



SPECIALITY

EUROPE · RECOMMENDED 12 DAYS

✨ Temple of Concordia, Agrigento

Sicily

Temples, baroque, markets and Etna: the complete Sicily, private and at your own pace

RECOMMENDED LENGTH

12 days

DEPARTURE

Any day

you pick the dates

TRANSPORT

Self-drive

or private driver

ESTIMATED FROM, EXCL. FLIGHT

€1,640 p.p.

I arrange this route from Palermo to Taormina in full for you as a 12-day private trip through 3,000 years of history: Arab-Norman mosaics in Palermo and Monreale, Greek temples at Segesta and Agrigento, Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina and the baroque towns of the Val di Noto. You finish in Siracusa and Taormina, with an excursion on Mount Etna and plenty of Sicilian food and wine. You drive a rental car yourself or travel with a private driver, and you explore everything at your own pace.

✓ Put together personally

✓ No group travel

✓ At your own pace

✓ Leave out or add what you like

✓ Dates completely free

✓ Eat wherever you like

Highlights

- ★ Palermo: Cappella Palatina, the markets and the best street food in Italy
- ★ The golden mosaics of Monreale Cathedral
- ★ Cefalù: Norman cathedral and medieval seaside town
- ★ The Greek temple of Segesta and the hilltop town of Erice
- ★ Sunset in the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento
- ★ Roman mosaics of the Villa Romana del Casale
- ★ Baroque Ragusa, Modica and Noto (UNESCO) and a chocolate workshop
- ★ Ortigia, the old heart of Siracusa
- ★ Etna up to about 2,900 m (compulsory with a licensed volcanological guide) and wine from the volcano's slopes
- ★ Taormina's Greek theatre overlooking sea and volcano

Best time to travel

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

best time to travel: advice only, you travel when you like

TRAVELLERS

Private: only your own party, from 1 traveller. No group travel, no fellow travellers you don't know.

LENGTH

Recommended: 12 days · shorter or longer is always possible

DATES

Completely flexible: you leave on the day that suits you.

Your route on the map



- 1 **Palermo**
3 nights · day 1–3
 - 2 **Trapani/Marsala**
1 night · day 4
 - 3 **Agrigento**
1 night · day 5
 - 4 **Ragusa**
2 nights · day 6–7
 - 5 **Siracusa (Ortigia)**
2 nights · day 8–9
 - 6 **Taormina**
2 nights · day 10–11
- ◇ Catania airport day 12

--- overland, arrow = direction of travel
..... day trip ◇ airport / connection



DAY 4 Doric columns of the temple of Segesta



DAY 8 Baroque San Nicolò Cathedral in Noto



DAY 9 Ortigia seen from the water at dusk

My recommended route

This is the route as I put it together for you. It is a starting point, not a fixed programme: leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you would like to do and travel at your own pace. Everything below is arranged for you in advance. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

DAY 1

Arrival in Palermo PALERMO

Flight from Brussels to Palermo (approx. 2h45). A private driver waits in the arrivals hall with a name sign and takes you to your hotel or B&B in the historic centre (approx. 40 minutes). The evening is free; your roadbook has my addresses for a first aperitivo and pasta con le sarde.

DAY 2

Palermo: Arab-Norman heritage PALERMO ♦ BREAKFAST

You explore Palermo on foot: the Norman Palace with the Cappella Palatina, the cathedral, the Quattro Canti and Fontana Pretoria. In the afternoon you eat your way through Ballarò market: arancine, panelle and sfincione (my favourite stalls are in your roadbook). You do not need a car today.

DAY 3

Monreale and Cefalù PALERMO ♦ BREAKFAST

Today the car comes in: you collect your rental car in central Palermo (outside the ZTL, I show you the way), or your private driver is ready. Morning to Monreale (approx. 30 minutes) for the cathedral with 6,000 m² of golden mosaics and its cloister. Then along the coast to Cefalù (approx. 1h15): Norman cathedral, narrow lanes and time for a swim or lunch by the sea. Back to Palermo.



Cefalù between La Rocca cliff and the sea

DAY 4

Segesta, Erice and the salt pans TRAPANI/MARSALA ♦ BREAKFAST

Drive (approx. 1 hour) to the Doric temple of Segesta in unspoilt hills. Then to medieval Erice at 750 m, famous for its almond pastries. Sunset at the windmills and salt pans between Trapani and Marsala. You stay in Trapani's old town or in a baglio among the vineyards.

