



Tour South-East Sicily from baroque towns to the great capital of ancient Greece

A quite enjoyable bike tour through the southeast of Sicily, tailored to your own rhythm and your interests. You will pass through the Val di Noto, where most of the towns, after destruction during the earthquake of 1693, have been completely rebuilt in unique Sicilian Baroque style, and which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. Along the trip you will discover beautiful towns like Palazzolo Acreide, **Ragusa Ibla**, Modica, Scicli and Noto, the latter considered the most important baroque town in Sicily, as well as Syracuse, one of the most important ancient Greek settlements. Along the coast you will see further highlights like the bird and wildlife sanctuary "Oasi di Vendicari", the fishing village of Marzamemi, and the small islands of Capo Passero and Isola delle Correnti. This self-guided bike tour leaves enough freedom to organize your trip as you would like but still offers the convenience of an organized tour to let you enjoy your bike vacation to the fullest.

Day 1: Palazzolo Acreide

Individual arrival at Palazzolo Acreide, handover of the bikes and the roadbook and maps with all the information you will need.

Day 2: Palazzolo Acreide – Ragusa Ibla - Modica – 50-60 km

Before you start cycling today, we suggest visiting the historical Old Town of Palazzolo Acreide, with its many baroque building and the churches San Sebastiano and San Paolo, two wonderful examples of Sicilian Baroque. Then you will 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. **The stage stops in Ragusa Ibla, one of the most beautiful baroque towns on the "Val di Noto", picturesquely located on a hilltop, and ends in Modica, another baroque jewel of our tour.** Do not miss to visit the church of San Giorgio.

Day 3: Modica – Pozzallo 34 – 48 km

Before you leave Modica you should taste the famous chocolate, e.g. spiced with hot chili peppers. The recipe has been brought from the Aztecs by the Spaniards to Sicily. Cruising downhill through a beautiful Iblei canyon, you will arrive at Scicli, another city of the "Val di Noto" and well worth a stroll through the small alleys, before you continue down to the coast to Pozzallo with its long sandy beaches. The perfect opportunity to finish the stage with a refreshing bath in the sea.

Day 4: Pozzallo – Marzamemi - 57 km

This day the road will be completely flat. You will pass through some typical wetlands, the "Patano Longarini" and "Patano Cuba", a popular stopover amongst the migratory birds on their trips between Africa and Europe. Cycling along the shore you will reach the southernmost point of Sicily, the island "Isola delle Correnti", 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 will finish your ride in San Lorenzo.

Day 5: Marzamemi – Noto - 35 km

On a flat road heading north along the coast, you will reach the entrance to the natural preserve and wildlife sanctuary "Oasi di Vendicari", a wonderful and uncontaminated coast full of interesting plants and rare birds like pink flamingos and kingfisher. You will then continue to the inland, through vineyards to Noto. Noto is the capital of Sicilian Baroque with numerous magnificent Palazzi and Churches

Day 6: Noto – Siracusa 38 – 55 km

Today you have two options. Either following the coast further up north. Or a detour through the inland to the vista point of the Cavagrande del Cassibile gorge and then a spectacular downhill with hairpins to the coast. Along the coast, you continue to Siracusa, the metropolis of ancient Greece, where you certainly will want to visit the stunning archaeological park with one of the biggest Greek theatres of the Magna Graecia. You should finish the day with a stroll through the picturesque historical centre, the Island Ortigia.

Day 7: **Siracusa**

End of tour and individual departure or extension with additional days. We recommend visiting the fascinating Ortigia island, the historical and cultural centre of the city. The Old Town of Siracusa captivates immediately with more than 3000 years of history and archeological evidence of practically all great civilizations of the Mediterranean. Also in Ortigia is the lively Fishmarket of Syracuse.

Start dates for individual tours:

Every Saturday from **January 19th to November 30th, 2019**. On request departures on other days are possible. Minimum 2 participants.

Routes:

Depending on your personal preference and fitness, on stage 1, 2 and 5 you will be able to choose between two different tracks varying in elevation profile and/or distance covered.

Tour characteristics:

The route follows mainly less frequented secondary roads. Most of the parts are flat, some are light uphill sections, but still easy to manage. This tour is suitable for all healthy persons with a little bit of bike practice.

Rates:

Accommodation "Standard" (B&B or 2-star-hotels, rural turismo in Palazzolo)

• Base package per person in double room	€ 575
• Single room supplement	€ 145
• Extra night in Palazzolo in double room per person	€ 48
• Extra night in Palazzolo in single room	€ 70
• Extra night in Syracuse in double room per person	€ 40
• Extra night in Syracuse in single room	€ 65
• High season supplement (July/August)	€ 80

Accommodation "Comfort" (3- oder 4-star-hotels)

• Base package per person in double room	€ 640
• Single room supplement	€ 200
• Extra night in Palazzolo in double room per person	€ 48
• Extra night in Palazzolo in single room	€ 70
• Extra night in Syracuse in double room per person	€ 60
• Extra night in Syracuse in single room	€ 90
• High season supplement (July/August)	€ 100

• Half Board supplement (drinks excluded)	€ 170
• Single participant supplement	€ 100
• Bike rental – City bike 24 or 27 gears	€ 85
• Bike rental Fitnessbike/Hybrid	€ 100
• Bike rental – E-Bike	€ 140
• Tandem	€ 190
• Trailer for kids (max. 40 kg)	€ 50

Child reduction (with 2 full paying pax in double room):

0-5,99 years	100%	6-10,99 years	50%
11-13,99 years	25%	over 14 years	10%

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

• from Catania airport to Palazzolo Acreide	€ 45
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- from Siracusa to Catania airport

€ 35

The transfers are carried out by Ciclofree or persons/transport companies for Ciclofree. Group rates on request for transfer for min 4 pax.

The Base package includes:

- accomodation with breakfast for 6 nights in chosen category
 - luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
 - detailed maps and road book (1 set per room)
 - Assistance by telephone

Base package does not include:

- helmet rental
- transfer to/from airport
- dinner and lunch
- wine tastings, 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