



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

LAND JOURNEY



Malta & Sicily Islands of the Ancient Mediterranean

September 24 October 5, 2027

Inspiring Moments

- Take in the stately medieval and baroque architecture along the intimate streets of **Valletta**, Malta's compact capital.
- Appreciate the glorious ruins of Sicily's renowned ancient cities of **Agrigento** and **Syracuse**.
- Delve into Roman aristocratic life through the spectacular, world-class **mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale**.
- Behold the intriguing Neolithic temples of **Hagar Qim** and **Ggantija**, older than the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge.
- Feel transported through time within the beautiful and colorful Maltese towns of **Mdina** and **Rabat**.
- Savor the breathtaking scenery and chic ambiance of **Taormina**, Sicily's celebrated resort town perched on a hilltop.
- Experience six **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart gateway city
- Day 2** Arrive in Malta and transfer to hotel in Sliema
- Day 3** Mdina | Rabat | Hagar Qim
- Day 4** Valletta
- Day 5** Ggantija | Victoria | Xwejni Bay
- Day 6** Sliema | Embark ferry | Pozzallo | Piazza Armerina | Caltagirone
- Day 7** Agrigento | Caltagirone
- Day 8** Syracuse | Taormina
- Day 9** Taormina
- Day 10** Taormina
- Day 11** Transfer to Catania airport and depart for gateway city

Flights and transfers provided for AHI FlexAir participants.
Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Included Features



- Accommodations** (with baggage handling)
 - **4 nights** in Sliema, Malta, at the first-class AX The Palace.
 - **2 nights** in Caltagirone, Italy, at the first-class Colle San Mauro.
 - **3 nights** in Taormina at the first-class Eurostars Monte Tauro.

- Transfers** (with baggage handling)
 - All transfers during the Land Program: ferries and deluxe motor coaches.

- Extensive Meal Program**
 - 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
 - **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
 - **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
 - **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
 - **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
 - **Electives** and **free time** to pursue your individual interests.
 - 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.
 - **AHI Sustainability Promise** | Striving to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Above: Valletta



A World of Discovery

AHI Connects | Pizza Cooking Demo. Get great tips for making tasty Sicilian pizza!

Mdina, Rabat & Hagar Qim. Stroll through charming Mdina, Malta's ancient walled capital, and admire the regal city gate, the homes of Malta's noble families and St. Paul's Cathedral. Nearby, see Rabat's landmarks and visit Domus Romana, a museum on the site of a Roman house. Head next to the coast and marvel at the impressive Hagar Qim temples, built more than 5,500 years ago with massive stones.

Valletta. Spanning almost 8,000 years, Malta's rich history includes periods of rule by the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, the Order of St. John and the British, among others. On a guided walk within its majestic capital, gaze over the stunning Grand Harbor from the Upper Barrakka Gardens, step inside the glittering St. John's Co-Cathedral which houses Caravaggio's masterpiece, "The Beheading of John the Baptist," and tour Casa Rocca Piccola, a stately, 16th-century palace.

Island of Gozo. On this scenic island, ponder some of the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world at the Neolithic Ggantija Temples. Then, travel up to the picturesque, hilltop Cittadella in Victoria, the island's capital, on a walking tour. Later, see the patchwork pattern of rock-cut salt pans along Gozo's Xwejni Bay, and learn how a local family harvests the sea salt, a tradition that dates to Phoenician and Roman times.

Sicily's Mosaic Masterpieces. In Piazza Armerina, visit the Villa Romana del Casale, a fourth-century villa adorned with some of the world's finest Roman mosaics. Study more than 40 floors impeccably crafted with scenes of wild animals, hunting, myths, female athletes, domestic life and more.

Agrigento's Valley of the Temples. Revel in magnificent Doric temples that attest to the glory of ancient Agrigento, founded by the Greeks around 580 B.C. View the Temples of Concordia, Juno, Hercules and others with insights from your guide.

Syracuse. At the Archaeological Park, see the remarkable ruins of this onetime Greek colony founded in 734 B.C. Take in the Greek theater; the Latomia del Paradiso, a former limestone quarry; and the Ear of

contd.



Temple of Concordia

Dionysius, a cave famed for its acoustics. Stop next at a basilica to see Caravaggio's "The Burial of St. Lucy" before continuing to Ortygia, Syracuse's atmospheric island old town. Admire its baroque beauty and go inside the splendid Cathedral of Syracuse.

Taormina. Tour the medieval center of this resort town and visit its Greek theater with gorgeous views of Mount Etna and the sea.

Enrichment

- History of Malta
- Sicilian Culture & Traditions

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **The City of Valletta, Malta**
2. **Megalithic Temples of Malta**
3. **Late Baroque Towns, Val di Noto, Italy**
4. **Villa Romana del Casale, Italy**
5. **Archaeological Area of Agrigento, Italy**
6. **Syracuse, Italy**

Electives | Go further afield

Mount Etna. Relish a thrilling perspective of Europe's highest active volcano on a scenic, winding drive. Walk around the crater, learn about this UNESCO World Heritage site's geology, and enjoy a light lunch afterward.

{At an additional cost.}

Accommodations

AX The Palace | Sliema
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Colle San Mauro | Caltagirone
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Eurostars Monte Tauro | Taormina
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Pricing From - \$4,995



Ortygia

AHI Travel Expertise

Our dedicated team helps travelers explore the world safely and securely.

Travel Consultants | Assist with the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators | Help with everything from flights to special requests.

Travel Director | Manages all details to ensure a safe and memorable trip.

Travel information | Prepares you fully for your journey.

Expert local guides and lecturers | Provide friendly, knowledgeable service and share their passion for the destination.

Let us arrange your flights!

AHI FlexAir | Our personalized air program features transfers, assistance and flexibility.



Pizza cooking demo

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Excursions on this program require:

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