

## Italy: Sicily, the Noto Valley & Syracuse

### Pre-Trip-Extension - Taormina Pre-Trip Extension

2 Nights from \$395.00 per person, double occupancy

- Two nights at Hotel Monte Tauro
- Daily breakfast
- VBT City Information
- Hospitality Desk
- Full day excursion with local guide on Mount Etna
- Airport transfers
- Private tour of Taormina with local guide
- Admire the beauty of the bay of Taormina with Mount Etna as a backdrop

Only available with the Air Inclusive Package.

### DAY 1: Depart home / Fly overnight to Catania

Depart home for Italy. The particulars of your arrival overseas are detailed with your flight itinerary.

### DAY 2: Arrive in Catania / Transfer to Taormina / Begin your Trip Extension

Arrive at the Catania airport, where a VBT representative holding a sign will meet you outside customs and assist with your transfer to your centrally located hotel in Taormina (about 50 minutes).

If you are going to be delayed meeting our transfer representative for more than 15 minutes due to delayed or lost luggage, please let our representative know by calling or sending a text message to +39 388 93 44 528. Please type VBT Guest at the beginning of your text. Our drivers are generally able to wait for up to 45 minutes from the time your flight lands, after which you would be responsible for your own transfer. They might be able to reschedule your transfer if they are aware of the delay. You may also contact Allianz Global Assistance about your delay, and they will contact our transfer service.

Your hotel room may not be available until 2:00 p.m., but you can store your luggage at the reception desk.

Your VBT City Information will help you explore the city. For dinner, pick a restaurant in delightful Taormina, and enjoy your first night in Sicily!

Please note: VBT transfer times and departure points are finalized in advance and cannot be modified for individual guests. If you fly in earlier than the scheduled program dates, transportation from the airport will be at your own expense.

Accommodation: Hotel Monte Tauro, Taormina

### **DAY 3: Guided walk of Taormina**

At 9:30 a.m., our VBT representative will be in the hotel lobby to answer any questions and help you organize your time here. Then, enjoy a walking orientation tour through the historic center of Taormina. You'll explore the main street which is full of historic landmarks, and browse the shops and cafés on Corso Umberto, the city's pedestrian-only thoroughfare with its many baroque and gothic churches and palaces. Other attractions include the Piazza Duomo, beloved by such artists as Oscar Wilde, Alexander Dumas, and Richard Wagner and Piazza IX Aprile, a terrace-like square overlooking Mount Etna and the bay. This easy city walk takes about two hours.

If you're hungry for more, visit the Greek Theatre and then walk up to the Castello Saraceno. Take the funicular down to Mazzaro beach for a swim in the Mediterranean or simply relax at our hotel's magnificent swimming pool with its stunning views.

Accommodation: Hotel Monte Tauro, Taormina

Included Meals: Breakfast

### **DAY 4: Independent exploration of Taormina / Excursion to Mount Etna**

This morning, put on your hiking boots, dress in layers, and be ready for a truly unique hike on Mount Etna. Your small group will meet your guide, an expert in volcanology and art history, at the hotel at 8:30 a.m. and shuttle to the base of the volcano. Based on the weather, your guide will determine the best starting point for your walk, but you can expect to hike at approximately 6,000 ft (1,829 m) on unpaved terrain covered with ash and rocks. You'll explore lava fields, hike around craters, and walk inside a lava tunnel. There will be plenty of rest breaks and time for lunch on your own. Your hike will conclude with a visit to the basalt column formations of the famous Alcantara gorges and you'll return to Taormina around 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. You do not need to be an expert hiker for this excursion but it is important to have appropriate clothing and footwear. In the event of bad weather conditions (most likely in March and April, when snow may prevent hiking at that altitude), you will remain at a lower altitude and visit the Alcantara gorges or be reimbursed by VBT.

Air Package guests arrive throughout the day.

Accommodation: Hotel Monte Tauro, Taormina

Included Meals: Breakfast