

TYPICAL ITALIAN IN ITS OWN WAY DISCOVERING EASTERN SICILY'S HIGHLIGHTS AMONG HISTORY, ART & CULINARY

Sicily is hard to describe in words.

On one hand it lives up to the typical stereotypes and classic images of the *Italian-being*, on the other side it definitely cannot be compared to any other region in Italy.

Might it be because Sicily after all is an island, might it be due to its intensive Mediterranean influence during the centuries...it has to be seen to be understood.

We are glad to present you a unique tour of Sicily's south-eastern part that combines art, culture, history, culinary and naturalistic attractions to help you discover this island.

From Unesco World heritage sites, to the highest and most spectacular volcano on the European continent, to ceramic workshops and cooking lessons, to private wine tastings...your experience starts here.



DAY 1: BENVENUTI! FROM CATANIA TO TAORMINA

Land from your direct flight to Catania - you will be welcomed by your local guide and private car with driver. Enjoy lunch in the center of Catania at the famous market square. Catania will surprise you with its vitality and hardworking determination, ready to surprise you and make you fall in love, submerging you in intense flavors, Baroque stuccoes of UNESCO heritage and a myriad of unforgettable surroundings.



Your car will drive you further to **Taormina**, the gem of Sicily's eastern coast.



Check in at your 5* hotel with private beach.

DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

With a stunning location on the Bay of Mazzarò, this 19th century villa has all the charm of a private residence. Perfect for lovers of sun, sea and beach, it offers uninterrupted views of the crystalline Mediterranean from both guest rooms and the terrace of the acclaimed Restaurant Oliviero.



DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DAY 2: BOAT AND TAORMINA TOUR

After breakfast, enjoy the morning on the sea - admire the coastline from a private yacht, have a swim in the crystal clear water, and lunch overlooking the water.



Return to the hotel in the afternoon, change from bathing suit to evening “suit” and have a guided tour of **Taormina**: In the 1800s, after Goethe praised its beauty throughout Europe, mentioning it in his book *Italian Journey*, Taormina became a mandatory stop on the Grand Tour– the long journey made in continental Europe – by the young European aristocracy of the time to enrich their own culture.

Ancient Theater: The ancient Greeks loved to construct their buildings in beautiful scenic locations Here they found the pairing of Etna and the bay of Naxos, with a wonderful view that when the air is clear can reach the coast of Calabria.



Porta Messina (the Northern Entrance): Small craft shops, antiques shops, small streets, fragrant, multicoloured alleys accompany us along the route. The first important encounter of our walk is with Palazzo Corvaja (Corvaja Palace), in the 1400s home to the Sicilian Parliament with its picturesque internal courtyard and beautiful large mullioned windows on the front.



Dome of San Nicola: its roughly squared and severe appearance is reminiscent of Norman cathedrals. Built in the thirteenth century, but it was remodeled in the fifteenth, sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Inside, there are three naves, some interesting paintings by Antonino Giuffre (1436) and a polyptych by Antonello de Saliba (1504).



DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

The tour will end with a panoramic aperitif at sundown and dinner in the center of Taormina.



DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DAY 3: CULINARY DAY

Today is all about discovering local products and yes, tasting them all!

After breakfast you will be transferred to a very beautiful winery at the bottom Mount Etna: here you will have access to the vineyards and learn about Sicilian wines. After the tour, return to the main buildings for a cooking lesson of traditional Sicilian dishes! While the table is set up, enjoy a guided wine tasting of the winery's highlights. Now you can sit and enjoy the meal you have prepared with your own hands!



After lunch, return to the hotel and enjoy your private beach or pool.



DAY 4: TO THE SOUTH-EAST POINT OF THE ISLAND

Get ready for a full day!

After breakfast and check.out your private car with driver and guide will pick you up at the hotel to start your tour direction south.

The first stop will be the iconic city of **Siracusa** (after 1h 30'): it's thousand years history makes it a must-see for every trip to Sicily.

The Greek Theater: It keeps evidences of several historic periods, from the prehistoric ages to Late Antiquity and the Byzantine era. This Greek Theatre is one of the biggest in the world, entirely carved into the rock. In ancient times it was used for plays and popular assemblies, today it is the place where the Greek tragedies live again through the Series of Classical Performances that take place every year thanks to the **INDA**, National Institute of Ancient Drama.



