



Italy Treasures of Sicily Private Walking with Premier Lodging

Ancient Temples, Scenic Wineries & Spectacular Mount Etna

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!

Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivaled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

We have been refining our hiking adventures in Italy for over 40 years building an unrivaled team of local guides and genuine connections.

REASON 2

This well-paced trip was designed to fully experience Sicily's natural beauty, robust culture, and ancient history, adventuring between volcanic slopes and dreamy seaside villages.

REASON 3

Our expert local Sicilian guides have decades of experience and will share with you truly authentic experiences you won't find in the guidebooks.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Easy hiking and walking on varied terrain. Cultural touring includes walking on pavement in cities and on uneven surfaces at archaeological sites.



LODGING

Stay in seaside spa resorts and elegant historic hotels, each hand-selected for its prime location and amenities.



CLIMATE

Sicily has a Mediterranean climate along the coast with mild, pleasant weather in spring and fall. Temperatures range from the 50s °F to low 80s °F. Inland you'll find slightly cooler weather. You may experience some rain at any time of year.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

"What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unwavering professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence." - Alex M.



Italy Treasures of Sicily Private Walking with Premier Lodging

Ancient Temples, Scenic Wineries & Spectacular Mount Etna

A triangular island kissed by the Tyrrhenian and Ionian seas, Sicily captivates the imagination with its deep history, regional culture, and dramatic landscapes. Hike the wild seaside trails of dazzling Zingaro Nature Reserve and ride off-road up the lava-sculpted slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano. Wander stone streets through Greek, Roman, and Norman history, visiting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in enchanting Siracusa, Noto, and Taormina, and marvel at the Valley of the Temples. Sip wines at family-run estates and savor farm-fresh cuisine in spectacular settings.

9 Days

Start: Palermo, Italy

End: Catania, Italy

Departing: April, May, June, July, September, October

Activities: Hiking & Trekking

Lodging: Luxury Hotels

Group Size: 6-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



“

I would highly recommend Mt Sobek. It was truly worth the money. Every detail was taken care of- transport, meals, hiking trails and accommodations. It made for a stress free trip and one where you can truly enjoy the beauty and culture around you.

- Kristin W.

Check mt sobek.com for date-specific pricing.

The Itinerary

DAY
01

Arrive in Palermo & Transfer to Mazara del Vallo

Welcome to Sicily, the largest region in Italy, where early civilizations evolved into diverse languages and traditions in natural island splendor. You will be met just beyond the airport arrivals area for a relaxing journey through the rolling vineyards and olive groves of western Sicily, on the way to Mazara del Vallo—a coastal town known for its sparkling Mediterranean views.

MEALS: Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

DAY
02

Savor History, Wine & Nature in Western Sicily

Begin your day with a guided walk through Mazara del Vallo's Kasbah—a labyrinth of narrow lanes, vibrant tiles, and Arab-Norman architecture. Next, head to the stunning Gorghi Tondi Nature Reserve, a protected oasis of karst lakes and Mediterranean scrub. Nestled within the reserve is the Gorghi Tondi Winery, where you'll get a behind-the-scenes tour of the sustainably operated family-owned estate, then savor a tasting of their finest organic wines. A traditional Sicilian lunch, crafted from fresh, locally sourced ingredients, is served with each pairing celebrating the flavors of the region in every bite. Stretch your legs in the Reserve on a gentle hike through the biodiverse landscape, home to rare flora and migratory birds. It's a wonderful day of culture, nature, and culinary discovery in western Sicily.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 3 hours/2-3 miles easy hiking with negligible elevation gain or loss

DAY
03

Hike in the Spellbinding Zingaro Nature Reserve

Set out on a hike through the Zingaro Nature Reserve, an adventure through Sicily's first nature reserve and one of its most pristine coastal landscapes. Protected by environmentalists who fought to preserve it from development, this rugged stretch of wilderness is rich with broom, olive trees, and holly oaks. The trail winds along the verdant coastline, offering sweeping sea views and salty breezes. Along the way, watch for foxes, hedgehogs, lizards, and a variety of birdlife among the Mediterranean scrub. Pause for sweeping views over hidden coves where turquoise waters lap against ivory pebbled beaches. Revel in the rich biodiversity and stunning coastline in this unspoiled gem. Enjoy the final night amid Mazara del Vallo's orchards and vineyards at your luxurious resort and spa.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2-3 hours/ 7.5 miles hiking with 1,160' elevation gain and 1,010' elevation loss

**DAY
04**

Immerse Yourself in Sicilian Village Life

Travel high into the peaks of the Sicani Mountains to a place where the way of life has changed little over the centuries. Wind your way along narrow streets lined with weathered stone houses. Open doors invite you into workshops where artists and craftspeople still practice their time-honored trades. Marvel at idyllic views of the surrounding valleys, where olive groves and pastures roll toward the horizon. Sample a local specialty—aged pecorino cheese—and sit down to a traditional Sicilian lunch prepared with ingredients from the region. Far from tourist crowds, a small village offers an intimate glimpse into Sicily's enduring rural culture. Return to the coast and check in to tonight's spa resort.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Cultural discovery

