EVENTS & TOURISM

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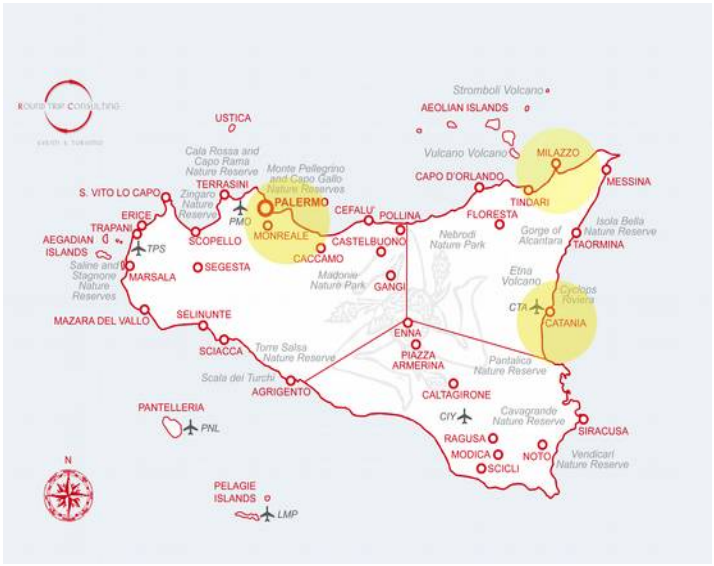
Sicily Nature Tour

Accommodation: 3 nights at a 4-star hotel in the centre of Palermo, 2 nights at a 4-star hotel in Milazzo and 2 nights at a 4-star hotel in the heart of Catania.

Dive excursions: Palermo, Cala Rossa, Scopello, Zingaro Nature Reserve, San Vito Lo Capo, Madonie National Park, Aeolian Islands, Cyclops Coast, Mt. Etna, Alcantara Gorge, Catania.

Treatment: Half Board or Full Board.

Notes: Departure guaranteed with 2 people; English speaking courier provided.



Your bases: Palermo, located on the Northern coast, boasts more than 2700 years of history and a great cultural diversity; Milazzo right in front of the Aelolian archipelago; Catania, at the slopes of Mt. Etna, located in strategic position on the Ionian coast.
Both are the perfect base points to explore the island and reach the most important natural, cultural and artistic Sicilian sites in the quickest and easiest ways possible.

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Detailed 8 days - 7 nights itinerary

Day 1 – PALERMO

Direct transfer from Falcone e Borsellino Airport (Palermo, PMO) to your 4-star hotel in the centre of **Palermo**, in the Northern coast of Sicily.

The hotel is close to Politeama theatre and Via Libertà, the most elegant fashion street in Palermo, rich in prestigious retailers.

Enjoy a welcome cocktail and spend your time at leisure(*). Time for leisure and dinner.

Overnight: 4-star hotel in Palermo.

(*) According the arrival time, it is possible to experience one or more of the following activities in Palermo:

- Have a guided walking tour through the magnificent historic centre of Palermo, full of heritage, art and culture: enjoy the Arab-Norman circuit (included in the **Unesco World Heritage list** in 2015) with the Normans Palace, the Palatine Chapel and the Cathedral.
- Reach the neighboring small borough of Mondello, one of most popular tourist place in Italy, with a gorgeous sand beach. Enjoy the clear waters of Capo Gallo Nature Reserve.
- Visit Mt. Pellegrino, the most famous mountain in Palermo. During his “Italian Journey”, Goethe described it as “the most beautiful promontory in the world”. Visit the church of Santa Rosalia inside a stunning cave and then start a relaxing trail to a panoramic point over the northern coastline.

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Day 2: CALA ROSSA

After breakfast transfer to **Terrasini**, and start the visit of Capo Rama, a Nature Reserve a stunning red cliff with some watchtowers from the Spanish period (16th century).

Have a lunch at a typical sea-restaurant in Terrasini right in front of the Faraglioni (sea stacks).

Visit of the magnificent rocky coast of **Cala Rossa** and reach the cave of San Cataldo; spend your time swimming, snorkeling or relaxing right in front of the cave.

Return to your hotel in Palermo in the evening. Time for leisure and dinner.

Overnight: 4-star hotel in Palermo.

Day 3: SCOPELLO, ZINGARO AND SAN VITO LO CAPO

After breakfast transfer to **Castellammare del Golfo** and start a great daily cruise among one of the most stunning coasts of Sicily.

Enjoy the navigation to **Scopello**, the great location of the movie Ocean 12. Visit the amazing cove, the old tuna fishery and the majestic sea stacks with prickly pear cactus on the top).

Move to **Zingaro**, a nature park with 7 kilometers of unspoilt coastline and several beaches. Take the chance to dive and go snorkeling in pristine waters, rich in unique Mediterranean flora and fauna.

