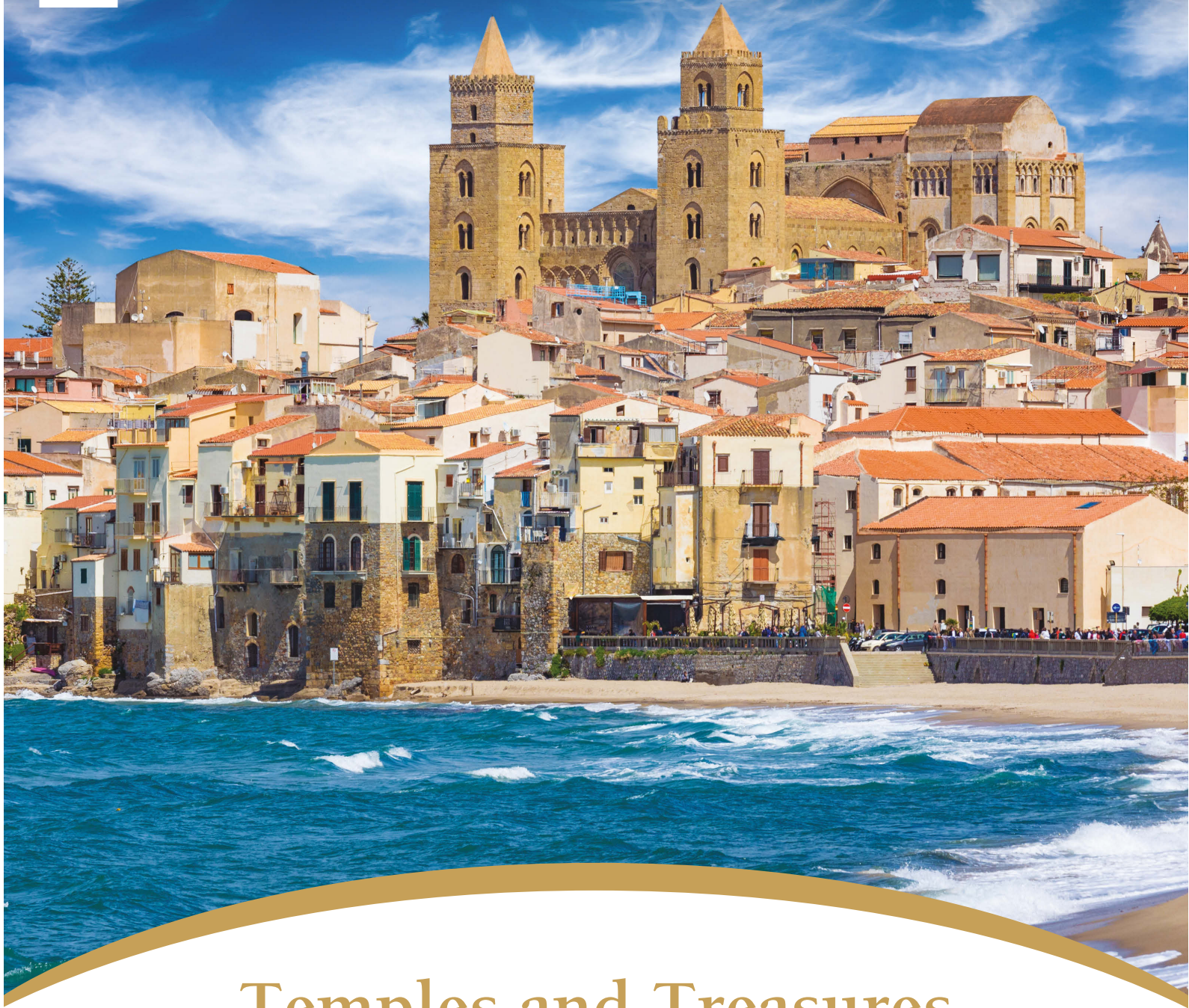




Pleasant Hill Rec & Park District AND
TravelCenter Tours & Travel present...

