

Sicily in Depth

September 28-October 9, 2023

12 days for \$5,274 total price from Fort Myers
(**\$4,695 air & land inclusive plus \$579 airline taxes and fees**)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



**RESERVE
RISK-FREE!**

An Exclusive Small Group Tour
for FGCU Academy



Dear Friends

Travel with us on an exclusive 12-day journey to the island of Sicily. Our small group will experience Sicily's diverse landscapes and cultural treasures, while staying in unique, centrally-located hotels.

Begin in Palermo and enjoy a walking tour that includes the Palermo Cathedral and the Palatine Chapel, as well as vibrant markets selling Sicilian specialties. Next, explore the medieval walled town of Erice and enjoy stunning panoramic views of the valley below. Continuing on to Trapani, visit the famous salt pans and tour the museum here. A quick stop in Monreale allows a visit to the city's celebrated cathedral, before reaching Agrigento. Visit the Valley of the Temples and the Temple of Concordia, then continue on to Syracuse. A highlight here is the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that comprises a range of ancient monuments. Then take an excursion to Mount Etna, Europe's largest volcano. Finally, travel to Taormina and see the 3rd-century BCE Greek theater, the 13th-century *Duomo*, and the grand Piazza Vittorio Emanuele.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 95 days prior to departure. Reserve risk-free today!

Sincerely,

John Guerra
Director, FGCU Academy

FGCU RESERVATION FORM: SICILY IN DEPTH

To reserve your place on tour, **please call FGCU Academy at 239-434-4838, or e-mail jguerra@fgcu.edu.** Please have the information outlined below available to share with an FGCU Academy representative.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to FGCU Academy's office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **FGCU Academy**
Attn: John Guerra
704 Goodlette-Frank Rd North
Suite 330
Naples, FL 34102

SICILY IN DEPTH • SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 9, 2023

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____

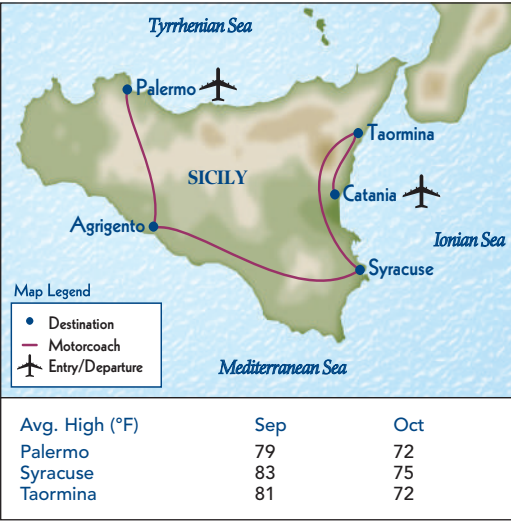
I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability) ☐

Sicily in Depth

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Crossroads of the Mediterranean ... the “toe” in Italy’s boot ... “God’s Kitchen” ... Sicily is all this, and much more, as we see on our stellar small group journey around this Italian island. Its lively cities and ancient ruins, temples of man – and of nature, hospitable people and delectable cuisine ... a feast for all the senses.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Palermo, Italy

Day 2: Arrive Palermo We arrive today in Palermo, capital of Italy’s autonomous region of Sicily. This evening we gather at our hotel for a briefing on the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner. *D*

Day 3: Palermo On this morning’s walking tour, we discover 2,700-year-old Palermo’s twin claims to fame: impressive architecture and world-class street food. Highlights include Palermo Cathedral and Palazzo Reale, both part of Arab-Norman Palermo, a UNESCO site comprising nine civil and religious structures dating to Norman rule in Sicily (c. 12th century). We also see Massimo Vittorio Emanuele Theater, one of Europe’s largest opera houses; and the Church of San Cataldo, another of Palermo’s Arab-Norman treasures. Along the way we pass through vibrant markets selling *arancini*, *cannoli*, and other Sicilian specialties – which, of course, we stop to sample. Following our tour, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant then return to our hotel in the city center. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. With dinner on our own tonight, perhaps a culinary adventure is in order – and thanks to Sicily’s strategic Mediterranean location that lured many invaders, Sicilian food incorporates Italian, Arabic, and African influences into a singular, and delicious, cuisine. *B,L*

