

Sicilian Treasures s.n.c

Malta Highlights

Post-Conference Tour: 4 days/3 nights

October 28 - 31, 2018



The Maltese islands are like nowhere else in the world! Prehistoric temples, fossil-studded cliffs, glittering hidden coves, welcoming climate, dramatic backdrops and delicious cuisine are some of the alluring reasons to visit Malta. Explore the lengthy history of the islands, where Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Spanish, French and English left behind an artistic and cultural heritage.

Day 1 - October 28

Mount Etna, Catania, Malta (B, L)

11:00am - Depart from Montalbano Elicona by deluxe motor coach and drive towards Randazzo located on the northern slopes of Mount Etna. The presence of the volcano is a very vivid and keenly felt thing, not only because it bulks so large in the landscape, but also because its products are used in manufactured artefacts of all sorts. Lunch in a local restaurant and then drive to Majestic Mount Etna. Enjoy a scenic drive to the upper slopes of Europe's largest active volcano (Mt Etna has been inscribed as a **UNESCO WHS**) rising to a height of 3,326m, is an impressive and famous landmark. This volcano dominates the entire Ionian coast of Sicily and its mass is so vast that it overshadows all other mountains.

As you ascend the winding road toward Silvestri Crater, the countryside gradually grows more forbidding as you drive through the remnants of the past and more recent eruptions, the last of which was October 2002 and October 2004, seeing streams of solidified lava and small volcanic cones which are vivid reminders of the mountain's fiery origins. On arrival at Silvestri Crater at an altitude of 1900m you will walk over lava flow of the past and see some extinct craters.

Continue your drive to Catania, a splendid Baroque city and provincial capital, which is situated on an extensive plain of citrus groves on the Ionian sea at the foot of Mount Etna. The city is a busy industrial and commercial centre, due to its port. Catania is also home to the University of Catania, founded in 1434. With its 500,000 inhabitants, Catania is the second largest city of Sicily.

Once you are in Catania, you will pass through Corso Italia, Bellini Gardens, Stesicoro Square where you may admire ruins of a Roman amphitheatre (from exterior) and then drive through the main street Via Etnea, and with its many shops and boutiques, the commercial centre of Catania. You will be dropped off at the Alcalà parking area to enjoy a pleasant walk to see the beautiful Cathedral square, planned immediately following the earthquake of 1693 in the place of the medieval "platea magna" or main square where at the middle you can admire the fountain

Sicilian Treasures s.n.c

of the elephant, the symbol of the town and admire from exterior the cathedral. Built in the 1078 by the Count Ruggero. The main façade was built by an excellent architect, Vaccarini, following the Baroque style.

After some free time for shopping and dinner on your own, transfer to the Catania airport for your flight to Malta, scheduled to depart at 10:15pm, arriving Malta at 10:55pm.

Transfer to the hotel for overnight.

Day 2 - October 29

Full Day Valletta & Mdina (B, L, D)

Following breakfast in hotel, depart at 9:00am, accompanied by licensed guide to the Capital City of Malta, **VALLETTA, UNESCO WHS**, the City built by the Knights of St John. During our walking tour of the city, you will visit the Upper Barracca Gardens which afford a fantastic view of the Grand Harbour and the Three Historical Cities. You will visit St John's Co-Cathedral which is historically and artistically one of the most important monuments on the island. The beginning of the building of this Conventual church started in 1573 by Grandmaster La Cassiere. Four hundred memorial slabs cover the floor and the cathedral is full of beautiful paintings. Visit of the Grandmaster's Palace, where you shall proceed to the Tapestry Chambers, one can see the priceless Gobelein Tapestries. In the State rooms you will admire the spectacular works of fine art and fine furniture.

Note: Due to the fact that the Grandmaster's Palace is today the office of the President, at times the state rooms would not be open for the public, however the armory would, unless there would be a special event taking place.

12.30- 13.00 hrs - stop for lunch in one of the historical buildings located in Valletta

After lunch proceed to Mdina, the central part of Malta, dominated by the medieval fortified city of Mdina, Malta's former capital city. The narrow, winding streets, dating back to medieval times, lead to the imposing bastions, commanding a magnificent panorama of the island. On the way there, you will discover different styles of architecture, including Siculo-Norman palaces and other baroque buildings of great historical importance. Visit of the Cathedral dedicated to St. Peter's & St. Paul's. Arrive back at the hotel about 17.00. Dinner in hotel and overnight.

