

# ITALY - SICILIAN TRAILS - WILD SICILY TRAIL

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

Transfers are included from Palermo airport on arrival day and to Catania airport on departure day.

On arrival day, your flight should arrive into Palermo between 11.00 and 17.00 so that you don't miss the first dinner. The journey from the airport to the start of the ride takes around 1 hour 40 minutes.

On departure day your flight should depart from Catania between 11.00 and 17.00. Lunch is not included on this day. The journey back to the airport takes around 1 hour 30 minutes.

Private transfers can also be arranged for an additional cost if you wish to fly in and out of the same airport.

Collection and drop off is available from some hotels.

If you are on a connecting flight, please ensure you have at least 1.5 hours in transit (unless you are travelling with hand luggage only).

Overnight Casa Il Bosco. This charming, restored nineteenth century country house is surrounded by the wilderness of Madonie Park.



Casa Il Bosco



A twin room at Casa Il Bosco

## Day 2

The following is the planned itinerary. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions such as weather. The overnight stops may change but these changes are always with your best interests in mind.

After breakfast we will set off at around 08.30 in the morning and begin the trail by riding through dense Mediterranean vegetation with beautiful views of the Tyrrhenian Sea.



We will pass close to the town of Castelbuono and stop for a picnic lunch, before riding up the valley of the River Pollina, one of the most fascinating, wild, panoramic and least known areas of Sicily, between the territories of Castelbuono, San Mauro Castelverde and Geraci Siculo. We will then climb towards San Mauro Castelverde, a medieval mountain village at more than 1000m altitude, riding along enchanting and forgotten pathways to reach tonight's accommodation.

Overnight Al Convento. Al Convento is a former monastery dating from the 16th century and transformed into a quality hotel.



### Day 3

After breakfast we will set off at around 8.30 in the morning. We will ride through the village of San Mauro Castelverde before following a very panoramic ancient pathway (a "trazzera"), which passes the boundary between the three provinces of Palermo, Enna and Messina, reaching an altitude of about 1200m, before passing below the great turbines of a wind farm.



We then descend into the forests of the Sambughetti-Campanito reserve, where we will stop for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we will continue on to the territory of Nicosia, followed by Cerami, before arriving at our hotel.

Overnight Monte Soprano. This is a beautiful farmhouse with a swimming pool set on the slopes of the Nebrodi Mountains.



## **Day 4**

On this day of the trail we will ride through the heart of the Nebrodi Natural Park, along the famous "Dorsale" (the Nebrodi Ridge), a long dirt track which passes through forests and high mountain pastures. This is a place full of charm, with extraordinary views: the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Aeolian Islands to the north, and the island's hinterland to the south - Enna, Caltanissetta, Agrigento, Siracusa, Catania, and Etna towering above everything else.

We will enter the Nebrodi Natural Park through beech woods in the territory of San Fratello, famous for its sanfratellani horses, a native breed which is very strong and hardy, with a very large head, and which you may catch a glimpse of grazing in the wild.





We will stop for a picnic lunch in a shaded spot beneath centuries-old trees. In the afternoon, we will arrive at the Relais Villa Miraglia, where we will have a delicious dinner made with local Nebrodi products and spend the night.

Overnight Villa Miraglia. This is a mountain chalet style hotel in the heart of the Nebrodi park.



One of the bedrooms at Villa Miraglia

## Day 5

This is probably the most beautiful day of the trail, riding for more than 40 kilometres along the "Dorsale" through mountains, woods and lakes, in the midst of a strikingly beautiful landscape. First we will come to the Maulazzo Lake, dominated by Monte Soro, the highest peak in the Nebrodi mountain range (at 1847 metres) and covered in magnificent beech woods. We will then reach the famous lake Biviere di Cesarò, which is a resting place for migrating birds.



We will continue along the "Dorsale", with lush forests giving way to clearings with panoramic views, with the Aeolian Islands to the north and the majestic peak of Mount Etna to the south. In the evening we will arrive tired but satisfied at Monte Colla. Here we will enjoy a delicious dinner prepared with local produce and spend the night.

Overnight Monte Colla. The most isolated hotel on the island, Monte Colla is an eighteenth century aristocratic home at around 1400 metres above sea level in the territory of Randazzo.



## Day 6

After breakfast, we will set off at about 9.00 in the morning. After leaving the hotel and its cherry orchards, we will enter the surrounding woods once again and descend the valley where the source of the Alcantara River is found. We will continue through beautiful woodland to reach the village of Santa Domenica di Vittoria, where we will stop for a picnic lunch.



In the afternoon, we will descend once again into the Alcantara Valley, riding through fields, vines and fruit orchards, to reach the typical village of Malvagna, perched on the slopes opposite Mount Etna.

Overnight Arco dei Sogni. A lovely bed & breakfast guesthouse in the heart of the village.

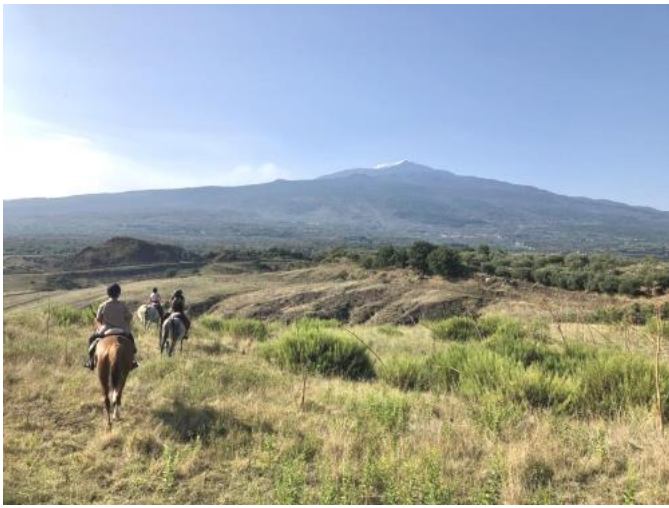


## Day 7

We will set off at 8.00 and ride through the village of Malvagna before descending into the valley of the Alcantara River, which we cross near the little gorges of Malvagna, before beginning the climb up the northern slopes of Mount Etna.

We will stop for a picnic lunch on Mount Etna and continue to climb up through woods and lava flows until we reach the Rifugio Timpa Rossa (at 1844m). Depending on the season and the conditions, we will continue to climb up to the craters from the last major eruption of 2002. We will have dinner and spend the night at Rifugio Ragabo, immersed in a majestic forest of larix pines.





Overnight Chalet Clan dei Ragazzi. A twelve bedroom chalet hotel located in the Ragabo pine forest.



A typical bedroom at Chalet Clan dei Ragazzi