

ITALY - SICILIAN TRAILS - COAST TO COAST

ITINERARY

Day 1

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

On arrival day, your flight should arrive between 11.00 and 17.00 so that you don't miss the first dinner. On departure day your flight should depart between 11.00 and 17.00.

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. Arrive in time for dinner.

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 you will be assigned your horse for the trail and we will set off from Casa "Il Bosco" at about 8.30 in the morning. The day will begin with a beautiful climb up through wild Mediterranean vegetation and woods, with fantastic views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. We will continue through woods of holm oak, cork and downy oak to the territory of Isnello.



After a picnic lunch, we will begin our ascent on the northern slopes of Pizzo Carbonara, Sicily's second highest mountain at 1979 metres, riding through lush forests of oak, holm oak and beech trees to reach Piano Battaglia, a mountain station located at the heart of the Madonie Park, where you will enjoy a dinner prepared using typical local produce.

Overnight Rifugio Marini. This 18 room refugio offers simple accommodation, with mainly bunk rooms and some twin rooms.



One of the bunk rooms at Rifugio Marini

Day 3

After breakfast we will set off at about 8.30 in the morning. We will follow a route through the mountains in the heart of the Madonie Park and reach high altitudes from where you will begin to see Sicily's interior. We will descend towards the historic town of Polizzi Generosa and stop for a picnic lunch, before continuing along ancient paths through agricultural land to reach tonight's accommodation.



Overnight Feudo Catuso. This is a renovated farmstead dating from the 13th century.



Day 4

We will have breakfast and set off from the farm at about 8.30 in the morning. Today's trail takes us into the heart of Sicily's interior, its "breadbasket" since time immemorial, which is criss-crossed by "trazzere", ancient royal pathways, established by the Bourbons in the 18th and 19th centuries to ensure free movement of livestock and people across the island.



We will pass the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Bilici, at the geographical centre of the island, before riding on past the train station of Marianopoli and through endless fields of wheat and hay, to reach Mappa.

Overnight Mappa. The former residence of the Princes of Spadafora, equipped with a swimming pool.



Day 5

After breakfast we will leave Mappa at around 8.00 in the morning. We will ride through fields to the territory of the picturesque, ancient village of Sutera, which is considered one of the oldest settlements in human history and retains many traces of its prehistoric origins. We will continue on through the beautiful Monte Conca nature reserve to reach the valley of the River Platani, one of western Sicily's main waterways.

We will stop for a picnic lunch and continue our ride through woodland and open fields to reach Agriturismo Principe di Aragona.



Overnight Principe di Aragona. Situated amongst olive and citrus groves this comfortable farmhouse also has a swimming pool.



Terrace at Principe di Aragona

Day 6

After breakfast we will set off at about 8.30 in the morning and ride through rolling agricultural land to arrive at the small, typical village of Joppolo Giancaxio, where we will stop for a picnic lunch. We will then ride on towards the small town of Giardina Gallotti and continue through olive groves and vineyards to our hotel.

This afternoon there is time to relax before enjoying a guided tour of Valley of the Temples (the Temples of Hera, Concordia, Hercules, Zeus and Castor & Pollux), a world heritage site that contains some of the best preserved Greek temples in the world.



Temple of Concordia

Overnight La Casa di Bacco. Set amidst its vineyards, this Agriturismo is equipped with a swimming pool.



Day 7

We will have breakfast and set off at around 8.30 in the morning, riding through the countryside of Agrigento, cultivated with olive and almond groves, with wonderful views of the Mediterranean coast.

We will stop for a picnic lunch near the town of Realmonte, then continue to the coastal reserve of Torre Salsa, one of Sicily's most beautiful and best

preserved coastlines, before concluding the trail on the reserve's beautiful beaches. Dinner on the beach before a short walk to our hotel.

Overnight Luna Minoica. Comfortable small hotel with a pool and great views of the beach.



A typical bedroom at Luna Minoica