**DAY
05**

Walk in the Valley of the Temples

Founded by the Greeks in the 6th century BC, Agrigento rose to prominence as one of the Mediterranean's most powerful colonies. Through conflict and conquest, some of its finest Doric temples are still largely intact. The UNESCO-listed Valley of the Temples archaeological site has uncovered temples, tombs, and residences, yet much of the city is still unexcavated. Stroll between the Temple of Hera, the Temple of Concordia, the Temple of Heracles, and the remains of the Temple of Zeus as you imagine life in an ancient Greek outpost and learn about the pivotal role it played in shaping the cultural and political history of the classical world from your expert guide. After a private garden lunch, continue to Siracusa, where you will spend the next two nights.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2 hours/2 miles walking with negligible elevation gain or loss

**DAY
06**

Explore Historic Architecture in Noto & Ortigia

Discover the captivating cities of Noto and Siracusa. Together, they explore architectural history from Hellenistic ruins to a towering modern shrine. Noto enchants with golden limestone streets lined by ornate baroque facades, palaces, and cathedrals. The honey-hued sandstone architecture of Siracusa's Ortigia Island was built right around ancient Greek ruins. Walk down narrow cobblestone streets, through picturesque piazzas, and past medieval churches and ancient Greek ruins as your guide uncovers the fascinating history of these cities. Dinner is on your own, to indulge in one of the fine restaurants of Siracusa.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: Cultural discovery

**DAY
07**

Take the Path of the Saracens to Taormina

Begin the day in Castelmola, a picturesque medieval village perched high above Taormina. Stroll through narrow streets, soak in the slow rhythms of local life, and savor an almond granita, a traditional Sicilian treat. Descend towards Taormina along ancient mule tracks, passing olive groves, cactus plants and Roman-era water wells. This route is called the “Path of the Saracens,” as it was used by the Saracens (Arabs) to attack Taormina in the 10th century. As you make your way downhill, panoramic vistas unfold, showcasing Taormina, Isola Bella, and the shimmering Ionian Sea beyond. Lunch today is a feast of Sicilian flavors at a trattoria in Taormina. This afternoon, enjoy some free time in town to shop and explore Taormina's highlights, including the Greek Theater, an iconic site with breathtaking views of Mount Etna. Dinner is on your own this evening.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 2.5 hours / 3 miles of moderate hiking with 960' elevation loss

**DAY
08**

Ride a Jeep Up Mount Etna's Slopes

Buckle up for an off-road adventure on mighty Mount Etna, where a naturalist guide leads you through otherworldly lava fields, ancient craters, and rugged volcanic trails away from the crowds. Learn the mountain's fiery history and discover its flora and fauna as you climb through shifting landscapes shaped by centuries of eruptions. Feel the crunch of volcanic rock underfoot, breathe in crisp mountain air, and take in sweeping views that stretch to the sea at this UNESCO World Heritage Site. As the day winds down, trade the wild slopes for a refined finale—savoring Etna DOC wines at a local vineyard, each glass infused with the essence of the volcano itself. This evening, enjoy a celebratory dinner with your newfound friends!

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2 hours private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours/2 miles hiking with 260' elevation gain & loss

**DAY
09**

Depart from Catania

Arrivederci Sicilia! Transfer as a group to Catania Airport for your flights home.

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Almar Giardino di Costanza Resort

Tucked amid olive groves, vineyards, and tropical flora on Sicily's western coast, Almar Giardino di Costanza Resort & Spa is a refined escape. Suites pair traditional Italian elegance with modern luxuries. Sip a drink under the shade of a sun umbrella alongside the large outdoor pool, swim indoors with a view of the rose garden, or indulge in a treatment at the Almablu Spa. Guests enjoy gourmet dining at AquaMadre Restaurant or the casual Citrus Pool Bar.

Verdura Resort

Verdura Resort is a luxurious Rocco Forte retreat on a 570-acre property on the Mediterranean coastline, which includes a Kyle Phillips-designed 45-hole golf course. Each room looks out to beautiful views of the sea and boasts a private balcony and upscale amenities. The Irene Forte Spa features Finnish and infrared saunas, steam rooms, and a thalassotherapy circuit. A range of onsite eateries range from fine dining seafood to outdoor snacks.

Ortea Palace Hotel

A beautifully restored 1920s post office at the water's edge is now the Ortea Palace Hotel. Step inside to luxurious marble, opulent fabrics, and refined style, where elegantly appointed rooms are decorated in the translucent blue tones of the port and Gulf of Ortigia beyond. Slip into the mosaic-tiled swimming pool or enjoy a restorative steam at the spa. Enjoy panoramic views of the port from the rooftop restaurant.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Villa Fiorita Hotel

Once a century-old Sicilian residence, the property has been reimagined as a 28-room boutique hotel. The stone staircases, terracotta tile details, and gardens have been retained, while the interior has all the modern comforts (including an elevator). Cozy rooms are decorated with a nod to the building's history. The terrace swimming pool offers panoramic views of the Ionian Sea, and the Roman ruins start right on the property with La Guardiola.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: April, May, June, July, September, October

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and porterage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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