PALERMO | CALTAGIRONE | SYRACUSE

SMALL GROUP MAXIMUM OF 28 TRAVELERS



MAY 9-18, 2017



A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, become intimately engaged in the rhythm of the community, adding another memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

- Step back in time among ancient Greek temples at **Agrigento's** vast archaeological site.
- See the lavish world of a fourth-century Roman nobleman in the detailed mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale.
- Experience the Sicilian countryside and all its bounty at an agriturismo hotel.
- Enjoy Sicilian hospitality as you tour and taste at a family-run olive farm.
- Gaze at the historic harbor of Ortygia from the chic rooftop bar of your Syracuse hotel.
- Learn to prepare pizza the Sicilian way at a private cooking lesson.
- Take in a stunning view of Mount Etna while visiting the popular resort town Taormina.

Northwestern ALUMNI

Dear Northwestern University alumni and friends,

Join fellow Wildcat travelers as you discover the intriguing island of Sicily. Known for its natural beauty, well-preserved Greek and Roman ruins and baroque architecture, it is a cultural crossroads set in the glittering Mediterranean Sea.

Spend three nights in Palermo, two in Caltagirone and three in Syracuse to explore Sicily from cosmopolitan coast to quaint countryside. A special feature of this program is the time we will spend in and around Caltagirone; the heartland of Sicily has so much for us to see and experience!

Your expertly planned itinerary includes special cultural experiences, behind-the-scenes excursions and preferred access to popular attractions. Along with the security and ease of group travel, get an in-depth look at the local culture and history through exclusive educational content.

Space is limited in this popular program, so please make your reservations without delay!

Sincerely,

Jay Mastin

Jay Mastin '10 MS Senior Director Northwestern Alumni Association

Whether or not you travel with the NAA, you can make an impact on the world by giving to Northwestern. From study abroad opportunities that give students a global perspective to the University's groundbreaking global research, there are many areas where you can make a difference. Make a gift today at giving.northwestern.edu/nu/travel.





xplore enchanting Sicily to see firsthand how Western, Islamic and Byzantine cultures come together on this historic Mediterranean island. Begin in Palermo, a showplace of different architectural styles. Continue to an agriturismo hotel in Caltagirone to experience Sicily's countryside and cuisine, then travel to Syracuse to view stunning Greek and Roman ruins as well as baroque palaces and churches. Your Sicilian adventure unlocks this fascinating island time capsule filled with 3,000 years of civilization's treasures.

DAY ONE

IN TRANSIT

Depart your gateway city for Palermo, Italy.

DAY TWO

PALERMO, ITALY

Upon arrival in Palermo, transfer★ and check in to the Grand Hotel Et Des Palmes.

Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

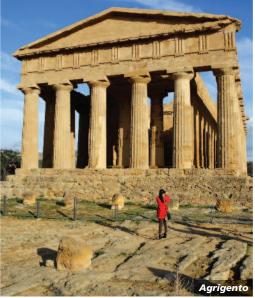
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PALERMO | MONREALE

Educational Focus: *Sicily, a Country Within a Country.*

Excursion: *Palermo and Monreale.* Visit Palermo's Cathedral. The church's architecture blends Gothic, Norman, and Moorish styles, mirroring the city's history. Take in the glittering



gold and gemstone mosaics inside the Palatine Chapel in the Norman Palace as well as the Islamicinfluenced domes of St. John of the Hermits, a 12th-century Norman church, and the neoclassical Teatro Massimo. Feast your senses during a tour of a local market stocked with the region's justpicked produce and fresh catch. In Monreale, view Santa Maria la Nuova's detailed mosaics and hilltop vistas.

Local Flavor: Enjoy the flavors of Sicilian cuisine with lunch at a Palermo restaurant.

DAY FOUR

SEGESTA I ERICE Excursion: Segesta. Ancient Segesta was home

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to both the indigenous Elymians and the Greeks, who settled there in the sixth century B.C. Explore the well-preserved ruins of this city, including its spectacular Doric temple and grand theater carved into the side of Mount Barbaro.

Educational Focus and Local Flavor: *Meet the People.* At a traditional family olive farm, learn how olive oil is made by the farmers themselves, taste the delicious oils and enjoy a taste of local dishes during a buffet lunch.

Excursion: *Erice.* Like Segesta, Erice was home to the Elymians. This hilltop city is known for its Phoenician walls and two castles. See the Norman Duomo, a Romanesque masterpiece.

Educational Focus: Mafia, Past and Present.

DAY FIVE

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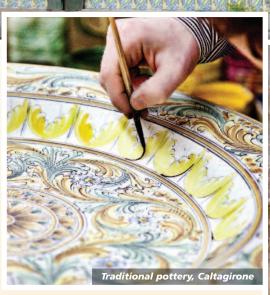
AGRIGENTO I CALTAGIRONE Excursion: *Agrigento*. In this ancient city founded by Greek colonists in the sixth century B.C., step back in time at the Valley of the Temples, one of Europe's most impressive classical sites. Walk through the Temple of Hercules, the Doric Temple of Concord, and the unfinished Temple of Jupiter.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch near Agrigento. Continue to Caltagirone in the heart of the Sicilian countryside and check in to Colle San Mauro, an agriturismo hotel. Take a scenic ride in an open-air vehicle through the property's orchards, gardens, and vineyards before feasting on a farm-to-table dinner featuring home-grown produce and wine made from the farm's vineyards.