DAY 5

To Agrigento AGRIGENTO ♦ BREAKFAST

Drive (approx. 2.5 hours) along the south coast to Agrigento, with time for lunch by the sea on the way, for example in Sciacca. In the late afternoon you walk through the Valley of the Temples (UNESCO), with the Temple of Concord in the warm evening light.

DAY 6

Scala dei Turchi and Villa Romana del Casale RAGUSA ♦ BREAKFAST

Short stop at the white limestone cliffs of Scala dei Turchi (viewed from the beach). Then to Piazza Armerina (approx. 1.5 hours) for the Villa Romana del Casale, with the world's best-preserved Roman floor mosaics; your roadbook suggests an audio guide. Continue to Ragusa (approx. 1.5–2 hours). This is the longest driving day of the trip.

DAY 7

Baroque Ragusa and Modica RAGUSA ♦ BREAKFAST

Morning at your own pace in Ragusa Ibla, rebuilt in lavish baroque after the 1693 earthquake. In the afternoon to Modica (approx. 25 minutes): churches on grand stairways and a workshop at a chocolate maker where chocolate is still worked 'cold' in the Aztec tradition.

DAY 8

Noto and on to Siracusa SIRACUSA (ORTIGIA) ♦ BREAKFAST

Morning in Noto, the 'stone garden' of honey-coloured baroque palaces. Time for a granita. Drive (approx. 45 minutes) to Siracusa and check in on or right next to the island of Ortigia. Ortigia is a ZTL: self-drivers park in the car park I have picked for you, a few minutes' walk away.

DAY 9

Siracusa and Ortigia SIRACUSA (ORTIGIA) ♦ BREAKFAST

A day without the car. In the morning you visit the Neapolis archaeological park (Greek theatre, 'Ear of Dionysius') and then Ortigia: the cathedral built around a Greek temple, the Fountain of Arethusa and the market. Free afternoon; at dusk a short boat trip around the island.

DAY 10

Mount Etna TAORMINA ♦ BREAKFAST

Drive (approx. 1.5 hours) to the southern flank of Etna. At Rifugio Sapienza you walk around the Silvestri craters at your own pace. If the volcano allows, you go up by cable car and 4x4 to about 2,900 m: above approx. 2,500 m this is only allowed with a licensed volcanological guide, so for that part the guide is compulsory and included. My tip for lunch: a winery on the volcano's slopes, with a wine tasting (with a driver you can taste freely; self-drivers agree who drives). Continue to Taormina (approx. 1 hour).



Craters on the southern flank of Mount Etna

DAY 11

Taormina TAORMINA ♦ BREAKFAST

Morning visit to the Greek theatre overlooking Etna and the sea. Free afternoon: Isola Bella, the hilltop village of Castelmola or simply strolling along Corso Umberto. For the last evening I give you my favourite places with a view; if you like, I reserve a table.

DAY 12

Return flight from Catania ♦ BREAKFAST

Drive (approx. 1 hour) to Catania airport. Your private driver drops you at departures, or you return your rental car at the airport. Flight to Brussels.

What I arrange for you

1 **Airport pickup**

On arrival at Palermo airport a private driver waits with a name sign and takes you to your hotel in the centre. On the last day you are dropped at Catania airport (or return your rental car there).

2 **Hotels**

Every night is booked and confirmed in advance, at the level you choose: Budget, Comfort or Premium. Prefer another hotel? I change it.

3 **Transport**

You choose: self-drive with a rental car waiting for you, or a private driver and private transfers. Domestic flights, trains and boats where they make sense, all booked in advance.

4 **Activities, at your pace**

The activities and entrance tickets on the route. No guide or group travels with you: you set the pace, and anything you would rather skip, you simply leave out.

5 **Eat wherever you like**

Breakfast is included, as are the meals at remote camps and lodges where there is no alternative. For the rest I give you my restaurant tips, but you are completely free to choose where you eat. I never send you somewhere because it earns me something.

Estimated prices per person

PER PERSON, BASED ON 2 TRAVELLERS, EXCL. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

ACCOMMODATION LEVEL	Self-drive rental car, everything pre-booked	Private driver private transfers and driver
Budget simple, clean and well located	€1,640 p.p.	€2,740 p.p.
Comfort characterful mid-range	€1,880 p.p.	€2,980 p.p.
Premium the best addresses on the ground	€2,390 p.p.	€3,480 p.p.