Day 3 - October 30

Full Day Gozo (B, L, D)

Breakfast in hotel, then at 8:15am depart from hotel and transfer to Cirkewwa for ferry boat crossing to Mgarr - Gozo. The short trip from Malta to Gozo is in itself a pleasant experience especially on a fine day. Mgarr Harbour is picturesque with all kinds of seacraft. During this tour you will visit Ggantija temples in Xaghra, UNESCO World Heritage site, which were built and developed between 3600 and 2400 BC, making them among the earliest in architectural planned facades in the world.



You will then proceed to Victoria which is in the centre of the island as well as being the centre of commerce. The Citadel & the Cathedral of Santa Maria are a medieval fortified town with massive bastions that date back to the 17th century. Stop for lunch and then visit Dwejra and the inland sea.

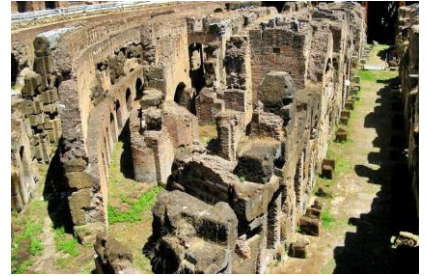
At the end of today's tour, drive to the harbor for the crossing back to Malta and the transfer to the hotel. Dinner in hotel – Overnight

Sicilian Treasures s.n.c

Day 4 - October 31

Temples Tour Breakfast & Check out

Following breakfast, check-out of the hotel before today's departure at 9:30am from the hotel to visit the Hypogeum Temples – **UNESCO WHS** (subject to availability at the time of reservation) The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is an underground prehistoric burial site. It is a complex made up of interconnecting rock-cut chambers set on three distinct levels. Earliest remains at the site date back to about 4000BC, and the complex was used over a span of many centuries, up to c. 2500 BC.



Following this tour you proceed to the nearby Tarxien Temples. The complex consists of three linked temples which were erected in the fourth and third millennia BC.

Finally proceed to visit Hagar Qim temple (**UNESCO WHS**) which is unique among the Maltese temples because globigerina limestone was used throughout its construction. There are complicated decorations carved on some of the stones and an oracular chamber and altars.



Lunch in a local restaurant and transfer to Airport. You can book your departure flight from Malta (instead of going back to Catania).

**Departure times from Malta need to depart after 2pm.

****End of Services****

Cost based on minimum 10 paying participants:

Sharing double/twin room

€ 899,00 per person - VAT included

Single supplement

€ 105,00 - VAT included

English is the official language for this tour.

Tour Package includes:

- All transportation as per program by Deluxe Air-Conditioned Transportation, fuel, parking;
- English speaking guide from Montalbano to Catania;
- Extensive sightseeing as outlined in Itinerary with English speaking guide in Malta;
- 3 Nights accommodation at 4*Star hotel centrally located, based on sharing double/twin rooms with private facilities;
- Dinners in hotel per itinerary, 3 course menu - drinks not included;
- Lunches per itinerary at local restaurants;
- Daily Breakfast in hotel;
- Admission fees included in the itinerary;
- All city and local taxes, service charges and VAT

Sicilian Treasures s.n.c

Not included in Tour Package price:

- Extras
- Personal expenses
- Tips for drivers and guides
- Trip insurance
- AIR ticket from Catania to Malta: See explanation below

AIR TICKET FROM CATANIA TO MALTA NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

The one-way airfare from Catania to Malta is NOT included in the Tour price, however, we will purchase the tickets for you upon your booking the tour at the current fare and at your additional expense. Currently, the one-way, non-refundable fare is € 58,00 per person. Rates are subject to change until ticketed.

Flight schedule is based on today's timetable. Currently the flight departs Catania at 10:15pm and arrives Malta at 10:55pm.

Payment and cancellation policy:

Reservation and Full Payment Due by: 31st May 2018

20% fee for cancellation upon payment

30% penalty for cancellation within 01st to 30th September 2018

50% penalty for cancellation within 01st to 15th October 2018

75% penalty for cancellation within 16th to 20th October 2018

100% penalty after 21st October 2018