DAY SIX

CALTAGIRONE

Excursion: *Inner Sicily.* Witness Sicily's quiet countryside, dotted citrus and fig trees and prickly pear cacti, as you travel through the Val di Noto to visit Modica, Ragusa and Caltagirone, three of eight late baroque towns in the Val di Noto that were rebuilt in spectacular fashion after two earthquakes devasted them in 1693. The rebuilding effort resulted in a great achievement of urban planning and baroque design.



After it was rebuilt, Modica had two town centers. The original town sat atop a hill, but the new town was built below it, and it is home to impressive baroque cathedrals.

The medieval town of Ragusa also has an old town and a new town. The new town has a bevy of baroque architecture: nine churches and seven palazzi, among the new buildings constructed after the quakes. Stroll through the square and gardens in the old town. Visit St. George's Cathedral.

After lunch on your own in Ragusa, end the afternoon in Caltagirone, which also has an impressive collection of pre- and postearthquake architecture. The town also is known for its hand-painted majolica ceramics. At the Church of Santa Maria de Monte, see the 142-step staircase with a unique painted ceramic riser between each step.

Local Flavor: Sample more farm-fresh dishes during dinner at Colle San Mauro.



DAY SEVEN

PIAZZA ARMERINA I SYRACUSE Educational Focus: *Roman Mosaics*. Excursion: *Piazza Armerina and Villa Romana del Casale*. A magnificent example of a Roman country house, Villa del Casale dates from the fourth century. Visit the villa to wonder at its more than 12,000 square feet of Roman mosaics, considered the best example of the art form remaining in the world.

Continue to Syracuse to check in to Des Étrangers Hotel & Spa.

Excursion: *Syracuse.* Stroll through the showcase of medieval and baroque design in the historic city center of Syracuse on the island of Ortygia. Then, tour the extensive Greek and Roman ruins in Syracuse's Neaopolis Archaeological Park. Visit the Greek theater



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where Aeschylus saw his later tragedies performed in the fifth century B.C., the wellpreserved Roman amphitheater and more.

DAY EIGHT

TAORMINA

Excursion: *Taormina.* Tour this fashionable resort town, a showplace of 14th- and 15th-century palaces set high on Mount Tauro above the sparkling Ionian Sea. Explore Taormina's Greek Theater, with views of Mount Etna as dramatic as the plays performed on its ancient stage.

Local Flavor: Enjoy a pizza-making lesson, followed by an authentic Sicilian pizza lunch at a family-run restaurant.

Independent Exploration: The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy Taormina at leisure.

DAY NINE

SYRACUSE

Independent Exploration: The day is at leisure to explore on your own.

ELECTIVE | *Catania.* Visit the historic city of Catania, which is part of the Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Take in the highlights of this port city, including Roman ruins, baroque churches and the markets of Piazza del Duomo. Enjoy lunch at your leisure, perhaps sampling Catania's plentiful and popular street food.



Then visit the Historic Museum of the Landing in Sicily 1943 to learn about the Allied arrival there during World War II.

This evening, share highlights of your Sicilian adventure with fellow travelers at Farewell Reception and Dinner.

DAY TEN

IN TRANSIT

After breakfast, transfer ★ to the Catania airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

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Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.

✤ Provided for AHI FlexAir participants

BILID denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Elective experiences available at an additional cost

| ACCOMMODATIONS |



GRAND HOTEL ET DES PALMES PALERMO





COLLE SAN MAURO CALTAGIRONE





DES ÉTRANGERS HOTEL & SPA SYRACUSE



Our travel experts have selected these luxury properties, each in a prime location, for your comfort. Details in the design and décor celebrate the local culture and enhance the ambience of each hotel. Their restaurants feature menus of elegantly prepared local and international cuisine. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to maximize the enjoyment of your stay.



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A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.

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retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations he refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limit tation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompaied by for powing and the required assist them, and who will be totally responsible for powing and the required assist them, and who will be totally responsible for powing and the required assist them.

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LAND PROGRAM

May 10-18, 2017

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
\$3,245	\$250	\$2,995*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel. VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$595 (limited availability).

Let us arrange your flights!

May 9-18, 2017

AHI FlexAir | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

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Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.



UNESCO |

Four of Italy's UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this comprehensive program:

- 1. Archaeological Area of Agrigento
- 2. Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto
- 3. Villa Romana del Casale
- 4. Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Church of Monreale







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| INCLUDED FEATURES |

ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Three nights in Palermo, Italy, at the Grand Hotel et Des Palmes.
- Two nights in Caltagirone at the Colle San Mauro.
- Three nights in Syracuse at the Des Étrangers Hotel & Spa.

TRANSFERS

• All deluxe motor coach transfer(s) in the Land/Cruise Program and baggage handling.

MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including eight breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

- Informative educational programs, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- The following excursions:
 - Explore the cities of Palermo and Monreale.
 - Discover charming Segesta and Erice.
 - Delve into the ancient history of Agrigento.
 - Experience life in the Sicilian heartland by staying at an agriturismo hotel and visiting the towns of the Val di Noto.
 - Admire the extraordinary ancient mosaics at a Roman villa.
 - Stroll through the ancient city of Syracuse.
 - See Mount Etna in the distance as you explore the town of Taormina.
 - Learn how to make authentic Sicilian-style pizza at a family-owned restaurant.

AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.



PASSENGER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

► **TRAVEL INFORMATION** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to fully prepare you for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- TRAVEL DIRECTOR | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ► **EXPERT GUIDES** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ► **LECTURERS** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.

Northwestern ALUMNI

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- attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
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