

# *Sketches of* Sicily



**ACTIVE  
TRAVEL**  
for Cultural  
Explorers

Sponsored By



**Traveling Aggies**

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students



Other dates available upon request.

**April 12-21, 2023**





# A World of Discovery



Layer upon layer of history is yours to enjoy in Sicily! Surrounded by the Ionian, Tyrrhenian and Mediterranean seas, this humble and unspoiled corner of Italy awaits to share its remarkable architecture and culture, superb seafood and wines, time-defying villages and craggy coastline. Journey across vast plains of vineyards and olive trees to witness evidence of powerful Greek colonies and the island's Phoenician, Roman, Arab, Norman and Spanish roots. Whether standing beneath gilded chandeliers or enjoying honest local connections, get set for a bevy of enriching experiences in Sicily!

## Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Gaze in wonder at **ancient monuments and timeless Sicilian treasures.**
- ▶ Soak up thespian history at **Taormina's spectacular theater.**
- ▶ Indulge in the peace and beauty of Sicily's countryside while staying at an **agriturismo hotel.**
- ▶ Savor authentic Sicilian pizza after a **cooking demonstration.**
- ▶ Admire intricate floor mosaics from Roman times at **Villa Romana del Casale.**
- ▶ Tour a **family-run olive farm** and sample the property's organic olive oil.
- ▶ Wander through the narrow alleys of **enchanting Ortygia.**
- ▶ Explore former centers of the Elymian civilization: **Segesta and Erice.**
- ▶ Experience **five UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**

Top: Santa Maria la Nuova, Monreale  
Lower: Mosaic, Villa Romana del Casale

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®

## Howdy, Ags!

Sicily, a sun-drenched multicultural crossroads, abounds with natural beauty, man-made creations seemingly untouched by time and a vast history spanning 3,000 years. On this thrilling eight-night adventure, stand in the shadows of Greek gods and unlock a fascinating time capsule filled with centuries of civilization's great treasures.

Begin in Palermo and browse a colorful local market; stroll sites steeped in Greek myths and witness remarkable architecture. Marvel at beautiful majolica ceramics in Caltagirone; then visit a wondrous amphitheater that still echoes with the whispers of dramatic playwrights. Conclude your Sicilian adventure in hilltop Taormina, home to spellbinding vistas and notable landmarks. Along the way, indulge in the region's delectable flavors, including authentic Sicilian pizza and savory olive oils.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration to make your own discoveries! Space on this exclusive journey is limited, and the trip is sure to sell out quickly, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'em!

Marisa Liles

Marisa Liles

Julie Scamardo

Julie Scamardo

**800-633-7514**

**[AggieNetwork.com/Travel](https://aggienetwork.com/travel)**



*Spectacular view from castle balcony, Erice*





Day 1 | **In Transit**

Depart your gateway city for Palermo, Italy. 🌐

Day 2 | **Palermo, Italy**

Touch down in Palermo and transfer ➡ to the Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa.

Gather with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception, followed by a Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 | **Monreale | Palermo**

**Discovery: Monreale and Palermo.**

Uncover the influences of the various peoples who settled in Sicily, one of the great cultural crossroads. Visit Monreale's Santa Maria la Nuova, a cathedral with splendid mosaics, and admire the Conca d'Oro, the Golden Basin. Continue to Palermo to experience a Sicilian market. The outdoor markets here are known for their lively energy and unique wares. Enjoy regional favorites during lunch before continuing to Palermo's imposing cathedral, a blend of Moorish, Gothic and Norman architecture. Step inside the Palatine Chapel in the Norman Palace to admire unusual mosaics that contain both Christian and Islamic motifs. Cap off your excursion at the Arab-Norman domes of Saint John of the Hermits and the Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest theater.

**Enrichment: Mafia — Past and Present.**

Join a lecturer to examine the legacy of the Cosa Nostra and its effect on Sicilian society.

**Free Time:** Spend an evening at leisure to encounter charming Palermo.

Day 4 | **Segesta | Erice**

**Discovery: Ancient Segesta.** Visit timeworn Segesta, home to a spectacular Doric temple

that rises from the land. Admire a well-preserved theater carved into the side of Mount Barbaro. The structure is perched on a mountain plateau and offers a soul-stirring panorama of the Gulf of Castellammare.

