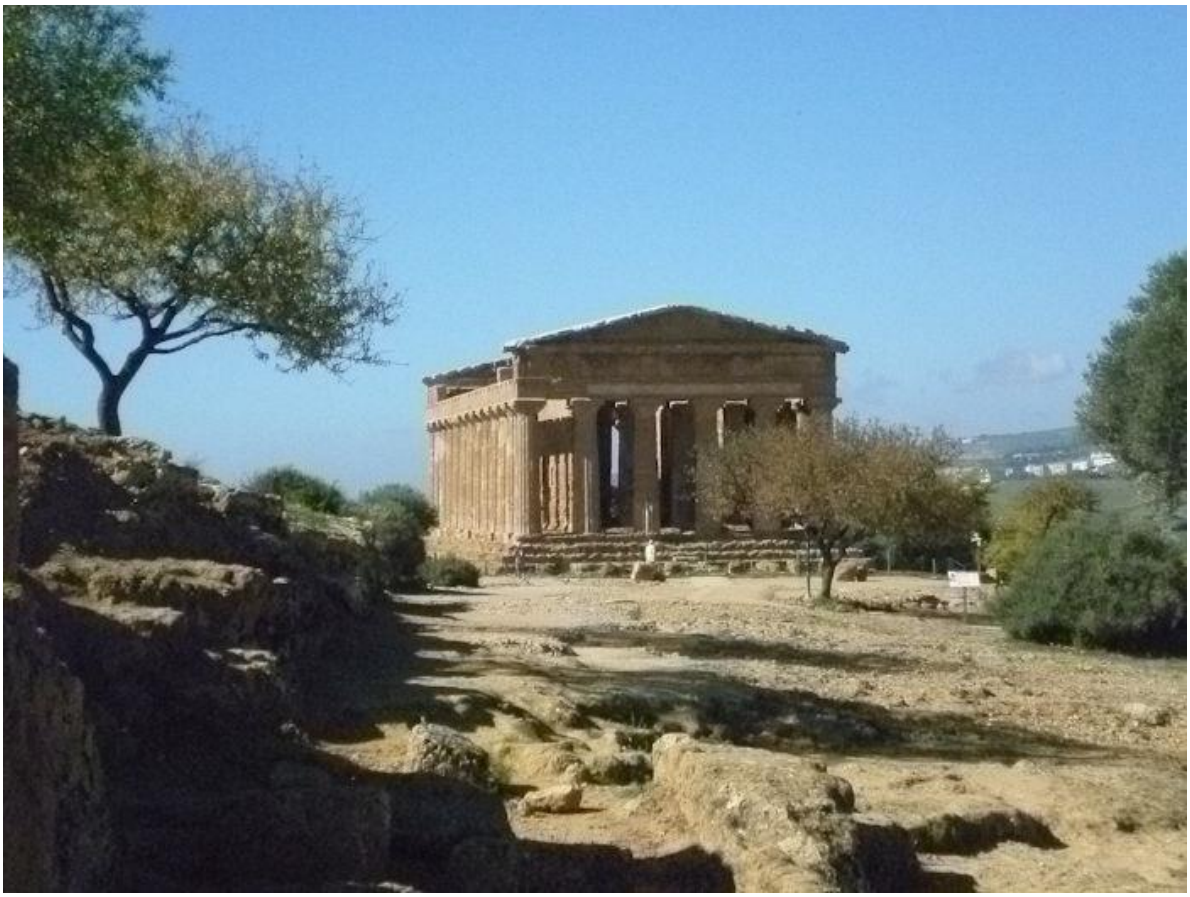
On the Ancient Roads of Sicily: The Magna Via Francigena
An 8-Day Walking Journey

