GEEO ITINERARY

Northern Sicily 3/21/2027 – Group A

Day 1: Palermo Arrive in Palermo at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The nearest airport is the Palermo's **Falcone-Borsellino Airport (PMO)**.

If your schedule allows, arrive a day or two early to spend more time in Palermo, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to have dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to get to know one another further.

> **Joining Instructions**
> There are a variety of transportation options to choose from to travel from the airport to your hotel, including a taxi, bus, and train. A **taxi** (around €35 EUR) is the quickest and most convenient travel option, as they offer 24/7 door-to-door services. The **Prestia e Comandè** bus is cheaper (€6.30 for a one-way ticket to the city center), and the **Trinacria Express** connects the Palermo airport and Palermo Centrale. The train costs €6.50, departs every 30 minutes, and takes approximately one hour.

Day 2: Palermo Set off by train for a scenic day trip to Cefalù and join your Tour Leader for an orientation walk of one of Italy's most beautiful townships. Enjoy some free time, then in the afternoon, travel back to Palermo for an orientation walk of Palermo's historic city centre.

Head to Cefalú, often cited as one of Italy's most beautiful townships, and stroll through cobbled streets to a picturesque cove by the beach. Enjoy a brief walk with your tour leader. The squares, streets, and churches of this medieval town are so postcard-pretty that it's no wonder director Giuseppe Tornatore chose to set parts of his much-loved film Cinema Paradiso here.

With free time, observe local fishermen working on their boats, or simply wander around town. Cefalù's crescent-shaped beach is one of the most popular along the whole Sicilian coast.

The Salita Saraceni is an enormous staircase that winds up through three tiers of city walls. Opt to take 30 to 45 minutes climbing up to the summit of La Rocca – from here, you'll have wonderful views of the town below.

Opt to have an aperitivo in Piazza Duomo and visit the 12th-century Duomo di Cefalù, one of the jewels in Sicily's Arab-Norman crown. Climb the towers for great views of the area.

In the afternoon, head back to Palermo and enjoy an orientation walk in the historic city center. The city has been the crossroad of many civilizations: Phoenicians, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, and Spaniards. You will see baroque and gothic façades, neoclassical theaters such as Teatro Massimo (the biggest in Italy and one of the largest in Europe), unusual squares such as Quattro Canti, and the majestic Palermo Cathedral.

You can also pre-book a food tour in Palermo for today.

Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by train.
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Palermo/Lipari Travel to the Aeolian Islands, a small archipelago of volcanic lands. Spend the next few days exploring pockets of this coastal paradise.

Travel to the Aeolian Islands, a small archipelago of volcanic lands known as “the pearls of Italy” for their intriguing natural formations and named after Aeolus, the god of the winds. Take a car and ferry to reach Lipari, the largest of the Aeolian Islands, and enjoy a free afternoon to explore. Opt to visit the island’s most popular swimming spot, the long, pebbly strip at Canneto, or take another short ferry (12 euros) to the island of Vulcano to see its active crater. The word volcano, and its equivalent in several European languages, derives from the name of this island, which in turn derives from Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle, 1 hr by ferry
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Lipari Enjoy a free morning in Lipari. Later, head out for an excursion to explore the beautiful islands of Panarea and Stromboli by boat. End the day on an unforgettable sunset cruise.

Take the morning to relax or leisurely wander through Lipari.

Later, set sail for a journey through the stunning Aeolian Islands, stopping at Panarea and Stromboli. On Panarea, visit Cala Junco beach and wander through the village. Then see Basiluzzo, the smallest of the Aeolian Islands. Continue to Stromboli and enjoy free time to explore local shops in town.

As sunset approaches, cruise back to the islet of Stombolicchio and arrive just as it starts to get dark at the Scara del Fuoco, considered the best spot for viewing Mount Stromboli’s eruptions. This is the last stop and, for many, the most awaited. (Please note: this activity begins at 2 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. We recommend bringing a sweater, as the evening breeze gets chilly aboard the boat!)

Approximate travel time: 8 hrs by boat
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5: Lipari/Catania Say goodbye to the Aeolian Islands and ferry back to the mainland, then continue to Taormina, one of Sicily's most visited destinations.

This morning, travel from Lipari to Milazzo by ferry and then finish the journey to Taormina by private vehicle.

Once in Taormina, join your tour leader for a brief introduction to this beautifully situated hilltop town, once part of the “Grand Tour” many affluent Europeans took in the 18th and 19th centuries. After the orientation walk, enjoy free time when you may opt to visit the stunning Teatro Greco, an ancient Roman amphitheater with commanding views of Mount Etna. You could also visit the Corso Umberto I, Taormina’s pedestrian-friendly, boutique-lined thoroughfare, or the Villa Comunale Gardens, beautiful public gardens that offer breathtaking views of the coast and Mt. Etna.

Finally, continue onwards to Catania for the evening.

Approximate travel time: 1 hr by ferry, 2.5 hrs by private vehicle (1.5 hrs Milazzo-Taormina, 1 hr Taormina-Catania)
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Catania Enjoy an orientation walk with your tour leader to get your bearings in Catania. Then spend the rest of the day exploring Catania and its nearby attractions. Opt to book a full-day excursion with naturalist guides on Mount Etna, or stay in town and visit La Pescheria market or walk the Via Etnea.

In the morning, your tour leader will take you around Catania so you can get your bearings and see some of the city's main sites. If something catches your eye, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to return during your free time after the walk.

The rest of the day is yours to explore. Catania's central piazza is a set piece of contrasting lava and limestone, surrounded by buildings in the unique local baroque style and crowned by the grand Cattedrale di Sant'Agata. La Pescheria, Catania's raucous fish market, takes over the streets behind Piazza del Duomo every weekday morning and is pure street theatre (open from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.).

Shoppers will enjoy a stroll through Catania's main shopping street, Via Etnea, which runs straight from Piazza del Duomo to the foothills below Etna. Visit the Giardino Bellini gardens and watch local life unfold.

You can also pre-book a food tour in Catania for today. See more details below under "Activities to Pre-Book."

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Catania Depart Catania at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Catania at any time. The nearest airport is **Catania–Fontanarossa Airport (CTA)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Catania, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

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Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Palermo (Mar 21): B&B Palermo Quattro Canti

Day 2 Palermo (Mar 22): B&B Palermo Quattro Canti

Day 3 Lipari (Mar 23): Hotel La Filadelfia

Day 4 Lipari (Mar 24): Hotel La Filadelfia

Day 5 Catania (Mar 25): Best Western Hotel Mediterraneo

Day 6 Catania (Mar 26): Best Western Hotel Mediterraneo

*__*Itinerary Disclaimer*__: *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*