



## SELF DRIVE 2019 SPECIALS departing from CATANIA

Net rates (without car)  
Valid from 01.01.19 to 31.12.19

### Itinerary of the most beautiful beaches in Eastern Sicily

Seven days spent among the most beautiful beaches of Sicily where kilometers of thin sand alternates with wonderful cliffs that make the coastal view even more various and charming. Public beaches or fully equipped, caves only reachable by the sea, turquoise and crystal waters. These are the ingredients for a total relaxing vacation, far from everyday stress. A paradise for those who are fond of sea, sun but without neglecting the archaeological and artistic heritage that this island still maintains.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> day: Catania – Taormina area

Arrival at the airport Fontanarossa in Catania, car delivery and drive to Taormina – Km 67 (highway + State road – about 00h47)

**Overnight:** Taormina area

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> day: Isola Bella Beach

From Catania to Etna – Km 61 (Provincial road.+ highway - about 01h20)

From Etna to Taormina – Km 86 (Provincial road + highway - about 1h30)

**Etna** The biggest volcano in Italy and Europe, is 3.323m high with a circumference at the bottom of about 250 km and a volcanic total area of 1400 square meters. Despite the fact that it is still active and has many times proved his destructive power, its slopes extremely fertile are cultivated and inhabited by thousands of people. Mount Etna consists of several smaller craters and two large ones: the Trifoglietto, situated in the magnificence Valle del Bove, and the Mongibello.

**Taormina, Isola Bella and Capo Sant'Andrea** Taormina located on Mount Tauro, is called the "Island in the sky", one of the most charming tourist attraction in the world. Along the coast there are beautiful beaches provided with modern bathing equipments; and opposite is situated the Isola Bella. Between the beach of Mazzarò and the one in Isola Bella there is Capo Sant'Andrea, that has enchanting sea caves directly reachable through a stair in the rock.

**Recommended tours:** Mount Etna, the dormant craters of Mount Silvestri at an altitude of 1800mt and Taormina perfect for going shopping but also for visiting the Greek-Roman theatre.

**Overnight:** Taormina area

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> day: Taormina area – Alcantara Gorges - Riviera dei Ciclopi – Taormina area

From Taormina to Gole dell'Alcantara – Km 38 (State road + provincial road – about 1h00)

From Taormina to Acireale – Km 43 (highway – about 45min)

**Gole dell'Alcantara** The Alcantara gorges were born from the eruption of the cratere Mojo, in the north of Mount Etna. Black geometric structures that rise one opposite the other up to the sky. Lines form pentagonal and hexagonal prisms or irregular shapes that play with light drawing monstrous or pretty shapes. Contrasts are strong and as soon as we go inside only three elements remain: rock, water and sky.

**Riviera dei Ciclopi** staying in the *Riviera dei Ciclopi* means discovering a new world made of myth and fishing traditions, of history and literature. According to the legend was Polifemo that, after Ulysses blinded him, threw stones and created the place called *Riviera dei Ciclopi*. Actually, the *Faraglioni* are black and sharp lava masses that emerge from the water. The colours of the sunset give a magical atmosphere to this sea landscape which is situated in front of Aci Trezza.

**Overnight:** Taormina area

#### 4<sup>th</sup> day: Taormina – Beach of Vendicari – Siracusa or Ragusa area

From Taormina to the province of Siracusa - Km 120 (highway + State road – about 1h30)

From Taormina to the province of Ragusa - Km 160 (highway + State road – about 2h15)

**Natural oasis of Vendicari** near the sea there are beaches and cliffs that flow into beautiful coves, ponds, reed thickets and trees of different height. The spring landscape is an explosion of colours: from the green of palms to the yellow of Brooms and chrysanthemums, from the red of poppies to the purple of thyme, the blue of the Iris, and to the white of sea lilies. The beach of Vendicari is probably the most famous beach from the natural point of view. Totally inside the naturalistic oasis of Vendicari, is a very long beach with thin sandy beach.

**Siracusa** where enjoy the living prooves of the Sicilian Baroque almost entirely concentrated around Piazza del Duomo, in the heart of Ortigia but also the wonderful archaeological park.

**Recommended tours:** the Cathedral, the church of S. Lucia alla Badia, Palazzo del Senato, Palazzo Beneventano, Palazzo Borgia, Via delle Maestranze (with the church of S. Francesco and Palazzo Impellizzeri with the extraordinary masks), Via Vittorio Veneto (the church of S. Filippo Neri and the church of Carmine), the Dionisio's Ear, the Neapolis Park, the Greek theatre, the Roman amphitheatre and Ortigia where visitors can admire the source Aretusa with its luxuriant plants of papyrus.