Ortygia market: an explosion of colours, scents and authentic flavours of our country, the charm of the ancient markets. At the entrance of Ortygia island, that is connected to the city by Umberto bridge, you will be greeted by the aroma every kinds of spices, chilli peppers from Etna, almond cakes, as well as seafood and fresh fish. A small market enlivened by colourful "vanniate", catchy phrases in Sicilian dialect, shouted to attract customers.



Piazza Duomo: One of the most famous squares on the website as it is one of the most beautiful squares in Italy! Surrounded by magnificent baroque palaces it is the core of the civil and religious life of Ortygia, the ancient city of Syracuse, a UNESCO heritage.



DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

After lunch, the itinerary continues further south to an *Aroma Farm*: on a hill that gently descends to the sea, lays a farm that grows herbs and aromas. You will experience an emotional olfactory tour that will guide you through dozens of aromas, ornamental plants, medical herbs, that you will be able to touch, smell and in some cases taste! The itinerary finishes with an aperitif in countryside to complete this travel of senses.



Now it's just a short drive to your hotel in **Ragusa** for the following two nights.

DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

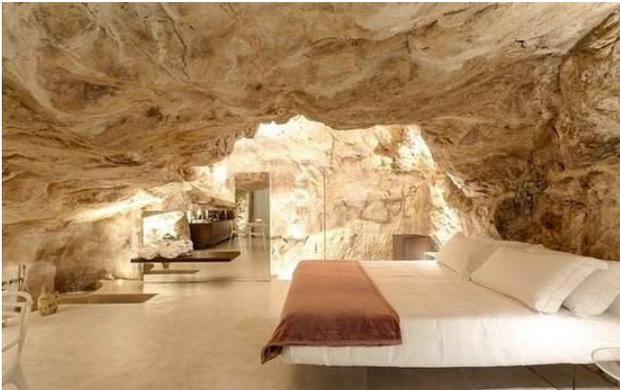
www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Check-in at the Boutique Hotel and refresh.



For dinner you either choose a restaurant in the center of Ragusa (beautiful both at day and at night),



Or option for the in-house Michelin** Restaurant, where you either choose the tasting menu or à la carte.



DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DAY 5: BAROQUE, BAROQUE, BAROQUE

The Sicilian Baroque, our last heritage from the island's nobility in gradual decline, gives us today a great impression that will last forever in our memories.

We see stone buildings in the sun, the light playing with sculpted surfaces, niches, and sinuous columns rising in the sky... The Sicilian Baroque is fusion between earth and sky: the white and the intense ocher of the churches and palaces, together with the blue background, create a unique and fascinating mix.

You will walk through the streets in **Noto**, **Modica** and **Ragusa** and getting face to face with the imposing and outlined shapes of the great Sicilian Baroque is an experience that cannot be explained in words: it must be experienced! Of course always escorted by your private guide.



Enjoy a tasting of the world famous chocolate of Modica - learn about Ragusa, the city of the two souls: the modern city and the ancient Ibla, its Baroque lounge - discover the heart of Italian Baroque in Noto.



Return to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 6: CERAMICS & POTTERY WORKSHOP BEFORE VISITING THE VALLEY OF TEMPLES

After check out your driver will pick you up and start the transfer to the Valley of Temples. But before, another highlight awaits you: A ceramic and pottery workshop!

A remarkable experience in Caltagirone, the Sicilian town worldwide famous for its ceramics and potteries. You'll enter in a old workshop next to the city center and the famous "scalinata". You'll touch with your hands the clay and make your own creation. An expert maker will follow you step by step teaching you history, techniques and secrets of this traditional heritage.



Continue your tour to Agrigento, home to the world-famous **Valle dei Templi**, or Valley of the Temples for a visit of this unique archeological site.



DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

The rediscovery of Akragas began towards the end of the eighteenth century, when the first European travellers reached Sicily, discovering an unexpected and immense artistic, archaeological heritage.

