



Malta & Sicily

ISLANDS OF THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN

SPONSORED BY



April 30 – May 10, 2027

*Featuring Professor Kathryn Morgan,
Department of Classics*

Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

The Mediterranean's marvelous, multifaceted character comes alive on this enriching, nine-night journey to Malta and Sicily! Shaped by a mosaic of cultures, these beautiful islands between Europe and northern Africa abound with extraordinary treasures. Stand in awe of illustrious monuments of antiquity, from Malta's prehistoric architectural wonders to Sicily's resplendent ruins that exemplify the pinnacle of the Greek and Roman civilizations.

Over four nights in Malta and five nights in Sicily, revel in Valletta's baroque splendor, the countryside of the Val di Noto region and Taormina's timeless allure. Enjoy guided strolls in the charming, ancient Maltese towns of Mdina and Rabat as well as lovely Ortygia, the historic heart of Syracuse, Sicily. Along the way, you'll indulge in the Mediterranean's acclaimed cuisine and learn about enduring traditions like Sicilian pizza making and Maltese sea salt farming.

It's an exceptional experience packed with legendary sites and enhanced with meaningful insights from knowledgeable local guides and lecturers. Throughout your travels, a professional Travel Director manages the details, leaving you more time to savor each day's adventures and the camaraderie of your small group.

Space on this wonderful, well-rounded program will fill quickly, so reserve your place today. The historic grandeur of Malta and Sicily awaits you!

Regards from Westwood,



Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel



Professor Kathryn Morgan

Department of Classics

Kathryn Morgan teaches courses on Ancient Greek literature, mythology and culture in the UCLA Department of Classics. Morgan is currently beginning a new project on how the historian Thucydides and the philosopher Plato use historiography to advance particular and competing views of the world. She has a longstanding interest in the interactions of ancient Mediterranean civilizations, particularly in the realm of mythology, and regularly teaches courses that explore

the movement of mythological narratives across space and time, from stories of the great goddess to the complications involved in investigating the myth of Atlantis.

UCLA Alumni Travel is an advantage reserved for UCLA Alumni Association sustaining donors. Sustaining donors include Gold and Life Members as well as anyone who has made a qualifying donation of \$100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support Fund in the past year.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Megalithic Temples of Malta
2. The City of Valletta, Malta
3. Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto, Italy
4. Villa Romana del Casale, Italy
5. Archaeological Area of Agrigento, Italy
6. Syracuse, Italy

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Opera dei Pupi, Sicilian puppet theater

Hagar Qim temple





Discovery begins here



Small in size but bursting with historic riches, the captivating islands of Malta and Sicily will reward you with unforgettable memories on this nine-night adventure! Discover the splendid cultural legacy of these sun-bleached lands at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, sought after and conquered by numerous civilizations since antiquity. It's a fascinating exploration that reveals their richly layered stories, striking natural beauty and incomparable treasures.

Top: Mdina, walled ancient capital of Malta

Above: Maltese fishing boats

Cover: Valletta | Mail panel: Ancient theater of Taormina with views of Mount Etna

Inspiring Moments



- Take in the stately medieval and baroque architecture along the intimate streets of **Valletta**, Malta's compact capital.
- Appreciate the glorious ruins of Sicily's renowned ancient cities of **Agrigento** and **Syracuse**.
- Delve into Roman aristocratic life through the spectacular, world-class **mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale**.
- Behold the intriguing Neolithic temples of **Hagar Qim** and **Ggantija**, older than the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge.
- Feel transported through time within the beautiful and colorful Maltese towns of **Mdina** and **Rabat**.
- Savor the breathtaking scenery and chic ambience of **Taormina**, Sicily's celebrated resort town perched on a hilltop.
- Experience six **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Valletta, Malta. 🌐

Day 2 | Valletta, Malta | Sliema

Upon arrival, transfer ➡ to Sliema and check in to the hotel. Tonight, meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Mdina | Rabat | Hagar Qim

Enrichment: *History of Malta.*

Mdina & Rabat. Largely car-free, Malta's walled ancient capital of Mdina is known as the Silent City. Pass through the regal city gate and stroll along its enchanting lanes to see handsome noble houses and St. Paul's Cathedral. On a walk in nearby Rabat, visit the Domus Romana, a museum on the site of a Roman house.

Relish lunch, then set off for the southern coast.

Hagar Qim Temples. Malta boasts some of the world's oldest free-standing stone buildings, a group of megalithic temples recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Dating from 3600-3200 B.C., these impressive structures were built before the advent of metal tools and the introduction of the wheel. Marvel at the Hagar Qim temple-complex with your guide.

Free Time: Return to the hotel for leisure time.