**Overnight:** Siracusa or Ragusa area



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**5<sup>th</sup> day:** *The beaches of Cala Mosche and San Lorenzo*

From Siracusa to Vendicari - Km 40 (Provincial road+ State road – about 00h30)

**Beach of San Lorenzo, beach of Cala Mosche, and Isola delle Correnti:** a few kilometers from the reserve of Vendicari, the most beautiful place of the Ionian sea: the beaches of San Lorenzo, Cala Mosche, the Island of Portopalo and the Island of Flows. All beaches are isolated and consequently not crowded, except San Lorenzo. The sea, almost always quiet is crystal, with a white sandy beach that reminds the Caribbean beaches.

**Portopalo and Capo Passero** are situated in the southern point of the Siracuse province, this natural small island in the past was used as strategic point for the catching of tuna. Portopalo boasts one of the most important fish markets. The coasts of Portopalo and Capo Passero present a particular morphology and alternate long sandy beaches to breathtaking rocks, both vertical, and gently degrading into the water. Visiting and circumnavigating the Island of Capo Passero is an unique experience, something tourists cannot miss especially those who love sea views.

**Noto** artistic city, rich of charme has earned the name of "city of the Baroque", for its baroque buildings and churches. Today is nominated by the Unesco "World heritage Site". The ancient Val di Noto considered the biggest yard in Sicilian history and, for what we know, probably the biggest experimentation laboratory of international baroque patterns.

**Recommended tours:** the centre of Noto, where there are the most important monuments, expressions of the baroque style (the Cathedral, the noble buildings and the Town Hall); the *Tonnara* of Portopalo and Capo Passero, extreme point of the south east of Sicily where the Ionian sea meets the canal of Sicily, was a flourishing factory during the XX<sup>th</sup> century and constitute today a wonderful monument of industrial archeology.

**Overnight:** Siracusa or Ragusa area

**6<sup>th</sup> day:** *Siracusa area – Beaches of Manganuco, Sampieri, Punta delle Formiche, Scoglitti – Province of Ragusa*

From Siracusa to Pozzallo – Km 64 (highway + State road – about 00h50)

From Pozzallo to Scoglitti – Km 70 (Provincial road + State road - about 01h20)

**The Ragusa coast** strikes for its dimensions and the quality of its beaches, characterised by high dunes and a crystal sea combined with the typical Maquis, made of Agaves and Palms.

**Modica**, beautiful town that, like all the other town in *Val di Noto* rebuilt after the earthquake of 1693, is typically baroque. Another good reason to visit Modica is its local chocolate, the best of the island.

**Scicli**, small village immersed in the countryside, full of beautiful baroque buildings, is not normally considered in the traditional tourist routes.

**Ragusa Ibla**, the first thing that strikes is the breathtaking city view from the bends of corso Mazzini. It looks like a painting, with the grey colour of its buildings in contrast with the green around, revived by the colours of the buildings and the Majolica domes of the church of Santa Maria dell'Itria. The majestic Dome of San Giorgio, erected at the beginning of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, has an impressive baroque construction.

**Recommended tours:** Modica (San Giorgio Dome, the city mansion near the church of S. Rosario, the churches of San Pietro and S. Maria of Bethlem famous for its Crib, the Ethnographic Museum and the Palazzo Mercenari); Scicli (the church of San Matteo that dominates the city, the classical church of San Bartolomeo and the Crib dated 1535, while among the civilian buildings there are Palazzo Beneventano and Palazzo Fava) and don't forget to try the famous «granita» (water-ice drink); Ragusa Ibla the Cathedral of San Giovanni, the church of Purgatory, Madonna dell'Itria, Palazzo Battaglia, Palazzo Cosentini, Palazzo Cancelleria, Palazzo La Rocca.

**Overnight:** Siracusa or Ragusa area

**7<sup>th</sup> day:** *Siracusa or Ragusa area — Catania*

From Siracusa to Catania – Km 65 (State road + highway – 45mn)

From Ragusa to Catania - Km 115 State road + Highway – about 1h30)

**Catania** beautiful city of the "black" baroque, with the classic baroque style of Giovan Battista Vaccarini, which alternates the black lava rock with the white limestone, so different from the other towns of Val di Noto.

**Recommended tours:** Piazza Duomo with its magnificence sandstone and basalt facade and, Palazzo dei Chierici, Palazzo degli Elefanti, Town Hall. The eighteenth century Palazzo Biscari that was built by the most illustrious architects of that time, the road of the Crociferi, expression of the Catania baroque, the majestic Monastery of the Benedictines.

**Overnight:** Province of Catania

**8<sup>th</sup> day:** *Departure*

Departure from the Airport Fontanarossa – Catania