GEEO ITINERARY

Southern Sicily 3/27/2027 – Group A

Day 1: Catania Arrive in Catania 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 **Catania–Fontanarossa Airport (CTA)**.

If your schedule allows, arrive a day or two early to spend more time in Catania, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins. Catania is the second-largest city in Sicily and an important economic hub. It proudly displays its heritage and culture in museums like the Basilica Sant'Agata and the Museo Civici. There are also plenty of opportunities for day trips and outdoor excursions, such as a guided tour of Mount Etna to learn about the legendary history of the ancient volcano from local naturalist guides.

If you are arriving in Catania early, you can also pre-book a food tour with us for today. See more details below under "Activities to Pre-Book."

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: Catania/Syracuse Travel to Syracuse. Take a cooking class on arrival and learn how to make Arancini, an iconic Sicilian specialty, to enjoy as a light lunch. After, go on an orientation walk with your group leader.

This morning, we travel to Syracuse, an enchanting city by the Ionian Sea that was once at the center of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. After you arrive, learn how to prepare a delicious snack enjoyed beyond the borders of Sicily: deep-fried arancini, a ball of creamy risotto rice typically filled with a savory cheese or meat filling.

Later, explore the old town's baroque piazzas and medieval side streets on an orientation walk with your group leader.

Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle
Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 3: Syracuse Enjoy a full free day in Syracuse. Opt to visit the impressive Parco Archeologico della Neapolis, or travel to nearby Noto, a UNESCO World

Heritage-listed city renowned for its baroque architecture built with unique golden limestone.

During a free day in Syracuse, opt to uncover the city's ancient past at the Parco Archeologico della Neapoli, home to Syracuse's sprawling Teatro Greco. First constructed in the 5th century BC, today visitors can wander the grounds and imagine what 2nd-century gladiator combats and horse races at the Anfiteatro Romano may have looked like.

You may also take a local bus to Noto, about an hour southwest of Syracuse, home to one of Sicily's most beautiful historic centers. Stroll through the Arco di Trionfo to reach Corso Vittorio Emanuele and visit the majestic 18th-century Noto Cathedral.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Syracuse/Agrigento Travel to the baroque city of Ragusa before heading to the medieval hilltop town of Piazza Armerina. Continue to Agrigento.

This morning, we drive to Ragusa and enjoy some free time to explore the alleyways and the squares of this hilltop city, rich with baroque architecture.

Later, we visit the world's most varied collection of Roman mosaics at Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Piazza Armerina. Dating back to the 4th century and known for their incredibly well-preserved state *in situ*, or in their original location, the mosaic tiles beautifully depict ancient scenes of hunting, fishing, and athletics. While the visit is included, you can opt to upgrade to a guided tour on-site to get more out of the mosaics.

Afterward, continue to Agrigento on Sicily's southwestern coast.

Approximate travel time: 5-5.5 hrs by private vehicle (1.75 hrs Syracuse-Ragusa, 1.75 hrs Ragusa-Piazza Armerina, 1.75 hrs Piazza Armerina-Agrigento)
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5: Agrigento/Trapani Take a guided tour of the Valley of the Temples, one of Sicily's best-known attractions. Continue to Trapani, stopping en route in Marsala to see some of Europe's oldest salt marshes.

Visit the Valley of the Temples, where you will learn the history of this magnificent site and explore the ruins of its seven temples nestled on a ridge below Agrigento. Regarded as the best example of ancient Hellenic architecture in Sicily, the archaeological site's oldest structures date back to the 5th century. Explore the ruins of the Temple of Concordia, with its majestic columns, and learn about the site's history from a local guide.

While en route to Trapani, stop in Marsala to visit some of Europe's oldest traditional salt marshes, where sea salt is still harvested in the same way it has been for hundreds of years.

Approximate travel time: 3-3.5 hrs by private vehicle (2.5 hrs Agrigento-Marsala, 45 mins Marsala-Trapani)
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Trapani Enjoy a free day to explore the charms of Trapani and its nearby towns. Opt to cruise the idyllic Egadi Islands, spend the day hiking at a nature reserve filled with local flora and fauna, or hop on a funicular to explore the

walled town of Erice.

Spend a full day exploring Trapani on your own, or opt to participate in one of the excursions below (booked and paid for locally).

Full-day Egadi Islands excursion (50-75 euros per person): The crystal-clear seas off western Sicily are home to the idyllic Aegadian islands of Favignana and Levanzo. Cruise through the coastal waters and drop anchor in beautiful spots around the islands.

Half-day Erice excursion (9 euros per person): Head to the medieval hilltop town of Erice, a walled 12th-century village perched high above the sea. Take a cable car from Trapani's city center to reach Erice and spend a few hours wandering its picturesque streets.

Full-day Riserva Naturale dello Zingaro excursion (50-70 euros per person): Visit Sicily's first nature reserve, Zingaro Nature Reserve, located about an hour from Trapani. Perfect for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts, you can spend the day hiking on spectacular trails that overlook the Mediterranean Sea.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Trapani/Palermo Travel to Monreale to visit the 11th-century Monreale Cathedral, intricately decorated with thousands of gold mosaic tiles. Continue to Palermo.

On the last full day of our program, we drive to Monreale to visit the World Heritage-listed Cattedrale di Monreale, considered one of Europe's greatest examples of Norman architecture with a heavy Moorish and Byzantine influence.

Continue on to Palermo and admire panoramic views of the Conca d'Oro (Golden Valley) and the Tyrrhenian Sea. Upon arrival, enjoy free time in Palermo or join your group leader on another orientation walk around the city center's squares and streets.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle (1.5 hrs Trapani-Monreale, 15-30 mins Monreale-Palermo)
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Palermo (B) Depart Palermo at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Palermo at any time. The nearest airport is Palermo's **Falcone-Borsellino Airport (PMO)**. If you wish to extend your stay in Palermo, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

If you are spending more time in Palermo, you can pre-book a food tour with us today. See more details below under "Activities to Pre-Book."

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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the way our programs are, but booking through GEEO means you'll receive a discounted educator rate while supporting our nonprofit work.

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 Catania (Mar 27): Best Western Hotel Mediterraneo

Day 2 Siracusa (Mar 28): Hotel Gran Bretagna Siracusa

Day 3 Siracusa (Mar 29): Hotel Gran Bretagna Siracusa

Day 4 Agrigento (Mar 30): Colleverde Park Hotel

Day 5 Trapani (Mar 31): B&B Hotel Trapani Crystal

Day 6 Trapani (Apr 1): B&B Hotel Trapani Crystal

Day 7 Palermo (Apr 2): B&B Palermo Quattro Canti

****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.*