Tour Code: ITSIC07W



For over two thousand five hundred years, **Sicily** has been a land where civilizations did not merely succeed one another, but layered upon each other. **Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Normans** carved architecture, woven legends, and shaped an unrivaled gastronomic identity here. Walking along the ancient Roman roads and medieval Frankish routes means more than just traveling a geographic path: it means retracing the steps of **merchants, pilgrims, and wayfarers** who exchanged spices, visions, and cultures on these very tracks.
The **Magna Via Francigena** is today one of the most evocative **slow travel** and **signature trekking** experiences in Europe. An epic itinerary that cuts Sicily in two, **from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea**, connecting the eclectic charm of **Palermo** to the solemnity of **Agrigento**. From the mountain slopes of the **Sicani Mountains** to the endless landscapes of the hinterland and the fragrant **Platani River Valley**, every day offers total immersion in **pristine nature reserves**, **perched villages** frozen in time, and **traditional recipes** lovingly preserved for generations.
Whether you are seeking an **inner journey**, an adventure in **unspoiled nature**, or an itinerary where the effort of hiking is rewarded by culinary bliss, this step-by-step journey will reveal a brand-new soul of Sicily, far removed from mass tourism.

Sicilia



Tour dates: daily from February 15 – November 30

Participants: From 1 person

Difficulty level: 3
This level ranges from moderate to challenging and is designed for experienced walkers in good physical condition. It is suitable for families with teenagers (16+ years) who have prior hiking experience. The route follows irregular trails or country roads in hilly to moderately mountainous terrain with significant elevation changes (+/- 400 to 1000 meters). These tours require stamina, but the effort is always rewarded by breathtaking panoramic views. Daily distances range from 5 to 26 km, with walking times between 3-6 hours.

Total distance: 121–138 km /75-86 miles

Brief program:
Day 1: Arrival in Sicily – Palermo to Santa Cristina Gela (5 km /3 mi – 13 km/8 mi)
Day 2: Santa Cristina Gela to Corleone (23 km / 14,3 mi – 26 km/16 mi)
Day 3: Corleone to Prizzi (20 km /12,4 mi)
Day 4: Prizzi to Cammarata (19/11,8 mi –25 km /15,5 mi)
Day 5: Cammarata to Sutera (20 km /12,4 mi – 13 km/8 mi)
Day 6: Sutera to Racalmuto (22 km /13,7 mi)
Day 7: Racalmuto to Agrigento (12 km /7,4 mi)
Day 8: End of tour

What the Via Francigena in Sicily was:
The Via Francigena in Sicily is not just a single trail, but a dense network of **historic Roman consular roads** and **centuries-old Greek livestock tracks**. With the rise of the Normans in the 11th century, this road system was reorganized and strengthened to reconnect the island to the main routes of **European Christianity**. Today, this path represents one of the most fascinating **cultural corridors** in the Mediterranean, linking **medieval strongholds**, **millenary abbeys**, and small **mountain villages** in a journey that ideally unites Sicily with Europe and the routes to the **Holy Land**.

What it was for:
Born from a combination of needs, the Sicilian Via Francigena served three primary functions. It was the **route of the sacred**, traveled by pilgrims heading to the ports of Messina or Trapani to set sail for Rome or Jerusalem. It was a vital **military and strategic axis**, allowing rulers to deploy troops quickly and control the territory. Finally, it represented a **vital commercial artery**: along these paths traveled grain from the interior (Rome's famous **granary**), salt, oil, and cheese, connecting inland agricultural hubs to coastal markets across the Mediterranean.

Main routes and the journey today:
Today, the Via Francigena has become a premier destination for lovers of **adventure trekking** and **sustainable tourism** in Italy. The crown jewel route is undoubtedly the **Magna Via Francigena**, which connects Palermo to Agrigento across approximately 180 km of biodiversity and historical wonders. Beside it are legendary routes like the **Via Francigena per le Montagne**, traversing the natural parks of Madonie and Nebrodi toward the Strait of Messina, and the **Via Mazarense** along the western coast. Walking these trails today means connecting directly with the **local community** and experiencing their genuine hospitality.

Daily Program:

Day 1: Arrival in Sicily. From Palermo to Santa Cristina Gela
Your journey begins with a private transfer from Palermo Airport or the city center to **Piana degli Albanesi**, an exceptional starting point on the Magna Via Francigena. Before tying your boots, tradition calls for a sweet stop at a local pastry shop to enjoy a warm, crispy **Iris filled with warm ricotta**, a true local delicacy. Just a few kilometers away lies **Santa Cristina Gela**, a village that preserves the ancient language and culture of the **Arbëreshë** (Italo-Albanian) people. Here, another food stop allows you to sample the **Sicilian cannolo** in its most authentic version, featuring a shell kneaded with local wine and filled on the spot with fresh sheep's milk ricotta. The day ends immersed in the peaceful countryside, welcomed at a historic **masseria** (farmhouse).

