hotel rooms are smaller than those in the U.S. and offer basic amenities
- All accommodations feature private baths





ago, the Phoenicians built a settlement here. We'll visit the ancient island fortress and enjoy a light picnic lunch amid the peaceful surroundings before returning to Mazara. This afternoon, we visit Museo del Sale, a semi-working salt museum where we'll learn about the age-old Trapani tradition of salt production and refining. Then, we head to a local winery to enjoy a tasting of the renowned wines of the Marsala vineyards. This evening, we'll enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

B,L,D—Visir Resort & Spa or similar

Day 8 Valley of Temples • Agrigento • Piazza Armerina.

After breakfast, we depart for Piazza Armerina. En route, we stop at the Valley of Temples, situated just outside the city of Agrigento. In the Valley of Temples, we'll view the stunning archaeological remains of eight Greek temples, built between 510 and 430 BC. After lunch in a local restaurant in Agrigento, we continue to Piazza Armerina. Upon arrival at our *agriturismo*, we'll enjoy dinner at the farm's restaurant featuring locally grown cuisine.

B,L,D—Gigliotto Agriturismo or similar

Day 9 Villa Romana del Casale • Ragusa.

After breakfast, we depart for *Villa Romana del Casale*, home to the ruins of an extraordinary Roman villa with some of the finest examples of Roman mosaics in all of Europe. The villa is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch at a local restaurant, we journey to Ragusa. Upon arrival, we'll first explore Upper Town—*Ragusa Superiore*—noted for the extravagant Sicilian Baroque architecture of the Cathedral of San Giovanni Battista and breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside. This evening, we'll dine like the locals and enjoy *apericena*, a light dinner featuring a variety of traditional Sicilian foods eaten with the fingers.

B,L,D—De Stefano Palace or similar

Day 10 Old Town Ragusa • Modica.

This morning, we explore *Ragusa Ibla*, one of Sicily's best-preserved old towns, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll view numerous structures ornately decorated in the Baroque style with elaborate balconies. After lunch on your own in Ibla, you have leisure time to explore its picturesque alleys and stairways. Later this afternoon, we board vintage Fiat 500 cars to take us to neighboring Modica, part of the Val di Noto UNESCO World Heritage Site. Like Ragusa, Modica is divided into upper and lower sections. We'll walk the cobblestone streets to admire its various buildings, considered to be among the most beautiful architecture in Sicily. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

B,D—De Stefano Palace or similar



Day 11 Portopalo di Capopassero • A Day in the Life of a Sicilian fishing village.

After breakfast at our hotel, we journey to Portopalo di Capopassero, a fishing town located on Sicily's southwestern tip. Upon our arrival, we'll meet with some local fishermen on their boat, where we can ask them about their lives and topics of local interest such as dwindling fish populations and the controversial issue of illegal immigrants in nearby waters. Afterwards, we'll meet with some illegal immigrants to gain a different perspective on this ongoing controversy. Then, some local families welcome us into their homes for a Sicilian lunch. After lunch, we'll return to our hotel in Ragusa and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner is on your own this evening.

B,L—De Stefano Palace or similar

Day 12 Syracuse • Ortigia • Catania.

After breakfast at our hotel, we depart for Syracuse, known as the birthplace of the famed mathematician Archimedes and as one of the most powerful ports of the ancient Mediterranean world. In Syracuse, we'll take a walking tour of Ortigia. Highlights include the fountain of Arethusa, the Temple of Apollo, and the Piazza del Duomo. After lunch on your own, we'll take a boat ride on Ortigia Bay (not available November-March or in bad weather). Afterwards, we continue to Catania, where you'll dine on your own this evening.

B—Hotel Una Palace or similar

Day 13 Catania • Explore Taormina.

After breakfast, we explore Catania, a vibrant city perched on the edge of the Ionian Sea. We'll visit the local World War II Museum, dedicated to the Allied landing on the southern coast of Sicily, then the public fish market. Our tour concludes with a stroll along Via Crociferi, a scenic passage laced with churches,

monasteries, and private homes. After lunch on your own, we'll explore the ancient seaside port of Taormina, home to a Greek theater and stunning views of Mt. Etna and the Ionian Sea.

B—Hotel Una Palace or similar

Day 14 Catania • Linguaglossa • Donkey ride at Mount Etna.

After breakfast, we journey to the alpine town of Linguaglossa, situated on the northern slope of Mount Etna, Europe's tallest active volcano. We'll also have a chance to trek by donkey and walk along a trail before enjoying a barbecue lunch in the surrounding pinewoods. Then we'll transfer back to Catania for time at leisure before gathering this evening for a Farewell Drink at the hotel, followed by a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

B,L,D—Hotel Una Palace or similar

Day 15 Return to U.S. or begin post-trip extension.

We depart our hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for our flight home. Or, begin our *Calabria: Southern Italy's Heartland* extension.

B

Please note: We reserve the right for our Trip Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.

Expand your discoveries with this optional tour

CEFALÙ AND CASTELBUONO
(Day 4, \$100 per person)

Please note: Optional tour prices listed are U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Sicily's Ancient Landscapes & Timeless Traditions

14 Day Land Tour only . Maximum Group Size: 16

Departure Date and Prices

	May 12, 2016
Land Tour	\$3795

BYA2016

Air Add-On

Albuquerque	\$1810
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Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

Deposit: \$350 per person.

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After you reserve your trip, toll-free Customer Service and our Air Department are available Monday–Friday 9 am to 8 pm ET, Saturday & Sunday 9 am to 7 pm ET at 1-800-321-2835.

GOVERNMENT TAXES AND FEES The following government taxes and fees are now included in your airfare price. **Government and other authority taxes and fees:** **September 11th Security Fee** of up to \$2.50 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (maximum charge per trip—\$5.00 USD one-way, \$10.00 USD round trip). A flight segment is defined as one takeoff and one landing. **Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)** of up to \$18 per passenger. **Federal Domestic Flight Segment Fee** of up to \$3.70 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (defined as a takeoff and a landing). **U.S. or International Departure and Arrival Charges** of up to \$200 USD may apply depending on itinerary. On select itineraries that include the purchase of a pre- and/or post-trip extension, U.S. or international departure and arrival charges of up to \$300 USD may apply. Call for details. Standard Terms & Conditions can be found on the web at www.gct.com/tc.

Make the most of your international airfare: Stay longer and discover more

Puglia: Italy's Undiscovered Heel

5 nights pre-trip from **\$1395**

Travel from only \$279 per night

It's Included

- Airfare from Brindisi to Palermo
- Accommodations for 2 nights in Matera, 3 nights in Lecce
- 10 meals—5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners
- 7 small group activities
- Services of a resident, English-speaking OAT Trip Leader
- **NEW:** Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters

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Reservations & Information:
Call Toll-Free: 1-800-353-6262 • Press 2

Please be ready to give the reservations agent the following information

Trip name/code: Sicily's Ancient Landscapes & Timeless Traditions/BYA
Departure date: May 12, 2016

Please mention this code when booking:

G6-26437