

# Italy – Sicily Austin Exclusive



## Austin Exclusive Trips

Traveling on an Austin Adventures tour is about building global competency, a thirst for discovery, and establishing cross-cultural connections. The foundation of our company is built on our staff's inherent traveler spirit and permeates each aspect of what we do. That's why we're pleased to welcome you on an Austin Exclusive travel program. Your tour will still be led by local guides, but you'll have the perk of being hosted by an Austin family member, a travel ambassador, or one of our senior staff. These special staff members will wholeheartedly dedicate themselves to showing you the ins and outs of some of their favorite destinations that they love to their core.

## Trip Summary

Sicily has extended a welcoming hand to visitors throughout the ages. It is a cultural crossroads where Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians and Arabs, Italian and Spanish civilizations have all left their mark over the centuries – artistically, architecturally and gastronomically. Our journey focuses on travelling through the south-eastern side of the island, visiting the Baroque towns of Ragusa and Noto, and across the Val di Noto. The entire experience is pure indulgence for the senses: admire the island's rich culture, savor fresh seafood, handmade pasta, arancini, pasta with sardines and caponata.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Siracusa

This morning we will meet you in the lobby the Hotel Una Palace in Catania at 9:30 a.m. • After a transfer to Siracusa, the guided walk begins with a local guide through the well-preserved town of Siracusa and its archaeological park with Greek and Roman remains • Tonight, we gather for a wonderful welcome dinner • *Overnight at Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare (D)*

### Day 2: Ragusa

After a transfer we'll take a walk in the protected Vendicari Nature Reserve, a complex of coastal marshlands, and home to large populations of migratory birds • After taking lunch in a farmhouse we continue to Noto, with its golden-hued limestone buildings • Then drive to Siracusa, with its urban waterfall of Baroque palaces and churches clinging to the steep hillside • We will spend two nights here in our hotel on the edge of the old town Ragusa Ibla • *Overnight at San Giorgio Palace Hotel (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Ragusa

Pedal along roads lined with stone walls to the village of Donnafugata, known for its wine and the 17<sup>th</sup> century castle, the latter which inspired a number of writers and artists • Guiseppe di Lampedusa used the castle's name in his famous 1958 novel *The Leopard* as the title of the country house inhabited by the Salina family • Proceed to the coastal resort town Marina di Ragusa for lunch on the beach and a dip in the Mediterranean • Return to Ragusa by van or continue to cycle via Scicli (one of the eight towns in the Val di Noto valley designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites) to Mòdica, where you can treat yourself to chocolate at the Antica Dolceria Bonajuto, the oldest chocolate shop in Sicily • Tonight, you are free to explore Ragusa and take advantage of the great local dining scene • *Overnight at San Giorgio Palace Hotel (B, L)*



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## Day 4: Taormina

Today we drive into the Reserve of Pantalica, an unbelievable collection of gorges and canyons, and surprisingly, a rainforest complete with waterfalls • Later we visit the epic sight of Pantalica, a Bronze Age settlement with the largest necropolis in the Mediterranean • After we'll have lunch in a nearby farmhouse, then head to this evening's destination, the magical town of Taormina, arguably occupying one of the most advantageous positions in the world • *Overnight at Hotel San Domenico Palace (B, L, D)*

## Day 5: Taormina

We begin the day with a two-hour transfer to Cantoniera d'Etna (6,200 feet), the highest point the paved road will take us up the famous volcano • From here, an exhilarating all-downhill bike ride to Giarre will make you forget any hills you've encountered on this trip so far • A 30-minute transfer brings us back to Taormina • In the late-afternoon, we enjoy a sunset cruise to toast to a beautiful trip and a final dinner as well • *Overnight at Hotel San Domenico Palace (B, D)*

## Day 6: Catania

After our last breakfast together, your guides will offer a shuttle to the Catania airport (or your hotel or car rental place in Catania if you decide to extend your stay in Sicily) • *No overnight*

*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

## Activities

### Cycling:

Day 3 bicycle mileage options: 22 / 33 / 39

Day 5 bicycle mileage option: 20

### Hiking:

Day 2 hiking mileage option: 4

Day 4 hiking mileage option: 4

### Discovery:

Walk the ancient trails carved out by the Etruscans 2,500 years ago and explore the caves of their necropolis. Explore the humble quarters of Napoleon on the Isle of Elba, and learn how this restless soul planned his comeback from here.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They take the time to explain the local history and daily sightseeing and route options. Each route has been carefully planned to include options to please each traveler's interests. Austin Adventures guides are available to help you select the distance that's right for you and to offer advice and assistance as you desire.

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## Distinctive Accommodation

### Night 1: Hotel des Etrangers et Miramare

Situated in the center of Ortigio Island in Siracusa, Hotel des Etrangers boasts beautiful sea views, and is only a brief distance from the sights and attractions. Its magnificent neoclassical façade dominates the harbor. Step in style into the grand entrance hall and admire the precious marble floors, the stucco works and gold decor of the walls. The Arethusa & wellness spa pool with jacuzzi is designed to ensure privacy and tranquility. Beauty treatments and massages are also available. The two restaurants serve fine Italian dishes, while the roof garden has a wonderful terrace for outdoor dining

### Nights 2 & 3: San Giorgio Palace Hotel

San Giorgio Palace Hotel, in Ragusa Ibla, is partially located in a building dating back to the eighteenth century, only a few steps from the Piazza Duomo and the majestic cathedral. The restaurant, with a breathtaking view over the valley of Santa Domenica, was built in an ancient Franciscan convent, featuring elegant stone vaults. All rooms at the Palace San Giorgio come with modern design furniture and are equipped with minibar, air conditioning, and LCD TV.

### Nights 4 & 5: Hotel San Domenico Palace

The San Domenico Palace sits in a truly magnificent setting which has attracted people for centuries. A luxurious 5-star hotel in an ancient Dominican monastery, it has views over Mount Etna and the Taormina Bay. It features a fitness center, a beauty corner, an outdoor swimming pool and the prettiest gardens. Listed in the most famous food guides, the restaurant serves top quality Sicilian cuisine. This may be as close as you'll ever get to heaven... while on earth.

### Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary along with refreshments and snacks. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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## Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Catania. On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby the Hotel Una Palace in Catania at 9:30 a.m. After a transfer to Siracusa, the guided walk begins. After breakfast on Day 6, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Catania.

## Trip Price

\$3,598 (\$580 single supplement)

## Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

## 2021 Dates

October 24-29

## Host City

Catania, Sicily, Italy  
Airport Code: CTA

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Navigate a real-life fairytale  
on this exclusive  
Italian vacation*

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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in detailed itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Solo Travelers

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement". If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. We at Austin Adventures will do our best to match you with a suitable roommate of the same gender before departure. If you book 90 days or more before the trip and we cannot find you a roommate, 50% of the private room cost will be due at final payment time. If you book within 90 days of departure and we cannot find you a roommate, the full private room charge will be applied. If we do find you a roommate between final payment and before the trip departs, we will refund the single supplement amount paid. Some exceptions apply.

## Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.