

Old World Sicily & Malta

Highlights...

Malta • Grand Harbour Boat Ride • Valletta • Ferry to Sicily • Aromatic Herb Farm Visit • Ragusa-Ibla • Siracusa • Mount Etna Off-Road Excursion • Taormina's Greek Theatre



12 Days • 15 Meals: 10 Breakfasts • 2 Lunches • 3 Dinners

Cultural Connections

- Ascend the sides of Mount Etna (UNESCO) in off-road vehicles.
- Soak up the island ambiance of Malta with a 4-night stay in Sliema.
- Delve into Maltese culture during a tour of a traditional limestone village.

Must-See Highlights

- Explore Valletta (UNESCO), the capital of the Knights of Malta, a city "built by gentlemen for gentlemen."
- Pass by Baroque architecture and wrought iron balconies on a winding walking tour of Ragusa (UNESCO).
- Spend 3 nights in Taormina (UNESCO) and explore its iconic Greek theatre.

Culinary Experiences

- Pause for a Sicilian *cappuccino* and pastry breakfast at a local "bar."
- Explore the flavors of Maltese cuisine during a family-style dinner at a local band club.
- Visit a family-owned organic herb farm and enjoy a lunch flavored with delicious aromatic plants.

Day 1: Overnight Flight

You're on your way to Malta and Sicily – legendary isles nestled amongst the deep blue waves of the Mediterranean. Discover how ancient traditions blend into modern society as you travel along timeless Italian and Maltese towns.

Day 2: Sliema, Malta

Start your journey with a 4-night stay in Sliema, a welcoming Maltese resort town with a lively waterfront promenade. As travelers' arrival times will vary, we have not included any sightseeing today. Spend the day as you wish, exploring the city independently. Stretch your legs and take in views of Marsamxett Harbour and Manoel Island. Uncover Malta's deeply rooted heritage, teeming with mysterious prehistoric temples and Renaissance architectural masterpieces. This evening, get to know your fellow travelers over a welcome dinner. *Today dinner will be included.*

Day 3: Sliema - Valletta - Sliema

Begin your adventure with a panoramic sailing of Valletta's (UNESCO) Grand Harbour aboard traditional *dghajsa* boats* before exploring the Maltese capital during a walking tour led by a local expert. View the skyline of the Three Cities from the Upper Barrakka Gardens and take in the elegant profile of the Grand Master's Palace. Then, enjoy some free time to explore on your own. This afternoon, visit the private home of a modern-day Knight of Malta before hopping on the local ferry* back to Sliema for an evening at leisure. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Sliema - Maltese Village Experience

Enjoy a morning at leisure. Perhaps you'll join a half-day optional tour to Mdina – the "Silent City" and Malta's ancient capital. This afternoon, immerse yourself in Maltese traditions as you board a retro bus for a village where daily life and customs remain unchanged. Experience an **Impact Moment** as you are hosted for dinner at a local band club. Band clubs have a special place in the community. A source of intense pride and with a solid place in Maltese social culture, the band club's premises are an ideal meeting point for locals to exchange gossip, play a game of pool, or engage in village *fešta* activities. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 5: Sliema

The entire day is yours. With free time, you might choose to relax in Sliema or venture back to Valletta for a visit to Caravaggio's masterpiece housed in Saint John's Co-Cathedral. Or, join an optional full day exploration of the Isle of Gozo,* the second-largest island of the Maltese archipelago and home to Ggantija temple complex (UNESCO), which is older than Stonehenge. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 6: Sliema - Ferry to Sicily - Ragusa, Italy

Early this morning, grab your bags** and hop on a ferry*** to Sicily. Pause in the seaside town of Pozzallo for a Sicilian breakfast. As in most of Italy, breakfast in Sicily is a simple but tasty affair, traditionally consisting of a pastry and *cappuccino*. Continue your culinary exploration of the Sicilian countryside with an **Impact Moment** at a visit to a family-owned herb farm to learn about their sustainable production of organic aromatic plants. Then, during lunch, enjoy dishes enlivened with herbs grown on the farm. A delightful way to experience the region's unique and delicious flavors. This afternoon, settle into your hotel for a leisurely 3-night stay in the heart of Ragusa. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 7: Ragusa - Ragusa-Ibla - Ragusa

