



Western Sicily

Provinces: Palermo - Trapani - Agrigento - Caltanissetta



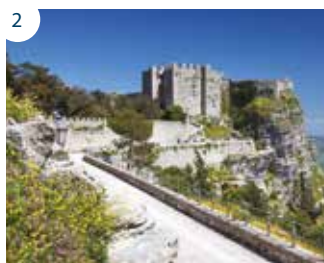
Rarely could a contrast be more marked than that between the European architecture and atmosphere of the east coast and the heavy North African influence prevalent in the west. Today, the ancient and the modern, the gracious and the ugly stand side by side.

Palermo, the island's capital, is one of those intriguing cities of extremes. Graceful palazzi and villas from an era long since past contrast dramatically with modern flats and apartments. The Palace of the Normans - an imposing 12th century cathedral, the gardens of the Villa Giulia, the superb archaeological museum and the eerie yet fascinating catacombs should not be missed.



1 Monreale Cathedral

This impressive Norman cathedral, located on the outskirts of Palermo, has an ornate interior adorned with stunning mosaics, reputedly one of the world's largest displays of this art.



2 Erice

This well preserved medieval hilltop town's origins are shrouded in mystery, part fantasy and part reality. Surrounded by ancient walls, the town is reserved and quiet with magnificent views over the Egadi Islands.



3 Selinunte

Selinunte is one of the most impressive ancient Greek cities in Sicily as the ruins have never been built over. This ancient site, set in rolling countryside, is also a popular seaside resort in summer.



4 Marsala

Famed for its sweet desert wine, Marsala is an attractive town with arcaded courtyards, tall ageing buildings and two excellent museums including Museo degli Arazzi with its wonderful hand-stitched wool and silk tapestries.

Palermo

Graceful centuries-old palaces and villas contrast dramatically with modern flats and apartments. The Palace of the Normans – an imposing 12th century cathedral, the gardens of Villa Giulia and the superb archaeological museum should not be missed.

Grand Hotel Federico II, Palermo

The Grand Hotel Federico II is well-positioned in the heart of Palermo and provides an ideal base from which to explore the delights of the city. Many of the capital's historical sites, including the cathedral and the Teatro Massimo, are within easy walking distance. The guest rooms are spacious and elegant and attention to detail is apparent throughout, from the fusion of classical and new design decoration, to the excellent service provided.

Accommodation: 65 air-conditioned rooms including deluxe rooms, executive rooms, junior suites and a terrace room.

- Airport: 30km Palermo
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£819 per person***



Principe di Villafranca, Palermo

This stylish, chic hotel is located in the heart of Palermo in an upscale shopping and residential area, yet close to the historic city centre. It has been recently refurbished to offer modern and minimalist décor with luxurious touches. Guests are greeted by friendly and experienced staff and accommodated in spacious and comfortable rooms. The hotel is close to a main shopping street 'Viale della Libertà and within a few minutes walk of a good choice of restaurants and bars.

Accommodation: 32 air-conditioned rooms including superior rooms, deluxe rooms and junior suites.

- Airports: 30km Palermo
- 4-star boutique hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi

Guide price from **£727 per person***

Elimo Hotel, Erice

This small, family-run hotel enjoys a central location within the walls of the ancient, hilltop town of Erice. Access to a rooftop terrace affords wonderful views over the town, coastline and mountains. The hotel has been furnished in a simple yet homely style offering modern conveniences in comfortable surroundings. Within this 18th century building are well-appointed bedrooms which differ both in size and shape and public rooms tastefully furnished with antiques and beautifully scented floral displays.

Accommodation: 21 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and suites.

- Airports: 90km Palermo
- 3-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hilltop town location
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£833 per person***



* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type (7 nights), flights from London Gatwick to Palermo (other airports on request) and private transfers (Palermo) or car hire (Erice).
Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

Cefalù

Located on Sicily's scenic north coast, is the charming seaside resort of Cefalù. The Norman cathedral, built in 1131, took 100 years to build and contains some fine examples of Byzantine mosaics.

