

Inspired Expeditions

The UC Santa Cruz Travel Program for the Curious

Sicily in Depth

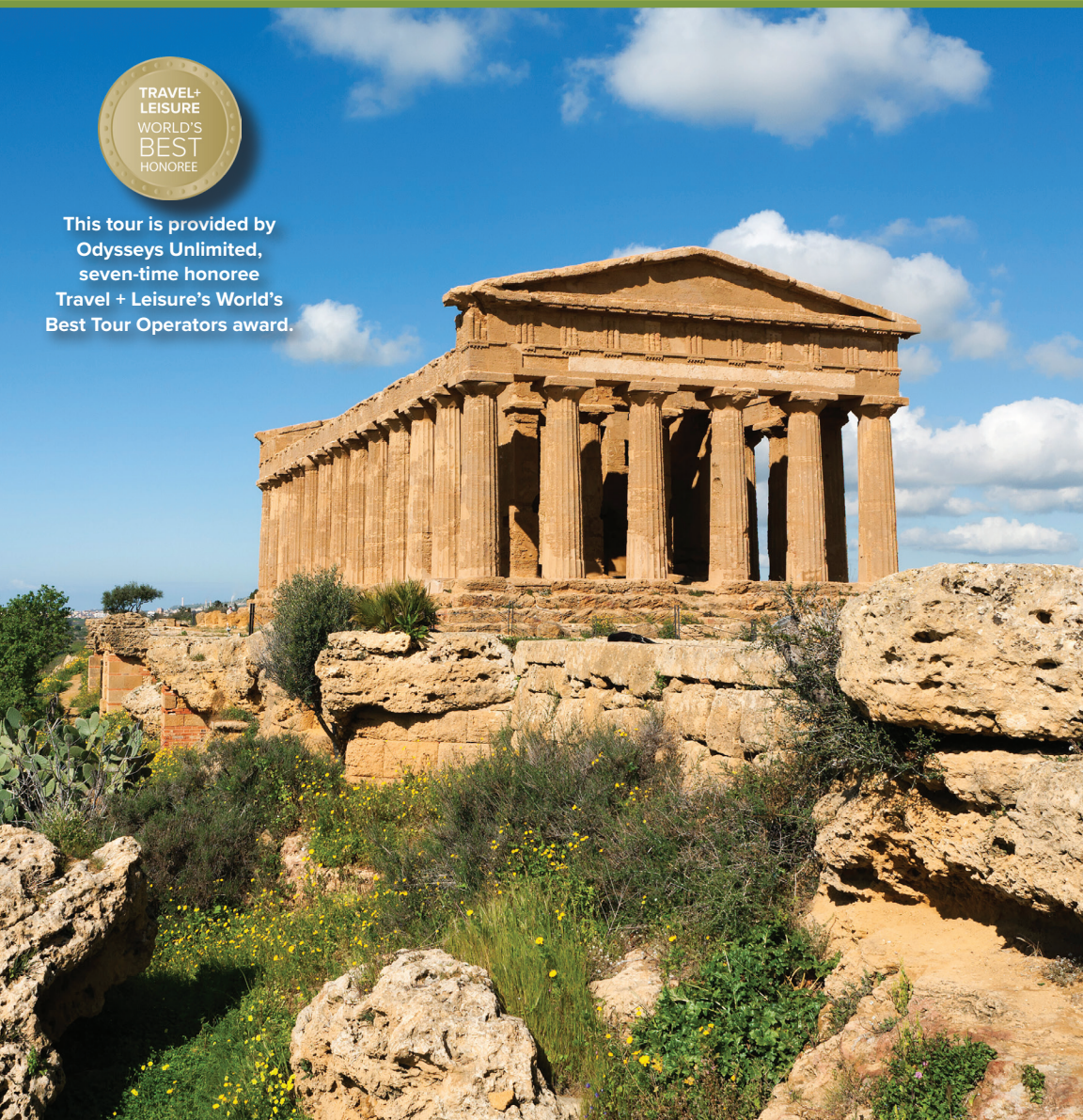
March 29-April 9, 2026

12 days for \$5,874 total price from San Francisco

(\$5,195 air & land inclusive plus \$679 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour
for Alumni & Friends of UC Santa Cruz



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to travel with us on an exclusive 12-day journey to the island of Sicily. Our small group will experience Sicily's diverse landscapes and cultural treasures, while staying in unique, centrally-located hotels.

