

Art and Culture in the Sicilian Unesco sites.

Discovering an incomparable cultural heritage, full of artistic productions of universal significance: the unique colors of the Baroque in Sicily, that provides indelible emotions i. The tuff of Noto, the quarries of Syracuse, the mosaics of the Villa Romana del Casale, the center of Catania, in a only trip to make you relive the ancient treasures of past civilizations.



Program

1st Catania

Arrival at Catania and transfer to the hotel where our tour leader will welcome and introduce you the whole tour. Dinner, accommodation and overnight stay.

2nd Catania

Catania, second city of the Sicilian Baroque Territory, is recognized as heritage by UNESCO of considerable interest. The foundation of the city goes back to 729 BC., but unfortunately the 1963 earthquake has meant that just few, though very important, archaeological examples arrived to the present. The amphitheater located at Stesicoro square is integral part of the place. This magnificent architectural work is easily visible from the outside just by turning around the square. Dating back to the II-III cent. AD. It had a capacity of 15.000 spectators (with explanatory cards in braille). The Roman theater, opened for visits only from a few years, dates back to I cent. AD. Partially



swallowed by the surrounding buildings, the theater is located inside an eighteenth-century palace. It had an auditorium able to accommodate 7.000 spectators. (with explanatory cards in braille). Please do not miss the Elephant Fountain, the Dome, Castle Ursino Civic Museum, Diocesan Museum, Benedictine Convent, Palazzo Biscari and Massimo Bellini Theater. These are just few examples that testify to the beauty of the city.

3rd Siracusa - Noto

Departure from Catania and transfer to Syracuse where we planned a visit to the archaeological area of Neapolis, today totally open and accessible. After the visit we'll move to Noto where we'll enter the city from the Royal Gate, a marvelous triumphal arch in neoclassical style. After that we'll go along the main street admiring an impressive sequence of sumptuous religious buildings: the St. Francis church to the Immaculate, the monastery of the Holy Savior, the St. Claire church. In the main square we'll come across the monumental Cathedral of St. Nicol. (accessible from a side entrance). Noto Cathedral was made famous by the collapse of the dome and of the right aisle that took place in 1996. After a long process of reconstruction and restoration the church has been restored to its original splendor and today dominates the square with his fantastic golden limestone profile. In the same square comes into view also Palazzo Ducezio. Continuing beyond, in front of the elegant San Carlo Borromeo church began the famous via Nicolaci, another Baroque jewel Heritage of UNESCO. Overnight stay and dinner at the hotel.

4th Piazza Armerina – Catania

After breakfast, we will visit Noto down town, where, thanks to a pleasant walk along the main street, you can admire its baroque “soul”. Then we continue to Piazza Armerina where you can admire the fantastic Villa del Casale mosaics. The villa, protected by UNESCO since 1997 , has belonged to an exponent of Roman senatorial aristocracy, probably a roman governor (Praefectus Urbi); according to some researchers, it was, however, built and expanded on direct imperial patronage. Due to its beauty and complexity, it is considered one of the most significant examples of representative dwelling compared to other Western Roman Empire contemporary residence. Tastings of local food in a typical restaurant of the area and transfer to the hotel for dinner.

5th Departure

After breakfast transfer to the airport and end of our services.



Notes: presence of the characteristic pavement with flagstones in city centers.

Tour Leader: possibility of LIS guides during the tour

Bus: with possibility of a platform to lift wheelchairs

Hotels:

Katane Palace 4**:** rooms for disabled, lift with raised numbers and acoustic and visual warning to the floors. Accessible and organized restaurant for special diets.

NH Bellini 4**:** rooms for disabled, lift with raised numbers and acoustic and visual warning to the floors. Accessible and organized restaurant for special diets.

Sheraton 4**:** rooms for disabled, lift with raised numbers and acoustic and visual warning to the floors. Accessible and organized restaurant for special diets.

