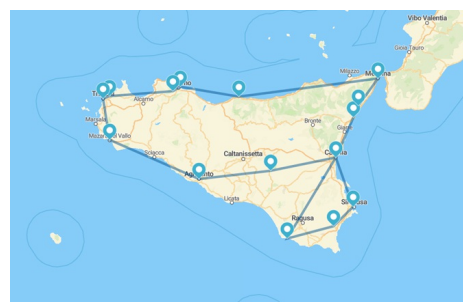




Italy (Sicily), 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Sicily Route, from Palermo to Cefalu

The "Sicily from Palermo to Cefalu" tour is designed for you to enjoy driving through some of the most beautiful and colourful landscapes in Italy. Having been a melting pot of different cultures for more than twenty-five centuries, its Mediterranean spirit and blend of cultural influences make this European island a place full of surprises. It doesn't matter if you're heading out on the road in search of adventure, stunning sandy beaches and turquoise waters, the magnificent temples of Magna Graecia, beautiful Norman cathedrals and churches, seductive baroque towns, or charming medieval villages ... Sicily will not disappoint you in the slightest. Our proposal is for a culinary, cultural and scenic journey dotted with romantic corners, moments of relaxation, natural landscapes of intense beauty, and fascinating leisure and entertainment options. The plan is whatever you make it! We'll start the tour in Palermo and Monreale, two destinations that envelop the traveller in a magical atmosphere, thanks to a fusion of eastern and western culture. We'll continue the tour across the privileged west coast, where we'll experience enticing places such as Erice, Trapani and Mazara del Vallo. The "Sicily from Palermo to Cefalu" tour is also a journey through history. You'll discover the rich heritage of this land at historical sites such as Segesta, Selinunte, Agrigento and the "Villa Romana del Casale". And to discover the Sicilian baroque splendour, we'll visit the beautiful cities of Syracuse and Noto (both World Heritage Sites) and the historic quarter of Catania, our gateway to the imposing Mount Etna, the biggest active volcano in Europe (3340 metres high). We'll finish our tour of this picturesque island by stopping at the beautifully elegant city of Taormina, discovering typical Sicilian prints in Savoca, and soaking up the unmistakably maritime atmosphere in Messina and Cefalu.



CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - PALERMO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Palermo and rental car pick-up.

Sicily entices travellers with fantastic cities such as Palermo. An important trading port since Phoenician times and located along a sweeping bay, this city is the ideal starting point to explore the fascinating island of Sicily.

The cultures of East and West intermingled here for centuries, and Palermo is today a vibrant and modern city which houses a fascinating historical heritage and an important artistic and cultural legacy. Its history is still alive in the bustling streets and the old quarter maintains a seductive oriental feel. Feel the Mediterranean soul of the city and its multitude of leisure and entertainment opportunities; travel back to the Golden Age in Quattro Canti, where you can reflect on the transience of life at the impressive Catacombs of the Capuchins, a burial place for the upper classes; attend a concert at the Teatro Massimo, the third largest in Europe; hop from bar to bar around the bustling Piazza Olivella; admire the fabulous Oratorio del Rosario (Church of San Domenico) by the famous artist Anton van Dyck; marvel at the cultural mix of Sicilian architectural treasures such as the Cathedral and the Palatine Chapel, within the 12th-century Norman Palace; learn about Sicily's important past at the Regional Archaeological Museum, one of the most outstanding in its field in Europe; discover the miracles attributed to Santa Rosalia, the patron saint of the city; stroll around the colourful and bustling Ballaro street market; and savour delicious food and Sicilian wines at the famous trattorias in the old town...

Overnight stay in Palermo.

DAY 2 · PALERMO - MONREALE - ERICE - TRAPANI

Today we'll explore the city of Palermo and its surroundings. About 30 minutes from the capital is the charming town of Monreale with its impressive Arab-Norman cathedral. The Cathedral, built by Norman king William II, is one of the wonders of the Middle Ages and among the finest examples of Norman architecture to be found in Sicily. With its 6,500 square metres of mosaics, from which a huge depiction of Christ emerges, it is an absolute gem. Our onward journey takes us to Trapani. From there we'll turn onto the SP3 road to Erice. Despite being packed with tourists in high season, this charismatic town has retained its medieval charm and fairytale image. The views from Mount Eryx and the Balio gardens are magnificent. On a clear day, you can even see Etna and the coast of Tunisia. Next to the garden is the Castle of Venus and the Temple of Venus. This goddess is closely linked to the fascinating history of the town, which is famous for its ceramic works and excellent rugs. We'll continue en route to Trapani, zigzagging our way along the SP3 again. (Note: The SP3 is a narrow, panoramic road with lots of curves. If you prefer not to take this fourteen-kilometre journey, you can go up to Erice from Trapani on a modern panoramic cable car. Faster than driving, the cable car is an excellent vantage point from which to view the city, the sea and the vast salt pans). Once in Trapani, enjoy a "passeggiata" through its charming historic quarter.

