



FROM IBLEAN CANYONS TO BAROQUE CURVES

An itinerary on this mythical island, between archaeological sites and baroque architecture. You will explore the south-east coastline as well as the hinterland passes, the Erei mountains and the Val di Noto which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. Along the trip you will discover beautiful towns like Caltagirone, famous for the handicraft ceramics, Palazzolo Acreide, Modica, Scicli, Ragusa Ibla and Noto, the most important of the baroque cities in Sicily, Piazza Armerina, known for the mosaics of the Roman Villa del Casale, and Syracuse, one of the capital of the Greek colonies of the Magna Grecia. Along the coast you will see the bird and wildlife sanctuary "Oasi di Vendicari", the fishing village Marzamemi, the islands of Capo Passero and Isola delle Correnti.

Day 1: **Caltagirone**

Individual arrival at Caltagirone, handover of the information material and explanation of the tour.

Day 2: **Circular stage, 96 km**

Departure from Caltagirone you cycle along streets with low traffic until you arrive at Piazza Armerina. Possibility to visit the Roman Villa del Casale, discovered only 1950, unique example of Roman pavements decorated with multicoloured mosaics. After the visit return to Caltagirone.

Day 3: **Caltagirone – Palazzolo Acreide, 71/92 km**

Today's itinerary is various and interesting both from historical as natural point of view. The first stop is Vizzini, a small town in which the writer Giovanni Verga let some of his novels take place. From Vizzini you continue to the plateau with its deep canyons that are called "cave" in this area. One of the most interesting canyons is the Valle dell'Anapo which is surrounded by the villages Ferla, Cassaro and Palazzolo Acreide. This stage is characterized by a continuous up and down.

Day 4: **Palazzolo Acreide – Modica, 62 km**

After visiting the historical center of Palazzolo Acreide you cycle through the beautiful territory of the Monti Iblei, a unique landscape, where rugged and wild areas alternate with pleasant green scenery, characterized by the typical stonewalls. This quite short stage allows you also to visit one of the architectural jewels of the area, Ragusa Ibla.

Day 5: **Modica –Noto, 107 km**

Today's stage is quite easy. You start slightly downhill in a beautiful Iblei Canyon you arrive in Scicli. After a visit of the center, you continue to the south coast until you arrive at the Isola delle Correnti, which marks the watershed between the Ionian and the Mediterranean Sea, continuing to Portopalo di Capo Passero, the southernmost city of Sicily, the ancient fishing village Marzamemi and the wildlife sanctuary of Vendicari, a wonderful and uncontaminated coast full of interesting plants and rare birds. After this you will continue to the most famous baroque town, Noto.

Day 6: **Noto – Siracusa, 65 km**

You start uphill to San Corrado and arrive in Noto Antica, on the Monte Alveria. From Noto Antica continue until you arrive at the vista point of the nature reserve Cava Grande del Cassibile (505 mt.), interesting also for the archaeological remains. The landscape is dominated by the deepest European Canyon (300 mt) and its steep walls. Return to the road and continue in direction north to Syracuse.

Day 7: **Visit of the historical center of Syracuse**

Visit of the fascinating Island Ortigia, the historical and cultural center of the city. The Old Town of Syracuse captivates immediately with more than 3000 years of history and archaeological evidence of practically all great civilizations of the Mediterranean.

Day 8: Individual departure

Individual departure or extension with additional days

Self-guided Tour:

Departures every Saturday from February 2nd, to November 9th, 2019. Departure on other weekdays possible on request. Minimum 2 participants

Rates:

Accommodation Comfort (3 or 4 star hotels, high quality B&B in Caltagirone)

- Base package per Person in double room € 700
- Single room supplement € 230
- Extra night in Caltagirone in double room per person € 50
- Extra night in Caltagirone in single room € 75
- Extra night in Siracusa in double room per person € 60
- Extra night in Siracusa in single room € 90
- Supplement High Season (July and August) € 110

- Half Board Supplement (drinks excluded) € 190
- Single participant supplement € 120
- Bike rental with Shimano 105 € 120

Transfer per person, min 2 pax (to be paid on site):

- from Catania airport to Caltagirone € 45
- from Siracusa to Catania airport € 35

Special rates for more than four participants on request.

The transfers are carried out by Ciclofree or persons/transport companies for Ciclofree.

The rate includes:

- 7 nights with breakfast in 3 or 4 star hotels, high quality B&B in Caltagirone
- detailed maps of the route and roadbook with detailed description of the route (1 set per room)
- luggage transportation
- assistance by telephone

Rate does not include:

- helmet rental
- transfer to/from airport
- dinner and lunch
- wine tasting, entrance fees, tips
- city tax
- anything not mentioned above under "Rate includes"

Cancellation policy:

28 to 14 days prior to the begin of the tour

50% of the total amount*

13 to 4 days prior to the begin of the tour

70% of the total amount *

From the third day prior to the begin or no show day

90% of the total amount *

*) transfers excluded