Sicily, Etna, Taormina and Acireale
An 8-day self-guided cycling vacation
Code tour: ITSIC01C



Eastern Sicily Tour – 8 Days between Volcano, Sea and Authentic Flavours
A **trip to Sicily** is an experience that awakens every sense. The largest and most captivating island in the Mediterranean welcomes you with its golden sunlight, the scent of citrus groves, and the powerful energy of **Mount Etna**, Europe's largest active volcano.
This **Eastern Sicily tour** will lead you through breathtaking landscapes, authentic villages, vineyards, crystal-clear sea, and natural parks where time seems to stand still. It's a journey for those who wish to discover the true soul of Sicily — a land of history, warm hospitality, and unforgettable charm.
You'll travel along the slopes of **Etna**, among lava fields and lush citrus gardens, and explore legendary places like the **Alcantara Gorges**, **Taormina** with its ancient Greek theatre suspended between sky and sea, and the picturesque coasts of **Giardini Naxos** and **Acitrezza**, where the myth of the Cyclops still lives among the rocks.
Every day will be a journey through **Sicilian culture and cuisine**. Taste the authentic flavours of the island: crispy *arancini*, *pasta alla norma*, *caponata*, fresh seafood, and irresistible desserts such as *cannoli*, *pistachio cassata* and the traditional *granita with brioche*. The fine **Etna DOC wines** will accompany your meals, telling the volcanic story of this unique land.
An **8-day tour of Sicily** for those who seek authenticity, relaxation, and discovery — an unforgettable experience between the blue of the sea and the black of lava stone, where every sunset over Etna reminds you how extraordinary Sicily truly is.



Period: Every Saturday from March to November 2027. Departures on other weekdays possible on request.

Participants: Minimum 2 persons, solo traveller on request

Level: 2,5
Medium till difficult. Cycling in a hilly landscape. Flat sections are alternating with some challenging climbs. Cycle experience is needed and good physical condition. Cycling on asphalted and dirt roads.

Daily distances are between 20 km/12,4 mi and 49 km/30 mi.
Total distance: 205 km/127,3 miles

Program in short
Day 1 Arrival at Nicolosi
Day 2 Nicolosi – Etna ring route (20 km /12,4 mi)
Day 3 Nicolosi – Bronte (49 km /30 mi)
Day 4 Bronte – Randazzo (30 km /18,6 mi or 36 km /22,3 mi)
Day 5 Randazzo – Giardini Naxos (44 km /27,3 mi)
Day 6 Giardini Naxos ring route (20 km /12,4 mi)
Day 7 Giardini Naxos – Acitrezza (37 km /23 mi)
Day 8 End of tour

Program day by day

Day 1 Arrival in hotel in Nicolosi
Arrival at your hotel in **Nicolosi**. In the late afternoon, you will receive bikes and have a briefing with a local representative. Nicolosi is a little village situated at the foot of Etna, 700 m. of altitude. Nicolosi boasts important monuments like a Benedictine Monastery dating back to the 12th century, S. Nicolò l'Arena.

