



Presents

# Mediterranean Splendor

## Visiting Malta & Sicily

September 18-29, 2018

\$5799.00 per person from Peoria

For reservations and further details call:

WTVP Travels (309) 677- 4747 or Chet Tomczyk (309) 657-3227



## EXCLUSIVE TOUR FEATURES

- Round trip motor coach transportation from Peoria to O'Hare Airport
- Air transportation from Chicago to Malta and return from Palermo to Chicago
- 10 nights of First Class hotel accommodations as follows:
  - 3 nights Malta
  - 2 nights Ragusa, Sicily
  - 3 nights Taormina, Sicily
  - 2 nights Palermo, Sicily
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner in Malta with wine
- Lunch at a Sicilian farmhouse
- One dinner in Ragusa and two in Taormina
- Farewell dinner In Palermo with wine.
- Admission to St. John's Cathedral, The Archaeological Park in Syracuse, The Greek Theater in Taormina, Villa del Casale in Piazza Armerina, Palazzo dei Normani in Palermo and Duomo di Monreale.
- Excursion to Mt Etna including cable car and 4WD and Alpine guide
- Round trip ferry Malta to the Island of Gozo
- One way Ferry from Malta to Pozzallo, Sicily
- Tasting of chocolate in Modica
- Sightseeing daily with a specialized English speaking guide in Malta, Gozo, Syracuse, Taormina, Mt Etna, Villa Romana and Palermo
- Daily assistance by a professional English speaking Tour Manager in Malta and Sicily
- Airline fuel surcharges subject to change

Not included: US and foreign departure taxes of \$145.00 per person, tips to guides and drivers, optional insurance package.

### **DAY 1 – Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – PEORIA/CHICAGO - DEPARTURE**

Leave from Peoria via charter coach to O'Hare International Airport, where you will depart for magnificent, historical Malta.

### **DAY 2 – Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: MALTA**

After landing in **Malta**, a short drive will bring you to Valletta, set in a blue sea between Africa and Europe, blessed year-round with an agreeable climate, and boasting one of the world's most spectacular natural harbors. Take advantage of the afternoon and enjoy a walk within the ancient walls of the capital of this tiny European Union member. **(D)**

### **DAY 3 - Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: MALTA**

A **guided tour** today will introduce you to the history of this fortress island. The tour includes the **Auberge de Castille**, magnificent former home to the Knights of St John; the **Upper Barracca Gardens**, a vantage point for viewing the city's **Grand Harbor**; and, the Baroque **St John's Co-Cathedral** where you will find two works by the artist **Caravaggio - the Beheading of St. John the Baptist** and **Saint Jerome Writing**.

Then it's on to **Medina**, the ancient Arab capital, with its beautiful 'silent city' of narrow streets; **Rabat**, famous for its subterranean catacombs; and, then **Mosta** and the vertiginous **Dingli Cliffs**. **(B)**

#### **DAY 4 - Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: MALTA**

Today you will make a short ferry crossing from **Cirkewwa** to the quaint port of **Mgarr**, gateway to the Malta's smaller sister isle **Gozo**. Dotted with prehistoric **Neolithic temples** and burial mounds, including the fascinating **Temples of Gigantij**, Gozo presents a sleepy, timeless face to the modern world. Highlights of the day include the fascinating 'Inland Sea' at **Dwerja**, **Calypso's Cave** overlooking sandy **Ramla Bay**, the delightful coastal resort of **Xlendi** and the island capital, **Victoria** (known by locals as **Rabat**), considered to look like a miniature version of Jerusalem. After your return to Malta be sure to book yourself a table at one of the numerous charming little restaurants by the water. **(B)**

#### **DAY 5 - Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>: MALTA/ RAGUSA**

In the early morning you board a speed boat to **Pozzallo** at the very southern tip of Sicily. Your visit begins with a visit to a **Sicilian family estate and farm** where you will sample local specialties such as almond milk, fresh ricotta cheese, extra virgin olive oil and some dessert wine. The evening highlight is a drive up to incredible **Ibla**, a handsome old town that looks as if a team of masons had carved the place out of a whole hill, making it look like the world's biggest sandcastle. Dinner and overnight in Ragusa. **(B, L, D)**

#### **DAY 6 - Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>: RAGUSA**

Because of its flamboyant architectural style Ragusa is now a World Heritage Site. Today you will visit its two main artful sites. First stop is **Modica** for a tour of the monumental **San Pietro church**. Just off the back of the building there's a treat of a little church turned museum: **San Nicolo Inferiore**. Next on the agenda: stop for a tasting at one of the oldest shops in town, **Antica Dolceria Bonajuto**, and enjoy a very special chocolate.

In the afternoon it's **Noto**: wander the **Via Nicolaci**, at the top of which is the beautiful elliptical facade of the **Chiesa di Montevergine** and the **Palazzo Villadorata** with its many playfully buttressed balconies. You can indulge your sweet tooth at what some say are the **two best ice cream parlors in the world**. Return to Ragusa for overnight. **(B)**

#### **DAY 7 - Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>: RAGUSA/ SYRACUSE/TAORMINA**

This morning we're off to **Syracuse**. Founded perhaps as far back as 733 BC, the region flourished under the Greeks and was a beacon of civilization for the Western world for over one thousand years. In the company of an expert **local guide**, you'll visit the ancient Greek precinct of **Neapolis**. Here you will find the great Theater of Syracuse, once the debut stage for the plays of Aeschylus. Nearby, you walk through the '**latomie**', great stone quarries that provided the building materials for the golden age of the city. At one end lies the '**Ear of Dionysius**', a cave with an ear-shaped entrance and unusual acoustics. Your visit concludes with a stroll at the stunning medieval citadel of **Ortigia**, the heart of Syracuse. Continue to Taormina for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

