

# 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. Please note that transfers are shared and you may have to wait for others arriving on slightly later flights, but no longer than 1.5 hours. 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. These transfers are also grouped for people departing at approximately the same time.

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.

There are 6 guest rooms in total. Most are double or twin rooms, with one triple room. The triple room is a self contained apartment with a mezzanine floor. There are usually two rooms used for single occupancy, which share a bathroom.



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 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.



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. You 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 Casavecchio Geraci. This farmhouse on the edge of Madonie Park dates from the 1800s and has been restored as an agriturismo.

There are usually two rooms used for single occupancy, which share a bathroom.





One of the bedrooms at Casalvecchio

### **Day 3**

After breakfast set off at around 8.30 in the morning. 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.



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

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

### **Day 4**

On this day of the trail 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.

You 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.



Stop for a picnic lunch in a shaded spot beneath centuries-old trees. In the afternoon, arrive at the Relais Villa Miraglia, where you 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 you 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. You then reach the famous lake Biviere di Cesarò, which is a resting place for migrating birds.



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 enjoy a dinner prepared with local produce and spend the night.

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



## Day 6

After breakfast, set off at about 08:30 in the morning. After leaving the hotel and its cherry orchards, you begin the descend from the Nebrodi Mountains, with spectacular views towards Mount Etna, riding through open farmland, where you stop for a picnic lunch.



In the afternoon, you begin to ascend, following the beautiful Pista Altomontana, with wonderful views towards the volcano's summit and the surrounding mountains and coastline.

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



A typical bedroom at Chalet Clan dei Ragazzi

## Day 7

Set off at 08.30 and ride higher up the volcano through beautiful forests of pine and beech, to reach the site of Etna's last great lateral eruption in October 2002. We will ride along the 2002 lateral craters, following a series of pathways

through a lunar landscape, before riding on through forests of birch, beech and larix pines to reach the impressive Sartorius craters, created during a major lateral eruption in 1865.

Stop for a picnic lunch on Mount Etna and continue to climb up through woods and begin your descent on Etna's north-eastern side through enchanting and peaceful forests.



Overnight Feudo Magazzeni. A beautiful historic property, recently restored, in the territory of Sant'Alfio.