Day 4: Palermo/Erice/Trapani A full day of touring takes us first to the medieval walled town of Erice. Perched atop a mountain nearly 2,500 feet above sea level, Erice offers panoramic views of the valley below, the port town of Trapani, and the Tyrrhenian Sea beyond. We continue to Trapani, where we visit the region’s famed salt pans. Though the area is a designated Nature Reserve, Sicilians still harvest salt here using centuries-old methods; indeed, the oldest of the area’s 60 working windmills dates to the island’s Arabic regime. We tour the museum here then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palermo. *B,L*

Day 5: Palermo/Monreale/Agrigento En route to Agrigento today, we stop in nearby Monreale. Sitting on the slopes of Monte Caputo, Monreale looks over *La Conca d’Oro*, or “the Golden Shell,” a richly fertile valley studded with groves of orange, olive,

Small Group Tour Highlights

Palermo’s Arab-Norman UNESCO sites • Street food experience in Palermo • Stunning Monreale Cathedral (UNESCO site) • Medieval walled town of Erice • Trapani Nature Reserve and salt pans • Agrigento’s Valley of the Temples (UNESCO site) • Outstanding mosaics at Villa Romana del Casale (UNESCO site) • Archaeological Park of Neapolis in Syracuse (UNESCO site) • Wine tasting • Sicilian cooking class • Taormina touring • Mount Etna excursion • Farmhouse lunch • Distinctive, well-located small group hotels

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Palermo		
2-4	Palermo	Eurostars Centrale Palace	Sup. First Class
5-6	Agrigento	Hotel Baia di Ulisse	First Class
7-9	Syracuse	Hotel Borgo Pantano	First Class
10-11	Taormina	Hotel NH Collection Taormina	Deluxe
12	Depart Catania for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.



The sun rises over the city of Palermo.

and almond trees. Here we visit the city's celebrated cathedral, another gem of Arab-Norman Palermo and one of the finest examples of Norman architecture still in existence. The imposing main façade and ornate outer cloister serve to prepare us for the cathedral's breathtaking main sanctuary, where every inch of wall and ceiling space is covered with painstakingly detailed mosaics. Crafted by artisans from Constantinople (now Istanbul), the dazzling mosaics contain some 4,850 *pounds* of pure gold. Next we visit a nearby family-owned winery, where we enjoy a wine tasting and lunch. Our journey then continues; late this afternoon we reach Agrigento and our hotel, where we dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Agrigento This morning we visit the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO site and archaeological zone whose ruins of fallen Doric temples and sanctuaries date to Greek rule in the 5th century BCE. Known in its heyday as “the most beautiful city of mortals,” Agrigento was one of the leading cities during the Golden Age of ancient Greece. Our tour features both the eastern zone, where we see the beautifully preserved Temple of Concordia (c. 430 BCE), and the western zone, with the massive temple of Olympian Zeus, believed to be the largest Doric temple ever built. From the outdoor sites, we then move on to Agrigento's archaeological museum, with exhibits and artifacts that tell the story of this outpost of classical Greece. Then we return to our hotel for a cooking lesson and dinner. *B,D*

Day 7: Agrigento/Piazza Armerina/Syracuse

We travel across Sicily's southern reaches today to Syracuse (Siracusa), stopping along the way in Piazza Armerina to visit Villa Romana del Casale, an elaborate 4th-century CE villa and UNESCO site boasting one of the richest, and largest, collections of mosaics

in the Roman world. Thanks to having been buried by landslides, the villa, its vivid frescoes, and the more than 3,200 square feet of mosaics survived the millennia in remarkably good shape. Following our tour here, we continue on to Syracuse, arriving late this afternoon. Once the largest city in the ancient world, Syracuse today is an alluring spot known for its superb archaeological sites and the relaxed seaside ambience of its Baroque old town. *B,L,D*