Overnight with breakfast in Nicolosi

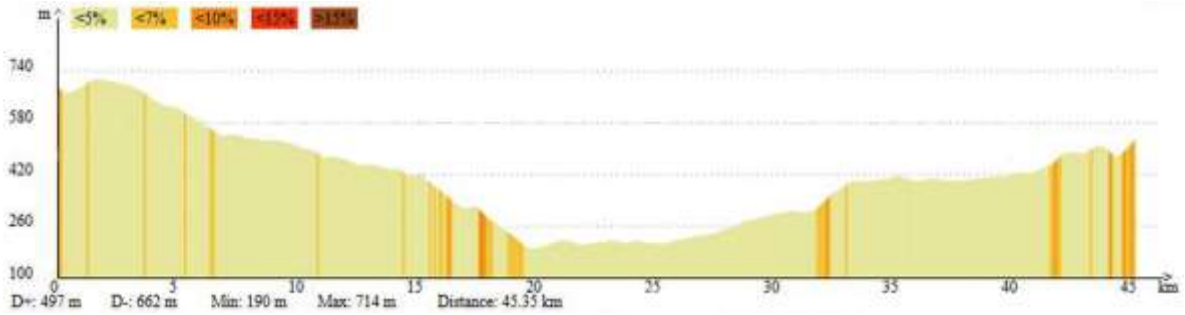
Day 2 Nicolosi - Etna – Nicolosi
Today, enjoy a scenic ride around **Mount Etna**, the highest active volcano on the Eurasian Plate. Formed during the **Quaternary period**, its frequent eruptions throughout history have dramatically shaped the surrounding landscape, occasionally threatening the communities settled along its slopes over the millennia. As the famous writer **Leonardo Sciascia** described**, Etna is** "*like a huge house cat who quietly roars and sometimes wakes up, yawns, with lazy sluggish stretching and, with a distracted paw, now covers a valley, now another, erasing villages, vineyards and gardens.*"
Sporty cyclists can take on the challenging climb directly to **Rifugio Sapienza** by bike, while those seeking a more relaxed option can utilize local public transport or arrange a private transfer. Upon arrival at **Rifugio Sapienza**, you can purchase tickets for guided excursions to the summit craters via cable car or specialized all-terrain buses. Should weather conditions prove unfavorable, an easy alternative is taking a local bus to visit **Catania**, the beautiful and historic city situated at the foot of the volcano.
For further information and excursion bookings, visit Rifugio Sapienza.

Overnight with breakfast in Nicolosi
Distance: 20 km /12,4 mi
Ascent & Descent: + 1209m – 1207m



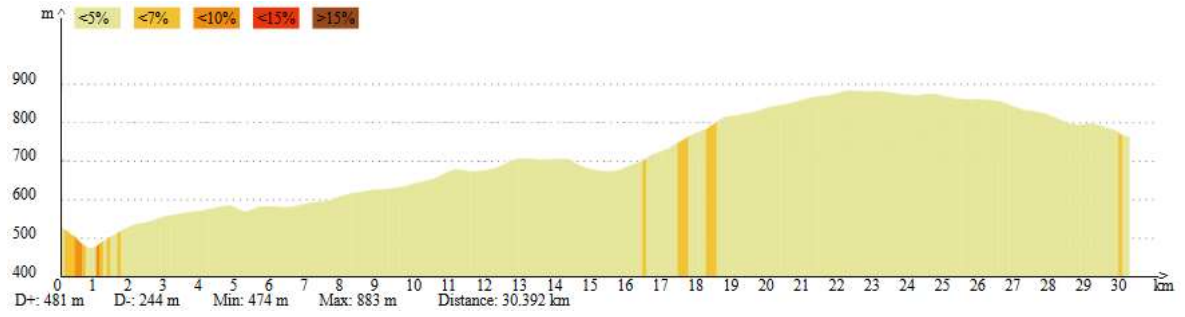
Day 3 Nicolosi - Adrano - Bronte
Today, your itinerary takes you through **Adrano**, a historic town situated right on the border of the **Etna Natural Park**. Here, you will have time to explore the charming historic center and visit the impressive **Norman Castle**, an 11th-century fortress standing as a testament to the region's rich medieval past.
As you continue your journey, you cross the ancient **Ponte dei Saraceni**, a picturesque 9th-century stone bridge spanning the **Simeto River**. This area leads into the **Forre laviche del Simeto** natural reserve—a striking landscape where the river has carved a long series of waterfalls, rapids, lakes, and deep gorges through the basaltic lava flows of an ancient Etna eruption. Your day concludes with an overnight stay in **Bronte**, world-famous as the "city of pistachio."

