Greek Temples, Baroque Domes & a Live Volcano — A 10-Day Sicily Itinerary

Sicily · 10-Day Itinerary

DURATION	BEST TIME TO GO	FROM
10 Days	**April–June & Sept–Oct** warm, dry weather before and after the summer crowds	**$1,795 USD / person** for 2 people

Day 1 Arrive in Palermo

Land at Falcone-Borsellino and settle into Palermo's historic center — the old town's markets and mosaics are best tackled with a full night's rest first.

Airport Shuttle — Falcone-Borsellino to Palermo Centro

~50 minutes · €6.00 (~$6.50 USD) / person one-way

Prestia e Comandè's blue-and-white coaches run every 30 minutes between the arrivals hall and Palermo's main train station, with a stop near the historic center — no rental car needed until day three.

Prestia e Comandè | +390915863351 | prestiaecomande.it

Overnight — Palazzo Brunaccini

From $190–240 USD / night, for 2 people

A 17th-century palace once home to Princess Lucrezia Brunaccini, tucked into the Ballarò quarter with vaulted ceilings, a small courtyard, and Quattro Canti a short walk away.

Palazzo Brunaccini | +39091586904 | palazzobrunaccini.it

Dinner in the Kalsa Quarter (on your own)

Est. $25–40 USD / person

Palermo's old harbor district is dense with trattorias serving pasta con le sarde and grilled swordfish — walk the waterfront past Porta Felice before finding a table.

Day 2 Palermo's Markets & Norman Mosaics

A morning tasting your way through the Ballarò and Vucciria markets, then an afternoon under the gold Byzantine mosaics of Monreale's cathedral complex, just up the hill from the city.

Guided Tour — Ballarò & Vucciria Street Food Markets

~3 hours · €54 (~$59 USD) / person

A local guide leads tastings through Palermo's two oldest markets — panelle, arancine, sfincione, and a stop for the city's famously unsqueamish specialty, pani ca meusa (spleen sandwich) — six to eight stops in all.

Eating Europe | +19179096432 | eatingeurope.com/palermo

Monreale Cathedral & Cloister

~1.5 hours · €7.00 (~$8 USD) / person, cloister

Eight thousand square feet of 12th-century gold mosaics cover the cathedral's interior, telling the entire Bible in glass and gold leaf — pair it with the cloister's 228 twin columns, each carved differently, in the adjoining Benedictine complex.

Overnight — Palazzo Brunaccini

From $190–240 USD / night, for 2 people

Second night at the same palace.

Palazzo Brunaccini | +39091586904 | palazzobrunaccini.it

Day 3 Palermo to Cefalù

Pick up a rental car and take the coastal autostrada east to Cefalù, a fishing town backed by a dramatic limestone cliff — check in early enough for an afternoon on the beach.

Self-Drive — Palermo to Cefalù

~1 hour · Economy class, Est. €40–55/day (~$44–60 USD), unlimited km

Pick up the rental at Falcone-Borsellino Airport or a city-center office and take the A20 autostrada east along the coast — the drive is short enough to still make an afternoon swim.

Sicily by Car | +390916390111 | sicilybycar.it

Cefalù Old Town & La Rocca

~2–3 hours · Free (La Rocca trail donation-based)

A Norman cathedral with its own set of gold mosaics anchors a medieval fishing town below a 900-foot limestone crag — climb La Rocca's switchback trail for a rooftop view over the old town and the Tyrrhenian Sea, or skip straight to the beach below the cathedral steps.

Overnight — Le Calette

From $260–340 USD / night, for 2 people

A boutique bay-front resort built into the rock a short walk from Cefalù's old town, with a private cove and terraced rooms looking straight out over the water.

Le Calette | +390921424144 | lecalette.it

Day 4 Cefalù to Taormina

The longest drive of the trip, tracing the coast east past Messina before dropping south to Taormina — arrive with enough daylight left for a sunset at the town's ancient Greek theater.

Self-Drive — Cefalù to Taormina

~2.5–3 hours · coastal A20/A18 route

The autostrada skirts the northern coast before curving south below Mount Etna's silhouette — stop in Messina for a coffee if the ferry-port traffic allows, or push straight through to Taormina's clifftop old town.

Teatro Antico di Taormina at Sunset

~1 hour · €14.00 (~$15 USD) / person

A 3rd-century-BC Greek theater, rebuilt in Roman times, frames Mount Etna and the sea in the same sightline from its stone seats — arrive within the last two hours before closing for the best light.

Overnight — Hotel Villa Belvedere

From $310–390 USD / night, for 2 people

A family-run 4-star hotel open since 1902, with terraced gardens, a saltwater pool, and a clifftop position a five-minute walk from Corso Umberto.

