The Women's Travel Group Smart Tours for Women Savings for Solo Travelers

The

9 Days from \$2,899

Land Only Air available upon request

Women's Travel Group Presents:



Visiting Italy during the Christmas season offers two bonuses – you'll avoid the high summer season tourist crowds plus get to see the country decked out in all its holiday finery. Sicily is an exquisite island with wheat fields, almond groves, vineyards, off-shore islands, Greek, Roman, Arab, Norman, Spanish, and Italian sites. Mt. Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe, can provide unusual light shows. Sicily was a major part of many empires and its unusual history shows in buildings, food, crafts etc. Weather in early December is 60-65 during the day and Christmas decorations even markets might be up in some areas. Sicily is home to gelato, cannoli, marsala wine, sesame biscuits and many other culinary favorites.

Dec 1st Fri – Depart the USA for Italy Leave New York (JFK) on your overnight flight to Sicily, (Catania). International flights are not included.

Dec 2nd TAORMINA. Arrival in Catania. Upon arrival into Catania airport collect, luggage, hen group transfer for group flight to the hotel. Explore on your own this afternoon. Our hotel is centrally located in Taormina so you may easily start your exploration. Taormina was Sicily's first resort city built on a cliff overlooking the sea. It has amazing views of the sea from lovely cafes covered in bougainvillea. Welcome dinner at hotel restaurant. (Dinner) Note from last trip: shops and casual cafes are a very short walk; the views and homes nearby are amazing.

Dec 3rd TAORMINA. After breakfast enjoy a guided tour of Taormina. Visit the "Teatro Greco", a Greek amphitheater, with spectacular views of Mount Etna, the largest and most active volcano in Europe. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Explore the local shops specializing in fine embroidery, coral, and lace and enjoy delicious seafood in the many local restaurants in Taormina. Or take a bus to nearby towns. (Breakfast and Dinner-local restaurant).

Dec 4th SIRACUSA After breakfast depart for Syracuse. Visit the Neapolis archaeological park in Siracusa featuring the well-preserved Roman Amphitheatre, Greco Roman edifices and the Greek theatre. See the excavations including the "Ear of Dionysius" and the Roman Temple. Walk through the historical center on the Ortigia Island to admire the Cathedral, the Aretusa fountain and the ancient streets. Modern Syracuse is a lovely seaside city winding streets and magnificent Baroque buildings. Return to Taormina. (Breakfast)

Dec 5th PIAZZA ARMERINA / AGRIGENTO / PALERMO. After breakfast depart for Palermo. On the way to Palermo, visit Piazza Armerina and Agrigento. First stop, 2 hrs from Taormina visit Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina, a Roman Villa known for its beautiful well-preserved Roman mosaics, but only excavated in the 20th century and **one of the most important sites in Sicily** because of its unusually beautiful and detailed mosaics. Proceed to Agrigento enjoy a guided tour of the archaeological site named the "Valley of the Temples", a UNESCO World Heritage site. Rising southernmost on the traces of the old town, this archaeological park includes many temples built in the 5th and 6th centuries B. C. and it's still today an excellent example of Greek civilization. Although primarily a Greek site, there are also early Christian ruins and some of the earliest Christian catacombs. Continue to Palermo, 2,5 hrs from Agrigento, arrival around 06.30pm check in at our hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner-local restaurant). Note: Our last group said the Roman Villa felt as if the Romans had just left.

Dec 6th PALERMO. Palermo/Monreale. We recommend early breakfast to discover the lively Ballarò market in central Palermo-one of the bibbest in Europe. The market is an explosion of colored fresh vegetables; this is the vibrant heart of Palermo and an opportunity you can't miss. After the market 9.30 am approx depart for our guided tour of Palermo, Sicily's capital, *featured as one of the newest tourist trends*. It prospered under the Romans, but its high point in art and culture was under the Arabs. Later when the Normans invaded Sicily, it became the capital of their kingdom. Architecturally, Palermo flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries and its Baroque buildings evoke this period. Visit The Palazzo dei Normanni, Palatine Chapel and Cathedral. Visit Monreale, with its spectacular Duomo famed for its 12th and 13th century mosaics. (Breakfast, Dinner-local restaurant) Note from last trip: Stop by the Opera House where The Godfather was filmed. All of Palermo evokes Godfather movie sets and sounds.

Dec 7th ERICE MARSALA. After breakfast, there is full day excursion, first to the hilltop town of Erice then to Marsala. Erice is a medieval town, built on Monte San Giuliano with incredible walls, fine paved streets, Middle Age stone houses and famous pastries originally made by nuns and still sold today. Then on to an Oil Mill and Farmhouse, Baglio Fontanasalsa, to have a country lunch with simple Sicilian food at a working olive farm. This fabulous lunch is featured in a video on our Facebook page. After lunch drive along Trapani coastline, see saltpans and Sicilian windmills, it is possible to see numerous dazzlingly white mountains shimmering in the sun. These are hills of salt, an unreal scenario created by the salt flats, which form a sort of immense chessboard in colors from off-green to pink. We reach Marsala, famous for its namesake wine. We visit a prestigious local winery to discover the secrets of wine production and taste some of their great wines. Return to Palermo in the afternoon around 6 pm. (Breakfast, Lunch, wine tasting) Note from last trip: buy flavored salts as gifts, beautifully wrapped and delicious in lemon/orange and other flavors.