In a almost enchanted valley, full of almond trees in bloom, it is the most impressive group of monuments of all of Magna Greece. The unique charm of this site is in this blend of cultural environment and natural landscape.

The Valley of the Temples is certainly the most important testimony of the ancient, classical culture of Sicily. It brings together the temples of gods goddesses as well as the area of the necropolis and sanctuaries outside the walls.



DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldarò (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Your hotel for tonight is *right in the Valley of Temples*, enjoy your room and view. Dinner at the hotel.



DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DAY 7: SWIM AT SCALA DEI TURCHI BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO MOUNT ETNA

After breakfast and check out you will enjoy a very short drive to the idillic **Scala dei Turchi**, a spectacular stretch of coast that thanks to its peculiarity has become an icon of the Sicilian seaside tourism.



The rock of this white cliff is made of a soft limestone and a blinding white marl. The nature, as a great artist, has worked this material over time, making it soft and sinuous, with the help of the sea and the salty breeze, creating terraces and smoothing every corner. When you ascend the staircase, you will have the feeling of being in Wonderland, on a huge white meringue. The sea, taking advantage of this sparkling white, will be showing off his blue. A very intense blue, and while sitting on the steps admiring the sea, you will be surrounded by the most pleasant thoughts.



After you dried up your private car will drive you direction north-east to the bottom of Mount Etna. On the way it will be possible to visit the gorgeous roman **Villa del Casale**, a monument of great historical and artistic value of the late Roman Empire. It has those special characteristics of residence and representation, due to both the complexity of the architectural layout and the richness of the decoration, typical of many large Roman villas built in different regions of the empire.



The very impressive mosaic complex has been the reason to include the villa in the list of *Unesco World Heritage Sites* making it one of the most important examples of the "Villa" architectural style, which combines on the one hand high-quality residential characteristics and on the other hand functional elements for productive activities related to its rural location: oliculture, viticulture, cereal cultivation, farm animals, etc.



Enjoy an olive oil tasting in an oil mill and an excellent lunch based on local products!

DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Arrive at your hotel for the next 2 nights, an extraordinary Sicilian boutique hotel. The historic estate is located on the slopes of Mount Etna and offers dramatic views over the volcano and the Mediterranean, making this countryside boutique hotel a very special place. Full of extraordinary charm and natural beauty, this spot was originally chosen by the monks of St Anne's order in the 18th Century, and the estate was restored with great care. Explore the romantic, terraced gardens, stroll through the 46-hectare estate, visit the farm and vineyards, relax by the pretty pool, and discover its unique atmosphere for yourself.



Enjoy a traditional gourmet dinner at the hotel.

DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com

DAY 8: ASCEND MOUNT ETNA!

After breakfast your private car will drive you up to 1900m asl at the basecamp of Mount Etna, the highest volcano in Europe, and one of most active of the world. Its impressive size (more than 3327 meters high with an average basal diameter of 40 km) overlooks the whole region. The spectacular eruptions and its fiery lava flows have always aroused the interest of scientists along with the curiosity of visitors from all over the world.

Since 2013 it is in the Unesco's World Heritage List for its geological peculiarities of planetary relevance.



From 1900m you will take the cable car that will transfer you up to 2.500m asl and then a 4X4 Jeep to reach 2.950m asl. There is when the fun begins: a certificate guide will accompany you another 400m higher to the top to the Vulcano's crater (about 1h 30' hiking). From there you will continue the tour of the craters, learn about the vulcano's peculiarities, see its recent lava flows, and enjoy a pic nic on top of the vulcano! Continue hiking around and then descend again to 2.500m where you will take the cable car down to the car parking.



DREAM BEYOND

LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Return the hotel in the afternoon for either a yoga lesson, or a wine tasting, or (if you're not too tired from the hiking) a horse ride around the countryside. Or simply relax by the pool. Dinner at the hotel.



DAY 9: ALLA PROSSIMA!

See you next time! Time to pack your bags and check out, your driver will get you to the airport for your flight home.

DREAM BEYOND SRLS
Via Maria Teresa 4B - Caldaro (BZ) - Italy
VAT: IT02966190213

www.dream-beyond.com

info@dream-beyond.com