

ITALY - SICILIAN TRAILS - DEEP SICILY TRAIL

ITINERARY

Day 1

Overnight Casa "Il Bosco"

Day 2

After breakfast we will meet our horses and set off from Casa "Il Bosco" at around 8.30. We will begin the day 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 ride along enchanting and forgotten pathways to reach our accommodation.

Overnight Casalvecchio Geraci

This is a farmhouse on the edge of Madonie Park. It dates from the 1800s and has been restored and transformed into an agriturismo.



Day 3

After breakfast we will set off in the morning and begin the trail by riding along an ancient "trazzere" (paths used to transport livestock dating from the Bourbon era). After passing below the hilltop town of Gangi ride through the mountain pastures with views across the surrounding countryside.

We then descend into the forest where we will stop for a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we will continue on to the village of Sperlinga, a fascinating place characterised by troglodyte dwellings, some of which are still in use today, and its unique castle, which is carved into the rock. We will visit the village and its castle, before a short ride to tonight's accommodation.



Overnight Baglio San Pietro

This is a restored farmhouse sat on the edge of the town of Nicosia, one of the most important towns in the province of Enna. This hotel has a swimming pool.



Day 4

After breakfast, we will set off at around 8.30 in the morning. We will begin the day by descending into the valley of the Salso Cimarosa River, which we will then follow, immersed in unspoilt nature and surrounded by the impressive peaks of the Erean Mountains.

We will stop for a picnic lunch and continue to follow the wild valley to reach the territory of Agira, an interesting town of ancient origin perched on a hilltop, with breathtaking views of the island's interior.

Day 5

We will set off from Agira at about 8.30 in the morning and cross rolling hills, riding through endless fields of grain and forage. We will reach the breathtaking and little-known Castello di Pietratagliata, a castle perched precariously atop a jagged rock, first documented in the fourteenth century, whose origins are shrouded in mystery and legend.

We will stop here for a picnic lunch, before riding on through rolling farmland to reach our accommodation for the night in the territory of Raddusa.



Day 6

We will set off this morning and ride through beautiful farmland to reach the site of Morgantina, one of the largest archaeological sites in Sicily, which was a city founded by the island's Sicel populations.

We will stop for a picnic lunch and visit the site. In the afternoon, we will ride through rolling fields, climbing to take in beautiful views of the surrounding countryside, reaching as far as Mount Etna on a clear day. We will then continue along sandy tracks through woods of eucalyptus and pine to reach our overnight stop.

Overnight Torre di Renda (Hotel)

Torre di Renda is an old structure which was formerly the local bishop's residence, equipped with a swimming pool. The hotel is in the territory of the famous medieval town of Piazza Armerina.



Day 7

After breakfast, we will leave the hotel and descend a scenic valley to arrive after about one hour at the Villa Romana del Casale, one of the most important historical sites in Sicily and boasting around 3500m² of spectacular mosaics dating from the fourth century. After visiting the Villa Romana, we will ride north through rolling farmland and stop for a picnic lunch in the woods.

In the afternoon, we will ride through peaceful eucalyptus forests and reach the Lake of the Olivo Dam. We will continue through woods, followed by rolling fields of wheat and hay, to reach our accommodation.

Overnight Agriturismo Il Mandorleto

This hotel is situated in an old agricultural hamlet which is famous for its production of almonds - one of the most important ingredients in Sicily's culinary tradition.

