

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Sicily

Agrigento, Taormina & Aeolian Islands

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

Rustic Island in the Sun

In more ways than one, Sicily is the ultimate Italy. Geographically, it's the southernmost province—warm, golden, and sprinkled with blindingly white Greek temples that are among the world's best preserved. And culturally, it's more like Italy as you'd have imagined it a hundred years ago. Farmers still get to market by donkey. Mt. Etna is active and is the backdrop to almost every view. Even the bread is rougher and crustier—better to match vibrant food unlike any other you'll find in Italy. Get ready to embark on a remarkably scenic walking tour that captures the spirit of Sicily. There's Palermo, of course...and the rock-clinging seaside beauty of Taormina. From beautifully sited lodgings, you'll set out on walks among the temples of Agrigento and immerse yourself in the archeology. Offshore, you'll wander the jewel-like Aeolian Islands. After all, "To have seen Italy without seeing Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all."

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 3 lunches (1 cooking instruction), 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. An average of 2 to 3 hours of walking per day, with a vehicle usually in support. Walks around Mt. Etna are moderate and involve some elevation gains and losses over loose lava rocks and gravel.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

Palermo

You'll begin in sunny Palermo at your hotel, located in the heart of the ancient city. Very nearby is Mount Pellegrino. Join your guide for a walk that seamlessly blends history, nature, and breathtaking views. You'll start at the Santuario di Santa Rosalia, a cave church on the mountain dedicated to the city's patron saint who lived in a little hermitage there in the Middle Ages.

As you walk, the air is filled with the scent of Mediterranean pine trees. Keep an eye out for colorful butterflies fluttering among the flowers and the chirping of local birds that call this urban oasis their home. Not only does the Scala Vecchia trail provide an excellent immersion into the history and culture of the island, it offers stunning panoramic views of the city's terracotta rooftops juxtaposed against the Mediterranean Sea.

Later in the afternoon, return to town to explore Palermo's historical center on foot at eye level, on a guided walk that includes colorful piazzas and courtyards. You'll arrive at the hotel to relax before savoring a delicious dinner of traditional Sicilian specialties.

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: PALERMO

DAY 2 »

Regaleali / Agrigento

As you travel into the heart of Sicily, enjoy spending time on a picturesque farm near the Regaleali area, known for its excellent wine. Visit a personal friend for an 'only with Classic Journeys' experience as she invites you into her kitchen for a special treat — an opportunity to taste some of the local wine and enjoy a cooking instruction with her. Satiated from a memorable lunch, stretch your legs on a spectacular walk through the rolling countryside surrounding your hosts' home.

Later, head to Agrigento where the Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples) is located on a plateau outside of town. Your hotel is perfectly-sited with views of the archeological zone and a beautiful benefit of staying here is the opportunity (weather permitting) to dine al fresco on the terrace while the temples are illuminated against the night sky on the hill above us.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: AGRIGENTO

DAY 3 »

Agrigento

Wake up this morning and prepare for the magnificent sight of the best-preserved Greek temples in Italy. (If you're an early riser, watch the light of the morning sun bathe one of the temples in a golden glow.) Following breakfast, you'll approach them in the best way: on foot at eye level.

Your scenic walk offers stunning landscapes and a deep connection to the ancient past, making it a must for history buffs and nature lovers. Along the way, groves of olive trees with their gnarled trunks and silvery leaves line the way. Fragrant scents of thyme, rosemary, and oregano fill the air. Ancient stone walls reveal the rich agricultural practices that sustained the people who once inhabited the land. And the crowning jewels of the walk are the temples, some dating to 440 BC: Jupiter, Concordia, Hercules, Dioscuri, Castor and Pollux.

After lunch, you'll enjoy a true 'only with Classic Journeys' experience as you meet three generations of a family on their country estate. Picture yourself walking up to a little countryside house where a smiling *nonna* is waiting with glasses of lemon ice. Refreshed, continue on to meet one of her granddaughters, Giulia, who leads you on a walk through the olive trees explaining all the ins and outs of olives, olive oil, farming, producing, and pressing. Cap the visit with a tasting of several of the family's olive oils.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: AGRIGENTO

DAY 4 »

Siracusa / Taormina

Leaving behind the ancient ruins, you'll have the chance to admire the everchanging colors of the Sicilian countryside. Drive past rolling hills, vineyards, orange groves and wheat fields, and get your first views of Mt. Etna. Reaching the southeastern part of the island you'll arrive at the coastal town of Siracusa (Syracuse). Greek colonists first put down roots here in 734 BC and a mere 300 years later, the city was so powerful that it defeated Athens in a legendary naval battle. Today, Siracusa is rich with well-preserved Greek and Roman landmarks.