Reach **San Vito Lo Capo** and relax on its amazing sand beach. At lunchtime enjoy “cous cous” (an Arabic culinary speciality, now great expression of the Sicilian cuisine) and “caldo-freddo” (a typical Sicilian ice cream).

Return to Palermo in the evening and have time for leisure and dinner.

Overnight: 4-star hotel in Palermo.

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Day 4: MADONIE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast transfer to **Madonie National Park**, near Castelbuono.

Have a great walk with donkeys among the Flowering Ashes and discover how Manna (a white crystal utilized in the making of Sicilian pastries) comes from tapping these trees.

Meet an authentic shepherd, enjoy his cheese and have a great pic nic into the park.

In the afternoon you will discover the **Gorges of Tiberio.**

Carved by the river Pollina over thousands of years, they are one of the most fascinating places in the Madonie National Park.

This site is a Unesco Geopark because of its calcareous rocks rich of 200 millions years old fossils.

You can cross and enjoy the gorgeous canyon (long 250 meters – and deep 50 meters) navigating its calm waters by a small rubber dinghy.

The patterns of light created by the the water reflecting on the walls, the silence of an unspoilt nature and the great biodiversity of this location make you feel in an amazing primordial world.

Transfer to Milazzo in late evening. Time for dinner.

Overnight: 4-star hotel in Milazzo.

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Day 5: AEOLIAN ARCHIPELAGO

After breakfast transfer to the harbour of Milazzo and start the navigation to **Aeolian Islands**, one of the most stunning archipelagos of the world.
Reach **Lipari** and visit its historic centre and its important museum of archaeology.
Enjoy “Cave di Pomice” (Pumice quarry), a white coastline where waters have an incredible kind of blue. Spend your time swimming and snorkeling.
Reach **Vulcano**, the 3rd Sicilian active volcano and also an island with beautiful black sand beaches.
Have a lunch at a typical Sicilian restaurant. Enjoy a hot mud sulphur bath or an easy hiking to the top of the volcano: you can reach the crater in 40 minutes from the beach.
Come back to Milazzo in late evening. Time for dinner.
Overnight: 4-star hotel in Milazzo.

Day 6: CYCLOPS COAST AND CATANIA

After breakfast transfer to the harbour of **Acitrezza** and follow the legendary Odysseus's Route during the navigation by private boat among the Acitrezza nature reserve. Look at “faraglioni” (huge rocks that Polyphemus casts towards Odysseus's ship) and Lachea Island.
Spend some time for swimming and snorkeling during the navigation in the coastline.
Reach Acitrezza, a pittoresque fishermen town and enjoy a lunch at typical Sicilian seafood restaurant with a stunning Ionian sea view.
In the afternoon reach **Catania** and enjoy a walk through its Baroque city centre (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).
Overnight: 4-star hotel in Catania.

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Day 7: MT. ETNA AND ALCANTARA GORGE

After breakfast transfer to **Mt. Etna**, the tallest active volcano in Europe (3.329 m – 10.922 ft). It was added to the list of Unesco World Heritage Sites in June 2013.
Enjoy a drive to Silvestri Craters in the south of the volcano or combine an adventure tour by 4wd vehicles with a pleasant walk to admire the signs of last eruptions in the North area.
Reach an old winery at the slopes of Mt. Etna, surrounded by vineyards and fascinating natural environment.
Experience the typical Etna wines and have a lunch with some great Sicilian delicacies.
In the afternoon visit the **Alcantara Gorge**, a beautiful canyon carved by the namesake river over millions of years. Its black basalt columns (called “organ pipes) can grow up to 50 meters. The canyon is about 300.000 years old.
Alcantara is also an amazing Botanical Park: it covers many hectares of land planted with lemon and oranges trees, olive groves and many other kinds of Mediterranean plants.
You can cross and enjoy the gorgeous canyon practicing fluvial and adventure sports such as rafting, hydrospeed, river trekking, canyoning, kayak and river tubing Come back to Catania in late evening. Time for dinner.
Overnight: 4-star hotel in Catania.

Day 8: DEPARTURE

Have your breakfast at your hotel. Check-out and have a transfer to **Fontanarossa Airport** (Catania, CTA).
According your departure time, enjoy one more excursion in the area of Catania or a guided visit of Taormina.

