

Sicily, the infinite Island

A 7 or 5 days 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 February to November 2024 for the 7 days tour
Daily from January to December 2024 for the 5 days tour

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 or day 4 you can choose between two different tracks varying in elevation profile and/or distance covered.

Daily distances between: 34 km / 21 mi and 62 km / 38,5 mi

Total min 232 km / 144 miles - max 249 km / 154,7 miles for the 7 days tour

Total min 150 km / 93 miles - max 167 km / 103,7 miles for the 5 days tour

Program in short for the 7 days tour:

Day 1: Palazzolo Acreide

Day 2: Palazzolo Acreide – Ragusa Ibla- Modica (58 km / 36 mi)

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

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

Day 5: Marzamemi – Noto (34 km / 21 mi)

Day 6: Noto – Siracusa (41 km / 25 mi or 58 km / 36 mi)

Day 7 Departure

Program in short for the 5 days tour :

Day 1: Palazzolo Acreide

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

Day 3: Modica – Noto (62 km / 38,5 mi)

Day 4: Noto – Siracusa (38 km / 23,6 mi or 55 km / 34 mi)

Day 5: Siracusa. End of the tour

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

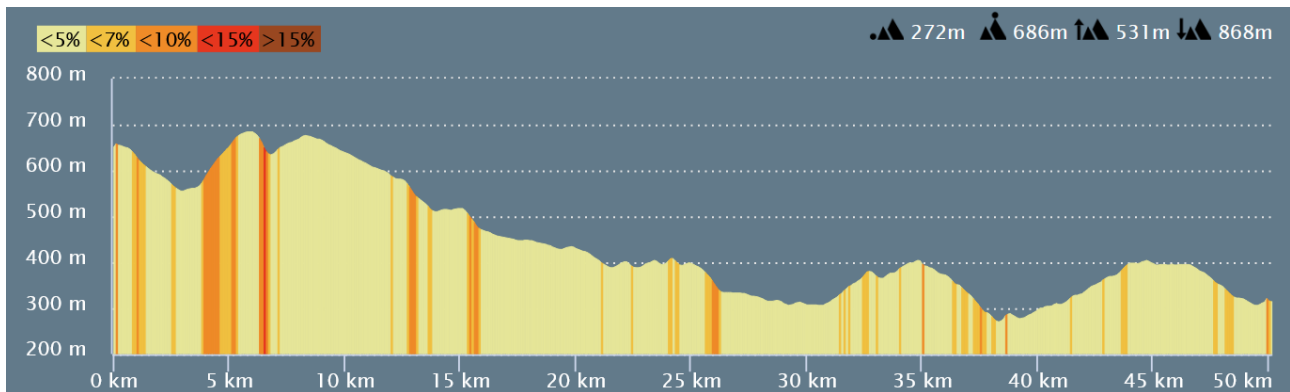
Day 2: Palazzolo Acreide – Ragusa Ibla- Modica

