

DAILY

Palermo Street Food and Monreale

BLACK-OUT

Saturday, Sunday, August, Bank Holidays

INFOSmall Size up to 6 people;
English Only.**APPOINTMENT WITH OUR STAFF:**h 10:30AM appointment with our staff
h 2:30PM departure for Monreale
h 4PM estimated return to Palermo**ONE SEASON:** Eur 180 per person
Rate LAND only, VAT included

Today independent transfer to the **Palermo Street Food Meeting Point**. Then we start a lovely walking tour through the ancient center of Palermo to visit monuments and lively open air markets.

Let a local native Palermitan guy introduce you to **Palermo Street Food Experience**, which is the only way to indulge you to the real local experience. A Street Food is any specific food or beverage that locals consume while on the street ... standing up ... in an outdoor seating environment ... or is cooked, prepared, or sold outside.

During the walking tour we have the opportunity to taste several **street foods** and a selection of **sweet wines**, as real Sicilian people daily do!
Light lunch in a local trattoria to taste local dishes.

During the afternoon a short drive by taxi takes us on to **Monreale** for a guided visit the Dome (*Admission fee: not included*), a wonderful example of the Arab-Norman art and architecture. Launched in 1174 by William II, the Dome represents scenes from the Old and New Testaments all in golden mosaics. Later we drive back to Palermo with drop-off to your hotel. **(L)**



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SUNDAY

Agrigento, focus on the Archaeological Sites

SEASON

January 11, 2015 to December 13, 2015

INFOSmall Size up to 18 people;
English Only.**APPOINTMENT WITH OUR STAFF:**h 8:30AM appointment with our staff
h 8:45AM departure for Agrigento
h 5:30PM estimated return to Palermo**ONE SEASON:** Eur 120 per person
Rate LAND only, VAT included

Today departure for **Agrigento**. Upon arrival two hours walking tour on the **Valley of the Temples** (*Admission fee: not included*), a Unesco World Heritage site. Covers the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Hercules and the Temple of Zeus. **Agrigento**, according to legend, was founded by Daedalus and his son Icarus after they had fled from Crete "by air". Historically, however, its origins date back to 582 B.C. when it was founded by Rhodian-cretan colonist from the neighbouring Gela who named their city Akragas after the nearby river of that name. It rapidly increased in size, importance and military strength under Phalarides, the first tyrant, and later under Theron, who extended his sway over northern Sicily as far as Himera. Agrigento was a city of artists and illustrious personages, amongst whom the philosopher Empedocles. Pindar defines it as "the most beautiful of mortal cities" and, in fact, in the Vth century B.C., those famous temples, whose beauty we still admire today, were built.

This afternoon we visit the **Archaeological Museum** (*Admission fee: not included*) who offers a fine introduction to the splendors of ancient Akragas and gives an insight into the life of the Greek settlers. Later we then return to Palermo.



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WEDNESDAY

move from Palermo to Taormina

SEASON

January 14, 2015 to December 16, 2015

INFOSmall Size up to 18 people;
English Only.**APPOINTMENT WITH OUR STAFF:**h 8:30AM appointment with our staff
h 8:45AM departure for Piazza Armerina
h 5PM estimated arrival in Taormina**ONE SEASON:** Eur 190 per person
Rate LAND only, VAT included

Today departure for **Piazza Armerina**, a small town in the province of Enna famous for the mosaics of the **Roman Villa of Casale** (*Admission Fee: not included*). This town possesses the largest complex of mosaics which ancient Roman civilization has handed down to us. The building of this villa has been placed at around the IIIrd-IVth century A.D. and was planned as a luxurious hunting lodge for the Emperor Maximian Herculius. It contains over 40 floors in polychromatic mosaic covering an area of about 3.500 sq. metres. The mosaics excavated here are in uncommonly beautiful colours and were the work of African craftsmen, pupils of a great school which propagated African mosaics to other regions with relations with their homeland such as Spain, Gaul and Italy. The attitude of the girls suggest that they are doing gymnastics. In the triple-recessed hall of the Labours of Hercules in the east apse one can see 5 giants, their faces twisted in spasms of pain, trying to free themselves from the fatal arrows shot at them by Hercules. The central Titan of the scene best of all conveys the pain of his agonized body by the contraction of his features.
This afternoon we then continue to **Taormina**, the world famous resort town of Sicily.

SATURDAY and TUESDAY

Erice, Segesta, Wnery and Olive Oil experience

SEASON

January 13, 2015 to December 15, 2015

INFOSmall Size up to 18 people;
English Only.**APPOINTMENT WITH OUR STAFF:**h 8:30AM appointment with our staff
h 8.45AM departure for Erice
h 5:30PM estimated return to Palermo**ONE SEASON:** Eur 120 per person
Rate LAND only, VAT included

Early departure to tour western Sicily where we reach **Erice** uptown. The Elymians settled the medieval town of **Erice**, which was an important religious site associated with the goddess Venus. Wander through its ancient streets and visit some of the famous homemade pastry shops—world-famous for **marzipan candies** and other delicacies like almond and pistachio pastries. Later we proceed to have a light-lunch in a local **winery-farmhouse** including tasting of mixed local product such as cheese, salumi, olives, local bread combined with their production of olive oil and wine. This afternoon we continue onto **Segesta**, one of the major cities of the ancient indigenous Elymian people, to visit the unfinished **Doric temple** (*Admission fee: not included*), late 5th century BC, built on a hilltop just outside of the ancient city and has a commanding view of the surrounding area.

We then return to Palermo. **(L)**