



A GRAND TOUR OF SICILY

April 18 to 27, 2026

Tour arrangements by Classical Excursions



ITINERARY

SATURDAY - April 18 – Arrival to Palermo

Tour participants arrive and check in at the **Grand Hotel et des Palmes** (Via Roma 398, Palermo 90139 - Tel:+39 091 8048800 – images below), where you will enjoy a three-night stay in the city of Palermo, the capital of Sicily built along a bay at the foot of Mount Pellegrino. The city prospered under the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabic and later Norman rule. The golden age for Palermo was, however, during the Arabic domination when it rivaled even Cairo in beauty.

An optional walking tour in Palermo's historic center viewing such historic monuments as the **Quattro Canti**, **Fontana Pretoria**, **San Cataldo Chapel** and the Baroque church of **San Domenico**. Return to the hotel to freshen up for dinner.

Welcome dinner at the privately owned **Palazzo Ajutamicristo**. Originally built in the 15th century for Guglielmo Ajutamicristo, it was erected in the Kalsa district of Palermo.



SUNDAY - April 19 - Palermo

Enjoy breakfast each morning at the hotel.

A late morning tour and drinks at the privately owned and rarely seen **Palazzo Valguarnera-Gangi** located in the heart of the Kalsa district of Palermo. Dating from the 1750s. Most of the reconfiguration of the palace that took place is attributed to the renowned architect from Trapani, Andrea Gigante. Most notable is the Galleria degli Specchi (Gallery of Mirrors), the Chinoiserie rooms and the monumental staircase. We will be guests of the owner, **Princess Carine Vanni Calvello Mantegna di Gangi**

Lunch at the privately owned neo-classical masterpiece, the **Villa Spedalotto** in Bagheria. (image right)

An afternoon tour of the 18th century **Villa Palagonia**, commissioned in 1715 by Ferdinando Francesco Gravina, Prince of Palagonia, planned an sculptural extravaganza on his estate. Known for its grotesque sculptural frenzies, the Villa has attracted attention since the first day it was built and was written about by various travelers including Goethe.

Dinner at the privately owned **Palazzo Aliata** with the **Princess of Aliata**.



MONDAY - April 20 - Palermo



A visit to **Palazzo dei Normanni**, including the majestic **Capella Palatina** considered a masterpiece of Norman art with its Byzantine influenced mosaics. A tour of the **Cathedral of Palermo**, dating from 1184 and also in the Norman style.

Palazzo Cinese - The building was designed in 1799 by the architect Giuseppe Venanzio Marvuglia on commission by the King Ferdinand III of Sicily.

A private luncheon and tour of **Palazzo Lanza Tomasi** with owner, **Duchess of Palma, Nicoletta Lanza Tomasi**, a direct descendant of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, author of "Il Gattopardo"- The Leopard.

Today we will tour the outskirts of Palermo including visits to **Monreale Cathedral** with its stunning gold mosaics, considered the pinnacle of achievement in Arab-Norman art. The cathedral was founded in 1172 by William II. (image left)

Dinner on your own tonight.

TUESDAY - April 21 - Segesta , Selinunte onto Sciacca

We will check out from the hotel.

Depart to the southwest for a tour of the majestic Greek ruins at **Segesta**. At Segesta we will tour the great **Doric Temple** with its well preserved 36 colossal columns built in the 5th century BC and the renowned **Greek theatre** (image right).

Olive oil tasting and lunch at a **local olive oil producing farm and winery, Momentum**, serving typical Sicilian dishes.

Our last stop of the day is Sciacca where we will check into the hotel **Rocco Forte Verdura Resort** for a two-night stay.

Dinner tonight at the hotel.



WEDNESDAY - April 22 - Agrigento

Breakfast at the hotel each morning.



Today we will explore the great **Valley of the Temples in Agrigento**. The Greek colony founded in 581 BC by Colonists from Gela. Was once considered the “fairest city inhabited by mortals.” Here we will see the **Temple of Olympian Zeus, Temple of Heracles** and the **Temples of Concord and Hera** (pictured).

Lunch on Agrigento with a view of the temples.

Return to the hotel for an afternoon by the pool.

Dinner on your own tonight.