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Target: this is a private tour which can be arranged for individual customers and small groups. It gives the chance to discover the Sicilian cultural heritage, visit the most stunning places of the island and enjoy its food and wine excellencies.
Transfers: the package includes transfers by comfortable cars or minibus.
Staff: the package includes qualified English speaking couriers, guides and drivers (other languages on request).
Accommodations: the package include a stay at a 4 stars hotels in the centre of Palermo, Milazzo and Catania. This solution gives you the chance to enjoy shopping, restaurants and the night life (walking distance to the hotel). On request, we can provide you with 5 stars resorts and agrirelais near the national parks or close to the sea.
Lunches: we have selected the best restaurants and farms where you can find out the most authentic Sicilian cuisine! Our packages always include lunches.
Tasting: packages include tastings of Sicilian food and wine excellencies.
Diners: packages can include the full-board treatment with dinners at the hotel's restaurants or at the best restaurants in the city. In the second case you can combine the dinner with a tour of the city by night.
Philosophy and Customization of the tour: our itineraries help you to relax and optimize your time in Sicily. Palermo, Milazzo and Catania are the perfect base points to explore the Island.
You don't have to change hotel everyday (no need to pack and unpack your luggages every time) because distances between towns and the most important Sicilian sites are short.
You can personalize this tour according your needs (you can add places to visit or extend the duration of your tour).
On request we can provide you with transfers from/to other Sicilian airports (different from the scheduled ones). According to your flights a reverse itinerary is available.
Price: the final price quote will be established in accordance with the services chosen and the number of participants.

Technical Organization:
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Regional Licence: 2365/s9 tur - P.Iva: 06224810827
Insurance: Unipolsai Assicurazioni n.1/2483/319/103807707

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Office: **0039 091 540830** Mobile: **0039 380 5220620**
If you want to contact us by Skype, our Skype address is: **RoundTrip.Sicily**

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Key Facts – Sicily

Sicily is **the largest Italian region**, a "little continent" rich in art, culture, archaeology, history (a list of **20 Unesco World Heritage Sites**), breathtaking sceneries, (**4 Regional Parks, 77 Nature Reserves and 3 volcanoes**), crystal clear waters, quiet medieval towns, refined cuisine, great wines, important literary traditions, myths and legends.
Sicily is a **safe and exclusive destination** just few hours by plane from anywhere in Europe.
Thanks to its sceneries, heritage and mild climate, it attracts **5 millions annual tourists** from all over the world.

HISTORY OF SICILY

Sicily has been inhabited since the Paleolithic and Mesolithic. It had been part of the **Ancient Greece**, and then it was invaded and ruled by many different conquerors, such as Romans, Arabs, Normans, Swabians, Spanish and French. Those populations, of course, brought in the island their arts, science, culture and architecture.

GEOGRAPHY

Sicily has a roughly triangular shape, which earned it the name of **Trinacria** (in Greek "three promontories").
Sicily is in the middle of **Mediterranean Sea** and it is the **largest** of its islands. Sicily's interior offers a wide variety of landscapes: mountains, hills, gorges and two fertile large plains around Catania and Palermo.

Mount Etna (10900ft/3348 meters) is the largest and the tallest active volcano in Europe. It is also the tallest mountain in Sicily.
Palermo is the capital (population: 700.000). Sicilian population is 5.000.000. Sicily has got **6 airports** to provide easy access to the various areas of the island; they are well served by international, national and low cost airlines. A direct flight connects New York City to Palermo.
Time Difference: GMT +1 Hour. Currency: Euro

CLIMATE

Sicily has a **Mediterranean climate** with dry and warm summers and mild, wet winters.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average High Temp °C (°F)	15 (59)	15 (59)	16 (61)	18 (64)	22 (72)	25 (77)	28 (82)	30 (86)	27 (81)	23 (73)	19 (66)	16 (61)	20 (68)
Average Low Temp °C (°F)	10 (50)	10 (50)	11 (52)	13 (55)	16 (61)	20 (68)	23 (73)	24 (75)	22 (72)	18 (64)	14 (57)	11 (52)	16 (61)
Precipitation mm (inches)	72 (2.83)	65 (2.56)	60 (2.36)	44 (1.73)	26 (1.02)	12 (.47)	5 (.20)	2 (.08)	42 (1.65)	98 (3.86)	94 (3.7)	80 (3.15)	611 (24.06)
Hours of Daylight	10	11	12	13	14	15	14.5	14	12.5	11	10	9.5	Monthly Averages
Hours of Sunshine	4	4.5	6	7	9	11	12	10	9	6.5	5	4	Monthly Averages

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Sicilian Food and Wine

Sicilian cuisine, based on the values of the Mediterranean diet (Unesco Heritage), is a rich melting pot of flavors and unique combinations.
With the help of the most skilled chefs you will discover the ancient Sicilian culinary tradition that is the result of many foreign cultures alternating in the island during its many centuries of history.

Sicilian foods are combined with the most refined Sicilian wines because the island had a strong wine-growing vocation (Greek settlers produced wine in Sicily before the Romans started their own vineyards in the 2nd century B.C.).

If you are a food lover and appreciate culinary art, you will be welcomed in the most charming restaurants and most beautiful wineries. You will always enter in a stimulating sensory environment where you will be seduced by amazing flavours and essences.

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Since more than 6000 years Sicily has been a “Top Destination” in the center of the Mediterranean Sea: an inexhaustible source of surprises that never fails to fascinate everyone who visits her.

Sicily is the largest Italian region, a “little continent” rich in art, culture, history, breathtaking sceneries, refined cuisine and great wines.

Explore your need…
we will provide you with the best end-to-end solutions!

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