Explore Ragusa-Ibla (UNESCO), a time-worn city perched upon a hill. Meander through its late-Baroque neighborhood with an expert guide, passing by winding lanes, cobblestone streets, and wrought iron balconies. Make the most of a free afternoon to explore on your own. As the sun sets, linger in town for dinner on your own. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 8: Ragusa

The day is yours to do as you please. With free time, you might choose to relax in Ragusa. Perhaps you will join an optional tour to the picture-perfect towns of Scicli and Modica (UNESCO), where you'll enjoy a savory brunch featuring fresh ricotta at a countryside restaurant before venturing to an Aztec chocolate shop for some sweet samples. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 9: Ragusa - Siracusa - Taormina

Take in the rugged landscape of southeastern Sicily en route to Siracusa (UNESCO). Then, **it's your choice!** Explore the fascinating streets of Ortigia and find out more about local culture and traditions in the company of a local expert **-OR-** take in the views of the old town during a panoramic boat ride. This afternoon, relax during a bus transfer to Taormina, a charming resort town perched high above the Mediterranean Sea. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 10: Taormina - Mount Etna - Taormina

See Sicily's wilder side on an off-road adventure to Mount Etna (UNESCO). Stare up at the iconic peak as your vehicle climbs along the sides of Europe's largest active volcano. Spend the day exploring this legendary giant, passing by lava formations and basalt rocks before pausing for lunch at a local home. Back in Taormina, enjoy an evening at leisure. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 11: Taormina

Discover Taormina with a local guide, leading you to the city's Duomo, public gardens, and the well-preserved Greek theatre. Walk in the footsteps of ancient attendees and take in an unparalleled viewpoint of the adjacent ocean. Enjoy a free afternoon in town. Perhaps you'll grab a bite to eat at a sidewalk café or peruse the local boutiques for handcrafted souvenirs. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers as you recount memories of the Mediterranean islands accompanied by Sicilian food at dinner, surrounded by local musicians. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 12: Taormina - Tour Ends

Say goodbye to Sicily and the Mediterranean as your tour comes to a close today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Experience It! Malta

Malta may be small in size, but that's where its minuteness stops. Malta is south of Sicily but is only 1% of the size of the well-known Italian island. Despite its initial appearance, the country is actually made up of a set of islands, all close together. This coastal paradise preserves endless layers of history. Malta once served as the home of Neolithic farmers, it holds age-old foundations from the Middle Ages, it served as the battleground for key fights of the Knights of Malta, and the island also played a strategic role for the Allies in WWII as a base. Malta has been inhabited since 5,000 BC, and this dynamic history is woven into its modern culture. Today, you can explore this intriguing past as well as soak up the sunshine on this relaxing Mediterranean getaway.

Your itinerary at a glance

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2 – 5	Land's End Boutique Hotel, Tas-Sliema
Days 6 – 8	San Giorgio Palace Hotel, Ragusa
Days 9 – 11	Excelsior Palace Hotel, Taormina
On some dates alternate hotels may be used.	

Explorations: These small group tours give travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersive journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small, allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible.

Important Tour Information:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Agility is required to board the local boats and ferries used in Malta as well as boarding the off-road vehicles used for the Mount Etna excursion.

**Travelers are responsible for handling their own luggage when getting on and off the ferry to Sicily. The distance you need to cover carrying your luggage may range between 100 and 200 yards, and there are no luggage trolleys available in the ports.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

You should expect large crowds in Valletta and Taormina. Both visits require the ability to walk a minimum of 1.5 miles over cobblestone streets with steep inclines and stairs with no handrails. The cities of Mdina, Ragusa,

Modica, Scicli, and Siracusa present similar conditions.

