

# MEDITERRANEAN SERENADE 2025

FROM/TO VALLETTA

EXCLUSIVE SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE

IMPORTANT NOTE: GOZO (DAY2) AND SYRACUSE (DAY3)  
EXCURSIONS REQUIRE A PRE-BOOKING





DAY 2

## GOZO ISLAND

### Ġgantija Megalithic Temples & Cittadella

**THIS TOUR REQUIRES PREBOOKING UP TO 10 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking guide, entrance fee
- Per Person: Euro 122

Embark on a half-day tour of Gozo, the largest of the Aeolian Islands, and immerse yourself in its rich heritage as you explore iconic landmarks, uncover hidden gems, and soak in the island's stunning beauty and unique charm.

Your first stop is the ancient megalithic “Temples of Ġgantija”, a UNESCO World Heritage site. These impressive structures, dating back to around 3600-3200 BC, are believed to be the oldest freestanding monuments in the world—older than both Stonehenge in England and the Pyramids of Egypt. The name “Ġgantija” derives from the Maltese word for “giant” (“giant”), inspired by the myth that a race of giants built the temples. This legend is fitting, as the structures are constructed from massive limestone blocks, some over 5 meters long and weighing more than 50 tons.

From ancient wonders to medieval strength, your next stop is the fortified city of “Cittadella” (The Citadel) in the heart of Gozo’s capital, Victoria. With its striking skyline and imposing military architecture, this ancient citadel is a prominent feature of Gozo’s landscape and can be seen from nearly every corner of the island.

After a day of uncovering Gozo’s timeless charm, relax on a short ride back to the vessel, carrying memories of giants and citadels.



DAY 3

## SYRACUSE

### Syracuse & the Archaeological Park of Neapolis

**THIS TOUR REQUIRES PREBOOKING UP TO 10 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking guide, entrance fee
- Per Person: Euro 115

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Syracuse, where ancient history and Baroque elegance come together in a captivating blend of culture and architecture. This immersive excursion will give you a profound appreciation for the city's rich and layered heritage.

Your adventure begins at the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, a sprawling site that transports you back to the grandeur of Syracuse's Greek and Roman past. Walk among ancient ruins and marvel at the remarkable landmarks that tell the story of the city's powerful legacy. Explore the impressive Greek Theatre, carved directly into the hillside, and the Roman Amphitheater, where gladiators once battled.

Next, we head to Ortigia, the historic heart of Syracuse, just a short walk or drive away. This charming island is a treasure trove of history, with narrow cobblestone streets and sunlit piazzas lined with Baroque masterpieces. At the heart of Ortigia is the breathtaking Piazza del Duomo, framed by elegant Baroque buildings. The crown jewel is the Cathedral of Syracuse (Duomo), a stunning church built over an ancient Greek temple dedicated to Athena. Remarkably, parts of the original temple, including the massive Doric columns, remain embedded in the cathedral's structure, a powerful symbol of Syracuse's layered history.



DAY 4

## LIPARI

### Lipari City Tour

**THIS TOUR REQUIRES PREBOOKING UP TO 10 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE**

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking guide, entrance fee, Malvasia wine treat
- Per Person: Euro 83

Your journey in Lipari Town offers a wonderful blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. As you wander through Marina Corta, the charm of the local shops, the boats, and the vibrant atmosphere will give you a deep sense of the island's rhythm. The heart of the island, Lipari Town provides a perfect mix of tradition and modern-day vibrancy.

Transitioning to the Citadel, you'll be stepping into a site full of history, where you can reflect on its past while enjoying the magnificent views. This historic site was rebuilt after the devastating pirate raid by Barbarossa in 1544. This attack destroyed the town, killing locals and leaving much of it in ruins. Although many businesses have since relocated, the Citadel remains a stunning vantage point with sweeping views of the island.

The Museo Archeologico Regionale Eoliano adds another layer of richness, showcasing centuries of history through remarkable artifacts like the Greek masks and Roman-era shipwreck finds. This combination of sights, history, and culture will certainly make for a memorable experience!

As the tour ends, we will sip a glass of Malvasia delle Lipari wine at a cozy family Bistrot.



DAY 6

## TAORMINA

### Taormina Tour

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking guide, entrance fee
- Per Person: Euro 123

Perched on the eastern coast of Sicily, Taormina is a charming hilltop town with breathtaking views of the crystal-clear Ionian Sea. Its blend of stunning vistas, ancient ruins, and vibrant atmosphere creates an irresistible allure for visitors.

Our tour begins at Porta Catania, the historic archway that serves as the main entrance to Taormina. Dating back to the 12th century, this iconic gateway marks the start of our journey through the town's enchanting streets. From here, you'll be treated to sweeping panoramic views of Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, along with the lush, rolling landscapes that surround the town. As we stroll along Corso Umberto, Taormina's lively and elegant main avenue, we pass quaint boutiques, cozy cafes, and beautifully preserved historic buildings.

No visit to Taormina is complete without exploring the Ancient Greek Theater, dating back to the 3rd century BC. Its flawless preservation offers an unmatched view—Mount Etna rising majestically behind you and the sparkling sea stretching endlessly before you.

The awe-inspiring setting transports you to ancient times, where performances once captivated audiences in this breathtaking location. As you bid farewell to Taormina, you'll carry with you not just memories of its beauty and history, but also the warmth of Sicilian hospitality.



DAY 7

## CATANIA

### Mount Etna, Wine tasting with a light lunch

- Duration approx. 7,5 hours
- Incl. Transportation, English-speaking guide, entrance fee, wine tasting & light lunch
- Per Person: Euro 184

Set out on an unforgettable journey to Mount Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano. After a scenic drive up the slopes, your expert guide will share fascinating insights into the volcano's history and geological significance. At 2,000 meters above sea level, explore the Silvestri Craters on a gentle trek suitable for all levels. Take in the moon-like terrain, vibrant volcanic hues, and the fragrant aromas of the surrounding Etna Nature Park. Once at the Silvestri Craters, enjoy a gentle trek suitable for all levels, and take in the breathtaking views of the moon-like terrain. As you stroll through the unique environment, immerse yourself in the vibrant colors of the volcanic landscape and the fragrant aromas of the surrounding vegetation, typical of the Etna Nature Park. Discover ancient lava caves and learn about the forces that shaped this natural wonder.

Cap off your adventure with a visit to a local wine cellar. Savor a selection of regional wines paired with a light lunch of local delicacies—rich cheeses, cured meats, and honey—all grown and produced in the shadow of the volcano.



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

Our curated tours are prearranged, therefore **we kindly ask you to pre-book your tours marked with “prebooking required” at least 10 days before your cruise.** No prepayment is required, but please note that pre-bookings will be binding. Prices are valid for a minimum of 14 guests; for smaller groups, a 10% surcharge may occur depending on the tour. Cancellation fees apply for cancellations received less than 48hrs before each tour.

## REMARKS:

The tours are exclusively run for our Variety small groups and require a minimum of 14 guests. If a tour cannot operate due to low occupancy [our staff will suggest alternative options.](#)

Our tailor-made tours do perfectly match with our cruise itinerary timings and are led by local certified English-speaking guides or professional escorts. Let us take you to the “must see” sites and show you some hidden spots at the same time.

The tours are subject to changes due to site restorations, weather, heavy traffic or other conditions. Should sites or museums be closed on our visiting days, alternative visits will be offered instead.

All tours are quite active and require good physical condition. Due to slippery sites, we recommend comfortable shoes, sun tan lotion, a hat and water. Dress code for Church and Monastery visits.

Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