WITH 4 TRAVELLERS

approx. 17% off per person: you share the car and driver. E.g. Comfort, private driver: approx. €2,475 p.p.

TRAVELLING SOLO

supplement of approx. 65%: you carry the room and transport alone. E.g. Comfort, private driver: approx. €4,915 p.p.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

I book your flight as part of your trip; the flight price for your dates is in your personal quote. Flight Brussels–Palermo, returning from Catania, not included: allow about € 200–350 p.p. depending on the month (often cheaper from Charleroi). I find you the best flight with your quote.

SELF-DRIVE

Sicily is made for a road trip: short distances, good motorways and the freedom to stop wherever you like. Your licence and insurance are valid as at home. You collect your rental car (full insurance with zero excess) in Palermo on day 3 and return it at Catania airport on day 12; the one-way fee is included. Fuel, tolls and parking are paid locally (indicative ± €260 per car for the whole route). The only things to watch are the ZTL zones in the historic centres (cameras and fines), assertive traffic in Palermo and Catania and narrow streets: that is why your roadbook gives a parking space or car park outside the ZTL for every hotel, and why you have no car during the first two days in Palermo.

WITH A PRIVATE DRIVER

A licensed private driver (NCC) takes you in a comfortable vehicle on all travel and excursion days: Monreale and Cefalù, the drive via Segesta and Erice, to Agrigento, via Piazza Armerina to Ragusa, Modica, Noto, Etna and the airport. He drops you at the edge of the ZTL, waits during visits and knows the way. On the walking days in Palermo, Siracusa and Taormina you do not need a car. In Sicily this is the more expensive option, because drivers are paid per transfer or per day, but you never have to park and can join the wine tasting.

ESTIMATED PRICES

Estimated prices: per person, based on 2 travellers sharing a room, excl. international flight, estimated from desk research (2027 price level). The binding price is the one in your personal proposal and booking confirmation.

Estimated price. In high season the price can be higher, in low season lower; your exact price is in your personal quote.

Three accommodation levels

Budget

Well-reviewed B&Bs and simple hotels (approx. €55–85 per room in the recommended season), in Palermo and Taormina slightly outside the very centre or without a view.

Comfort

Atmospheric B&Bs and boutique hotels right in the historic centres: Ragusa Ibla, Ortigia, a baglio near the salt pans (approx. €100–120 per room).

Premium

The best boutique hotels in my selection, with a view, terrace or pool (approx. €175–190 per room). Grand hotels in Taormina and five-star resorts on request.

Possible guided moments

Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

- ★ Day 2: a private walk with a licensed guide through Palermo, and a street-food walk with a local foodie at Ballarò market
- ★ Day 5: a private tour of the Valley of the Temples in the evening light
- ★ Day 6: a guide at the Villa Romana del Casale
- ★ Day 9: Neapolis and Ortigia with a licensed guide
- ★ Day 10: on Etna a licensed volcanological guide is compulsory above approx. 2,500 m; this one is included
- ★ Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

Ideas to adapt the route

- Shorter (8 days): eastern Sicily only (Catania – Siracusa – Val di Noto – Etna – Taormina) or the west only (Palermo – Trapani – Agrigento)
- Longer: 3 nights on the Aeolian Islands (Lipari, Stromboli) from Milazzo, or the Egadi Islands from Trapani
- Beach: extra nights in Cefalù or San Vito Lo Capo
- Wine and food: a night at a winery near Marsala or on Etna, a cooking class in Palermo
- Gentler: extend the Agrigento stay and split the long driving day via Piazza Armerina
- Combination: self-drive, with a private driver on the Etna day so that everyone can taste

Included

- ✓ 11 nights at the level you choose (Budget, Comfort or Premium): B&Bs, boutique hotels and an agriturismo or baglio (double room, breakfast and city tourist tax included)
- ✓ Private airport transfer on arrival in Palermo; on the last day you are dropped at Catania airport
- ✓ Your choice: rental car (days 3–12, full insurance with zero excess, one-way fee Palermo–Catania; fuel, tolls and parking are paid locally) or private driver with a comfortable vehicle on all travel and excursion days
- ✓ All listed entrance fees: Cappella Palatina, Monreale, Segesta, Valley of the Temples, Villa Romana del Casale, Neapolis and Taormina's Greek theatre
- ✓ Chocolate workshop in Modica, boat trip around Ortigia and Etna excursion with the compulsory licensed volcanological guide above approx. 2,500 m (incl. cable car/4x4 when accessible)
- ✓ Detailed roadbook with routes, ZTL maps, car parks and my favourite trattorias