Hotel Villa Belvedere | +39094223791 | villabelvedere.it

Day 5 Mount Etna

A full day on Europe's most active volcano — a 4x4 climbs past the tree line to the summit craters, with lunch and a wine tasting included on the way back down.

Guided Jeep Tour — Mount Etna Summit Craters

~7.5 hours · €99 (~$108 USD) / person, lunch & wine tasting included

A Land Rover Defender convoy climbs from the citrus groves at Etna's base to around 3,000 meters, with a naturalist guide explaining the volcano's most recent eruptions before a stop at a family-run winery on the descent.

Etna Experience | +393493053021 | etnaexperience.com

Dinner in Taormina Old Town (on your own)

Est. $30–50 USD / person

Corso Umberto and its side streets are dense with trattorias serving Sicilian classics — pasta alla Norma and swordfish involtini both originate on this side of the island.

Overnight — Hotel Villa Belvedere

From $310–390 USD / night, for 2 people

Second night at the same hotel.

Hotel Villa Belvedere | +39094223791 | villabelvedere.it

Day 6 Taormina Beach Day

A slower day — the cable car drops straight down to Isola Bella's pebble beach and nature reserve, with the rest of the afternoon free.

Cable Car to Isola Bella

~5 minutes each way · €15.00 (~$16 USD) / person, round trip

Taormina's funivia drops 600 feet from the old town to the coast in under five minutes, landing a short walk from Isola Bella's tombolo — a sandbar connecting the “beautiful island” nature reserve to the mainland beach.

Free Afternoon — Isola Bella Beach

Self-guided · beach-club sunbeds from ~€20/day

Rent sunbeds at one of the small beach clubs along the cove or swim out around the island itself — the water here is some of the clearest on Sicily's east coast.

Overnight — Hotel Villa Belvedere

From $310–390 USD / night, for 2 people

Third and final night at the same hotel.

Hotel Villa Belvedere | +39094223791 | villabelvedere.it

Day 7 Taormina to Siracusa (Ortigia)

South along the coast to Ortigia, the small island that forms Syracuse's ancient core — an afternoon walk through its Baroque streets before settling in for two nights.

Self-Drive — Taormina to Ortigia, Siracusa

~2–2.5 hours · A18 autostrada south

The drive runs south past Catania and Etna's eastern flank before crossing onto Ortigia's island causeway — park at one of the mainland lots near Foro Italico, since the old town's lanes are largely closed to cars.

Ortigia Old Town Walk — Piazza Duomo & the Temple of Apollo

~2 hours · Self-guided, free

Overnight — Algilà Ortigia Charme Hotel

From $150–210 USD / night, for 2 people

Second night at the same hotel.

Algilà Ortigia Charme Hotel | +390931465186 | algila.it

Day 9 Ortigia to Agrigento via Noto

West across the island's southern edge, with a stop in Noto's honey-colored Baroque center before a sunset arrival at the Valley of the Temples.

Self-Drive — Ortigia to Agrigento, via Noto

~3 hours total (incl. Noto stop) · SS115 coastal route

Noto sits about 40 minutes southwest of Syracuse and is worth an hour's wander — the entire center was rebuilt in gold limestone Baroque after a 1693 earthquake. From there it's another two hours west to Agrigento.

Valley of the Temples at Sunset

~2 hours · €14.00 (~$15 USD) / person

Seven Greek temples line a ridge above the coast, including the near-intact Temple of Concordia — one of the best-preserved Greek temples anywhere outside Greece itself. Arrive in the two hours before sunset, when the stone turns gold and the crowds thin out.

Overnight — Villa Athena Resort

From $420–520 USD / night, for 2 people

The only hotel inside the archaeological park itself, with the Temple of Concordia floodlit and visible from the pool and many of the rooms after dark.

Villa Athena Resort | +390922596288 | hotelvillaathena.it

Day 10 Agrigento to Palermo Airport, Departure

The last leg of the loop, back north to Palermo for the flight home — build in buffer time for the rental car return.

Self-Drive — Agrigento to Palermo Airport

~2–2.5 hours · SS189 route, rental car drop-off

The inland route back to Falcone-Borsellino climbs through rolling wheat country before dropping to the coast near the airport — return the car at the rental desk at least two hours before an international flight.

Sicily by Car | +390916390111 | sicilybycar.it

Farewell Espresso & Cannoli (on your own)

Est. $8–12 USD / person

One last stop before the gate — a proper Sicilian cannolo, filled to order so the shell stays crisp, and an espresso standing at the counter, the way it's done here.

Prices researched and current as of 2026. Rates and availability subject to change — confirm directly with each business before booking. Published by I-Journey.