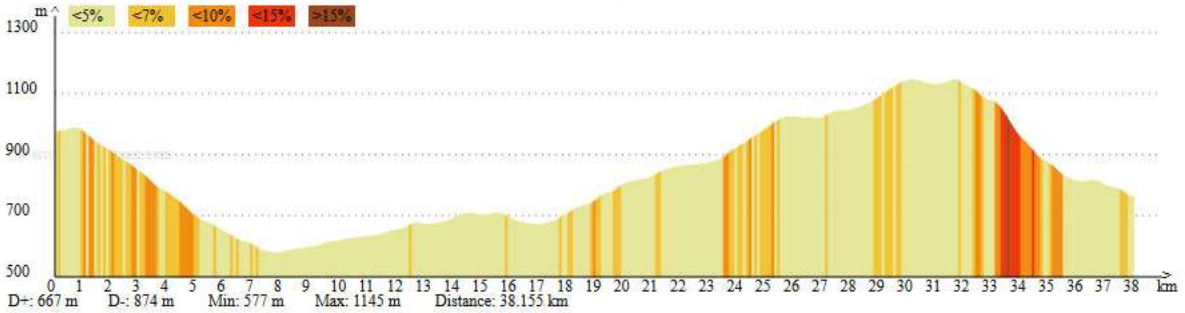
Overnight with breakfast in Bronte
Distance: 49 km /30 mi
Ascent & Descent: + 497m – 662m



Day 4 Bronte - Maniace - Randazzo
Today you cycle toward **Maniace** to visit the historic **Castle of Horatio Nelson** and the 12th-century **Norman Abbey of Santa Maria di Maniace**. Over the coming days, your route will guide you along the famous **Riviera of Lemons**, stretching from **Acireale** through **Aci Catena** to **Aci Castello**. Historically famous for its thermal waters, this region takes its name from the ancient mythological legend of the river god **Acis** and the nymph **Galatea**.
Set between the **Ionian Sea** and **Mount Etna**, this fertile lava-formed plateau is blanketed in fragrant citrus groves—making it the ideal place to sample authentic local **limoncello**. Your day ends with an overnight stay in **Randazzo**, a captivating medieval town built on the slopes of Etna. Take time to explore its historic center, including the notable **Archaeological Museum** and the **Civic Museum of Natural Science**.

Overnight with breakfast in Randazzo
Distance: 30 km /18,6 mi or 36 km /22,3 mi
Ascent & Descent: + 481m – 244m or + 667m – 874m

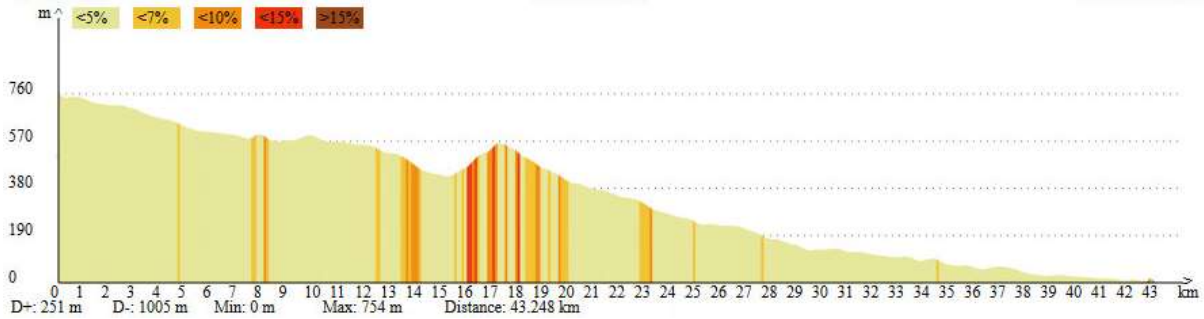




Day 5 Randazzo - Castiglione- Gola dell'Alcantara - Giardini di Naxos
Today, an easy and rewarding downhill ride awaits you. Leaving **Randazzo**, you cycle along the renowned **Strada del Vino** (Wine Route), where you will have the opportunity to visit a local winery, sample fine wines produced on the sunny slopes of **Mount Etna**, and try delicious regional specialties. Further along the route, you will discover the spectacular **Alcantara Gorges**, carved over centuries by the Alcantara River through volcanic rock. Reaching depths of up to 25 meters, these canyon walls narrow to just a few meters in certain sections, creating a unique natural wonder. Your journey concludes with an overnight stay in **Giardini Naxos**, the site of