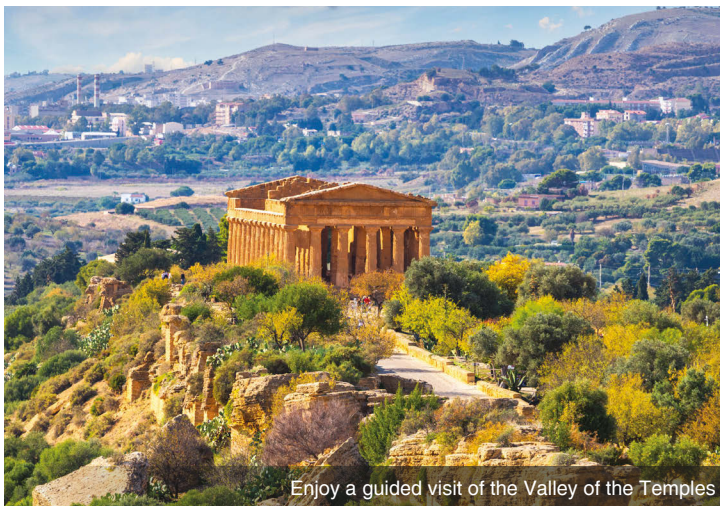


Temples and Treasures of Sicily and Malta

Departure Date: October 4, 2023



Temples and Treasures of Sicily and Malta



Enjoy a guided visit of the Valley of the Temples



Mount Etna makes the perfect backdrop to Taormina

DAY 1 Depart the USA: Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Palermo, Sicily.

DAY 2 Palermo, Sicily: Benvenuto! Upon arrival, you'll be met by a Mayflower Cruises and Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free to begin experiencing the local surroundings. This evening, join your tour Manager and fellow travelers for dinner at the hotel. **Meal: D**

DAY 3 Palermo / Monreale: Begin the day with a discovery of Palermo, home to Byzantine mosaics, Arabesque domes, and frescoed cupolas. During the guided tour, visit the impressive Norman Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Torre Pisana (Pisan Tower) is home to the Astronomical Observatory since 1791 and one of the last surviving castle towers of the area. The ornate interior of the palace's chapel features amazing glittering gold mosaics depicting biblical scenes and inlaid marble floors. See the Royal Apartments and King Roger's Salon with its magnificent decorations and animal mosaics. The outside of the palace is also stunning with its exotic garden, laid out like an art exhibition. The Ficus Macrophylla that 'embraces a domestic pine' is the centerpiece of this tranquil setting. In the city center, visit the famous Ballaró Market, the city's busiest street market and a fascinating mix of sounds, scents, and local life. Enjoy lunch on your own in this bustling area before departing for Monreale. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cathedral of Monreale is one of the most beautiful Norman churches in Sicily and its greatest cultural treasure whose Byzantine mosaics are among the most magnificent in the world. Return to Palermo for an evening at leisure. **Meal: B**

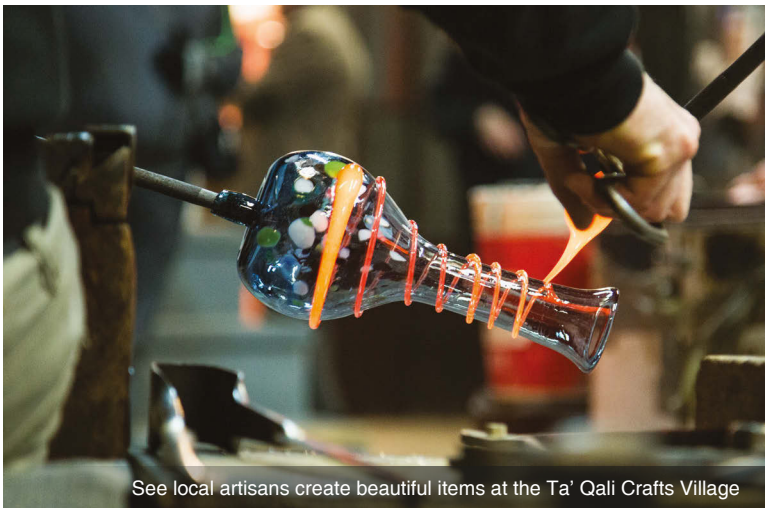
DAY 4 Agrigento and Valley of the Temples – Taormina: Departing Palermo, travel to Taormina with sightseeing enroute. A guided visit of the Valley of the Temples, one of the country's most historical attractions, showcases an outstanding example of Magna Graecia art and architecture. Encompassing the ruined ancient city of Akragas, it's highlighted by the stunningly well-preserved Doric Tempio della Concordia, one of several ridge-top temples, resembling the Parthenon in Athens.