Begin in Palermo and enjoy a walking tour that includes the Palermo Cathedral and Palazzo Reale, as well as vibrant markets selling Sicilian specialties. Next, explore the medieval walled town of Erice and enjoy stunning panoramic views of the valley below. Continuing on to Trapani, visit the famous salt pans and tour the museum here. A quick stop in Monreale allows a visit to the city's celebrated cathedral, before reaching Agrigento. Visit the Valley of the Temples and the Temple of Concordia, then continue on to Syracuse. A highlight here is the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, a UNESCO site that comprises a range of ancient monuments. Then take an excursion to Mount Etna, Europe's largest volcano. Finally, travel to Taormina and see the 3rd-century BCE Greek theater, the 13th-century *Duomo*, and the grand Piazza Vittorio Emanuele.

Space is limited to only 24 guests, and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

Nichole Silva (Stevenson '95)
Director, Strategic Travel and Experiences

THE UC SANTA CRUZ INSPIRED EXPEDITIONS RESERVATION FORM: SICILY IN DEPTH

To reserve your place on tour, please call UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions at 831-459-3689 or e-mail ietravel@ucsc.edu. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Inspired Expeditions representative.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to UC Santa Cruz's Inspired Expeditions office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: **UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions**
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

SICILY IN DEPTH • MARCH 29-APRIL 9, 2026

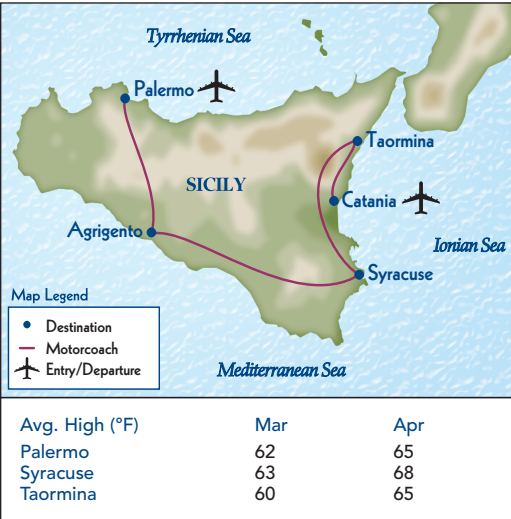
I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)		
Full Passport Name _____	Date of Birth _____	Gender _____
Full Passport Name _____	Date of Birth _____	Gender _____
Address _____		
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Home Phone (_____) _____	Cell Phone (_____) _____	
E-mail(s) _____	Badge Name(s) _____	
Please book my/our air from _____ I/We request an air upgrade to _____		
I will share a room with _____ I request a single room (limited availability) <input type="checkbox"/>		

Sicily in Depth

12 days for \$5,874 total price from San Francisco

(\$5,195 air & land inclusive plus \$679 airline taxes and fees)

Crossroads of the Mediterranean ... the “toe” in Italy’s boot ... “God’s Kitchen” ... Sicily is all this, and much more, as we see on our stellar small group journey around this Italian island. Its lively cities and ancient ruins, temples of man – and of nature, hospitable people and delectable cuisine ... a feast for all the senses.



