A taste of Southern Sicily by bike

6 days / 5 nights

Sicily, the largest of the Italian islands is a concentration of history, architecture and gastronomic delights.
It is one of the pearls of southern Italy and can be discovered, understood and lived through this itinerary dedicated to beautiful landscapes, history and traditions.

Prepare your trip

YOUR PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Catania

Individual arrival in Catania, the second largest metropolitan city of Sicily. Over the centuries, it has faced earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, it has undergone alternating dominations and urban transformations. Take your time to visit Palazzo Biscari, the most beautiful example of Catanese baroque architecture, and the Historica Monaster San Benedetto.

Overnight stay in Catania.

Day 2 - Catania - Caltagirone (80 km / D+1000 m)

Bike and road map delivery, route description. Today the tour leads you from Catania to Caltagirone. Perched on three different hills which boast of stunning views of the valley below, it became famous for the quality and sophistication of its ceramics. Have a chance to visit The famous staircase “La Scalinata”, the nativity scenes, the patronal feast of St. James, the Baroque heritage of UNESCO.
About 80 km.

Overnight stay in Caltagirone.

cycling.europe-active.com
673 avenue de Borgo
20290 Borgo - France

Phone: +33 495 444 967
Email: velo@europe-active.com
Siren : 801723065 Licence : IM02B140003

Day 3 - Caltagirone - Modica (80 km / D+1365 m)

Leaving Caltagirone behind you, Ragusa will be your first stop. Situated in the Monti Iblei, a large area of high ground, divided up by dry stone walls and incised with ravines, Ragusa is one of the most picturesque towns in Sicily. The view from the upper town over Ragusa Ibla on its own separate hilltop is quite breathtaking. Destination of the day is Modica, built at the foot of a rocky ridge where once two rivers flew which are underground today. In the past the town became an important centre of southern Sicily being the head of the homonymous county. Today the town is composed of two urban agglomerations: the Upper and the Lower Modica.
About 80 km.

Overnight stay in Modica.

Day 4 - Modica - Ispica (45 km / D+465 m)

Today your adventure leads you first to Scicli, less well-known than its prestigious neighbours (Ragusa and Modica) but just as fascinating and beautiful, and then to Ispica. Don’t miss the chance to visit the Basilica of Santa Maria and The Mother Church of Saint Bartholomew.
About 45 km.

Overnight stay in Ispica.

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Day 5 - Ispica - Siracusa (70 km / D+620 m)

Heading out of Ispica, your first stopover will be in Noto, perched on a plateau overlooking the Asinaro valley, covered by citrus, olive and almond trees. Here you can admire palaces, churches, balconies with wrought iron railings and cherubs that decorate the facing. Noto is called the “Garden of Stone” because of its typical stone. In the afternoon you will cycle towards your destination: Syracuse, a city among the most noble and elegant from all over the Mediterranean Sea. Full of charm, history and natural landscape, enviable and envied, the city is divided into two different groups: the urban part of the city and Ortigia, the beautiful island of the city, increasingly rich in tourism. In 2005, Syracuse has become part of the Unesco World Heritage. (About 70 Km).

Overnight stay in Siracusa.

Day 6 - Syracuse

Additional information

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TARIFFS

Price from 1070 euros per person.

OPTIONS

Departures from 01 June to 14 July and from 24 August to 22 September : 120 euros per person.
Departures from 14 April to 18 April, from 15 July to 23 August and from 23 December to 7 January. : 350 euros per person.
E-Bike rental : 210 euros per person.
Departures from 8 to 22 August : 150 euros per person.
Roadbike rental : 140 euros per person.
Hybrid bike rental : 85 euros per person.
Transfer Catania>Siracusa (1 or 2 people) : 180 euros per person.

INCLUDED

Bed & Breakfast service in 4-star lodgings
Luggage transport service
Information material and route description with maps
GPS with the needed tracks
Local hotline

NOT INCLUDED

The transfers between airport and hotels
Luggage insurance
Lunch, evening meals
Tourist taxes
Bike rental (in option)

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium - advanced level: from 40 km to 80 km per day.