#### **DAY 8 - Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: TAORMINA**

Following a leisurely breakfast, you'll start a little later this morning with a **guided walking tour** of Taormina and a visit to the famous Greek Theater. The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy this entirely pedestrian town. **(B)**

### DAY 9 -Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>: TAORMINA (Mt Etna Excursion)

Embark on a full day excursion up fabled **Mount Etna**, Europe's highest active volcano. You'll reach the upper slopes via **cable car** and **lunar-wheeled people carrier**. At 10,900 ft asl, the air is noticeably cooler, but the ground beneath your feet is still warm from the lava. On the way down, you'll stop for an espresso before getting on the gondola for a quick ride to the motor-coach. Then it's back in Taormina in midafternoon for a relaxing evening on **Corso Umberto**. Dinner is included this evening **(B &D)**

### DAY 10 - Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: TAORMINA/PALERMO

Today you'll cruise across the entire island, all the way to Palermo, stopping along the way at the **Villa Romana del Casale** for a guided visit to what is considered among the best preserved Ancient World sites anywhere. It is one of the few sites from anywhere in the Roman Empire that still boasts much of its **original decoration**. Against the odds, the mosaics of the Villa del Casale remain in situ. Next continue to **Palermo**, the colorful, frenetic island capital that has been inhabited since prehistoric times. Founded by the Phoenicians, and later home to Carthaginian, Greek and Norman conquerors, the city, once the richest in Europe, offers a glimpse of the entire history of Southern Italy in one place. You'll get into town on time to explore the **evening food markets** and perhaps purchase a local delicacy, like marzipan almond pastry. **(B)**

### DAY 11 - Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: PALERMO

Today, stroll through the historic center on a **guided tour**. Begin in the heart of Palermo at the **Quattro Canti**, or four corners, where two of the city's most prominent streets cross. From here, pass by the immense 13th century **Dominican Church of Santa Caterina**, and the adjacent palm gardens of the Norman **La Martorana** church. A short distance away, visit the main **Cathedral**. Next, proceed to the stunning Norman Palace, home to the Palatine Chapel. Conclude your tour with a trip to nearby **Monreale** to visit the majestic Cathedral, long considered the most beautiful in Sicily. In the afternoon we'll stretch it to **Cefalù**, a shore with a long, sandy beach and stupendous views along the coast. This evening, sit down to our farewell dinner in the heart of Palermo. **(B, D)**

### DAY 12 - Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – PALERMO/CHICAGO/PEORIA

Bid a fond farewell to Sicily and Malta as your Mediterranean adventure concludes and you return to Chicago and Peoria.



**TOUR CONDITIONS**

**TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** Reservations are accepted by **checks only**.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** The tour price is based on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and air fares in effect 11/1/17. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency in air tariff, in hotel, or transportation rates, notification will be mailed to tour members with your final invoices.

**TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** You will have the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy to cover you should you have to cancel for a medical reason. In the event you elect not to purchase the trip cancellation insurance, penalties will be implemented according to the terms below.

**CANCELLATION: WRITTEN NOTIFICATION** is required for all cancellations. A \$100.00 per person administration fee will apply if notification is received prior to May 15, 2018. Cancellations received Between May15 -June 15, 2018 will incur \$500.00 per person penalty. Cancellation after June 15, 2018 will be at a 100% penalty.

**AIRLINE MILEAGE PROGRAM:** Eskin Tours' programs are based on negotiated group air fares with various airlines. Some of the airlines may not offer mileage credit when traveling on a group fare.

**INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAVEL:** One piece of checked luggage is allowed on the tour. Its combined total measurement (length+width+height) cannot exceed 62 inches and 50 lbs. You are also allowed one carry-on per person which must be able to fit under the seat in front of you with a total measurement of 45 inches. All special requests that we receive for particular seating arrangement (must be noted on your reservation form as you sign up for the tour) are forwarded to the airline involved. However, we regret in this time of mass travel and computerized seating reservations; we cannot guarantee or be responsible in the event that your request is not honored by the airline. Should you wish to deviate from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel, there will be a service charge of \$100.00 per person, plus the additional cost of the change in air fare.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Eskin Tours of 425 Huehl Rd., #16A, Northbrook, IL 60062, WTVP, and/or any travel agency and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the land or air portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in similar category. Further, the right is reserved to decline, to accept, or to retain, at any time, any person as a participant on any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from a portion of the tour, unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by a carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour. By utilizing the travel services of the suppliers, you agree that neither Eskin Tours, WTVP nor any representative of Eskin Tours or WTVP shall be liable, or that you will look to such suppliers, for any accident, injury, property damage, or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other travel services, or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond Eskin Tours and WTVP control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itineraries or schedules, or a disease outbreak.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

Eskin Tours International, Inc.  
425 Huehl Road, Unit 16A  
Northbrook, IL 60062-2323  
(847) 291-1510  
E-mail: [eskintours@gmail.com](mailto:eskintours@gmail.com)

**\$500.00 per person deposit is required for reservation.**

**Malta/Sicily**

**Make checks payable to WTVP and mail to: WTVP 47, P.O. Box 1347, Peoria, IL 61654-1347**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

As it appears on passport

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name for nametag (if different from passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

As it appears on passport

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name for nametag (if different from passport) \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ I desire a single room at an additional \$700.00

**ALL PASSENGERS MUST HAVE A PASSPORT VALID UNTIL MARCH 30, 2019**