Overnight stay in Trapani.

● DAY 3 · TRAPANI - SEGESTA-SELINUNTE / MAZARA DEL VALLO - VALLE DEI TEMPLI - AGRIGENTO

Two archaeological treasures lie ahead: the sites of Selinunte and Segesta, about an hour from one another depending on traffic and the road you decide to take. The important archaeological site of Selinunte (7th century BC) is one of the most spectacular places we'll find en route. From the nearby Marinella beach, you can enjoy the sea while admiring the magnificent ruins. Onward to Segesta, one of the most impressive Doric temples that still exists in the world (5th century BC). Crowning a secluded spot, there are still many legends surrounding its origin.

For those who aren't great fans of classical art and were hoping for a little less archeology, other options are available.

We'll continue heading down south, specifically to Mazara del Vallo, an interesting place to stop off briefly and enjoy its beautiful beach and seaside atmosphere. You'll be amazed to see how this elegant baroque town has been reconstructed on top of Phoenician and Norman ruins. Located about 200 kilometres off the coast of Tunisia, its Arab origins are palpable, especially in the urban landscape of the Kasbah, with its alleys, archways and courtyards. Don't miss its beautiful cathedral and the famous statue of the Dancing Satyr!

After a drive of around 1 hour and 30 minutes, we'll arrive at our next stop: the famous Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples) in Agrigento. Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this site was once the heart of one of the most important and flourishing cities of the ancient world. The Acropolis, jutting out over a turquoise sea, was considered "the most beautiful city of mortals". Today it's one of the most visited sites in Sicily. (Note: The Regional Archaeological Museum and the famous Valle dei Templi can be seen in roughly 2 to 3 hours. Before setting off, check the opening hours to organise today's trip. The Valley is divided into three sections, all near to the car park, the information office and ticket office). We'll end the day wandering through the old town of Agrigento and savouring some delicious Sicilian cuisine.

Overnight stay in Agrigento.

● DAY 4 · AGRIGENTO - VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE - PIAZZA ARMERINA - CATANIA

After wandering through the medieval quarter of Agrigento and visiting the cathedral and other monuments, we'll head for the famous Villa Romana del Casale, a fascinating third-century hunting lodge, just 15 minutes' drive from the town of Piazza Armerina. The Villa has 50 rooms and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Having been buried under mud for centuries, it was rediscovered in the 1950s in a perfect state. The Roman floor mosaics are magnificent and one of the best-preserved examples in the world. (Note: To enjoy this fascinating site without huge crowds, it's best to visit the Villa early in the morning or around midday, as long as it isn't too hot. For convenience, leave your car at the Villa car park). Once in Piazza Armerina, take a leisurely stroll through its streets and enjoy some of the most authentic sights of inland Sicily that we'll see during the trip. (Note: If you're travelling in mid-August, don't miss the famous "Palio dei Normanni" festival).

In the afternoon, we'll head to the vibrant volcanic city of Catania (World Heritage Site), located some 66 kilometres away. Along the way, we'll pass through beautiful orchards and stunning landscapes.

Located on the east coast, at the foot of Mount Etna, Catania is the second largest city in Sicily. This vibrant city boasts a surprising cultural heritage, as it has been controlled by Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Bourbons, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese, Spanish and Italians... With great transport connections and an outstanding nightlife, its elegant baroque centre was built with volcanic stone from the Etna eruption of 1669. (Note: The city centre is a World Heritage Site, together with the late Baroque towns of the Val di Noto).

Overnight stay in Catania.

DAY 5 · CATANIA - SYRACUSE - NOTO - RAGUSA - CATANIA

And now to Syracuse (World Heritage Site), a fascinating city influenced by a host of civilisations and cultures. Founded between 734-733 BC, it extends along the sea near the island of Ortigia, linked to the mainland by a bridge. Considered one of the most beautiful cities of the ancient world, the likes of Plato, Archimedes and Aeschylus once walked its streets. A great deal of its allure lies in the amazing fusion of its Greco-Roman past with 18th-century architecture, giving rise to a truly unique destination. Today, monuments such as the Temple of Minerva (transformed into a Christian cathedral), the Fountain of Arethusa, the Temple of Apollo and the Roman amphitheatre are reminders of its glorious past. (Note: You can divide the visit into two parts: one around the Archaeological Park and the other on the island of Ortigia). And then we'll continue discovering the beautiful late baroque towns of the Val di Noto (World Heritage Site). Our next stop will be Noto, one of the most beautiful baroque cities in Sicily. A stroll along the elegant Corso Vittorio Emanuele, dotted with palaces and Baroque churches, is a real treat. The most monumental sites of the city overlook this avenue. You can find out about the luxurious life of the ancient nobility with a visit to the ornate Palazzo di Villadorata Nicolaci. If you have time, you can include the beautiful town of Ragusa in today's itinerary. Maze-like and majestic, the heart of Ragusa is dotted with mansions of the local aristocracy, typical stone houses, elegant churches and cute piazzas. We'll then return to Catania to further experience its lively nightlife and exquisite cuisine.

