Baroque Towns Cycling Tour in Sicily

8 Days / 7 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 experienced through this itinerary dedicated to the island's history and traditions.

Prepare your trip

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Piazza Armerina

Arrival in Piazza Armerina, a pretty and historic town nestled into the heart of Sicily. Have a chance to wander around its beautiful winding streets. There are many wonderful buildings to see including the 18th century Duomo, which dominates the town standing majestically on top of a hill, the elegant town hall, and grand old palazzi such as the Palazzo Trigona.
Overnight stay in Piazza Armerina.



Day 2 - Piazza Armerina to Caltagirone (35 km / D+635 m)

Your bikes and information for the tour will be delivered to you this morning. Heading out of Piazza Armerina, after about 4Km you will reach Villa Romana del Casale, the centre of the large estate upon which the rural economy of the Western Empire was based. This majestic imperial villa dates back to the 4th Century A.D. and is one of the most luxurious of its kind. It is especially noteworthy for the richness and quality of the mosaics, which are considered as the most beautiful and best-preserved of their kind and which made the Villa a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. Today's destination is Caltagirone, one of the Baroque towns of the famous Val di Noto.
About 35 Km.
Overnight stay in Caltagirone.

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Day 3 - Caltagirone to Palazzolo Acreide (68 km / D+1200 m)

From Caltagirone you will cycle to Palazzolo Acreide, Akrai for the Greeks. A city of great cultural interest, it owes its fame to the nearby archaeological excavation. Thanks to the many fascinating buildings in Baroque style, Palazzolo Acreide has been incorporated into the list of World Heritage sites since 2002.
About 68 Km.
Overnight stay in Palazzolo Acreide.



Day 4 - Palazzolo Acreide to Ragusa Ibla (37 km / D+600 m)

Today you will cycle along the Hyblaean Plateau, characterized by dry-stone walls which divide swathes of land heading to Ragusa. This area offers some of the best red wines of Sicily and wonderful artisan cheeses. The town is divided into three parts: the modern Ragusa, the upper town Ragusa Superiore, and the oldest part, Ragusa Ibla, which is the most interesting for visitors. Ragusa has been described by UNESCO World Heritage as "representing the culmination and final flowering of Baroque art in Europe".
About 37Km.
Overnight stay in Ragusa Ibla.

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Day 5 - Ragusa Ibla to Ispica (59 km / D+660 m)

Today the tour leads you from Ragusa Ibla to Ispica. The first stop will be Modica, one of the area's UNESCO-listed Baroque towns. Particularly famous for its chocolate, Modica is situated in the dramatic landscape of the Monti Iblei. From here you'll continue your ride to Scicli, where you can visit the Church of San Bartolomeo. Finally you will reach Ispica. The centre of Ispica is home to a handful of elegant churches, such as Santa Maria Maggiore, with its splendid collection of frescoes, and the Chiesa dell'Annunziata. The town's streets and squares, some lined with fine palazzi, such as the current town hall, will lead you to the former covered market, which now houses a café and restaurant.
About 59 Km.
Overnight stay in Ispica.



Day 6 - Ispica to Noto (55 km / D+545 m)

Leaving Ispica, you will come across Marzamemi, one of Sicily's prettiest seaside villages. Here you can see the small and characteristic houses of the fishermen which border the main square. They were renovated during the construction of the Palazzo of the Prince of Villadorata. Continue cycling towards the Vendicari Nature Reserve, a mixture of lagoons (pantano), sand dunes, rocky coastlines, and sandy beaches. The Reserve was created in 1984 and is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Thousands of migrating birds pass a few days here on their way to or from Africa. Today's ride ends in Noto, perched on a plateau overlooking the Asinaro valley, covered by citrus, olive and almond trees. Admire the palaces, churches, balconies with wrought iron railings and cherubs that decorate the facades. Noto is called the “Garden of Stone” because of its

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typical stone.
About 55 Km.
Overnight stay in Noto.



Day 7 - Noto to Syracuse (37 km / D+215 m)

The final day's ride will take you from Noto to Syracuse, a city among the most noble and elegant from all over the Mediterranean. Full of charm, history and natural landscapes, 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 37 Km.
Overnight stay in Syracuse.



Day 8 - Syracuse

Additional information

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TARIFFS

Price from 1100 euros per person.

OPTIONS

Departures from 14 April to 18 April, from 15 July to 23 August and from 23 December to 7 January. : 480 euros per person.
Departures from 01 June to 14 July and from 24 August to 22 September : 170 euros per person.
Departures from 08 to 22 August : 220 euros per person.
Single room supplement : 305 euros per person.
E-Bike rental : 235 euros per person.
Hybrid bike rental : 100 euros per person.
Roadbike rental : 185 euros per person.
Transfer Catania>Piazza Armerina (1 or 2 people) : 250 euros per person.
Transfer Catania>Siracusa (1 or 2 people) : 190 euros per person.

INCLUDED

Bed & Breakfast in 4-star hotels
Luggage transport service
Information material and route description
GPS with the necessary routes
Local hotline

NOT INCLUDED

The transfers between airport and hotels
Travel insurance
Lunch, evening meals
Tourist taxes
Bike rental

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Moderate level: from 35 km to 68 km per day.

CARRYING

Carry only what you need for the day (camera, wallet etc)

ACCOMMODATION

7 nights in 3* hotels and B&B

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum of 2

DEPARTURES

Any day in the week throughout the year.

DEPARTURE

Beginning of the tour in Piazza Armerina at the time of your choice.

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DISPERSION
End of the tour in Syracuse after breakfast on the last day.

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

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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)
- 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)

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- a change of clothes
- a pair of light shoes for the evening
- 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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