Day 8: Syracuse Today we discover what this city is best known for: the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, a UNESCO site that comprises a range of ancient monuments. We begin our explorations at the 5th-century BCE Greek theatre, the 16,000-seat amphitheatre where the tragedies of Aeschylus were staged – in his presence – and still in use today. Next: Latomia del Paradiso (Paradise Quarry), the now overgrown shaft from which the white limestone used to build Syracuse was cut. Because it has excellent acoustics, the quarry also is known as the Ear of Dionysius. We continue on to the Roman amphitheatre, the 1st-century BCE arena that once held gladiator spectacles; today it hosts musicals on its ancient stones. After lunch on our own, we take a walking tour of Ortigia, the “white pearl” of Sicily, the historical center of Syracuse, and a UNESCO site. *B,D*

Day 9: Syracuse This morning we embark on a cruise along Sicily's Ionian coast dotted with tiny islands and caves. We see historic Ortigia Island, the Spanish Wall, and 13th-century Castello Maniace that served as a bulwark against invaders in the Middle Ages. We have some time to explore Ortigia before returning to our hotel, where we dine tonight. *B,D*

Day 10: Syracuse/Mount Etna/Taormina We depart Syracuse this morning and make our way up the coast



OLIVE TREES DON'T
PRODUCE POMEGRANATES."

– SICILIAN PROVERB

to Mt. Etna, one of Europe's largest active volcanoes. The ancients believed conical snow-topped Etna to be the forge of Vulcan, god of fire; today, modern-day Sicilians have a very personal relationship with the volcano, which frequently erupts but is seldom destructive. Descending from the volcano, we stop at a private farm set amidst acres of lemon and kiwi groves, where we enjoy a small group highlight: a homemade lunch prepared by the family who lives here. To accompany our meal, we sample some excellent Sicilian wines. Then we resume our journey to Taormina, arriving late this afternoon. This evening is at leisure, with dinner tonight on our own. *B,L*

Day 11: Taormina This morning we embark on a walking tour of this delightful medieval town set on a rocky terrace overlooking the Ionian Sea. Highlights include the 3rd-century BCE Greek theatre, where gladiators once battled; the 13th-century fortress-like *Duomo*; and grand Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, site of the ancient *agora* and today an inviting plaza. This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy Taormina as we wish; tonight we celebrate our Sicily adventure over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *B,D*



Colorful Sicilian street scene

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights' accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 22 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Taormina's ancient theater overlooks Mt. Etna.

Day 12: Depart for U.S. We transfer today to the Catania airport for our return flight to the U.S. *B*

Tour Departs: September 28, 2023

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York	\$4,874
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Boston, Washington, DC	\$5,074
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Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Philadelphia	\$5,174
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Dallas, Denver, Fort Myers Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$5,274
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Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,095
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$579, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,095. Your \$500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days from departure. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,795 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,595 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking uphill and on uneven or cobblestone streets, and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For information and reservations, please contact John Guerra at FGCU Academy at (239) 434-4838 or e-mail jguerra@fgcu.edu

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility-Tour Participation Contract – IMPORTANT: FCGU Academy does not provide travel services or act as the agent of any provider of travel services. The liability of Florida Gulf Coast University, as a sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as a tour operator, is strictly limited. FCGU Academy is not responsible or liable for any of the services provided for/by Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. or any other travel agency, or for any of the services of hotels, motorcoaches, trains, vessels, aircraft, or other forms of transportation that may be used in connection with the tour. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. All arrangements for transport, accommodations, and services are made upon the express condition that FCGU Academy, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and their affiliates shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity of any kind occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond their control, including, without limitation, any act of negligence or breach of contract of any third party such as an airline, cruise line, train, hotel, restaurant, tour operator/supplier, ground handler, etc., including their employees, agents, servants, or representatives, who is to or does supply any goods or services to the tour. Without limiting the foregoing, FCGU Academy, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and their affiliates are not responsible for any losses or expenses due to delay or changes in schedule, overbooking of accommodations, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, quarantine, criminal activity, the defect of any vehicle, or for any other cause beyond their control. FCGU Academy reserves the right to change the itinerary of the tour, or to substitute similar quality hotels or airlines without prior notice. If the tour is cancelled by FCGU Academy for any reason, FCGU Academy, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and their affiliates shall have no liability beyond the refund of all tour participant deposits received by them, net of any and all expenses due to suppliers and the airline refund policies. FCGU Academy, in its sole discretion, may increase the tour price in the event costs increase. FCGU Academy may decline to accept or retain any tour participant as a participant on the tour at any time. Airline tickets may be sold in conjunction with the services of any airline. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, FCGU Academy and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of or changes to this tour. The parties agree that Ft. Myers (Lee County) in the state of Florida shall be the venue for any disputes arising out of this tour.