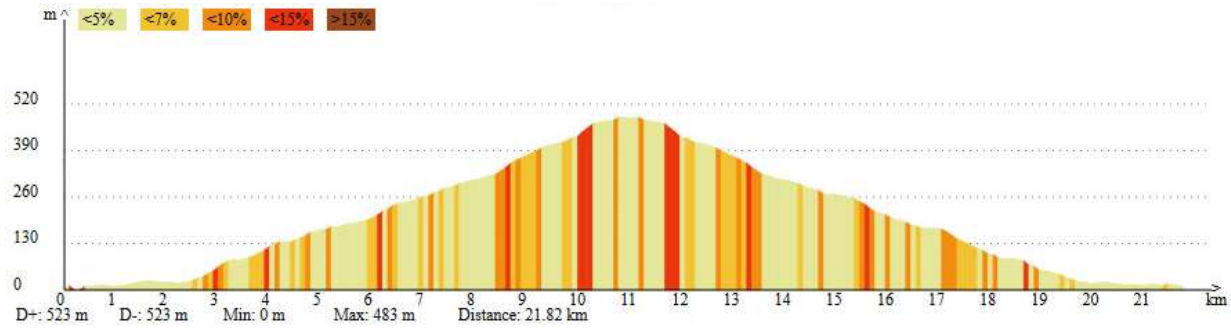
Sicily's first ancient Greek colony on the Ionian coast, where you can relax and take a refreshing swim in its crystal-blue waters.

Overnight with breakfast in Giardini Naxos
Distance: 44 km /27,3 mi
Ascent & Descent: + 251m – 1005m



Day 6 Giardini Naxos - Taormina - Giardini Naxos
This morning offers the chance to explore the historic excavations of **ancient Naxos**, a expansive archaeological area featuring an insightful on-site museum. Following your visit, you will cycle up to **Taormina** to discover its breathtaking natural scenery and rich history. Known historically as the "terrace of the nobility," Taormina became a famed holiday retreat in the 17th century for prominent figures, European royalty, and notable families such as the Rothschilds, Morgans, and Krupps.
A highlight of any trip to Taormina is climbing to the highest point of the town to visit the **Greek Theatre**. Originally of Hellenistic origin and later modified by the Romans, it stands as the city's most significant monument, offering extraordinary panoramic views of **Mount Etna** and the bay below alongside world-class acoustics still utilized for performances today. As you explore the medieval center, take time to see **Corvaja Palace**, the **Saracen Castle**, the ancient **Naumachia**, the **Cathedral of San Nicola**, and **Palazzo dei Duchi di Santo Stefano**. Be sure to pause at **Piazza IX Aprile**, Taormina's elegant main square, where you can enjoy an aperitivo while taking in the views and watching local street artists. Alternatively, you can spend a relaxing afternoon on the scenic beach of **Isola Bella** before returning to **Giardini Naxos** for the evening.

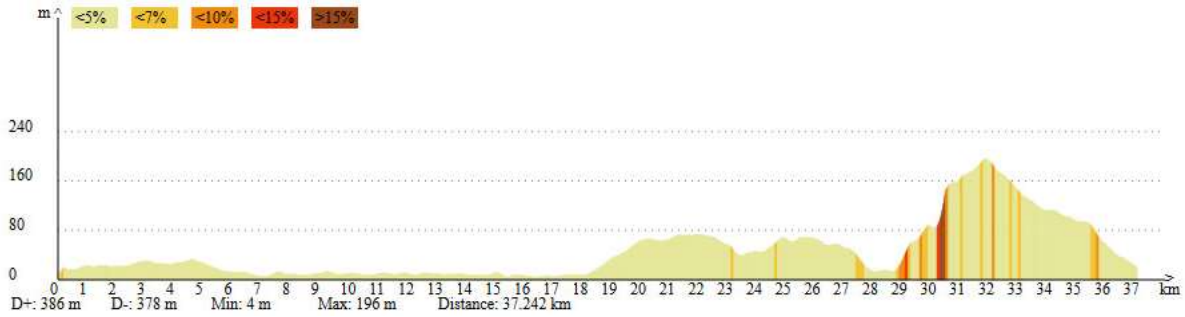
Overnight with breakfast in Giardini Naxos
Distance: 20 km /12,4 mi
Ascent & Descent: + 523m – 523m