Day 1: Depart U.S. for Palermo, Italy

Day 2: Arrive Palermo We arrive today in Palermo, capital of Italy’s autonomous region of Sicily. This evening we gather at our hotel for a briefing on the journey ahead, followed by a welcome dinner. *D*

Day 3: Palermo On this morning’s walking tour, we discover 2,700-year-old Palermo’s twin claims to fame: impressive architecture and world-class street food. Highlights include Palermo Cathedral and Palazzo Reale, both part of Arab-Norman Palermo, a UNESCO site comprising nine civil and religious structures dating to Norman rule in Sicily (c. 12th century). We also see the Church of San Cataldo, another of Palermo’s Arab-Norman treasures. Along the way we pass through vibrant markets selling *arancini*, *cannoli*, and other Sicilian specialties – which, of course, we stop to sample. The remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. With dinner on our own tonight, perhaps a culinary adventure is in order – and thanks to Sicily’s strategic Mediterranean location that lured many invaders, Sicilian food incorporates Italian, Arabic, and African influences into a singular, and delicious cuisine. *B*

Day 4: Palermo/Erice/Trapani A full day of touring takes us first to the medieval walled town of Erice. Perched atop a mountain nearly 2,500 feet above sea level, Erice offers panoramic views of the valley below, the port town of Trapani, and the Tyrrhenian Sea beyond. We continue to Trapani, where we visit the region’s famed salt pans. Though the area is a designated Nature Reserve, Sicilians still harvest salt here using centuries-old methods; indeed, the oldest of the area’s 60 working windmills dates to the island’s Arabic regime. We tour the museum here then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Palermo. *B,L*

Day 5: Palermo/Monreale/Agrigento En route to Agrigento today, we stop in nearby Monreale. Sitting on the slopes of Monte Caputo, Monreale looks over *La Conca d’Oro*, or “the Golden Shell,” a richly fertile valley studded with groves of orange, olive, and almond trees. Here we visit the city’s celebrated cathedral, another gem of Arab-Norman Palermo and one of the finest examples of Norman architecture still

Physical Activity Level

3 Moderate

Walk 2-4 miles per day, often on uneven terrain or cobblestones; occasional long walks from motor-coach drop-off to sights and hotels; uneven natural terrain at Mt. Etna and at Agrigento archaeological site; steep grades while walking in Taormina; many stairs of varying height throughout the tour; embarkation/disembarkation from multiple boats.

Your Tour at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Palermo		
2-4	Palermo	Eurostars Centrale Palace	Sup. First Class
5-6	Agrigento	Hotel Baia di Ulisse	First Class
7-9	Syracuse	Hotel Borgo Pantano	First Class
10-11	Taormina	NH Collection Taormina	Deluxe
12	Depart Catania for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.



The sun rises over the city of Palermo.

in existence. The imposing main façade and ornate outer cloister serve to prepare us for the cathedral's breathtaking main sanctuary, where every inch of wall and ceiling space is covered with painstakingly detailed mosaics. Crafted by artisans from Constantinople (now Istanbul), the dazzling mosaics contain some 4,850 *pounds* of pure gold. Our journey then continues as we visit a family-owned winery, followed by a wine tasting and lunch at a nearby country house. Late this afternoon we reach Agrigento and our hotel, where we dine together tonight. *B,L,D*

Day 6: Agrigento This morning we visit the Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO site and archaeological zone whose ruins of fallen Doric temples and sanctuaries date to Greek rule in the 5th century BCE. Known in its heyday as “the most beautiful city of mortals,” Agrigento was one of the leading cities during the Golden Age of ancient Greece. Our tour features both the eastern zone, where we see the beautifully preserved Temple of Concordia (c. 430 BCE), and the western zone, with the massive temple of Olympian Zeus, believed to be the largest Doric temple ever built. From the outdoor sites, we then move on to Agrigento's archaeological museum, with exhibits and artifacts that tell the story of this outpost of classical Greece. Then we have lunch at a local restaurant and an afternoon at leisure. This evening, we visit an organic working farm for a cooking demonstration and dinner. *B,L,D*