Continue to Piazza Armerina with free time for lunch on your own in this art-filled city. Arrive in Taormina where dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **Meals: B, D**

DAY 5 Syracuse and Taormina: Journey by coach to Syracuse for a guided walking tour in the old town of Ortygia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the 'historical heart of Syracuse'. Explore the Archaeological Park of Neapolis and see the majestic ruins of the Greek Temple of Apollo. Discover the mythology tied to the legendary Fountain of Aretusa, see the Greek Theater, one of the largest in the world, with seats carved out of living rock and the Roman Amphitheater which was home to duels fought by gladiators. Visit the Latomia del Paradiso and marvel at the Ear of Dionysus – a cavern famous for its acoustics and the sheer beauty of nature. Return to Taormina for a guided tour of this city spectacularly perched on the side of a mountain. Visit the ancient Greek-Roman theatre, still used to this day, and see Mount Etna in the distance. See the Duomo – the symbol of the city, the main square and stroll along the Corso Umberto. You'll have time to browse in the local shops before returning to the hotel for an evening at leisure. **Meal: B**

DAY 6 Mount Etna: Depart the hotel by coach for Mount Etna – the highest active volcano in Europe. Ascend by coach to the base station Rifugio Sapienza at approximately 5900 feet, from where you can explore the now extinct 'Monti Silvestri Craters'. Admire a variety of landscapes created over the centuries that now represent a unique place where nature, culture and history combine. After visiting the volcano travel to a local farm for a visit of the vineyards followed by a wine-tasting and lunch of traditional cuisine. The remainder of the day is free of planned activities. **Meals: B, L**

DAY 7 Sicily – Malta: It's time to depart Sicily for Malta. At the port of Pozzallo, board a high-speed catamaran for the journey of approximately 90 minutes across the Ionian Sea. Travel to Valletta for a guided walking tour of this capital city. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's an open-air museum. While strolling through the streets, notice how the city is modern while preserving its



See local artisans create beautiful items at the Ta' Qali Crafts Village

past. The ruins of the opera House, ravaged by bombs in WWII, have been transformed into an open-air concert venue. Modern designer stores are intermingled with those selling locally produced handicrafts. View the Grand Harbor from the terrace of the Upper Barrakka Gardens and see the historic towns of 'Three Cities' in the distance. Walk past Auberge de Castille, the office of the Prime Minister, and see St. John's Cathedral. At the end of the tour, arrive at the hotel for check in and dinner. **Meals: B, D**

DAY 8 Valletta: Today's experience is a cultural immersion into local life. Along with the local guide, arrive at the Ta' Qali Crafts Village located in the former RAF wartime airfield. Observe as local artisans create beautiful items from glassblowers and goldsmiths making filigree jewelry to sculptors and lace-makers. Continue to Dingli where the limestone cliffs tower over the sea for a visit to a local farm and a traditional Maltese cooking class. While exploring the farm, select and harvest the ingredients to be used in the class as you prepare a 3-course menu and dine on your creation for lunch. **Meals: B, L**

