



EUROPEAN CYCLING HOLIDAYS

ITALY: SICILY - BAROQUE TOWNS & THE ANCIENT GREEK CAPITAL

7-days / 6-nights self-guided inn-to-inn cycling from Palazzolo Acreide to Siracusa



A unique and enjoyable cycling holiday through the south east of the island of Sicily. Travelling at your own pace you pass through the Val di Noto, where most of the towns were rebuilt in unique Sicilian Baroque style after the earthquake of 1693. The area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003.

Discover beautiful towns like Palazzolo Acreide, Modica, Scicli and Noto, the considered the most important baroque town in Sicily and Siracusa, one of the most important of ancient Greek settlements and the former Greek capital. Following the beautiful coast you will discover a flat terrain of the marshlands with important migratory bird and wildlife sanctuaries such as "Oasi di Vendicari". Visit the fishing village of Marzamemi, and the small islands of Capo Passero and Isola delle Correnti.

Deep carved gullies and caves carved into the white rock of the Iblei Hills have been inhabited since @ 2000BC and the necropolis of Pantalica with its 5000 caves and thousands of tombs is the largest in Europe

This self-guided cycling tour offers the freedom to organize your day as you will but with pre-booked accommodation and luggage transfers so you can relax and enjoy the route to the fullest.

Departs: Every Saturday from February to November (except July & August)

Routes: Depending on your personal preference and fitness, each day you will be able to choose between two different tracks varying in elevation profile and/or distance covered. The routes follows quieter secondary roads, mostly flat with some uphill sections.

Cost: From **\$1695** per person – ask for details Single room supplement also available

Includes: Accommodation with breakfast for 6 nights in 3 to 4-star-hotels, multi-gear hybrid bike hire, luggage transfer from hotel to hotel, detailed maps and road book & Telephone assistance if required

Not included: Dinner and lunches, travel or bike insurance, transfer to/from airport & any personal Expenses, local tourist tax.

Airport transfers: From Catania airport to Palazzolo Acreide (paid locally) per person
From Siracusa to Catania airport (paid locally) per person - ask for details on all transfers

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for Reservations

Suggested itinerary*:

Day 1: Palazzolo Acreide

Arrival at your hotel in Palazzolo Acreide. Check-in and collect bikes, road book and maps.

Day 2: Palazzolo Acreide – Modica

Cycling @ 43 – 50 km

Take time to explore the historical Old Town of Palazzolo Acreide. Cycle through the beautiful Monti Iblei region with its unique landscape of typical rural scenery, characterised by the traditional farmhouses and stone walls. On your way to Modica there is a short climb of @ 3 km.

Day 3: Modica – Pozzallo

Cycling @ 36 – 40 km

Before leaving Modica you should taste the famous chocolate produced locally, spiced with hot chilli peppers. Cycling downhill through a beautiful Iblei canyon, you arrive at Scicli, an interesting village and well worth a stop – perhaps for lunch and a stroll through the small alleys. Continue down to the coast to Pozzallo.

Day 4: Pozzallo – Marzamemi

Cycling @ 59 km

Today the road is flat as you pass through typical wetlands, the "Patano Longarini" and "Patano Cuba", a regular stopover point for the migratory birds flying between Africa and Europe. Cycling along the shore you will reach the southernmost point of Sicily, the island "Isola delle Correnti", which marks the watershed between the Ionian and the Mediterranean Sea. Continuing through Portopalo di Capo Passero and Marzamemi, an ancient fishing village, we finish today in San Lorenzo.

Day 5: Marzamemi – Noto

Cycling @ 35 - 47 km

On a flat road heading north along the coast, you reach the entrance to the "Oasi di Vendicari" nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary. Here you will discover a wonderful and uncontaminated coast full of interesting plants and rare birds. Continue to the most famous baroque town of Noto.

Day 6: Noto – Siracusa

Cycling @ 37 – 65 km

Follow the coast further north towards Siracusa, capital of ancient Greece. Here there is much to see including a stunning archaeological park including a huge Greek amphitheatre.

Day 7: Siracusa - Catania

Tour ends after breakfast.

* *The itinerary is subject to change – see booking conditions for details*

Optional extensions for additional sightseeing days at extra cost – ask for details:

- Tour of the historical old city of Siracusa - visit the fascinating Ortigia Island, the historical and cultural centre of the city with more than 3000-years of history and archaeology - evidence of practically all great civilizations of the Mediterranean.
- Cycling to the natural preserve "Valle dell'Anapo" - leaving Siracusa on a quiet back road towards Sortino you reach the entrance of the Anapo Valley nature reserve. Here the hills of Pantalica is the site of the oldest European necropolis with more that 5000 tombs in caves.

Additional nights of accommodation can be arranged at Siracusa – ask for details

These are just a few of the many small group guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling tours we offer in Europe - including river rides from Passau to Vienna along the Danube or from Vienna to Budapest.

Other cycling holiday destinations include several areas of Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, England and Scotland, Romania, Hungary, in the Czech Republic, New Zealand & Australia, the US, Canada.

Outdoor Travel also offer group guided **Bike & Barge** cruises in many destinations including France including the Loire Valley, Provence and Bordeaux, in Belgium and Holland – from Amsterdam to Bruges, in Germany, Italy, the Dalmation Coast of Croatia, the islands of Greece, the Lycian coast of Turkey or Vietnam and the US.

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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