The Mount Etna excursion includes an ascent to 6500 feet / 1981 meters above sea level.

***Depending on the ferry schedule to Sicily, you may depart your hotel as early as 4:00 a.m. Due to the early departure time, breakfast will not be available at the hotel this morning. A cafeteria is available aboard the ferry. Upon arrival in Sicily, you will stop for a continental breakfast at a local café. In the case of adverse sea conditions, the ferry to Sicily may be delayed or cancelled resulting in partial reduction of your time on the island. In case of this event, there will be a replacement accommodation arranged and a comparable program on Malta.

Most shops and businesses in Malta and Italy are closed on Sundays and on observances of national, local, or religious holidays.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Foreign countries do not have to comply with the ADA rules.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

*Traditional *dghajsa* boats are small, each one seating approximately 5-7 people. Sailing is weather dependent and may be postponed or cancelled in case of adverse weather or sea conditions. Local ferries to Sliema and Gozo are also weather and sea dependent and may be cancelled or postponed as required. The isle of Gozo can only be reached by ferry which may result in a day swap or a cancellation of the optional tour.

Our return transfers will depart from Taormina to Catania airport.

To complete your tour, we include round-trip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Our air travelers will depart from Catania airport.

Please be advised, many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Prepaid tipping is not available on our tours therefore payment of customary end-of-trip gratuities for your Tour Manager, driver, local guides, hotel housekeepers, and cruise ship waitstaff should be handled individually when applicable during the course of your tour.

For your comfort, we recommend bringing comfortable walking shoes.

Travel Requirements:

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged

to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Collette will provide all necessary information, updates, and supporting documents for your travel requirements, including visa and Electronic Travel Authorizations (ETAs), if required, approximately 60-90 days prior to your departure.

ETIAS visa waiver requirements are anticipated to begin during the last quarter of 2026, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

Optional Hotel Upgrade Available

June 1, 2026 – June 5, 2027 \$360.00 per person, double, land only

During your stay at the Land's End Boutique Hotel in Sliema, you may choose to enjoy views of Marsamxett Harbour and Valletta by upgrading your accommodations to a sea view room. Please inquire about this upgrade at time of booking.

Important reservation information:

***Airfare:** For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation on the day of departure and after: 100% of total price. For Ocean Cruises: For cancellation between 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will be refunded 100%. Please see your sales agent for more information, or review our brochure for details.

Responsibilities: Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Travelers may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip.

Neither Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. You agree to be bound by the conditions of carriage for all transportation providers. Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, agents, shareholders, officers, successors and assigns (collectively "Collette"), from all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which is occasioned by any negligent acts or omissions of Collette arising out of any goods or services provided for this or these trips. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. Other risks may arise such as, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in foreign countries including undeveloped areas, the hazards of travel by aircraft, bus, van, train, automobile or other motorized vehicle, differing safety standards, sickness, criminal acts committed by others, allergic reactions, and/or animal encounters. You are voluntarily participating in the tour and Collette, and as lawful consideration for the agreement to travel with Collette, you agree not to make a claim against Collette, its related companies, officers and employees for injuries, death, or any other claim and agree to release Collette, its related companies, officers and employees from any such claim. This release is binding on all members of your traveling party, as well as your Estate and heirs and this provision shall be enforceable even after your trip has ended. If you make your own air reservations, Collette is not responsible and shall provide no refund if your flight schedule changes so that you are not able to enjoy the entirety of your tour. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the Tour Manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. If you are traveling with children, you are solely responsible for their behavior and monitoring them throughout the tour. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Collette is not responsible, and will not be bound by, representations made by third party representatives, travel agents, unaffiliated websites, or any other party. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. In addition, any comments that you submit as a review or your social media posts may be used for Collette's promotional purposes.

Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Collette reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time, without notice.

Consumer Protection Plans: Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. **Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613**

