

## Self-Guided

### Bike tour

## Tour description

Day 1	
Arrive Caltagirone	
Day 2	35 km
Circular route	
Day 3	47 km
To Modica	
Day 4	35 km
To Pozzallo	
Day 5	57 km
To Marzamemi	
Day 6	25 km
To Noto	
Day 7	35 km
To Siracusa	
Day 8	
Tour ends	

## Tour Details

Saturdays from

March 23 to June 8 and

August 24 to October 19

Cost: \$1395 per person

Single Room Upgrade: \$395

Bike Rental: \$175

Length: 8 days / 7 nights

Grade: Moderate

Starts: Caltagirone

Ends: Siracusa

## Italy



## Sultry Sicily

Sicily's strategic position between Europe and Africa links the eastern and western Mediterranean with the Latin World and Greece. The overlapping of cultures, languages and technological development can be seen in the towns, cities and countryside. The landscape has also been modified through time. New irrigation and farming techniques, and the introduction of new crops such as vines, olive and citrus trees, creates gorgeous vistas unique to this enchanting island.

One of the most outstanding qualities of southeastern Sicily is the juxtaposition of colours, constantly changing according to the season. The sea is a predominant feature. Its many shades of green, turquoise and blue contrast sharply with the intense whiteness of the salt mines. Inland, the greens, yellows and browns characterize the seemingly infinite succession of cultivated rolling hills.

The landscape is dotted with soft coloured buildings; whites, creams, yellows and gray. The colour depends on the material used and the period of construction. The warm sun that makes everything glow or shine also helps give the excellent Sicilian food and wine its vivid colour. Many dishes make use of the wide selection of locally produced fresh vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, zucchini, olives, oranges and capers. There is an abundance of cow and sheep's milk cheeses as well as the freshest fish. The enormous variety of almond-based desserts is something you should indulge in.



## Fast Facts

- Lovely range of 3\* hotels, B & Bs and agroturismos, always with private facilities
- Buffet breakfasts
- Luggage transport, route notes & maps
- Transfer from Caltagirone to Piazza Armerina and from Comiso to Modica

## E-Bike Info:

- E-bike rental: \$375
- Limited supply, reservations required upon booking
- Kalkhoff Agattu and BionX models available



## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Arrival in Caltagirone

Individual arrival. Very much an aristocratic town, Caltagirone is brimming with splendid palaces and churches. Wherever you go in Caltagirone this is what you will see: ceramics. Virtually all buildings in the old town are decorated with ceramic tiles. Take the time to explore to explore this colourful city.

### Day 2 Caltagirone 35 km

A morning transfer to the Piazza Armerina, with its Villa Romana del Casale. It was first excavated in 1950, and was most likely a hunting lodge and summer home. This wonderful piece of Roman history is well worth the visit. Cycle back to Caltagirone where you will spend the night.

### Day 3 Caltagirone - Modica 50 km +40 km transfer

From Caltagirone you cycle southward until you reach Comiso where a transfer will bring you to Modica. Along the way you pass Rasuga Ibla, a town destroyed by an earthquake in 1693, and rebuilt just years later. You reach Modica in the early afternoon and will enjoy the rest of the day exploring this beautiful town.

### Day 4 Modica - Pozzallo 35 km

Before leaving Modica, take this chance to try the exquisite spicy chocolate. Gradually descend to Scicli, totally rebuilt in a baroque style after the devastating 1693 earthquake. Continue on to the marine centre of Pozzallo, where you spend the night.

### Day 5 Pozzallo - Marzamemi 55 km

Today's cycling is almost entirely on flat roads, passing Portopalo di Capo Passero, the southernmost point in continental Europe. Along the way, you can see the beautiful island of Correnti, which marks where the Ionian Sea meets the Mediterranean. Overnight in Marzamemi.

### Day 6 Marzamemi - Noto 20 km

Another day of flat terrain and easy cycling, today's route takes a turn to the north, passing the relatively untouched and pristine natural preserve of Vendicari. Here you can relish the beautiful countryside before continuing north, to Noto, considered to be one of Sicily's finest baroque towns. Also destroyed by the 1693 earthquake, the city was rebuilt with gorgeous honey-coloured stone buildings, and with ornate churches and monuments surrounding the attractive piazzas.

### Day 7 Noto - Siracusa 40 km

Continuing north you cycle to Siracusa, the ancient Greek town that was home to Archimedes. With the island of Ortigia in the background, the centre of Siracusa is a wonderful display of an ancient city that has endured the domination of several Mediterranean civilizations, and yet still accumulated their wealth and culture over the last 3,000 years. Ortigia is connected to the mainland by two bridges, and has a fascinating web of ancient buildings, narrow streets and modern bars and cafés. You spend your final night in Siracusa.

### Day 8 Siracusa

Our services end after breakfast. Feel free to explore the rest of Siracusa, or extend your holiday elsewhere in Italy!



# What to Expect

## What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be around 22 to mid-30's degrees C ( 70's to 90's F), with very little rainfall. It is the hottest in July and August, while other months have a nice breeze along the sea. We do not offer this trip during this time.

## How many hours of cycling a day?

Be prepared to ride between 4 to 6 hours daily. This is not a supported tour, so you must ride the route once you set out.

## What are the bikes like?

27 speed hybrid Rapid Fire Deore Shimano gears with Gel saddles, aluminum frame, puncture resistant 28" tires, side saddle bags, bike computer, lock, repair kit and handlebar bag. You can bring your own pedals to attach.

## How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, so you will enjoy the rides each day. There are some hills and some level terrain.

## What is the food like?

We have included a buffet breakfast each day. Most of the hotels offer some cheeses, fruits, meats and yogurts. For lunch, you can stop in a local restaurant for a full meal or mid-day snack. For dinner, our notes will offer some suggestions close by.



## Extra Services

Extra hotel nights in Rome, by the airport or downtown are priced starting from 150€ per night.

We also have a small selection of fine hotels in Florence and Venice.

Extra night in Caltagirone \$150

Extra night in Siracusa \$160

Local hotel taxes approx. 10-15€

## Getting There

**By Air:** There are regular flights to Catania, which can be reached from anywhere in Europe.

You can access Caltagirone from Catania Airport by taking a 90 minute train ride, or you can book a transfer from Catania to Caltagirone (min 2 people).

On the return trip, you can take a train from Siracusa back to Catania, or you can book a transfer (min. 2 people).

Please contact our office for prices.

[www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)



## How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and a pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is due 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us, for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.