Day 7 Giardini Naxos – Acitrezza
Your final cycling day offers a relaxing ride along the scenic Ionian coast, widely known as the **Riviera of Lemons**. Before climbing toward your destination, the route takes you past the **Timpa Natural Reserve**, a lush coastal area featuring dense vegetation fed by natural freshwater springs flowing into the Ionian Sea, as well as nesting grounds for various birds of prey.

Following a short climb, you will arrive in **Acireale**, a town world-renowned for its striking Baroque center. During your visit, take time to explore its historical architecture, including the impressive **Church of San Sebastiano**, celebrated for its detailed façade adorned with ten statues of Old Testament figures and rich interior frescoes by the acclaimed painter Paolo Vasta. You'll continue then to Acitrezza.

Overnight with breakfast in Acitrezza
Distance: 37 km /23 mi
Ascent & Descent: + 386m - 378m



Day 8 End of the tour
Departure after breakfast

Please Note

- Good trekking shoes are required for the Etna excursion and warm clothing is recommended in spring and autumn.
- During the summer (half June till end of August) there is more traffic and the coastline can be crowded.
- Stage from Nicolosi to Etna: possibility of reaching the Sapienza refuge by bike or with a private transfer organized by the B&B in Nicolosi (min. 2 people, € 35 p.p.). Possibility to reach the refuge by public transport but the buses don't carry out the bike transport service.

Hotels: * stars and good B&B**

Prices per person 2027
In double room € 790
In single room € 1.030
Solo traveller € 1.170
Half board supplement (drinks excluded) € 270
High season supplement (July and August) € 100

Extra night at Nicolosi, double room € 45
Extra night at Nicolosi, single room € 65
Extra night at Acitrezza, double room € 55
Extra night at Acitrezza, single room € 80

City bike € 110
Hybrid bike € 130
E-bike € 220
Tandem € 230
Trailer (up to 40 kg) € 50

Reduction for children (overnight stay in a room with two adults):
0 - 5: 100%
6 - 10: 50%
11 - 13: 25%
> 13: 10%

Transfer (to be paid locally: min 2 pax)
- Catania - Nicolosi Airport € 40 p.p.
- Acireale - Catania Airport € 40 p.p.

For arrivals or transfers after 10pm there is a supplement of **€ 10 p.p.**

Rental Bikes: City bike, Hybrid and E-Bikes
The rental bike includes one pannier (lateral bag), spare inner tube, levers, one pump per group

Cancellation Policy

The traveller, who withdraws from the contract, shall be charged for the individual administrative costs, the eventual amount for insurance services or other services already used which were due at the time of signing the contract, cancellation fees charged:

1. **Cancellation between 28 and 14 days before commencement of travel:** 50% of the total travel price;
2. **Cancellation between 13 and 4 days before departure:** 70% of the total travel price;
3. **Cancellation from 4 days before departure or "no-show":** 90% of the total travel price;
4. **Cancellation of the already started trip:** 100% of the total travel price.

Included in the price

- 7 nights in B&B and *** hotel with breakfast
- Luggage transport
- Detailed maps
- Navigation app
- 24 hours assistance by phone
- Tour information

Not included in the price

- Bus ticket or private transfer from Nicolosi to the Sapienza refuge
- Lunches and dinners
- Transfer to and from the airport
- City taxes
- Tastings and entrance tickets
- Helmet for the bike
- Paper roadbook on request (7€)
- Everything not mentioned under the voice ''Included in the price''

Start / End: **Nicolosi – Acitrezza**

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