🌐 **AHI Connects: Sicily's Olive Industry.**

Visit an award-winning, family-owned olive farm for lunch. Taste the oil, learn about the production of olive oil and talk with the family.

**Discovery: Erice Walking Tour.** Continue to lovely Erice, nestled high on Monte San Giuliano. Erice has more than 60 churches and monasteries. During a walking tour, see two medieval castles and foundations that date from the Phoenician era, and marvel at the Romanesque architecture of the Norman Duomo. Stroll along the village's winding lanes, paved with shiny stones, and pass by courtyards, fountains and craft shops.

**Free Time:** Enjoy an evening at leisure. Head out to discover the *passeggiata*, a traditional evening stroll that offers time for people-watching and socializing.

**ACTIVE TRAVEL** 🚶

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

**Excursions on this program require:**

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches
- walking on steep inclines/declines and up/down stairs



Taormina

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Monreale
2. Archaeological Area of Agrigento
3. Villa Romana del Casale
4. Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto
5. Syracuse

#### Day 5 | Agrigento | Caltagirone

After breakfast, transfer to Caltagirone, stopping in Agrigento for an informative tour.

**Discovery: Agrigento and the Valley of the Temples.** Visit the Valley of the Temples to gaze in awe at the nearly intact Temple of Concordia as well as columns remaining from several other Greek temples.

After lunch, continue to Caltagirone and check in to Colle San Mauro, an agriturismo hotel. Tonight, indulge in a dinner of local, organic ingredients and wine.

#### Day 6 | Piazza Armerina | Caltagirone

**Discovery: Mosaics and Ceramics.** Head out to visit Piazza Armerina, known for its UNESCO-listed Villa Romana del Casale. This sprawling villa is filled with mosaics depicting scenes of daily life, flowers and plants.

Return to Caltagirone, noted for its tradition of creating pretty hand-painted ceramics. Many of the city's buildings and gardens are embellished with these colorful ceramic tiles. During a walking tour, see the unique Santa Maria del Monte, a staircase where each step is lined with the vivid ceramic tiles.

You may choose to return to the hotel or stay in Caltagirone for lunch and time at leisure.

**AHI Connects: Sicilian Agriculture.**

Marvel at the beauty of the Sicilian countryside during a tractor ride of the property. Along the way, learn more about the farm's operations. Relax over dinner at your agriturismo tonight.

#### Day 7 | Taormina

Following breakfast, depart for Taormina.

**Discovery: Taormina Walking Tour.**

Gain insight into Taormina's fascinating Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Norman chapters in history, and witness the city's Greek theater, constructed in the third century.

**AHI Connects: Sicilian Pizza.**

Visit a family-owned restaurant for a pizza cooking lesson, followed by a flavorful lunch! Check in to the Eurostars Monte Tauro.

**Free Time:** Venture out on your own! Perhaps spend time in the pretty medieval quarter.



Olive farm



Agrigento



## Included Features

### Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **3 nights** in Palermo, Italy, at the first-class Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa.
- **2 nights** in Caltagirone at the Colle San Mauro, an agriturismo hotel.
- **3 nights** in Taormina at the first-class Eurostars Monte Tauro.

### Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at a maximum of 24 travelers.
- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
  - Uncover rich history in Monreale and Palermo.
  - Explore historic Erice and Segesta with a memorable lunch at a family olive farm.
  - Spend time in Agrigento and the Valley of the Temples.
  - See mosaics at the Villa Romana del Casale and tour Caltagirone.
  - Delve into Taormina's rich history.
  - Learn to cook authentic Sicilian pizza.
  - Delight in the great ruins of Syracuse.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
  - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
  - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
  - Tipping of guides and drivers.
  - Complimentary travel mementos.



#### Day 8 | Syracuse

**Discovery: Syracuse.** Explore significant ruins at Syracuse's Archaeological Park, including its Teatro Greco, once a stage for plays, performances and public meetings. Marvel at the storied amphitheater, an arena where crowds gathered for gladiator battles. Visit a former limestone quarry before heading to tiny Ortygia, the beating heart of Syracuse. Witness the Piazza del Duomo, the cathedral, the Fonte Aretusa as well as the town's maze of lovely streets and piazzas.