(In case of late afternoon arrival, the transfer will go directly to the masseria for dinner. For accommodations at Masseria Rossella, the walking route will be approximately 13 km. Extra nights in Palermo before or after the tour are available upon request).

Overnight stay and breakfast in Santa Cristina Gela (or surroundings)
Distance: 5 km /3 mi – 13 km/8 mi
Elevation gain/loss: + 120m – 120m or + 400m – 400m

Day 2: Santa Cristina Gela - Corleone
After breakfast, the walk resumes through landscapes where water reservoirs reflect the lush greenery and ancient estates tell stories of **rural architecture**. Beneath the majestic limestone silhouette of **Rocca Busambra** and through the shady woodlands of **Ficuzza**, you reach the

Monastery of Tagliavìa, an ideal spot for a refreshing rest. The trail then leads toward **Corleone**: beyond its media fame, the village is today a vibrant center of **social rebirth and culinary tradition**. Here you will visit the Monastery of the Franciscan Friars Minor Renewed, the **Laboratory of Legality**, and the **CIDMA** (International Documentation Center on Mafia and the Anti-Mafia Movement).

Foodie Tip: *For dinner, don't miss the maccarruni al ferretto (handmade pasta) with black pig ragù and a dusting of aged Ragusano caciocavallo cheese.*

Overnight stay and breakfast in Corleone
Distance: 23 km / 14,3 mi – 26 km/16 mi
Elevation gain/loss: + 450m – 620m or + 650m – 790m

Day 3: Corleone - Prizzi
The third day opens the doors to the **Sicani Mountains Regional Park**, a wild realm of forests and archaeological traces left by the ancient **Sicani**, the indigenous people who gave the island the name *Sikania*. The trail follows millenary **royal tracks** and ancient **transhumance routes**. Among these mountain passes, you can sense the history of early encounters between the Sicani and the first **Greek merchants** (8th–7th century BC), culminating in Roman presence during the Punic Wars near **Cozzo Spoletino** and the ancient fortress of **Hippàna**.

Curiosity: *Hippàna sits at over 1,000 meters above sea level: it once housed one of the **highest Greek theaters in Europe**, offering sweeping views out to the sea.*

Overnight stay and breakfast in Prizzi
Distance: 20 km /12,4 mi
Elevation gain/loss: + 750m – 350m

Day 4: Prizzi - Cammarata
Leaving Prizzi behind, the trail crosses the beautiful **Monti Carcaci Nature Reserve**, a haven for rare bird species and rich botanical diversity. You will reach **Castronovo di Sicilia**, an ancient stronghold named *Kars-nubu* by the Arabs and later fortified by the Normans. After exploring its walled historic center, a short transfer takes you to **Cammarata**.
Taste Tip: *This region is famous for mountain cheeses; be sure to sample **Caciocavallo di Cammarata** and **baked ricotta**, paired with a glass of local Nero d'Avola wine.*

**Upon request, it is possible to reduce the walk from 25 to 19 km, making the day lighter.*

Overnight stay and breakfast in Cammarata
Distance: 19 km / 11,8 mi or 25 km /15,5 mi
Elevation gain/loss: + 450m – 550m or + 550m – 800m

Day 5: Cammarata - Sutera
Today's route descends into the lush **Platani River Valley**, a land of fertile pastures and prized produce such as **mountain peaches** and **green pistachios from San Biagio**. Entering the province of Caltanissetta among old farmhouses, you will see **Sutera** rising in the distance, recognized as one of the **Most Beautiful Villages in Italy**, dramatically perched on a gypsum monolith. Wandering through the alleys of the **Rabato**, the historic Arab quarter, feels like stepping into a fairytale. Upon reaching the **Sanctuary of San Paolino**, clear days offer sweeping views stretching all the way to the snow-capped or smoking peak of **Mount Etna**.