LUGGAGE

You just have to take with you your business of the day (picnic, camera...).

ACCOMMODATION

5 nights in 3* hotels and B&B's

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum of 2

DEPARTURES

Any day in the week, all year long

DEPARTURE

Beginning of the tour in Catania at the time of your choice.

DISPERSION

End of the tour in Siracusa after breakfast on the last day.

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HOW TO GET THERE

Sicily is easily reachable by plane. There are several direct flights from airports all over Europe, but you can also choose an indirect flight through many major European airports.

It is highly recommended to choose the following airports:
CATANIA
COMISO

NEW!
If you are travelling from France, from April 2019, the 21st, 2 departures per week (Toulon or Nice) will allow travelers to reach the largest island of the Mediterranean Sea crossing night to wake up in Trapani, 1 hour from Palermo, capital of Sicily, thanks to the company Corsica Ferries.

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

ADVISED MATERIAL TO TAKE WITH YOU (non-exhaustive cheklist) :

As a good preparation is key to a successful stay, here are a few tips to ensure that your trip takes place in optimal conditions.

BIKES
In order that your stay does not turn into a mechanical training course, it's advisable to carry out a meticulous revision of your bike before going on a tour :
- the tyres are well inflated and in good condition
- cables and chain are in good condition
- the transmission elements are clean and oiled
- there are no leaks in the suspensions
- the wheels are well tightened
- the brakes are in good condition (wear + possible leaks)
- the headset has been checked

And don't forget that anomalies are easier to spot on a cleaned bike…

REPAIR MATERIAL
To avoid mechanical problems, it's better to be far-sighted and always carry the basic equipment of a biker:
- 2 inner tubes (puncture sealant is strongly recomended, or puncture sealant strips)
- a pump
- tire irons
- an inner tube repair kit consisting of patches and glue
- a multi-tool
- a small wrench
- a piece of tire

Also, you can prepare your own toolbox which we transfer with your luggage. You will put in it the following items :
- a brake cable (front and rear)

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- a derailleur cable
- a tyre
- one derailleur hanger
- chain oil
- a rag

EQUIPMENT

As you can't judge a book by its cover, cycling slinky shorts won't help you to turn into a cycling champion. However, a minimum of specific bike equipment will be necessary in order to be comfortable :

- a helmet
- glasses
- suitable shoes (no smooth soles)
- a cycling short or short
- a breathable tee-shirt (try to avoid cotton)

DAY BACKPACK

Because it's unpleasant to ride with a too loaded backpack, it's better to think carefully about the necessary things to bring in the backpack for the day:

- a water bag and/or a flask and/or water cans on the bike (2L/day/person minimum)
- provisions (energy bars, dried fruits...)
- the basic repair material for your bike (see above)
- a windbreaker (waterproof)
- picnic
- a headlamp
- a knife
- sun cream (+ lip protection)
- toilet paper
- a first-aid kit (see below)
- your mobile phone + an external battery
- a rubbish bag

PICNIC

In order to avoid unnecessary waste at picnic time, remember to take with you :

- an airtight box (0.5L) with initials marked on the lid and on the box + wide elastics
- reusable cutlery (fork and pocketknife)

TRAVEL BAG

Your luggage is transferred during the day and you will find it every evening at your hotel. It is preferable that your travel bag contains the following items :

- a sleeping bag liner (stays in gîtes)
- a change of clothes
- a pair of light shoes for the evening

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- a large jumper or fleece jacket
- a small toilet bag with a towel

FIRST-AID KIT
Concerning all our guided stays, the instructor has a first aid kit.
However, it is essential to bring your own first aid kit.
Here is a list of the minimum items to take with you:
- disinfectant
- gauze strips
- plaster
- protective cream for the buttocks
- your personal medicines
- micropur pastilles (water disinfectant)
- a survival blanket

A more complete first-aid kit should be formulated with your doctor.

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