DAY 9 Gozo: On the final day, explore the island of Gozo, a short ferry ride from Malta. Rich with lush green landscapes and rolling countryside dotted with traditional villages, Gozo offers a relaxing pace. Board the waiting motorcoach and arrive at the Ggantija Temples, the oldest free-standing stone structures in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to the famous Saltpans where the coast is characterized by a checkerboard of rock-cut salt pans protruding into the sea. In Gharb, visit a winery and meet the owners who talk about what makes their wines so unique. Afterwards, sample their vintages along with some local snacks. Continue to the capital of Victoria for a visit of the Old Citadel, rising above the capital and dominating the skyline. Return to Malta by ferry for some free time before enjoying a farewell dinner. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 10 Malta – USA: It's time to bid 'arrivederci' to Sicily and Malta as you depart the hotel on the transfer to the Valletta airport for your flight home. **Meal: B**

Itinerary subject to change.



Tour Highlights

- 15 Meals: 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 light lunch and 4 dinners
- Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- Visit 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Explore the Norman Palace in Palermo and visit the duomo in Monreale
- Experience the ancient temples of Agrigento
- Guided touring in Syracuse and Taormina
- Ascend to the base station of Mount Etna
- Local farm visit with lunch and wine-tasting
- Traverse the Malta Channel by Catamaran
- See local artisans at work in the Ta' Qali Craft Village
- Attend a cooking class of regional Maltese specialties
- Visit the Ggantija Temples and enjoy a winery tour on Gozo
- English-speaking local guides for excursions
- \$50 in Mayflower Money

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Days 2 and 3 – Palazzo Sitano, Palermo, Sicily

Days 4 through 6 – Villa Diordoro, Taormina, Sicily

Days 7 through 9 – Marriott, Valletta, Malta

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Visit the Old Citadel in Victoria, Gozo

2023 Departure	Per Person Twin	Single Room add
October 4	\$5,158	+ \$809

Pricing includes hometown Pickup from Pleasant Hill roundtrip to San Francisco Airport, roundtrip airfare from San Francisco, and the Travelers Protection Plan

Deposit amount of \$549 per person is due with reservations.

All Trips and tours are subject to change and availability. TravelCenter Tours and Travel assumes no liability for any passenger or their possessions. Specific conditions apply. CST#1002945-40.

Air itineraries may not be available until documents are received. Air seats are assigned by the airline for the entire group. Seat changes can only be attempted upon receipt of tickets and documents at which time availability may be limited. If specific seat assignments are vital to your reservation, we recommend individual air reservations rather than booking air with the group.

UPGRADE YOUR FLIGHTS TO BUSINESS CLASS FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$4,600 PER PERSON*

*Upgrades must be purchased at least 120 days prior to departure and are subject to availability. Some domestic flights within the United States and Europe may require travel in Economy class. If our contracted levels of business class are sold out, we will advise of the price of published fares, if available, at time of confirmation and before purchase. Business Class must be ticketed immediately and is non-refundable.



Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) – INCLUDED

This nonrefundable fee waives all cancellation fees when we are notified of cancellation one day before the tour departs. If you must leave the tour early due to personal illness, illness or death of a member of your immediate family, TPP guarantees full refund for any unused services after the departure of the tour. Other benefits include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, 24 hour hot line, and lost or stolen baggage assistance. Return air transportation is included ONLY if your air tickets were provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours. If you purchase the optional Travelers Protection Plan (TPP), you will be refunded all payments, including deposit amount, less the TPP premium amount.

Cancellation Charges Without Traveler's Protection Plan (TPP)

- 91 days or more Deposit Amount
- 90 to 45 days prior 20% of tour cost
- 44 to 15 day prior 30% of tour cost
- 14 to 1 day prior 40% of tour cost
- Day 1 of departure 100% of tour cost or early departure from tour
- No refund on unused portions of the tour



Exclusions: Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its refund and cancellation policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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