

# CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Sicily

Agrigento, Taormina & Mt. Etna





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

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 ancient archeology. And get ready for several 'only with Classic Journeys' experiences with olive oil makers, winemakers in their vineyards and other artisans. After all, "To have seen Italy without seeing Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all."

DAY 1 »

## Palermo

- Walk Mount Pellegrino's Scala Vecchia trail for history, pine-scented air, and sea views
- Stroll Palermo's vibrant piazzas and courtyards before a Sicilian feast

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

## Regaleali / Agrigento

- Walk through rolling countryside to a private kitchen for a Sicilian cooking instruction and wine tasting
- Dine under stars at a hillside hotel with illuminated temples as your backdrop

As you travel into the heart of Sicily, the warm Mediterranean sun glistens off the olive groves, vineyards and wheat fields that are the breadbasket that has fed ages of civilizations. Here, in the Regaleali area, one of our close friends invites you into her kitchen for an 'only with Classic Journeys' experience — an opportunity to put on an apron, roll up your sleeves and pour a glass of the local wine while you enjoy a cooking instruction with her. After savoring the memorable lunch that you helped to create, stretch your legs on a scenic 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 cinematic benefit of staying here is the opportunity to dine al fresco on the terrace with a temple illuminated against the night sky as the scenic backdrop to your meal.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: AGRIGENTO

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

## Agrigento

- Join a forensic archeologist on a walk among 5th-century BC Greek temples and olive groves
- Taste olive oils with three generations of a farming family on their countryside estate

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 as it bathes one of the temples in a golden glow.

Following breakfast, 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.

After lunch, 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.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: AGRIGENTO

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

## Taormina

- Explore volcanic vineyards and sample organic wines with views of Mount Etna
- Wander Taormina's cliffside medieval lanes, ending with Aperol Spritz and people-watching

As you make your way from Agrigento to Taormina, the landscape unfolds like a tapestry of all that has made Sicily so iconic and desirable to civilizations of people. The air is filled with the sweet fragrance of citrus blossoms from orange groves originally planted by the Moors during Arab rule. And the vineyards you pass through showcase ancient winemaking traditions that date to Greek and Roman times.

As you walk through one of the vineyards, a winemaker greets you for a fascinating and immersive day of exploration, showcasing the warmth and hospitality of the locals. Our friends invite you to their organic winery, renowned for producing acclaimed wines. The volcanic soil in this part of the island is ideal for grape cultivation, and the views—whether you're walking through the vineyards, gazing at the sea, admiring the coastline, or taking in Mount Etna—are truly breathtaking.

Mid-afternoon, arrive in Taormina and you'll understand immediately the town's allure to thousands of years of travelers. Perched on cliffs overlooking the Ionian Sea, Taormina rivals the charm of Positano on the Amalfi Coast. Its picturesque setting has attracted artists, writers, and travelers for centuries. With your guide, walk the cobblestoned streets through the heart of Taormina. The main corso, connecting the two ancient entrance gates, is lined with elegant boutiques, antique shops and trattorias. Wind down this afternoon over an Aperol Spritz, enjoying some people watching as the locals go about their daily lives and you feel yourself settling into the tempo of village life.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: TAORMINA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

## Mt. Etna

- Hike Etna's lava rivers, surrounded by lunar-like volcanic landscapes
- Feast on rustic Sicilian fare at a mountain refuge paired with local Etna red wine

In the distance, the silhouette of Mt. Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano, dominates the horizon. This majestic peak, often snowcapped, adds a dramatic backdrop to the small villages and towns, each with its own unique stories and anecdotes that your guide shares with you, bringing them to life.

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. Starting from an altitude of about 7,000 feet, set out on an otherworldly walk on a scenic pathway over and along lava rivers that provide the opportunity to experience firsthand the incredible volcanic formations created over the last several centuries.

Midday you'll be greeted at a mountain refuge 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. You might opt to visit the Public Gardens, with its exotic flowers and eccentric follies. Or you might prefer to relax at the hotel, lounge by the pool or enjoy a drink on the spectacular terrace before dinner.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: TAORMINA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

## Taormina / Catania

- Visit Taormina's ancient Greek theater with panoramic Etna and Ionian Sea vistas
- Savor the juxtaposition of ancient history and pop culture that adds a layer of fascination to the town's identity

DAILY ITINERARY  
SICILY | CULTURAL WALKING TOUR

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A morning walk leads to the crown jewel of Taormina, its ancient Greek theater, a marvel of engineering and design. Originally built in the 3rd century for dramatic and musical performances, the theater later served as an arena for Roman games and gladiator battles. The panoramic views from the theater, framed by the sea and Etna, create a mesmerizing backdrop for any performance, including those you can see even present day by the likes of Sting and other artists. Unlike many ancient sites, Taormina has managed to balance its historical side while also becoming a contemporary cultural icon. The town has gained modern fame as the backdrop for the TV series 'White Lotus' and this juxtaposition of ancient history and pop culture adds a layer of fascination to the town's identity and your experiences here.

The balance of the morning is yours 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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART



## 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



### Doric Eco Boutique Resort & Spa

The Doric Boutique Hotel is a beautiful property that overlooks the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento. Offering upscale accommodations and modern amenities, including a private jacuzzi, your stay here will be rejuvenating and unforgettable.

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: 2 nights

# Curated Walks

**CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.**

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

**CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY**

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	2.5	3	4.5
Day 2	1	3.5	3.5
Day 3	3	4	5.5
Day 4	2.5	3.5	4.5
Day 5	2.5	2.5	4
Day 6	0.5	2	2

\*No scheduled walks

**ROUTE NOTES**

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Palermo, Taormina and Agrigento, as well as well-maintained countryside and coastal trails, terraced vineyard and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone, and even crushed lava rock on the volcanic paths. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain; there will be some elevation gain and loss.

**THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:**

**CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS**

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

## Arrival & Departure

### → ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Palermo Hotel  
CITY: Palermo, Sicily  
TIME: 1:30 PM

### → DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Catania airport  
CITY: Catania, Sicily  
TIME: 1:30 PM

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
  - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
  - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
  - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
  - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
  - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
  - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

## What's Included

- Accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches (1 cooking instruction), 4 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.
- ▶ **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 on us.

## Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.