Dec 8th CEFALU' CASTELBUONO After breakfast visit Cefalu founded on a hillside facing the sea near Palermo. It retains its medieval appearance with the center of the town located around a Norman cathedral built in the 12th century. As a leading bishopric there are many churches. The homes have interesting architecture and views. Proceed inland to discover Castelbuono a small ancient village in the Madonie Park rich in historical and artistic attractions. This internal region between the Northern Coast and Central Sicily has a wealth of ancient small villages, where many people still live according to the Sicilian traditions. This area is also famous for genuine traditional food, have a country lunch of regional products. Return to Palermo. Tonight is the *Holiday for the Immaculate Conception*, join the locals for the traditional procession in town, starting at 6.30 pm, your guide will give you details.(Breakfast, lunch, dinner-restaurant) Note: This is a must; take photos and record the music while you walk with the friendly crowd to the Cathedral for a real feel of medieval Sicily.

Dec 9th DEPARTURE Transfer to Palermo Airport for group flight back home. (Breakfast). International flights are not included

NOTES: This tour coincides with orange season; Sicilian oranges are world famous and found in many deserts and candies. Some villages might have early Christmas Markets and all will be decorated seasonally. This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

- Round trip group airport transfers into Catania and out of Palermo. (Transfers are based on a departure at 11:00 am from Catania airport, and at 6:00 am from Palermo hotel. (Earlier or later transfers are not included).
- Baggage handling at the airport for your arrival and departure. (Based on one bag per person)
- Services of a professional tour director throughout the program.
- First class hotel accommodations
- 3 nights at the 4* Hotel Excelsior in Taormina (or similar)
- 4 nights at the 4* Central Palace hotel in Sorrento (or similar)
- Including hotel tax and service charges.
- Daily breakfasts, 2 lunches and 5 dinners including beverages (1/2 mineral water and 1/4 wine during meals).
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach transportation for all transfers, tours and guided excursions.
- Wine tasting
- Guided Tours: Palermo and Monreale, Agrigento, Piazza Armenia, Taormina and Siracusa
- Entrance fees: Palatine Chapel, Monreale Cathedral, Valle dei Templi, Villa del Casale, Greek Theatre Taormina, Archeological Park Siracusa.
- All VAT city and local Tax.
- International Air Fare
- Transfers outside the set scheduled transfer times
- Meals and beverage not mentioned in itinerary
- Personal expenses (Mini bar Laundry Phones –etc.)
- Tips for guides, Assistants and Drivers.
- Travel Insurance
- Everything not mentioned under "Price includes"
- Tips to porters
- Items of personal nature (Landry dry cleaning minibar etc...)
- Arrival private transfer from Catania to the hotel in Taormina:
- Departure private transfer from hotel in Palermo to Palermo airport:

\$160 per car (1 or 2 people)

\$130 per car (1 or 2 people)

Pricing: Tour price is **\$2,899** per person land only, in double occupancy based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together for the duration of the trip. For single occupancy, add \$525. Taxes are valid at the time of printing but are subject to change. Airfare is available at an additional cost. The price does not include airfare, tips, travel insurance, airline luggage overage fees, passports fees, visas as well as items of a personal nature. Optional Tours require a minimum number of passengers to operate. This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.



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deposit are levied for individual passengers cancelling up to 1/1 days phor to "5300 the deposit to hold the space is non-refundable. All subsequent deposits to hold the space is non-refundable. If a passenger cancellation creates a change in the price have been prepaid by Jet Vacations LLC on behalf of individual clients maybe subject to a cancellation - change fee (e.g. theater tickets, Train tickets, Airline Tickets, and the set of t

nd eir m rs nt an ed approximate teel and judgment on each suggested and selected properties, to insure that selected hotels/rooms will be adequate to the client's group travelers. Client understand that no refund nor legal claims regarding the selected hotels, venues, rooms and /or services will be possible once this contract has been signed and agreed upon. Hotels Check-in times: Hotel rooms are usually not ready for check-in until after 3 pm. If your flight is arriving early, especially European flights, you should plan for the day's activity until your room is available. Most hotels will store your luggage until your room is ready.

Air Conditioning: Jet Vacations LLC is not responsible for air conditioning standards or availability, as these factors can vary greatly between properties and countries

Single rooms: The single supplement rate is quoted on the basis that single rooms shall not exceed approximately 20% of the total rooms required, unless otherwise agreed and confirmed. Some hotels may charge a further fee should the group exceed this configuration.

Should the group exceed this configuration. Activity level: This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

Itinerary variation: We will make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. Situations may arise, voluntarily or involuntarily, that require changes or exceptions in the airport of departure, the itinerary, land arrangements, hotels, trains or ports of call. On these occasions, we reserve the right to make such modifications and substitute conveyances/hotels as deemed necessary.

Minimum participants to Operate: Group needs a minimum of 10 participants to operate. Optional tours need a minimum of 15 participants to operate.

Tour Cancellation: We reserve the right to cancel the entire trip (or any component of the trip) for any reason and/or time. In this event, our liability, if any, shall be limited to and liquidated by refunding to each prospective participant the payments made. CST#2111829-40