THURSDAY - April 23 - Piazza Armerina onto Siracusa

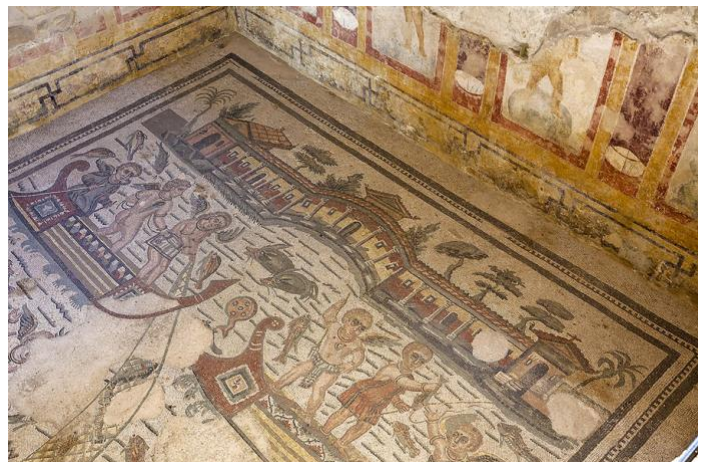
Check out of the hotel and depart for **Piazza Armerina and the Imperial Roman Villa del Casale**, famous for mosaics. The remnants of this 3rd – 4th century Roman villa, contain some of the most well preserved and fantastic mosaics in the world (image right).

Lunch is at Piazza Armerina.

Late afternoon arrival at the **Grand Hotel Estrangers** for a three-night stay on the historic peninsula of **Ortygia**.

Early evening walk in Ortygia with a group.

Dinner on your own tonight.



FRIDAY - April 24 - Ancient Siracusa

Breakfast at the hotel each morning.

Visit the **Museo Archaeologico**, **Ear of Dionysius** and **Greek Theatre**. Then a visit to the **Duomo** and the **Temple Apollo**.

Lunch in **Qrtygia**, followed by a walking tour with visits to the **Duomo** and the **Apollo Temple**.

Dinner at the privately owned **Palazzo Benevetano**, hosted by **Baron Benevetano**. Erected after the devastating earthquake of 1693, the palazzo stands as one of Siracusa's most complete Baroque achievements. (the palace is located on the main square, image right).



SATURDAY - April 25 – Noto and Modica



Depart for a day touring two superb Baroque towns rebuilt after the devastating earthquakes of 1693. Noto and Modica are beautiful examples of small towns displaying the elaborate Sicilian Baroque architecture.

Our first stop of the day is **Noto** and enjoy a walking tour. Private tour and lunch at **Villa Ruiz**, owned by French Film Director Jean-Louis Remellieux.

In the afternoon we will visit **Modica** and tour two privately owned homes/palazzi.

Dinner on your own tonight in Siracusa.

SUNDAY - April 26 – Catania and Taormina

Check out. Depart for **Taormina** and our final hotel.

A tour of **Palazzo Biscari** in Catania with the owner, **Prince Ruggero Moncada**. One of the most important Rococo achievements in Sicily, Palazzo Biscari was rebuilt beginning in 1702 by the Prince of Biscari (ceiling image right). The richly carved façade and luxurious mid to late 18th century interiors rank among the finest in Sicily.

Arrive in Taormina in time for lunch on your own.

A walk to the **Roman Theatre** in Taormina with Lani or optional free time to explore on your own.

Check in to the **NH Hotel** in Taormina for one-night.

Farewell group dinner at the privately owned **Villa Lawrence**.



MONDAY – April 27 – DAY FOR DEPARTURES

Breakfast at the hotel. Independent departures from the Catania Airport or other touring.

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CLASSICAL EXCURSIONS

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Terms & Conditions

Land cost on the tour: \$8300.00 per person, based on double occupancy.

A single supplement is available \$2400.00 (for single occupancy of hotel rooms)

It is requested that you arrive in Palermo, Sicily in Italy on or before Saturday, April 18th to commence the tour, the tour ends in Taormina, Sicily on Monday, April 27th. It is most convenient to make your flights arriving into Palermo (airport code: PMO) and departing out of Catania (airport code: CTA).

Participants should make their own way to the **Hotel des Palmes** – check-in is 3pm or after. This is where we will stay the first three-nights, and special welcome dinner is included this evening.