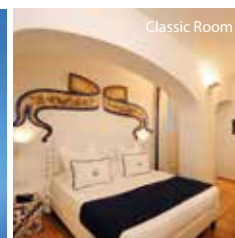
Calette N5 Hotel, Cefalù

This charming Mediterranean-style hotel is perched on an impressive cliff overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. A small private pebble beach and sun terrace with bar nestle directly under the hotel. Access is down some 100 steps. The property is suitable for couples and families alike looking to relax and explore the area. The centre of Cefalù and its sandy beach, restaurants and cafés can be reached on foot (2km / 20 minutes' walk) or by hotel shuttle bus (free of charge).

Accommodation: 55 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, deluxe rooms, prestige rooms and suites.

- Airports: 90km Palermo
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Coastal town location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,217 per person***



Alberi del Paradiso, Cefalù

Beautifully set within its own large Mediterranean gardens stands the Alberi del Paradiso, converted from an old manor house into a contemporary styled elegant 4-star hotel. Located on a hillside 1km (20-minutes walk downhill) from the historical centre of Cefalù, this modern hotel offers comfortable accommodation in a quiet and natural setting. The hotel shuttle bus provides transfers to a private sandy beach and the medieval centre of the pretty fishing village of Cefalù.

Accommodation: 55 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, prestige rooms and suites.

- Airport: 90km Palermo
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Coastal town location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£849 per person***

Azienda Agrituristica Bergi, Castelbuono

A few kilometres from Castelbuono, an ancient village of the Madonie, this rural property stands in the Vallone Saraceno, an archaeological site dating back to Greek and Roman times. This family-run property covers about 8 hectares, planted with fruit orchards, olives and vegetables, which contrasts with the golden stone of the house and evokes the simple rural life of the past. The Di Garbo family uses its own organic products as the principal ingredients for its cooking.

Accommodation: 16 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and 2 two-bedroom suites.

- Airport: 126km Palermo
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£643 per person***



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Bleached landscape of salt pans

Trapani, a city and commune on the west coast, is the capital of the province and famous for its salt works which have created an unforgettable, bleached landscape of salt pans and windmills.

Relais Antiche Saline, Paceco

The Relais Antiche Saline is a restored baglio (farmhouse) set in a unique position amongst the salt marches of the Nature Reserve of Saline di Trapani. The property was originally used to house the salt workers' families, and today, after careful renovation, has been transformed in to a modern and elegant 4-star hotel. Its position also affords easy access to the Salt Museum and the historic city and port of Trapani.

Accommodation: 18 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, premium rooms, superior rooms, grand superior rooms and a deluxe room.

- Airport: 89km Palermo
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Coastal location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£560 per person***



Il Giardino di Costanza, Mazara del Vallo

This elegant property, surrounded by vineyards, olive groves and citrus orchards, is located 6km from the fishing port of Mazara del Vallo - the town of 100 churches. The hotel is close to the coast (8km) and within easy driving distance of Selinunte (35km), Segesta (60km) and Agrigento (115km). Il Giardino di Costanza wonderfully blends the old with the new and provides an ideal base for those wishing to visit the historic sites of western Sicily yet relax in an oasis of comfort.

Accommodation: 90 air-conditioned rooms including superior rooms, deluxe rooms, grand superior rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airport: 90km Palermo
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pools

Guide price from **£998 per person***

La Foresteria, Menfi

The ancient family of Planeta, whose prestigious wines are renowned both in Italy and abroad, have opened the doors of their guesthouse to visitors who would like to discover the world of Bacchus, devote themselves to cookery lessons, or simply enjoy the archaeological and natural beauties of the surrounding countryside. This elegant wine estate extends over 35 hectares and lies on a vine-covered hillside, from where panoramic views stretch as far as the sea and Menfi with its long sandy beaches.

Accommodation: 14 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms and a superior deluxe room.

- Airport: 108km Palermo
- Turismo Rurale
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Winery

Guide price from **£894 per person***



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Valley of the Temples

Agrigento is home to the impressive archaeological site 'Valley of the Temples' - six Greek temples including the Temple of Concord which is one of the best preserved Doric Temples of the ancient world.

Tenuta Stoccatello, Menfi

This old 19th century fortified farmhouse, entirely refurbished in rustic style, framed by the countryside and vineyards of Menfi, stands on a hillside and looks out over the clear waters of Porto Palo with its Blue Flag beaches. This is a perfect base for visiting Western Sicily and discovering its nature, history and gastronomy. The owners, who know the territory intimately, will show you how to get the very best out of what to do and where to visit in the area.

