

## Sicily, the infinite Island

A-7 day cycling tour in South-east baroque Sicily

Code tour: ITSIC02C



Sicily is ideal to be discovered by bike. It is an infinite island: mythical and very real, sunny and magnificent, rich in nuances and particularities. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans have inhabited its land over the centuries and each of these civilisations has left its signs in the culture, traditions and art. Touring the island by bike you come across Greek temples, Roman mosaics, Arab constructions and Norman buildings which coexist in perfect harmony and give this land an unquestionable uniqueness.

The most striking thing about Sicily is its unspoiled nature and its unusual and varied landscapes. Along the enchanting coasts, you can find everything from rocky cliffs to great flat expanses of sandy beaches. In the stony bays the ochre, grey and black of the pebbles remind us of their volcanic origin, while these tranquil bays are framed by the typical Mediterranean vegetation and brushed by the crystal clear waters of the sea. Inland the almost primitive landscape has been modelled by a combination of earth, water and fire; this is a very striking and evocative rural environment tinged with bright yellow and green.

Sicily is also a land rich with culinary traditions, and the food and wine reflect the numerous contacts between the various civilisations over the centuries. The typical dishes of this region are pasta alla Norma, pesce alla ghiotta, cuscusu (a Trapanese version of the fish-based couscous dish of Arab origin), arancini, and the famous cakes and pastries, of which its crowning glories are cassata, cannoli, almond pastries and crushed-ice drinks. Among the area's wines are Nero d'Avola, the famous Passito di Pantelleria, Malvasia di Lipari and the renowned fortified wine of Marsala.

### Highlights of this cycle tour

- The baroque town of Modica, famous for its chocolate
- Noto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

- The crystal blue Sicilian sea
- Syracuse with its Greek amphitheatre and baroque cathedral
- Ortygia
- Oases of Vendicari
- Isola delle Correnti
- The fishermen's village Marzamemi

## Sicilia



### Period:

Daily from 16/01/2021 to 27/11/2021.

**Participants:** minimum 2 (solo traveller on request)

### Level 2,5: moderate

The route follows mainly less frequented secondary roads. Most of the parts are flat, some have light uphill sections, but still easy to manage. This tour is suitable for all healthy persons with bike practice. Depending on your personal preference and fitness, on day 6 you can choose between two different tracks varying in elevation profile and/or distance covered.

Daily distances between: 35 km / 21,8 mi and 57 km / 35,4 mi

Total min 219 km / 136 miles - max 239 km / 148 miles

### **Program in short:**

Day 1: Palazzolo Acreide

Day 2: Palazzolo Acreide – Ragusa Ibla- Modica (50 km / 31 mi)

Day 3: Modica – Pozzallo (42 km / 26 mi)

Day 4: Pozzallo – Marzamemi (57 km / 35,4 mi)

Day 5: Marzamemi – Noto (35 km / 31,8 mi)

Day 6: Noto – Siracusa (38 km / 23,6 mi or 55 km / 34,2 mi)

Day 7 Departure



### **Daily Program:**

#### **Day 1: Palazzolo Acreide**

Individual arrival at Palazzolo Acreide, handover of the bikes, the road book, maps and all the information you need to make a success of this tour.

Overnight stay with breakfast in Palazzolo Acreide

#### **Day 2: Palazzolo Acreide – Ragusa Ibla- Modica**

Before leaving Palazzolo Acreide you have still time to visit the old centre of town with its many churches. The ancient Greek city lies on the hill above the modern town. The auditorium of the small theater is well preserved. Then in the saddle and you cycle tour begins! You are pedalling through the beautiful territory of the Monti Iblei (Hyblaeen Mountains), a unique landscape, where rugged and wild areas alternate with an enchanting green scenery, characterized by the typical stonewalls. On your way to Modica you make a stop at Ragusa Ibla, built on a hilltop. It is a beautiful baroque town in the Val di Noto. To arrive at Modica there is a short climb. Modica is divided into Modica Alta (Upper Modica) and Modica Bassa (Lower Modica). Modica has maintained some of the most beautiful architecture in the Sicilian Baroque style recognizable by its grinning masks and putti and a particular flamboyance that has given Sicily a unique architectural baroque identity. A good example is the Cathedral of St. George (S. Giorgio).

Overnight stay at Modica

Distance: 50 km / 31 miles

Ascent/descent: + 531m - 868m



### Day 3: Modica - Pozzallo

Don't leave Modica before you taste the famous chocolate, e.g. spiced with hot chili peppers. Cruising downhill through a beautiful Iblei canyon, you will arrive at Scicli, well worth a stroll along the small alleys and zip a glass of nice Sicilian wine at one of the small terraces. You continue your ride downhill to the coast. In Pozzallo you can enjoy the sea

Overnight stay at Pozzallo

Distance: 42 km / 26 miles

Ascent/descent: + 343m - 635m



### Day 4: Pozzallo - Marzamemi

Today no uphill and downhill cycling. You cross some typical wetlands, like the "Pantano Longarini" and "Pantano Cuba", a popular stopover for migratory birds on their movements between Africa and Europe. Cycling along the shore you will reach the southernmost point of Sicily, the island "Isola delle Correnti", a small rocky island, which lies on the same latitude as Tunis and marks the watershed between the Ionian and the Mediterranean Sea. Continuing through Portopalo di Capo Passero and Marzamemi, an ancient fishing village, You overnight stay is in the close by village of San Lorenzo.