Not included

- Flights Brussels–Palermo and Catania–Brussels (I am happy to book them for you; allow approx. €200–350 pp, depending on the month)
- Meals other than breakfast, and drinks (allow approx. €35–50 pp per day; my restaurant tips are in your roadbook)
- Tips
- Travel and cancellation insurance
- Optional activities and personal expenses
- When self-driving: fuel, tolls and parking (indicative ± €260 per car for the whole route; paid locally)
- When self-driving: credit-card deposit for the rental car and any ZTL or traffic fines

Practical information

VISA (BELGIAN CITIZENS)

No visa required (EU/Schengen). A valid Belgian identity card (eID) or passport is sufficient.

HEALTH

No vaccinations required. Bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Summer can be very hot (40 °C+); sturdy walking shoes and a windproof jacket for Etna (cold at 2,900 m even in summer).

CURRENCY & PAYMENT

Euro (EUR). Cards widely accepted; some cash for small bars and markets.

FLIGHT TIME FROM BRUSSELS

Approx. 2h45 direct to Palermo or Catania.

TIME DIFFERENCE

No time difference.

LANGUAGE

Italian and Sicilian; English in the tourism sector, less so in the countryside.

MEALS

Breakfast is included every day. For the other meals you get my restaurant recommendations, but you are completely free to choose where and when you eat: I never steer you to expensive restaurants in return for a commission.

GUIDES

By default you travel without a guide. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

As of September 2026 — check diplomatie.belgium.be (travel advice) and wanda.be (health) before you travel.

Travelling responsibly

I recommend spring and autumn, outside the busy and hot summer months. You stay in family-run B&Bs, small hotels and an agriturismo, and eat at small trattorias and producers (chocolate, wine, street food). If you take a guide, it is a licensed Sicilian guide paid per visit. In the historic centres you walk: the car stays outside the ZTL. Sicily is a short flight from Belgium; CO₂ offsetting is available.



Steennot Travels

Contact & booking

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Put together personally by Yari, down to the last detail. — Yari Steennot

No group travel and no fixed dates: you travel privately, at your own pace. Leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you like. I give you my restaurant tips, but you choose freely where you eat: nobody sends you to expensive restaurants for a commission.

MY CONTACT ON THE GROUND: [contact name]

ESTIMATED PRICES

Estimated prices: per person, based on 2 travellers sharing a room, excl. international flight, estimated from desk research (2027 price level). The binding price is the one in your personal proposal and booking confirmation. Ask for a no-obligation personal intake call or a proposal. Other dates, more or fewer days, something left out or added? Everything can be adapted.

This trip is a package under the Belgian Act of 21 November 2017 on the sale of package travel, linked travel arrangements and travel services. Before you sign, you receive the standard information form and our travel conditions. Steennot Travels is insured against insolvency with [insurer, address, policy number — to be completed]: in case of insolvency, payments are refunded and, where transport is included, repatriation is guaranteed. All prices are indicative estimates; the binding price is the one in your booking confirmation.

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COVER

Temple of Concordia, Agrigento — Photo: Berthold Werner · CC BY-SA 3.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Temple_of_Concordia_Agrigento_BW_2012-10-07_13-09-13.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 3

Cefalù between La Rocca cliff and the sea — Photo: Patrick1977 · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama_Cefalù.jpg · *resized*



DAY 4

Doric columns of the temple of Segesta — Photo: Ludvig14 · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Segesta_AncientGreekTemple_009_6465b.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 8

Baroque San Nicolò Cathedral in Noto — Photo: Berthold Werner · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Noto_Cathedral_BW_2025-04-26_11-08-40.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 9

Ortigia seen from the water at dusk — Photo: Benjamin Smith · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Syracuse_-_Ortigia_from_the_sea_-_1.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 10

Craters on the southern flank of Mount Etna — Photo: Auregann · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Etna_craters_near_Sapienza.jpg · *cropped, resized*