A signed FCGU General Release and Waiver Agreement is required from each participant prior to departure.

Medical Conditions: If you or a member of your party suffer from any physical challenge or medical condition, you must check with your doctor about the advisability of traveling abroad and make this known to us before you book. We will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants, but are not responsible for denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, and other independent suppliers. **Smoking:** Smoking is NOT permitted in the hotels, on motorcoaches, or on other modes of transport used by the group.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price roundtrip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided to you prior to your departure.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Borgo Pantano

www.borgopantano.it/en/

The Hotel Borgo Pantano sits on the site of a restored 19th century manor in the rolling green countryside outside Syracuse. This contemporary, family-run property was opened in 2010 and boasts four dining and drinking options (a restaurant, outdoor grill, thatch-roof poolside bar, and lobby bar), sweeping manicured grounds with an array of covered sitting areas, an expansive outdoor swimming pool and lounge area, laundry and dry-cleaning service (for a fee), and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. Each air-conditioned guest room has a unique layout and furnishings, is decorated with art created by local artists, and includes private bath with hair dryer, minibar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

Hotel NH Collection Taormina

www.nh-collection.com/hotels/collection-taormina

The elegant Hotel NH Collection Taormina is nestled high on the rugged wooded hillside along which the city of Taormina is built. The hotel offers a restaurant, café, rooftop swimming pool with poolside bar, fitness center (with spa, sauna, solarium, and steam bath), laundry and dry-cleaning service (for a fee), and complimentary Wi-Fi internet service. Air-conditioned guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, minibar, in-room safe, tea- and coffee-making facilities, TV, and phone.

Eurostars Centrale Palace

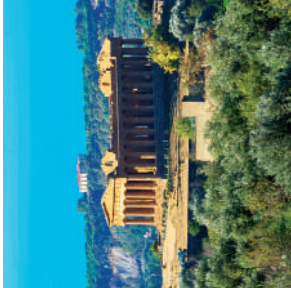
www.eurostarshotels.com/italy/corinthos-centrale-palace.html

Located in the heart of Palermo, within walking distance of the Palermo cathedral and the famed Via Maqueda, the Centrale Palace occupies the old Palazzo Tanillo building, retaining the original structure along with vintage frescoes and furniture. The hotel also forms part of the Arab-Norman route, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, where the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, and Arabs raised their places of worship. Sample traditional Italian dishes at the panoramic restaurant. The hotel amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi access, fitness center facilities, room service, and laundry-dry cleaning services (for a fee). Air-conditioned guest rooms include private bath with hair dryer, stadtline TV, an in-room safe, and a mini bar.

Baia di Ulisse

www.holidayinn.com/en

The only hotel in the area with direct access to a private beach, Baia di Ulisse stands along the southern coast of Sicily, just a short drive from Agrigento. The hotel boasts classical Sicilian décor and offers amenities including a restaurant and bar, full spa with sauna and whirlpool (services available Fri-Sun), and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access in common areas. From June to September, guests can enjoy free bicycle rental and an outdoor swimming pool with views of the Mediterranean. Each air-conditioned guest room has a balcony and features private bath with hair dryer, minibar, TV, and phone.



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