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: 58 km / 36 miles

Ascent/descent: + 531m - 868m



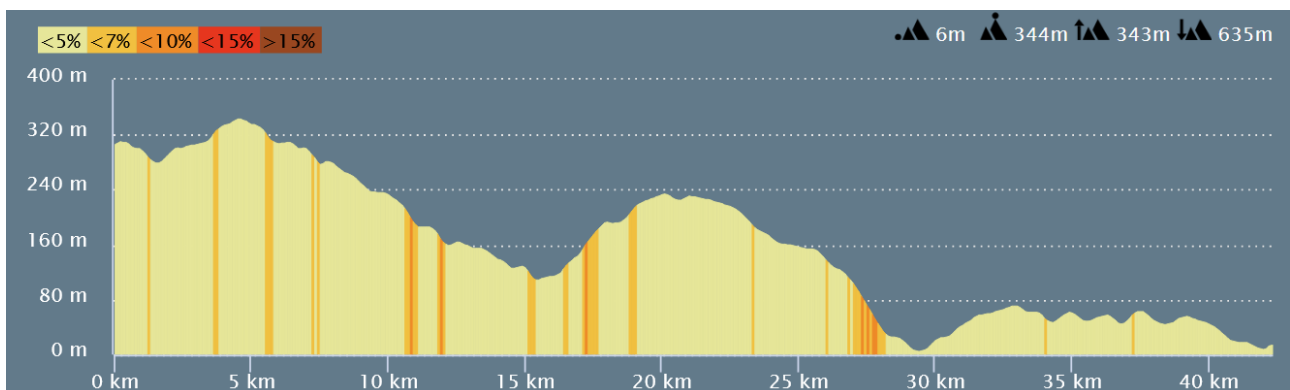
Day 3: Modica - Pozzallo

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



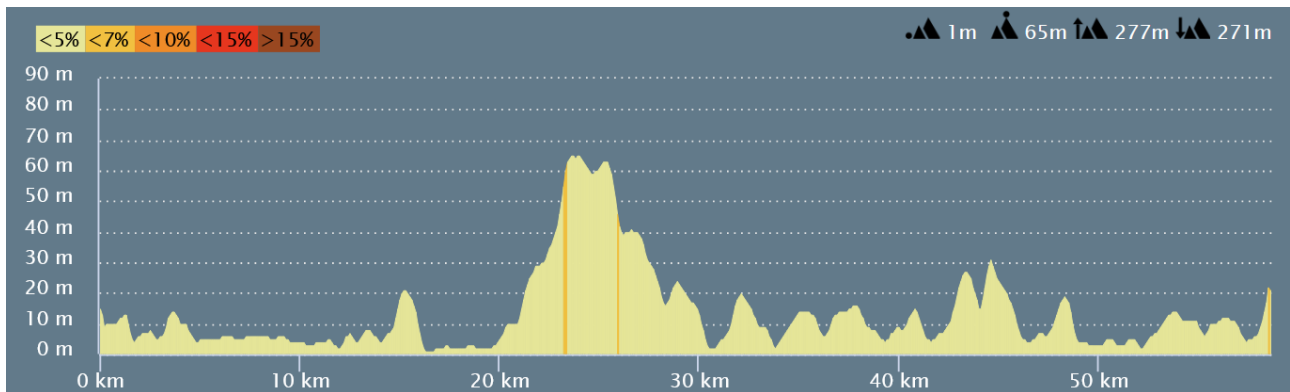
Day 4: Pozzallo - Marzamemi

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



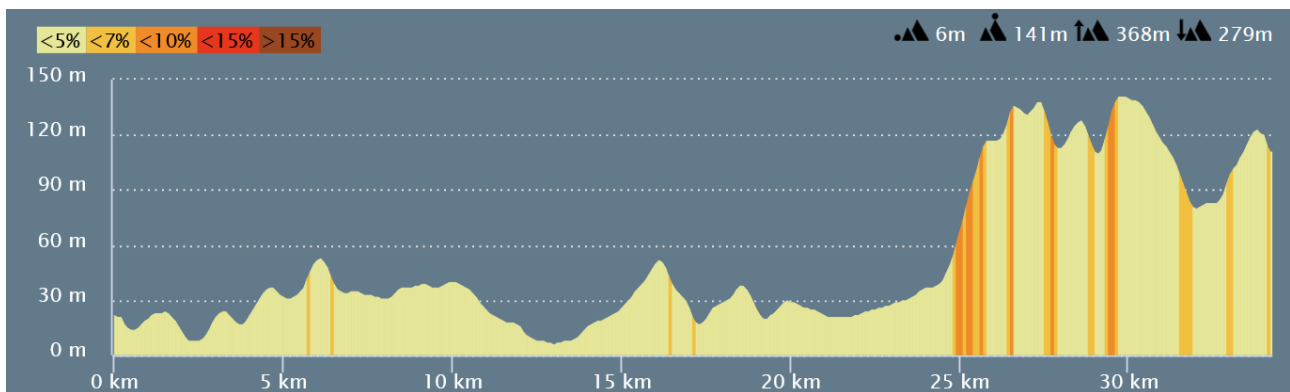
Day 5: Marzamemi - Noto

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: 34 km / 21 miles

Ascent/descent: + 368m -279m



Day 6: Noto - Siracusa

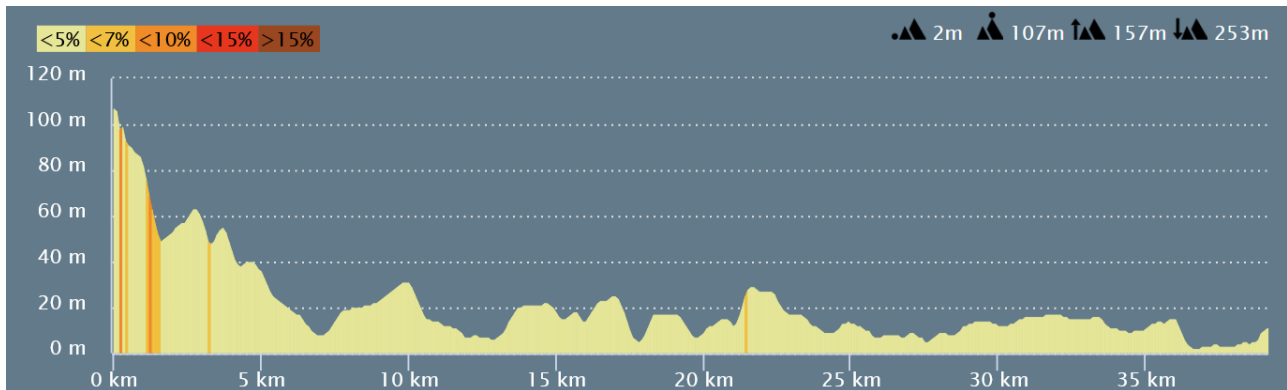
You will follow the coast further up north to Siracusa (Syracuse), the biggest town of ancient Greece, where you certainly will want to visit the stunning archaeological park with the huge Greek theatre. It is worthwhile to visit Ortigia (Ortygia), a small island, which is the historical heart of Siracusa. 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: 41 km / 25,4 miles