#### Day 9 | Taormina

**Free Time:** Join the elective excursion or pursue your own interests today. Consider a visit to the public gardens, Via Bagnoli Croce.

**Elective | Mount Etna.** Encounter the undisputed king of Sicily and Europe's largest active volcano! Begin with a winding ascent to the Silvestri craters, then gaze at remnants of past eruptions and learn fascinating history about the region. Cap off the day with lunch. Celebrate at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

#### Day 10 | In Transit

Transfer to Catania airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.



Sicilian pizza



## AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Passenger Service Representative** | After reserving your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who helps with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

**Travel Information** | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

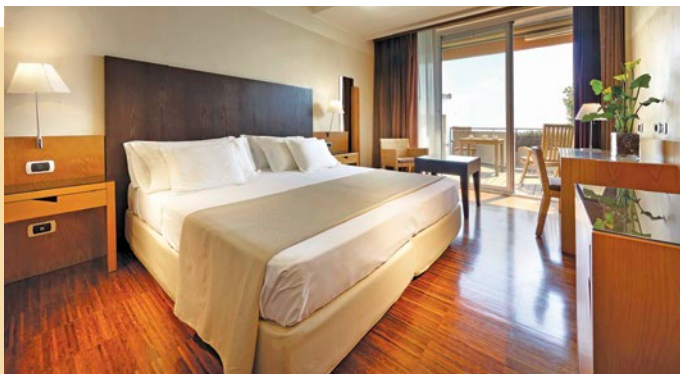
### *Once you arrive:*

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. Our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

**Travel Director** | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.

**Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed, enthusiastic local guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.

**Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our engaging local lecturers open your eyes to history, culture and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



**Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa** | Palermo



**Colle San Mauro** | Caltagirone



**Eurostars Monte Tauro** | Taormina



Pictured above. Visit our website for more hotel photos.

Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

## Sketches of Sicily

Trip #:1-27731

Call our travel experts at 800-323-7373 to reserve your place!  
(Preferred registration method.)

**Please have the information outlined below available to share with our Travel Experts.**

**If you prefer**, you may also complete this Reservation Request and submit it to our office. Once this request is received in our office, an AHI Travel Expert will contact you within one business day to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

### Send to



The Association of Former Students  
Attn: Traveling Aggies  
505 George Bush Drive  
College Station, TX 77840-2918  
Phone: **979-845-7514** Fax: **979-845-9263**  
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**

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**I/we would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).**

Deposit amount is \$600 per person.

**Full Legal Name** (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Date of Birth Name you would like on your name badge

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Date of Birth Name you would like on your name badge

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

### Single Accommodations

☐ I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$995 (limited availability).

### Flights

☐ Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Palermo, Italy,  
to depart from: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

☐ First Class ☐ Business Class ☐ Premium Economy

☐ No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **January 27, 2023** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

**Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://texam.ahitravel.com/destinations/1708A?schooId=168>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.**



## Program Dates

**Air Program dates:** April 12-21, 2023

**Land Program dates:** April 13-21, 2023

## Land Program

**Full Price**

**\$4,345**

**Special Savings**

**\$250**

**Special Price\***

**\$4,095**

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional \$995 (limited availability).

### Let us arrange your flights

## AHI FlexAir

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **Price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- Arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **Flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **Assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

### TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

**To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:**



- **Included AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers travel- and health-related contingencies; available for U.S. residents only
- Increased booking **flexibility** and relaxed cancellation penalties
- **Home support staff and ground team** communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey
- **Travel Directors** specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols
- A global network of partners rigorously following enhanced procedures and protocols
- Rigorous sanitization practices for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches
- Tour operations modified for smaller groups
- Hand sanitizer available for guest use

Left: Santa Maria del Monte, Caltagirone

Below: Artisan painting ceramic tile, Caltagirone



**800-633-7514**

**AggieNetwork.com/Travel**

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**AggieNetwork.com/Travel**

**SMALL  
GROUP**  
Maximum of  
24 Travelers



Piazza del Duomo, Syracuse

## Discover the distinctive culture, history and cuisine of Sicily!

**Special Offer**  
**Book by 12/31/2022**  
**and save \$500**  
**per couple!**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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