



## Sicily Sun Tour

# Guaranteed Departures 2008

**IN HOTELS 5\* de Luxe / or 4\* in Bed & Breakfast**

**Exclusive Sicily Sun Group Tour**

### **SATURDAY TAORMINA MARE**

Client responsible for transfer to hotel in Taormina area (Transfer though Blue Sky Italy available for a fee). Room will be prepared upon arrival. Meet with Tour Guide in the late afternoon – evening free. Overnight.

### **SUNDAY TAORMINA MARE - MESSINA - CEFALU' - PALERMO**

Breakfast and depart for **Messina**. Briefly tour the town, seeing all the major sights before jumping on the A20, the Autostrada that connects Messina and Palermo and runs along the entire Northern coast of Sicily. Destination: **Cefalù** – a little town famous for the **Duomo Arabo-Normanno**, one of the most beautiful churches in Sicily. The Duomo was built by Ruggero II, first king of Sicily. From Cefalù we're off to nearby **Palermo**, the capital of Sicily. Arrive at the hotel in the afternoon and check in to rooms. Evening free. Overnight. For clients beginning the tour on Sunday in Palermo, you are responsible for your transfer to the hotel. Meet with the Tour Guide in the early evening.

### **MONDAY PALERMO E MONREALE**

After breakfast at the hotel, leave on a half-day guided tour of **Palermo**. Encircled by mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, it is a city also steeped in history. We will commence our tour in the old part of the city: the Royal Palace, the Palatina Chapel and the Cathedral. Afterwards, we'll travel to **Monreale**, a small suburb on the side of one of the mountains overlooking Palermo. Here we will visit a local Cathedral with Byzantine mosaics, the figure of Christ Pantocreatore and the Cloister. In the afternoon, scale **Mount Pellegrino** (by automobile, don't worry!) to enjoy a wonderful panorama of the gulf of Palermo. Continue on to **Mondello**, a little fishing village and important destination during the summer for its beautiful sea. After dinner, optional walking tour of Palermo's huge theatres **Massimo** and **Politeama** from the 800/900 A.D. period. Overnight.

### **TUESDAY PALERMO - ERICE - SEGESTA - SELINUNTE - AGRIGENTO**

Breakfast at the hotel, depart for **Erice**. Erice was honored recently in Frommer's 25 Best Places You've Never Heard Of. Visit the medieval town which sits atop of the summit of Mount San Giuliano. On this excursion we can admire numerous churches and convents of the middle age, as well as the famous Norman Castle and its Dom. Next on our itinerary is **Segesta**, another archeological gem of Sicily. Visit of the **Doric temple** whose majestic appearance and dominating position graces the landscape. On our way to Agrigento we stop in **Selinunte** to visit its archaeological park containing the ruins of the temples and the Greek Necropolis. In the late afternoon, we make our final stop in **Agrigento**. Check in at the hotel and the evening is yours. Overnight.

### **WEDNESDAY AGRIGENTO - PIAZZA ARMERINA - TAORMINA**

Following breakfast, we'll take you on a tour of the world renown **Valley of Temples**. We'll admire the Temple of Juno, the Temple of Concorde (one of the most well-preserved doric temple in all the greek empire), the Temple of Ercoles, the Temple of Castor and Pollux. By afternoon we'll visit the **Piazza Armerina** – home to the **Villa Romana del Casale**, which houses a beautiful collection of late-Roman mosaics. From there it's off to a **Taormina beach** to take a dip in the crystal clear waters of the Ionian Sea. Arrive at the hotel in the late afternoon. Evening on your own. Overnight.

### **THURSDAY TAORMINA MARE - ETNA - TAORMINA**

Following breakfast, depart for **Mount Etna**, the tallest mountain in Sicily and the largest volcano in all of Europe. The territory surrounding the volcano constitutes the "Park of Etna" and is one of the largest protected areas in Italy. Our

guests are always very surprised to see the great variety of vegetation and landscapes that we witness along the way. We will reach the “Silvestri Craters” (at about 6,000 feet). From there we have the possibility to continue the excursion by jeep (optional). In the afternoon we will visit the Town of **Taormina**, a picture perfect mountain town situated on a rocky plateau on the slopes of the steep Monte Tauro, overlooking the Ionian coast from Capo Sant’Andrea to Capo Taormina. We will tour the world famous **Greek Theatre**, which has been featured in dozens of international advertisements. It also happens to be the 2nd largest classical theatre in Sicily and is still used for performances to this day. Seeing the theatre is a real treat – not to be missed! Overnight.

**FRIDAY TAORMINA MARE - NOTO - SIRACUSA**

Be sure to eat a lot of breakfast, we have a full day ahead of us! Our first stop is **Noto** to discover the beautiful baroque architectural influences of Sicily. From there we will travel to **Siracusa**, one of the most interesting archaeological sites on the Mediterranean’s biggest island. The guided tour will include visits to the **Archeological Park**, the **Roman Amphitheatre**, the **Greek Theatre**, the **Orecchio of Dionisio**, **la Grotta dei Cordari**, and the **Island of Ortigia** – a small island in the center of the City. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Evening free. Overnight.

**SATURDAY TAORMINA MARE**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport and end of our services. For the clients that joined the tour on Sunday in Palermo, enjoy the day in **Giardini Naxos** at your leisure. Dinner back at the hotel. The tour ends on Sunday evening in Palermo. For Sunday’s itinerary, see above entry for **Sunday: TAORMINA MARE - MESSINA - CEFALU’ - PALERMO**.

**Dates of Saturday departure from Taormina beach**

(possibility to begin the tour from Palermo the day after, on Sunday)

SEASON A			SEASON B		
standard		superior	standard		superior
hotel 4*sup	€ 1.160	€1.270	hotel 4*sup	€1.200	€1.330
hotel 5*	€1.740	€1.980*	hotel 5*	€1.790	€2.020*
April	05, 12, 19, 26				
May	31		03, 10, 17, 24		
June	07, 14,				
August			30		
September	20, 27		06, 13		
October	04, 11, 18				

- Supplemental transfers apt-hotel car for 1 to 3 pax: €70; Limousine: €150 per way
- Single room available upon request (depending on chosen hotel)
- Optional excursion – Minimum 10 pax Mondello and Mount Pellegrino (pay directly to the tour escort) €25

\*supplement in superior rooms at San Domenico and Timeo 5 stars €390

**Rates include:**

- Charter bus with air conditioning;
- Accommodation and breakfast in chosen hotels;
- Tour guide, bilingual for some departures;
- Local guides in Palermo, Selinunte, Agrigento (Valle dei Templi), Piazza Armerina (Villa Romana del Casale) and Siracusa

**Rates do not include:**

Transfers, tips for porter, lunches and dinners, optional excursions, entrance fees to museums, monuments and archaeological sites, everything that is not expressly indicated in “rates include.”

**4\* superior Hotels or similar:**

Taormina area: Capotaormina, Villa Diodoro, Hellenia Yachting, Russotthotel, Baia taormina  
Palermo: Grand hotel Sole, G.H Delle Palme, Excelsior, Ai Cavalieri, Vecchio Borgo  
Agrigento: Hotel Foresteria Baglio della Luna, Villa Athena

**5\* Hotels or similar:**

Taormina area: San Pietro, San Domenico Palace, Timeo  
Palermo: Hilton Villa Igiea, Federico II  
Agrigento : Hotel Foresteria Baglio della Luna 4\*s, Villa Athena 4\*