Overnight stay at San Lorenzo

Distance: 57 km / 35,4 miles

Ascent/descent: + 277m - 271m





### Day 5: Marzamemi - Noto

On a flat road heading north along the coast, you will reach the entrance to the nature preserve and wildlife sanctuary "Oasi di Vendicari", one of the more representative humid zones of Europe. It is a wonderful and uncontaminated reserve full of interesting plants and rare birds. Here you can find hundreds of species of birds that choose every year this reserve as a resting place in their travel towards their reproduction zones. After you leave the reserve, you continue pedalling to the most famous baroque town, Noto. In 2002 Noto and its church were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Overnight stay at Noto

Distance: 35 km / 21,8 miles

Ascent/descent: + 368m -279m



## Day 6: Noto - Siracusa

You will follow the coast further up north to Siracusa (Syracuse), the biggest town of ancient Greece, where you certainly will want to visit the stunning archaeological park with the huge Greek theatre. It is worthwhile to visit Ortigia (Ortygia), a small island, which is the historical heart of Siracusa. It is connected to the mainland by three bridges. The tight-knit lanes are pleasant for strolling, and much of the island's charm lies in wandering down narrow medieval lanes, past romantically Baroque palaces and churches, enjoy a good meal in one of the cosy restaurants or sit down at an outdoors cafe table on the main square.

### Short route

Overnight stay at Siracusa

Distance: 38 km / 23,6 miles

Ascent/descent: + 157m -253m



### Long route

Overnight stay at Siracusa

Distance: 55 km / 34,2 miles

Ascent/descent: + 600m -698m



## Day 7: Siracusa

End of the tour and individual departure or extension with an additional day to visit Siracusa. The fascinating Ortigia, heart of Siracusa, its historical and cultural centre. Here we find the cathedral, de temple of Apollo and the Aretusa fountain. Also amazing is the

archaeological site with the well preserved Greek theatre. Also the town's market is a must.



**Hotels:** Standard B&B, hotel \*\* and agriturismo  
Comfort \*\*\* and \*\*\*\* hotel

### Prices per person 2021:

#### Standard package (B&B or 2 star hotels)

- Basic package per person in double room € 575
- single room € 720
- Extra night in Palazzolo, per person in double room € 48
- Extra night in Palazzolo, per person in single room € 70
- Extra night in Siracusa, per person in double room € 40
- Extra night in Siracusa, per person in single room € 65
- Surcharge high season (July and August) € 80

#### Comfort package (3 or 4 star hotels)

- Comfort package per person in double room € 650
- single room € 850
- Extra night in Palazzolo, per person in double room € 48
- Extra night in Palazzolo, per person in single room € 70
- Extra night in Siracusa, per person in double room € 60
- Extra night in Siracusa, per person in single room € 100
- Surcharge high season (July and August) € 100

#### Extra services

- Surcharge half board (bev. Not included) € 170
- Surcharge single traveller for the whole tour € 100
- Citybike rental with 24 or 27 gears € 85
- Hybrid bikes € 100
- E-bike rental € 150
- Tandem € 190
- Trailer for kids (max. 40 kg) € 50
- Transfer per person, min 2 pax – max 4 pax (to be paid on site):

from Catania airport to Palazzolo Acreide	€ 45
from Siracusa to Catania airport	€ 35

### Discount children

- 0-5 yrs 100%
- 6-10 yrs 50%
- 11-13 yrs 25%
- > 14 yrs 10%

### Rate includes:

- Accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights in the chosen category
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Detailed maps and road book Italian, Tedesco or English (one per room)
- Assistance by telephone

### Rate does not include:

- Transfer to/from airport
- Dinner and lunch
- Wine tastings, entrance fees, tips
- Helmet rental
- Tourist tax
- Anything not mentioned above under "Rate includes"

### How to reach:

start/end: Palazzolo Arceide / Siracusa

Closest by airport: [Catania International airport - Fontanarossa](#)

From the airport to Palazzolo Acreide:

You can book a transfer with us

By bus (Interbus) or train from Catania to Siracusa, for current timetable see [www.interbus.it](http://www.interbus.it) or [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com). Travelling time about one hour.

From Siracusa take the bus to Palazzolo Acreide (AST), current timetables see [www.aziendasicilianatrasporti.it](http://www.aziendasicilianatrasporti.it) . Travelling time about 50 min.

### Useful Information

[Italy](#)

[Italy Travel board](#)

[Safe travelling to Italy](#)

[Sicily](#)

[Visit Sicily](#)

[Siracusa](#)

[Noto](#)

[Modica](#)





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