Ascent/descent: + 157m -253m

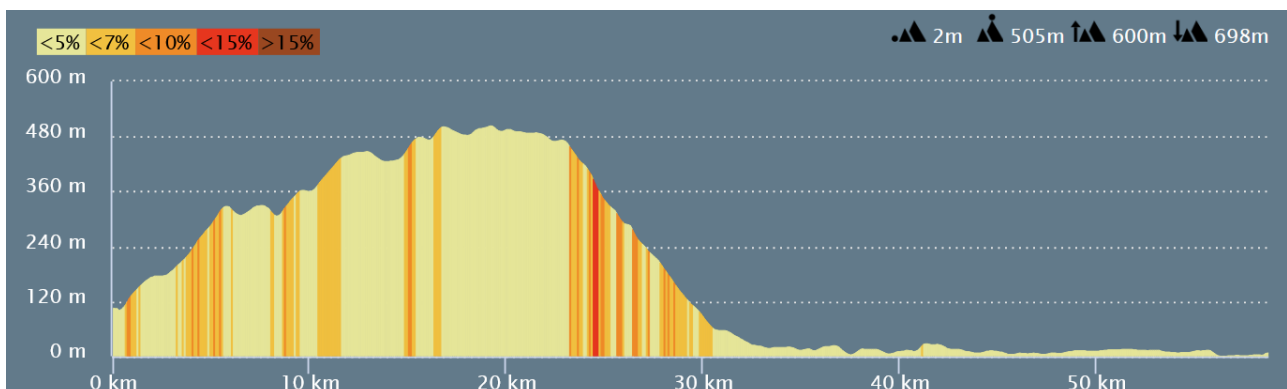


Long route

Overnight stay at Siracusa

Distance: 58 km / 36 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:

Comfort *** and **** hotel

Prices per person 2024 for the 5 days tour:

Base package (3 or 4 star hotels)

- Comfort package per person in double room € 540
- single room € 690

- Solo traveller € 785
- Surcharge high season (July and August) € 75
- 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 € 70
- Extra night in Siracusa, per person in single room € 110

Extra services

- Surcharge half board (drinks not included) € 120
- City bike rental with 24 or 27 gears € 65
- Hybrid bikes € 80
- E-bike rental € 120
- Tandem € 145
- 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 € 65
 - from Siracusa to Catania airport € 50
- For arrivals or transfers after 10 pm a supplement is applied € 5
- Group rates for min 4 pax on request

Discount children

0-5 yrs 100%

6-10 yrs 50%

11-13 yrs 25%

Rate includes:

- Accommodation with breakfast for 4 nights in 3 or 4 stars hotels
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Detailed maps and road book Italian, German or English (one per room)
- GPS tracks on request
- 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"

Prices per person 2023 for the 7 days tour:

Comfort package (3 or 4 star hotels)

- Comfort package per person in double room € 720

• single room	€ 960
• Solo traveller	€ 1.080
• Surcharge high season (July and August)	€ 110
• Extra night in Palazzolo, per person in double room	€ 50
• Extra night in Palazzolo, per person in single room	€ 70
• Extra night in Siracusa, per person in double room	€ 70
• Extra night in Siracusa, per person in single room	€ 110

Extra services

• Surcharge half board (drinks not included)	€ 220
• City bike rental with 24 or 27 gears	€ 100
• Hybrid bikes	€ 110
• E-bike rental	€ 180
• 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	€ 60
from Siracusa to Catania airport	€ 50
For arrivals or transfers after 10 pm a supplement is applied	€ 5
Group rates for min 4 pax on request	

Discount children

0-5 yrs 100%

6-10 yrs 50%

11-13 yrs 25%

Rate includes:

- Accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights in the chosen category
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Detailed maps and road book Italian, German or English (one per room)
- GPS tracks on request
- 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"



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