Land Rate Includes:

A deluxe private motor coach is included for all sightseeing, visits, transfers and drives as outlined in the itinerary. The trip will be fully escorted and guided by local experts and Lani Summerville of Classical Excursions. Admission fees are included for sightseeing as described in the itinerary.

Hotel Accommodations:

Tour members are accommodated in four hotels. A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional single supplement. Double beds may be requested but cannot be guaranteed.

Meals:

All Breakfasts, seven lunches, and five dinners.

Tips & Taxes:

Included are service charges on hotels and restaurants as well as taxes levied by local governments and authorities. Tips to drivers and guides are not included.

Reservations:

A deposit of \$1,500.00 per person is required to hold confirmed reservations. Final payment is due on or before January 31, 2026. Upon receipt of your deposit, you will be supplied with helpful hints to assist you in preparing for the trip, and we will forward to you, a list of suggested reading materials and additional information on each of the hotels where you will stay.

Eligibility:

The trip requires participants to be capable of walking some distances and of climbing stairs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your ability to participate in this tour, please contact Lani Summerville at Classical Excursions before reserving your space for this tour. She may be contacted at 413-446-8728 or Lani@ClassicalExcursions.com

Tour Rate Does Not Include:

Passport fee, transportation round trip from your home to airports, transatlantic airfare (unless it is purchased at an additional cost from Classical Excursions), supplemental charges for single occupancy applies. Trip cancellation insurance is not included in the price; however, we can help you with this and strongly advise you to purchase it.

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Cancellation and Refund of Travel Arrangements:

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation/interruption insurance, which we will gladly help you with. A deposit of \$1,500 per person is requested to book your space. Should it become necessary to cancel your trip before January 31 you will receive a full refund, minus a \$300 handling fee. For cancellations after January 31, you will forfeit your \$1,500 deposit, and February 22th full payment is due and forfeited if one cancels. If your space is resold and the group has a full complement of participants, we will refund your land payment even after the cancellation deadline minus a \$300 handling fee. No refunds are possible for trip interruption. We urge you to purchase your own insurance to cover cancellation/ interruption covering the full price of the trip arrangements within seven days of your deposit. You are responsible for the purchase of this insurance; we are happy to help or advise you in this purchase.

Responsibility:

Classical Excursions of Pittsfield, Massachusetts and your tour escorts act only in the capacity of agents for the participant in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing excursions, all means of transportation and all other features of the tour, and as such, are free of responsibility for any damages from any cause whatsoever. Classical Excursions will not be held responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late arrivals/departures or by any other schedule changes and or other adverse conditions. Nor will Classical Excursions be held responsible for the loss of or damage of baggage or any other article belonging to the tour participant. No refunds will be made for absences from any portion of the land tour. The right is reserved to decline, accept or remand any person as a member of this group at any time before or during the tour. If you must make an insurance claim, you must contact the insurance company directly with your insurance confirmation number. Classical Excursions is not responsible for any additional expenses incurred due to Covid 19 from illness, trip interruption or recovery stays in other countries. We strongly advise that travelers purchase insurance that covers these items. The right is reserved by Classical Excursions to make alterations or substitutions in the provided program should local conditions or transportation schedules so require. Land rates and quoted group airfare are based upon those in effect at time of brochure publication and are subject to change without notice if rates should fluctuate more than 10%. If any changes in price are made the tour participants will be notified immediately.

Special Health Considerations:

While we continue to monitor the worldwide situation of the last couple of years, all participants must adhere to regulations and local requirements at the time of the tour. Classical Excursions will advise in advance of the tour date, any known relevant issues. This may include: proof of vaccination, as well as testing, if required in order to enter countries on the itinerary, and/or by airlines, hotels, private hosts, and other elements of the tour program. In addition, participants will be required to complete and sign the Health & Safety Supplemental Release and return it to Classical Excursions within 72 hours prior to the tour program departure date or your travel date. Participants accept all risks and costs associated with the requirements stated in this paragraph including an inability to join/continue with any element(s) of the tour program. Any expenses incurred, including but not limited to medical expenses, testing fees, quarantine and evacuation expenses as a result thereof are to be borne by the participant/traveler.

Please contact the Office of Classical Excursions to register or ask any questions:

Lani@ClassicalExcursions.com – please cc Olivia@ClassicalExcursions.com

CLASSICAL EXCURSIONS

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Information updated as of October 2025 | Itinerary subject to change without notice.