Overnight stay in Catania.

DAY 6 · CATANIA - VOLCANO ETNA - TAORMINA

From Catania, the excursion to Mount Etna is a must (Weather permitting. If you need information, you can contact the Catania Tourist Office or visit the website of funiviaetna.com). Visiting the largest active volcano in Europe will give you an insight into the intense volcanic activity on the island and also the chance to enjoy unique views of the region and the unusual moon-like landscape dotted with the distinctive vegetation of the region. With a majestic profile dominating the east of the island, it's a place where nature, culture and history come together to form a unique environment. (Note: The tour, which will take about 3 or 4 hours, is not included. Always follow the safety guidelines. Because of the unpredictable nature of the volcano, visiting with a guide is recommended). Etna has two main entrances, one to the south and one to the north. The south side is the one most tourists use and provides easier access to the smouldering craters. If you arrive by road, follow the signs for "Etna Sud" to the "Rifugio Sapienza", about 18 kilometres from Nicolosi. At this point, you'll have to park the car and plan your uphill ascent, which is divided into two stretches. On the first stretch, you can trek your way up or take the "Funivia dell'Etna" cable car. The second part of the climb must be done on a 4x4 bus. Tip: make sure you're well equipped with comfortable shoes, warm clothes and sunglasses. After one of the most intense trips of the entire tour, we'll head for the beautiful Taormina, one of the towns that best reflects the historic soul of this fascinating island with Greek, Roman, Byzantine and medieval monuments... Sicily's first tourist resort, it's a perfectly preserved medieval jewel swathed in bougainvillea. Peppered with romantic corners and charming little squares, its beauty dazzled writers such as Truman Capote, Thomas Mann or Goethe; royals and aristocrats such as William II; and film stars like Greta Garbo, Cary Grant, Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth... Today, a steady trickle of tourists come here every day. Its monumental Teatro Greco (3rd century BC) overlooking the peaks of Etna, Bay of Naxos and the Ionian Sea is spectacular. Enjoy a pleasant "passeggiata" and soak up the glamour that accompanies the cobble-stoned streets, quirky shops and seafront terraces.

Overnight stay in Taormina.

DAY 7 · TAORMINA - SAVOCA - MESSINA - CEFALU - PALERMO

We'll kick off the last leg of the "Sicily from Palermo to Cefalu" tour by travelling along a beautiful coastal road dotted with traditional villages.

After stopping briefly in Savoca, one of the most authentic locations of the island that was immortalised in "The Godfather", we'll head on to Messina. Located on the northern tip of the island's Ionian coast, from the town you can see the strait separating Sicily from the mainland. Dynamic and full of life, Messina boasts a stunning historic quarter home to the cathedral and elegant nineteenth-century buildings. On the way back to Palermo, you can stop off at the beautiful seaside resort of Cefalú, one of the best-preserved enclaves that allude to Sicily's Norman past. A great spot to savour delicious fish specialities on the terraces overlooking the sea. Immortalised in the film "Cinema Paradiso", this former fishing village with a medieval air boasts beautiful beaches, excellent tourist facilities and a lively atmosphere, all of which attract national and international visitors. In addition to laying out your towel and worshipping the sun, you can choose from many different activities, such as water sports, whale watching or a stroll through the old town to discover treasures such as the magnificent twelfth-century Arab-Norman cathedral, the monastery of Santa Caterina (now the City Hall) and the Episcopal Palace.

(Note: Parking in Cefalú in summer is not easy. It's best to leave the car on the outskirts). A 69-kilometre drive on the road along the north coast will take us back to Palermo. In the capital, we'll round off this unforgettable journey at some of its trendy shops.

Overnight stay in Palermo.

DAY 8 · PALERMO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Palermo.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Trapani.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Agrigento.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Catania.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Taormina.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Palermo.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Trapani.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Agrigento.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Catania.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Taormina.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Sicily direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Palermo



Monreale



Erice



Trapani



Mazara del Vallo



Agrigento



Piazza Armerina



Catania



Syracuse



Noto



Ragusa



Taormina



Savoca Messina



Messina



Cefalù



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.