Day 7: Agrigento/Piazza Armerina/Syracuse

We travel across Sicily's southern reaches today to Syracuse (Siracusa), stopping along the way in Piazza Armerina to visit Villa Romana del Casale, an elaborate 4th-century CE villa and UNESCO site boasting one of the richest, and largest, collections of mosaics in the Roman world. Thanks to having been buried

by landslides, the villa, its vivid frescoes, and the more than 3,200 square feet of mosaics survived the millennia in remarkably good shape. Following our tour here, we continue on to Syracuse, arriving late this afternoon. Once the largest city in the ancient world, Syracuse today is an alluring spot known for its superb archaeological sites and the relaxed seaside ambience of its Baroque old town. *B,L,D*

Day 8: Syracuse Today we discover what this city is best known for: the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, a UNESCO site that comprises a range of ancient monuments. We begin our explorations at the 5th-century BCE Greek theatre, the 16,000-seat amphitheatre where the tragedies of Aeschylus were staged – in his presence – and still in use today. Next: Latomia del Paradiso (Paradise Quarry), the now overgrown shaft from which the white limestone used to build Syracuse was cut. Because it has excellent acoustics, the quarry also is known as the Ear of Dionysius. We continue on to the Roman amphitheatre, the 1st-century BCE arena that once held gladiator spectacles; today it hosts musicals on its ancient stones. After lunch on our own, we take a walking tour of Ortigia, the “white pearl” of Sicily, the historical center of Syracuse, and a UNESCO site. *B,D*

Day 9: Syracuse This morning we embark on a cruise along Sicily's Ionian coast dotted with tiny islands and caves. We see the Spanish Wall, 13th-century Castello Maniace that served as a bulwark against invaders in the Middle Ages, and historic Ortigia Island. We disembark on Ortigia, where we're free to explore and enjoy lunch on our own. Late afternoon we return to our hotel, where we dine tonight. *B,D*

“TRAVEL AND CHANGE OF PLACE IMPART NEW VIGOR TO THE MIND.”

– SENECA

Day 10: Syracuse/Mount Etna/Taormina We depart Syracuse this morning and make our way up the coast to Mt. Etna, one of Europe's largest active volcanoes. The ancients believed conical snow-topped Etna to be the forge of Vulcan, god of fire; today, Sicilians have a very personal relationship with the volcano, which frequently erupts but is seldom destructive. Descending from the volcano, we stop at a private farm set amidst acres of lemon and kiwi groves, where we enjoy a small group highlight: a home-made lunch prepared by the family who lives here. To accompany our meal, we sample some excellent Sicilian wines. Then we resume our journey to Taormina, arriving late this afternoon. This evening is at leisure, with dinner tonight on our own. *B,L*

Day 11: Taormina This morning we embark on a walking tour of this delightful medieval town set on a rocky terrace overlooking the Ionian Sea. Highlights include the 3rd-century BCE Greek theatre, where gladiators once battled; the 13th-century fortress-like *Duomo*; and grand Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, site of



Taormina's ancient theater overlooks Mt. Etna.

the ancient *agora* and today an inviting plaza. This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy Taormina as we wish; tonight we celebrate our Sicily adventure over a fare-well dinner at our hotel. *B,D*



Colorful Sicilian street scene

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 10 nights' accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 22 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Day 12: Depart for U.S. We transfer today to the Catania airport for our return flight to the U.S. *B*

Tour Departs: March 29, 2026

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Boston, New York	\$5,374
Chicago, Washington, DC	\$5,674
Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia	\$5,774
Los Angeles, Miami, Minnesota, Orlando, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa	\$5,874
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$4,395

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$679, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$895. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,995 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,795 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrade costs are in addition to the costs above.

For more information and reservations, please call Inspired Expeditions at 831-459-3689, or e-mail ietravel@ucsc.edu

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas, if required; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line(s), and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own as well as keep pace with the tour group. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown, and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



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JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE
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TOUR TO SICILY!

Guaranteed Small Group:
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