

SICILY: UNIQUE IN THE WORLD TOUR
Walkaway Treks with Charles Whitlock

It may not be difficult to picture yourself in Sicily with its incredible history and magnificent landscapes, coupled with charming villages and towns. We add to this exception walks, local culinary flavors, and an opportunity to visit in-depth Italy's largest island. Trust that Sicily is a fertile mix of many cultures, diverse stark panoramas, pristine beaches, all coupled with a fierce independence, and you have the essence of the Sicilian experience. Come with Charles Whitlock on his second Sicily tour as Walkaway Treks delves deeply into "Sicily: Unique in the World!"

Toronto	April 12	AC 890	Depart:	20:50
Rome FCO	April 13		Arrive:	11:15
Rome FCO	April 13	AZ 1795	Depart:	17:10
Palermo			Arrive:	18:15

Saturday, April 13 **Palermo** **(D)**

Arrival, meet our local walking tour manager, and transfer to Trapani for a 3-night stay at Baglio Santa Croce
<https://www.bagliosantacroce.it/en/> Later dinner included

Sunday, April 14 **Parco dello Zingaro North (San.Vito) – Scopello**
Temple of Segesta – Erice **(B, D)**

Today we drive to the northern entrance of the Parco dello Zingaro where we start walking toward the southern entrance. A beautiful coastal walk following a trail under majestic limestone mountains, through subtropical vegetation overlooking gorgeous turquoise-blue bays. Here we will also have time to wonder around the quaint hamlet of Scopello before a short drive to the Segesta for a guided tour of the beautiful temple and theater. We then continue to Erice at 751m above sea level and enjoy a guided tour through this wonderfully preserved Medieval town, with breathtaking views. Free time for a coffee at "la pasticceria di Maria" famous for the delicious pastries especially the Cannoli Siciliani. Overnight stay at Baglio Santa Croce, Valderice.
(Distance: 6km; ascent 335m; descent 306m)

Monday, April 15 **Levanzo – Trapani** **(B, D)**

We start with a drive to the Port of Trapani where the hydrofoil takes us to Levanzo, the third of the archipelago's islands, which holds the Egadis' greatest treasure: a gallery of prehistoric frescos painted between 10,000 and 6000 BC, which were discovered in a grotto in 1949. The walk today is a beautiful walk across the island to the grotto and then wrap around the other side. Return to Trapani with free time to wonder to around the town, shop (the lovely coral jewelry stores) or admire the beautiful architecture. Overnight stay at Baglio Santa Croce, Valderice.
(Distance: 8km; ascent 192m; descent 186m)

Tuesday, April 16 **Palermo - Monreale – Cefalù** **(B, L)**

Today we travel to Palermo for a guided tour through the bustling markets and streets of this fascinating city. Evidence of the history and architecture of the Normans, Arabs and Phoenicians can be found throughout. Lunch at a roadside seafood restaurant where the locals eat. This afternoon we visit Monreale, the 12thC Norman Cathedrals with its breathtaking mosaics, one of the wonders of the world. We end our day at Cefalu for

a three (3) night stay at Hotel Riva del Sole
<https://www.rivadelsole.com/hotel-riva-del-sole-cefalu-english/>

Wednesday, April 17 **Cefalù** **(B, D)**

This morning we enjoy a guided tour of the historical town with its majestic Arab / Norman Cathedral. As this is a bit of a more relaxing day, we offer an optional walk on the Rock of Cefalu – the balance of the afternoon is left open for individual exploration, relaxing or shopping before our group dinner this evening.
Overnight stay in Cefalù

Thursday, April 18 **Sant’Ambrogio-circular walk to the shepherd
oil tasting** **(B, L)**

Our 3-hour circular walk begins in the village of Sant’Ambrogio; initial terrain is on an old stony mule track which starts at a height of 150m, continues onto forest tracks through cork oak woods “Bosco di Guarneri” at 360 m. We stop at the shepherd Giulio for a traditional cheese demonstration, where he will detail the various stages of cheese making, with an opportunity to taste local flavors. Duration of our visit is approximately 90-minutes. We then continue on a path that contours around the mountain with views across the Madonie Mountain range, before gradually descend on to the coastal path and returning to the village of Sant’Ambrogio.
Overnight stay in Cefalù.
(Distance: 7.5km; ascent 200m; descent 200m)

Friday, April 19 **Castelbuono - Isnello - Piano Battaglia - Petralia Sottana**
(B, L, D)

Leaving Cefalù we drive through the medieval towns of the Madonie Mountains. Our first stop is in the town of Castelbuono, with its medieval castle, and well-known locally made Panettone (Italian Christmas cake), with opportunity to taste the various flavors available. After our visit a short drive takes us to the quaintest medieval town of Isnello visiting the beautiful medieval church of San Michele Arcangelo, on the way we can meet the locals sitting and chatting in the piazza. From Isnello we drive to Piano Battaglia (1,600mts), a ski resort in the winter, and in the spring and summer, the high meadows are covered with wildflowers. We then continue through the high Madonie Mountains with views to the northern coastline and toward the Aeolian Islands. Our final stop is in Petralia Sottana, where we visit Mirco, the first violin maker workshop of the Madonie. He makes musical instruments belonging to the Sicilian musical tradition (in particular, wind instruments like “piffere”, “zampogne”, “flauti di canna”).
3-night stay at Villa Raino, Gangi <https://www.villaraino.it/>