On arrival, enjoy a guided walking exploration of the ancient heart of the city located on the small island of Ortygia, a UNESCO World Heritage site. On foot at eye level you gain a genuine perspective for the impressive scale of the archaeological zone, including ancient side-by-side theaters. The Greek theater could seat up to 15,000 spectators and the Roman amphitheater was the frequent scene of gladiator battles. On a walk, wander into both of them, then follow a footpath into the old limestone quarries that are now filled with lemon and orange trees.

In the afternoon, drive north to Taormina. Famous like Positano on the Amalfi coast for its beautiful location along the cliffs and overlooking the Ionian Sea, Taormina is equally charming, with its elegant boutiques and antique shops. Arriving at your hotel in Taormina, which is perched on a hill, you'll get picture-perfect views of the surrounding area.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: TAORMINA

DAY 5 »

Aeolian Islands

This morning you'll board the *aliscafo* (hydrofoil) for a scenic one-hour ride from the port of Milazzo to Lipari, one of seven volcanic, cone-shaped islands, creating a spectacular archipelago in the sea just to the north of Sicily. As you approach the island, your first impression is the gleaming whitewashed houses that are scattered along the jagged green hills dropping to the beautiful sea.

Once on the island, you're in for a fascinating and immersive day of explorations that reveal how friendly and welcoming the locals are. You'll join your guide to visit our friends at their organic winery that produces acclaimed wines. The volcanic soil of the islands is perfect for the grapes, and the settings (including for your gourmet picnic overlooking the vineyards, the sea and the neighboring islands) are literally jaw-dropping.

After lunch, stretch your legs on a guided walk along coastal paths to the geologically oldest part of the island, characterized by striking polychromatic rocks created by the heat of the volcano and with views of ancient fumaroles first discovered in the 4th century B.C. Depending on the season, you'll enjoy the scent of the wild orchids, Aeolian cornflowers, or other native plants that permeate the air. Later, explore the town of Lipari — the largest settlement on the island — with its twisting lanes, quaint boutiques and outdoor cafes, and the massive 16th century castle that dominates the town.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: TAORMINA

DAY 6 »

Mt. Etna

After breakfast, make a short journey to Mt. Etna, one of the world's major active volcanoes and, at 10,958 feet, the highest in Europe. From an altitude of about 7,000 feet, set out on an energetic walk on a scenic pathway over and along lava rivers that provide the opportunity to see firsthand incredible volcanic formations created over the last several centuries.

Midday you'll be greeted with a rustic lunch of goat cheese, bruschetta, sun-dried tomatoes, Italian sausages, lamb and homemade pastas, accompanied by the excellent red Etna wine grown right on the same slopes. Fortified from lunch, head back to Taormina through the charming village of Linguaglossa — which, in the winter, is a busy ski resort.

In the afternoon, explore Taormina on your own and rummage around the Borgo Medievale (the oldest and most colorful part of town) that allows you to see what everyone from the ancient Greeks to DH Lawrence and Goethe have seen in its spectacular location. Visit the third-century Greek theater, set so that looking from the seats your panorama includes the blue sea beyond. And the Public Gardens, with its exotic flowers and eccentric follies. If you'd prefer to relax at the hotel, you might lounge by the pool or enjoy a drink on the spectacular terrace before dinner.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: TAORMINA

DAY 7 »

Taormina / Catania

This morning is at your leisure to relax, swim and explore the quaint streets of the colorful town with bougainvillea laced along the medieval buildings.

Late morning, drive to Catania to part company at the airport for flights back to mainland Italy.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[Grand Hotel Et Des Palmes](#)

An iconic property in Palermo, the Grand Hotel et Des Palmes is perfectly located in the heart of the historic city center. This luxurious property has a rich history and immerses you in Art Nouveau for a glamorous retreat in Sicily.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



[Villa Athena](#)

Located in the Valley of the Temples, this 5-star hotel is an 18th-century villa, the only lodging inside the archaeological zone. The villa offers the opportunity to dine al fresco while the temples are illuminated against the night sky.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Grand Hotel San Pietro](#)

A 5-star luxury property, this beautiful and elegant hotel nestles into its own quiet park near the heart of Taormina. The sea views from the balcony of your room and the glamorous swimming pool are nothing short of spectacular.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of Grand Hotel et Des Palmes**
START CITY: **Palermo**
START TIME: **2:30 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Catania airport**
END CITY: **Catania**
END TIME: **1:00 PM**