

American Celebration of Music in Sicily

Tour #1 (6 nights/8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Palermo, Sicily

Day 2

Palermo

(D)

Arrive in Palermo

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Palermo, followed by late afternoon hotel check-in

Welcome Dinner included, and overnight

Palermo, the vibrant capital of Sicily, is a city that captivates the senses with its rich history, eclectic architecture, bustling markets, delicious cuisine. Nestled on the northern coast of the island, Palermo invites visitors to explore its streets and plazas, revealing a tapestry woven with influences from various civilizations

Day 3

Palermo

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour of Palermo. Palermo is the capital of the Italian island of Sicily. The 12th-century Palermo Cathedral houses royal tombs, while the huge neoclassical Teatro Massimo is known for opera performances. Also in the center are the Palazzo dei Normanni, a royal palace started in the 9th century, and the Cappella Palatina, with Byzantine mosaics

*Performance at S. Maria dello Spasimo in Palermo as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily**

Dinner included, and overnight

Day 4

Segesta / Monreale / Palermo

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to Segesta, which stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of ancient civilizations. Visit the Archeological park, a masterpiece of Greek architecture that seems to defy the passage of time. Set against a backdrop of serene rolling hills and olive groves, the temple's sturdy columns and weathered stone tell the story of a bygone era. Wandering through the archaeological park, visitors can discover remnants of ancient walls, streets, and structures that whisper stories of daily life in Segesta

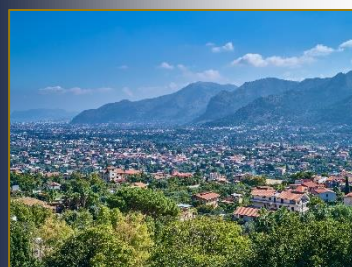
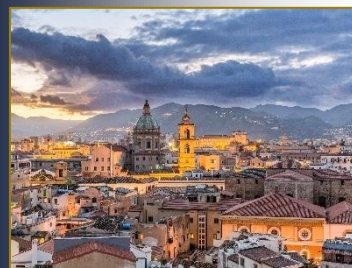
Lunch, on own

Afternoon excursion to Monreale with an orientation tour of the town. Located on the slope of Monte Caputo, and overlooking the very fertile valley called "La Conca d'oro," a production area of orange, olive and almond trees. The produce is exported in large quantities

*Performance at the Cathedral di S. Maria Nuova in Palermo as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily**

Return to Palermo

Dinner included, and overnight



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Day 5**Cefalù / Castel Tusa / Tindari / Taormina (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Taormina with various stops along the coast. Stop in Cefalù, one of the pearls of the coast with its wonderful Norman fortress and Duomo. Also visit Castel Tusa (a charming fisherman village), Capo D'Orlando (famous for its beach resort), and Tindari including a visit to the Greek Theatre. From there take the highway via Milazzo* and Messina

Lunch, on own

Continue to Taormina

Enjoy an afternoon half day guided sightseeing tour of Taormina, a picturesque hilltop town on the East coast of Sicily. Enjoy a visit to the Teatro Antico di Taormina, an ancient Greco-Roman Theatre still used today. Near the theater, cliffs drop to the sea forming coves with sandy beaches. A narrow stretch of sand connects to Isola Bella, a tiny island and nature reserve

Dinner included, and overnight

Nestled on the eastern coast of Sicily, Taormina is a picturesque town that effortlessly compounds ancient history, stunning landscapes, and a touch of modern sophistication. Perched on a hillside overlooking the Ionian Sea and framed by the majestic Mount Etna, Taormina is a destination that captivates with its timeless charm



Day 6**Mount Etna / Taormina (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit Mount Etna, an active stratovolcano near the city of Catania. Mount Etna is one of the tallest active Volcanoes in Europe. In Greek mythology, the deadly monster Typhon was trapped under this mountain by Zeus. The fertile volcanic soils support extensive agriculture, with vineyards and orchards spread across the lower slopes of the mountain and the broad Plain of Catania to the South (*Supplemental Cost for 4x4 Jeep to highest point: \$100 per person*)

Lunch, on own

*Performance at Cathedral di S. Nicolò di Bari in Taormina as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily**

Dinner included, and overnight



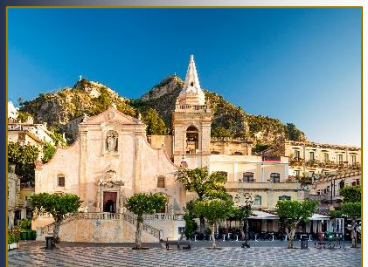
Day 7**Ortigia / Siracusa (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Siracusa. Enjoy a sightseeing visit to Ortigia, an island nestled in the heart of the Ionian Sea. Ortigia is a charming island that effortlessly transports visitors back in time. The narrow, labyrinthine streets are lined with centuries-old buildings. See the centerpiece of Ortigia, the Piazza del Duomo, a lively square surrounded by architectural wonders. The Cathedral of Syracuse is also a stunning example of Baroque architecture which dominates the square. Nearby, the Fountain of Arethusa adds a touch of mythological allure to the surroundings, as the freshwater spring is believed to be linked to Greek mythology. Ortigia's waterfront is a picturesque blend of colorful buildings, quaint cafes, and panoramic views of the crystal-clear sea

Lunch, on own

*Performance at Chiesa S. Giovanni Battista in Siracusa as part of the American Celebration of Music in Sicily**



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Farewell Dinner included, and overnight

Siracusa, a city with a rich tapestry of history and culture, is located on the southeastern coast of Sicily. As one of the most ancient and important cities of Magna Graecia, Siracusa offers visitors a combination of archaeological wonders, medieval charm, and vibrant coastal beauty

Day 8

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out
Transfer to the Catania Airport for return flight home

**Subject to confirmation*

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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