Accommodation: 18 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and family rooms.

- Airports: 102km Palermo / 289km Catania
- Turismo Rurale
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£803 per person***



Villa Athena, Agrigento

This impressive 18th century noble residence has been masterly converted in to a hotel which has maintained the architectural style of the era. Situated within the archaeological park of the Valley of the Temples - inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the property stands a mere 200 metres from the Temple of Concordia. The villa's private garden beautifully blends into the surrounding landscape of almond and olive trees and, from the terrace, guests can enjoy the magnificent view of the Temples of Concordia and Juno.

Accommodation: 27 rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airports: 161km Catania / 180km Palermo
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,288 per person***

Azienda Fattoria Mosè, Agrigento

This is the large country home of the Agnello family, which dates mainly from the 1800s although there is an older tower. Breakfast is served at the long table which may include fresh ricotta cheese, homemade preserves of cherry, apricot, plum and orange, fig, fresh eggs and wonderful crusty bread. The farm covers some 45-hectares set in the countryside beside the famous Valley of the Temples and the property itself is surrounded by fruit orchards and wheat fields.

Accommodation: 10 air-conditioned units including standard rooms, a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom unit (BB) and 6 apartments (SC) including one, two and three-bedroom units.

- Airports: 166km Catania / 176km Palermo
- Agriturismo
- Bed & Breakfast (BB)
- Self Catering (SC)
- Complimentary WiFi
- Swimming pool
- Village location

Guide price from **£643 per person***



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On the trail of the Normans - Palermo & Cefalù

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

Discover the chaotic city of Palermo, the island capital, with its impressive Norman castle, baroque churches and outdoor markets; and the calmer coastal resort of Cefalù with its fine sandy beaches and Norman Cathedral.

Day One: On arrival at Palermo airport, you will be transferred to your hotel in Palermo. This stylish, chic hotel is located in the heart of Palermo, close to a main shopping street 'Viale della Libertà and within a few minutes' walk of a good selection of restaurants and bars.

Day Two: Day at leisure – opportunity to explore the capital and visit the stunning Cappella Palatina, the royal chapel in the huge Palazzo dei Normanni, with its dazzling mosaics and stalactitic Arab ceiling. The palace was built by the Saracens in the 9th century and extended in the 11th century by the Normans who transformed the original fortress into a splendid palace. This example of Norman art was founded by Roger II in 1130 and consecrated in 1140.

Day Three: Head towards Monreale, located 8km outside Palermo, on the spur of a hill dominating the Oreto Valley and the Conca d'Oro. The main feature of this Baroque town is its Cathedral, an outstanding

architectural achievement of Arabic, Byzantine and Romanesque styles. The Cathedral of Monreale, built on a huge scale, was founded in 1174 by William II, the last of the great Norman kings and its walls are lined with golden mosaics. Simply stunning!

Day Four: Self-transfer to Palermo train station to catch your train to Cefalù (1-hour journey). Self-transfer on arrival to your hotel.

Day Five: Day at leisure. Time to explore the coastal town of Cefalù. A fishing port and popular seaside resort, the main square is dominated by its twin-towered Norman Cathedral inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Built in 1131 on the wishes of Roger II, the cathedral holds one of the most sublime representations of Christ.

Day Six: Day at leisure. Spend the day at the beach – a long sandy shore, one of the best in Sicily.

Day Seven: Day at leisure. Walk down to the harbour and take the boat (1-hour) to the lovely island of Ústica. This tiny island, located in the Tyrrhenian Sea, is actually the tip of a submerged volcano. Its shoreline is littered with dramatic grottoes and the surrounding waters, a protected marine area, are kept clean by an Atlantic current and are thus brimming with fish and coral.

Day Eight: Transfer back to the airport for your return flight home



Cefalù

*Guide price based on
2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Palermo (other airports on request)
- Private transfer on arrival (Day 1)
- 3-nights Principe di Villafranca Hotel, Palermo BB
- Train ticket (Standard class) from Palermo to Cefalù (Day 4)
- 4-nights Alberi del Paradiso Hotel, Cefalù BB
- Private transfer on departure (Day 8)

Departures
Daily

Duration
7 nights

Guide price from
£913 per person*



Palermo