Saturday, April 20 **Gangivecchio to Sperlinga** **(B, L, D)**

Morning drive to Sperlinga (30mins) where we visit the troglodyte dwellings and Saracen Castle which is set high on a buttress of rock before commencing the walk initially on asphalt road which eventually becomes concrete. The first hour of the walk is a gradual uphill on the road, at times uneven then downhill to arrive at a farm. The walk continues farmland tracks through fields, eventually arriving on wide track partially asphalt and concrete. Views of Mt. Etna and the Madonie Mountains. At the end of the walk a short drive takes us to the town of Gangi named in 2014 “the most beautiful town in Italy.” Here we enjoy a guided walking tour of the town discovering the towns origins and traditions, including the famous mafia legend about the “Queen of Gangi.” Overnight stay at Villa Raino
(Distance: 12km; ascent 450m; descent 320m)

Sunday, April 21 Geraci to Petralia Soprana (B, L, D)

This walk starts below the medieval town of Geraci at 1077m. Before we commence our walk we meet with Mimmo the falconer. We will see a falconry display - a 'must see' - as he still uses the traditions introduced by Frederick II, the Swabian Emperor, in the 14th century. Our walk then gently continues on wide forest track through pine woods then on an animal track along the limestone mountain to reach the open alpine pastures – in the spring we can admire the vast species of wildflowers and the views towards Etna (on a clear day). We enjoy a packed lunch here. This afternoon we visit the medieval town of Petralia Soprana winner of the 2018 edition of the Most Beautiful Town in Italy. Overnight stay at Villa Raino, Gangi
(Distance: 10km; ascent 465m; descent 485m)

**Monday, April 22 Gangi - Enna - Villa Romana del Casale, Piazza
Amerina – Ortigia (B, L, D)**

An early start to visit Piazza Armerina, the extraordinary villa at Casale, and the most important relic of the Roman era in Sicily; unique for both its size and the richness of the polychrome floor mosaics. On the way we will visit the ancient city of Enna, perched on a plug of rock high above the surrounding plains also known as the "Navel of Sicily". Following this visit and lunch we depart for a 2-hour drive to our accommodation in Ortigia. 2-night stay at Hotel Posta <https://www.hotelpostasiracusa.it/en/>

Tuesday, April 23 Ortigia (B)

A morning guided tour in Ortigia starts with a vibrant visit to its bustling market, elegant baroque buildings and the most amazing cathedrals dating from the Greek period. A short drive to the Greek theater (UNESCO site) one of the finest and largest of its kind. Cut directly into the rock, it was enlarged and modified several times over the centuries and is still in use today - Greek plays are performed here in the summer months. An open afternoon and evening allow for individual exploration or an opportunity to simply relax. Overnight at Hotel Posta, Ortigia

Wednesday, April 24 Pantalica - Archeological site – Ortigia (B, L)

Today we visit the UNESCO sites of Pantalica and Siracusa. From Ortigia we drive (50 mins) to the start of our walk in Pantalica with its 5,000 simple tombs that honeycomb the limestone cliffs, resting place for some of the ancient inhabitants of Pantalica, set on high plateau with its plunging gorges. During our walk we will stop at a scenic spot for our packed lunch. After our walk we transfer (90-minute drive) to our accommodation in Castelmola/Taormina for a 2-night stay at Hotel Villa Sonia
www.hotelvillasonia.com/en/hotel-for-holiday-relax-sicily
(Distance: 10.4km; ascent: 300m; descent: 331m)

Thursday, April 25 Taormina (B, D)

From our accommodation we walk down to Taormina where we explore the most well-known tourist destination in Sicily. Our guided walking tour through the elegant medieval streets are lined with bougainvillea, once a haven for the world famous writers, poets, musicians and painters who were inspired by her beauty. We learn the history of the magnificent Greek / Roman theater. A free open afternoon before our farewell dinner in a local restaurant.
Overnight stay at Hotel Villa Sonia

Friday, April 26 **Depart for Catania Airport (B)**

A packed breakfast before a very early departure for the 45-minute drive to the airport and our departure back home.

Catania	April 26	AZ 1736	Depart:	07:00
Rome FCO			Arrive:	08:25
Rome FCO	April 26	AC 891	Depart:	14:30
Toronto			Arrive:	18:00

TOUR MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION: 16 passengers

Tour Pricing Includes:

- A) Tour manager and escort Charles Whitlock
- B) Flights as listed with Air Canada and ITA including all air taxes
- C) Private transfers for all included walks, airports, etc. based on our schedule
- D) Excellent accommodation throughout including breakfast (B)
- E) Meals as listed - lunch / picnic lunch or snack (L) and dinner (D)
- F) Special farewell dinner
- H) Local tour manager and guides
- I) Entry fees as listed in the itinerary

This price does not include: Meals not indicated, drinks except tea/coffee with dinner and gratuities

Terms and Conditions

Tour cost per person twin / double:	\$ 7,595 Canadian
Single Surcharge:	\$ 715 Canadian – Limited
Land only per person twin / double:	\$ 6,160 Canadian**
** includes inter-Italy flights	

Deposit Requirement:	\$1,500 Canadian per person
Final payment due:	February 2, 2024

Cancellation penalties:	
From date of booking to January 12	\$500 per person
From January 13 to February 1	loss of deposit paid
From final payment date to departure	100% non-refundable

SPECIAL NOTE:

In the event that we are able to find a replacement from waitlists or other requests received for the land tour between date of booking and 31-days prior to date of departure, a flat \$50.00 p.p. administration charge will be accessed.

Full tour information on our web site: worldwide.on.ca/sicily2024

Exclusive reservations through:



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