** The stage can be reduced from 20 to 13 km, with a short transfer at the beginning of the day, for those who wish for a lighter route.*

Overnight stay and breakfast in Sutera
Distance: 20 km /12,4 mi – 13 km/8 mi
Elevation gain/loss: + 620m – 730m

Day 6: Sutera - Racalmuto
Today's stage is a true time machine: cross the **Roman bridge of Campofranco**, marvel at the enigmatic **Sican tholos tombs** near Milena, and discover the Neolithic remains at **Serra del Palco** (dating back over 7,000 years). The route ultimately leads to **Racalmuto**, the town of "sulfur and salt," famous as the birthplace of renowned writer **Leonardo Sciascia**.
Culinary Curiosity: *Local peasant tradition offers **Taralli di Racalmuto**, soft biscuits coated with a bright lemon icing (ammensata), perfect for a delicious energy boost along the way.*

Overnight stay and breakfast in Racalmuto
Distance: 22 km /13,7 mi
Elevation gain/loss: + 650m – 830m

Day 7: Racalmuto - Agrigento
The final walking day brings a rewarding sense of achievement. You will hike alongside the mining history of inland Sicily, passing **Petra di Calathansuderj**, an extraordinary rock-cut fortress that witnessed Byzantines, Arabs, and Normans. Reaching **Aragona** marks the end of the trekking portion as you board a local train to **Agrigento**. Welcoming you is the timeless grandeur of the **Valley of the Temples**, where the sunset framing ancient Doric columns creates the perfect finale to your journey across Sicily.

Overnight stay and breakfast in Agrigento
Distance: 12 km /7,4 mi (+ train ride)
Elevation gain/loss: + 180m – 300m

Day 8: End of the tour
Breakfast at the hotel and end of our services.
*(Planning to take a dip at the **Scala dei Turchi** or explore the Archaeological Park in depth? Ask us about extending your stay in Agrigento!).*

Prices 2027 per person:

Dal 15/02 al 24/03
In double room 875,00 €
In single room 1.080,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Dal 25/03 al 24/04
In double room 915 €
In single room 1.140,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Dal 25/04 al 16/07
In double room 945,00 €
In single room 1.180,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Dal 17/07 al 31/08
In double room 965,00 €
In single room 1.220,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Dal 01/09 al 30/09
In double room 945,00 €
In single room 1.180,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Dal 01/10 al 31/10
In double room 915,00 €
In single room 1.140,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Dal 01/11 al 30/11
In double room 875,00 €
In single room 1.080,00 €
Extra night in double: On request
Extra night in single: On request

Extras: Single traveler 330,00 €

Arrival and departure transfers (min. 2 people):
Transfer Palermo Apt – Palermo 41,00 €
Transfer Agrigento - Palermo 112,00 €
Night transfer (from 10 pm to 7 am) €25,00

Included in the price

- 7 overnight stays in a double room with breakfast
- Private transfer on days 1 and 4
- Credenziale of the Magna Via Francigena
- Detailed description and maps of the itinerary
- Travel App (maps, tracks, itinerary info)
- Luggage transport (Max 20kg)
- Telephone assistance 8:00-20:00

Not included in the price:

- Return from Agrigento

- Meals and drinks
- Public transfer on day 7
- Entrance fees and tips
- Tourist tax
- Everything not expressly indicated under the heading “Included in the price”

Cancellation penalties:
a) Withdrawal up to **30 days** before the start of the trip: **20**% of the total amount;
b) Withdrawal from **29 to 21 days** before the start of the trip: **25**% of the total amount;
c) Withdrawal from **20 to 14 days** before the start of the trip: **50**% of the total amount;
d) Withdrawal from **13 to 6 days** before the start of the trip: **80**% of the total amount;
e) Withdrawal within **5 days** before the start of the trip: **100**% of the total amount.

For any change made after confirmation, a fee of 30€ will be charged for the booking modification.
The request for a date change could involve the application of cancellation penalties.

Start/End of tour: Palermo / Agrigento

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