

Discover Sicily

Destination: Italy
Trip code: PMLEL



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Just off the 'toe' of Italy's 'boot' sits Sicily, the largest of the Mediterranean islands and home to mighty Mt Etna – Europe's highest active volcano. Romans, Greeks, Arabs and others have all left their mark on this gorgeous island. We'll visit the best parts to uncover its rich history and dazzling diversity of landscape and cultural treasures as well as the local wine and cuisine. The tour includes a trip to a winery in Marsala and visit to a private house to practice making a Sicilian meal from scratch. Cheese and chocolate are also a focus as well as Palermo's famous street food. No trip to Sicily would be complete without exploring the historic sites at Syracuse, Segesta and Ragusa including ancient temples and a Roman amphitheatre.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation
- 7 breakfasts, 4 evening meals and 3 lunches
- The services of an experienced HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Full-day excursions with all essential transport
- 1 cooking lesson, 2 wine tastings, 1 cheese-making demonstration and 1 chocolate class
- Half-day guided tours with a local guide at Palermo, Segesta, Syracuse and Agrigento
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Palermo - one of the best cities in the world for street food
- Discover the magnificent Valley of the Temples at Agrigento
- Visit a traditional Sicilian household where you'll make and taste traditional regional recipes
- See the elaborate Byzantine mosaics found in the charming fishing village of Cefalu

TRIP SUITABILITY

Discovery holidays involve active sightseeing and you should expect to spend lots of time on your feet. Optional short walks of approximately 2½ miles allow you to stretch your legs and see the best of the local scenery.

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through active sightseeing. On each Discovery day, you will be walking between 3-5 miles (5-8km), hopping on and off the coach throughout, so you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Some of this walking may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to bring sturdy shoes! There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Upon arrival, you'll be met at Palermo Airport and transferred to your hotel in the city centre. There will be time to settle in and meet your fellow guests and Tour Manager before we sit down for dinner.

Day 2: Palermo

Foodies rejoice! Today starts with a guided tour of the historic centre of Palermo – a city that ranks as one of the best in the world for street food. We'll wander through the colourful markets, trying some of the best local specialities as we go, with our local guide revealing the secrets of Sicilian street cuisine. In the afternoon, our tour continues, taking in the highlights of Palermo including the Palatine Chapel, the Cathedral and Quattro Canti.

Day 3: Segesta & Agrigento

This morning, we'll transfer to Segesta where we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Greek theatre set in stunning scenery, as well as the well-preserved Doric temple, dating to the 420s BC. Afterward, we'll head to the town of Marsala, famous for its fine fortified wines. Here we'll take a tour of a local winery and partake in a spot of wine tasting! In the afternoon, we continue towards Agrigento and the ancient Akregas. A guided tour for the magnificent Valley of the Temples will allow us to discover the history of this splendid archaeological park, which consists of eight temples built between 510 BC and 430 BC.

Day 4: Favara

Today we discover Favara, a small town near Agrigento, where we'll have a short walking tour ending at a private house. Here, one of the locals will introduce us to Sicilian gastronomy. We'll have a cookery course and make a three-course meal from scratch! Of course, we'll have to sample some of the local delicacies too! Later in the day, we'll transfer to the Baroque gem of Ragusa where we'll stay overnight.

Day 5: Ragusa & Modica

This morning, you will have some free time to explore the historical centre of Ragusa, one of the most beautiful

cities in Sicily. The town is part of the Val di Noto UNESCO World Heritage Site and 18 of its buildings are protected. Later we'll travel to a family-run farm in the countryside near Ragusa for a cheese-making demonstration and a tour around the farm, where we can sample some delicious cheese including the famous handmade ricotta. Next, it's on to Modica, famous for its chocolate which is still processed as the Aztecs did all those years ago. Here, we visit a chocolate laboratory where we discover its history, its origins and production. Again, there is plenty to taste and we can also join a chocolate class to create your own bar of chocolate. Our final stop of the day is Syracuse, the most powerful city-state in the Greek world and briefly the capital of the Byzantine Empire. We'll stay here overnight before continuing on tomorrow.

Day 6: Syracuse

After breakfast we travel to Neapolis, the archaeological park of Syracuse. Here, we'll be taken on a guided tour of its spectacular Greek theatre and early Imperial Roman amphitheatre. Later, it's off to Etna - the highest, most active volcano in Europe. We'll enjoy a delicious wine tasting, complimented by local produce, in one of the famous wine cellars in the area.

Day 7: Taormina & Cefalu

Our final day of activities brings us to the beautiful resort of Taormina, perched rather spectacularly on the side of a mountain. Afterward, we come back down to sea level as we explore the city of Cefalu, a fantastic coastal city. Here you can explore at your own pace, perhaps visiting the impressive Norman cathedral or simply meandering through the winding Medieval streets. Later in the day, we'll travel back to Palermo for our final evening together.

Day 8: Departure Day

On departure day, you will be transferred back to Palermo Airport in good time for your flight home.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Ibis Styles Palermo - Sicily

The Ibis Styles Palermo overlooks Palermo harbour with local amenities within easy walking distance. Each of the comfortable, modern rooms is equipped with en-suite bathroom, free Wi-Fi, TV, air conditioning, phone, free toiletries, hairdryer, iron, ironing board and room safe. Facilities include bar, restaurant and coffee shop.

Colleverde Park Hotel - Sicily

The 4-star Colleverde Park Hotel is a comfortable modern hotel situated in a lush park overlooking the Valley of the Temples. Fine ceramics, 19th century Sicilian furniture and Persian carpets create a welcoming and familiar atmosphere. All 48 rooms are equipped with en-suite shower/bath combo, free Wi-Fi, and air conditioning. The hotel facilities include: garden with a sun terrace and outdoor furniture; bar; restaurant; 24-hour front desk and shared Lounge/TV Area

Hotel Dell'Orologio - Sicily

Located behind the clock tower, nestled amongst the twisted alleys you'll find Hotel dell 'Orologio which offers 24 comfortable rooms arranged in a central body and in 5 buildings in the immediate vicinity. All rooms are equipped with: free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV, phone, shower, minibar, hairdryer, en-suite bathroom with a bath or shower. The hotel facilities include, a bar, restaurant, wellness facilities and air conditioning.

Grande Albergo Alfeo - Sicily

Located in the city centre of Syracuse at Grande Albergo Alfeo, you will be within walking distance of Ortygia

Island. All the bedrooms in this 4-star hotel are comfortable, stylishly decorated with minimalist furnishings and luxurious fittings. Each room comes complete with en-suite bathroom with a shower, hairdryer, fireplace, large LCD Satellite TV, minibar, air conditioning and heating, writing desk, electronic safe, direct dial telephone line and free high speed Wi-Fi internet connection. The hotel facilities include: a bar, restaurant, coffee house, 24-hour front desk, lounge, and safety deposit box.

Hotel Nettuno

The 4-star Hotel Nettuno is located on the seafront in Catania and has 101 comfortable en-suite bedrooms. All rooms have Wi-Fi, flat screen TV, minibar, air conditioning and safety deposit box. The hotel facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, restaurant and bar.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

Guests should bring suitable, comfortable footwear for rough, wet or uneven terrain. Please also allow €60 for entrance fees.

Trip Information

The local language is Italian.

Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

Useful Information

Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number. To dial a UK number 0044 To dial a Sicilian number 0039

Luggage

We suggest that you take just one small or medium size suitcase/holdall with wheels and a smaller bag/rucksack that can be used during your Discovery Tours.

Local Currency

Local Currency is the Euro

Electricity

220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

ATM Availability

ATM'S are available in most large towns in Sicily

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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