Day 4 | Valletta

Valletta. Over a history spanning almost 8,000 years, Malta has been ruled by the Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, the Order of St. John and the British, among others. In 1566, the Knights of the Order of St. John built this magnificent, fortified city between two natural

harbors. On a guided walk within this UNESCO World Heritage site, admire stunning views over the Grand Harbor from the Upper Barrakka Gardens. Then, visit Valletta's crown jewel, the St. John's Co-Cathedral, featuring a dazzling interior and Caravaggio's masterpiece, "The Beheading of John the Baptist." Next, tour the elegant Casa Rocca Piccola, a 16th-century noble house. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant later.

Free Time: The rest of the day is yours to plan.

Day 5 | Ggantija | Victoria | Xwejni Bay

Island of Gozo. Journey by ferry to this scenic island in the Maltese archipelago for a guided tour of another of Malta's megalithic gems, the Ggantija temple-complex, more than 5,500 years old and named for a fabled female giant. In Gozo's capital, Victoria, head up to the atmospheric, fortified Cittadella above the city for a guided stroll. Later, learn how a local family uses centuries-old methods to collect, dry and store sea salt from a patchwork pattern of rock-cut salt pans along the shore of Xwejni Bay. Afterward, return by ferry to Malta.



Salt pans, Xwejni Bay



Temple of Concordia, Agrigento

Free Time: Your evening in Sliema is at leisure.

Day 6 | Embark ferry | Pozzallo, Italy | Piazza Armerina | Caltagirone

Check out this morning for the ferry to Sicily. After disembarking, travel by motor coach to Piazza Armerina and stop for lunch.

Sicily's Mosaic Masterpieces. Study some of the most superb Roman mosaics in the world at Villa Romana del Casale, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This villa from the fourth century A.D. features more than 40 impeccably crafted floors with intricate scenes of heroes, hunting, circus games, female athletes and much more. Continue to Caltagirone, part of a historic group of baroque towns in the Val di Noto region, and check in to the hotel.

Before dinner at the hotel, enjoy a special performance of the traditional Sicilian puppet theater known as Opera dei Pupi.

Day 7 | Agrigento

Agrigento's Valley of the Temples. Be awed by the remarkably preserved Greek temples of Concordia, Juno, Hercules and others on a tour at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Return to Caltagirone after your excursion.

Day 8 | Syracuse | Taormina

Check out today and depart for Syracuse.

Syracuse. See the Greek theater and Roman amphitheater of this ancient city as well as Latomia del Paradiso, a former limestone quarry, and the Ear of Dionysius, famed for its acoustics. After a stop to view Caravaggio's "The Burial of St. Lucy" at a basilica, stroll through picturesque Ortygia, Syracuse's island old town and a UNESCO World Heritage site, then visit the baroque Cathedral of Syracuse. Check in to the hotel in Taormina.

Hillside views from Piazza IX Aprile, Taormina





Day 9 | Taormina

Taormina. Take in the medieval landmarks of this fashionable hillside resort town and the stellar views of the Ionian Sea and majestic Mount Etna from its famous Greek theater.

AHI Connects | Pizza Cooking Demo. Get great tips for making classic Sicilian pizza during a demonstration, then dig in for lunch!

Enrichment: Sicilian Culture & Traditions. Dine with your group tonight in Taormina.

Day 10 | Taormina

Free Time: Choose to join today's Elective Activity or craft your own agenda in Taormina.

Elective | Mount Etna. Walk along the Silvestri craters and see the lava fields at this UNESCO World Heritage site. A light lunch and wine tasting at a local farmhouse follows. After a Farewell Reception at the hotel, gather for a final celebratory dinner at a restaurant.

Day 11 | In Transit

Transfer to the Catania airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Active Travel

This **Active Program** is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this program require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and ferries
- walking on steep inclines/declines and up and down stairs

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 4 nights** in Sliema, Malta, at the first-class AX The Palace.
- 2 nights** in Caltagirone, Italy, at the first-class Colle San Mauro.
- 3 nights** in Taormina at the first-class Eurostars Monte Tauro.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers during the Land Program: ferries and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Elective** and free time.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Ear of Dionysius, Neapolis Archaeological Park, Syracuse





Cathedral of Syracuse, Piazza del Duomo, Ortygia



Above: Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta | Below: Greek theater of Syracuse



2027 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates ✈ **April 30 – May 10, 2027**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **May 1-10, 2027**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$5,745**

Special Savings **\$750**

Special Savings Price* **\$4,995**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$1,495 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://ucla.ahitravel.com/destinations/2045A?schoollid=170>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Accommodations



AX The Palace | Sliema



Colle San Mauro | Caltagirone



Eurostars Monte Tauro | Taormina



Sicilian pizza demonstration



Detail of mosaics, Villa Romana del Casale

Book your journey today!

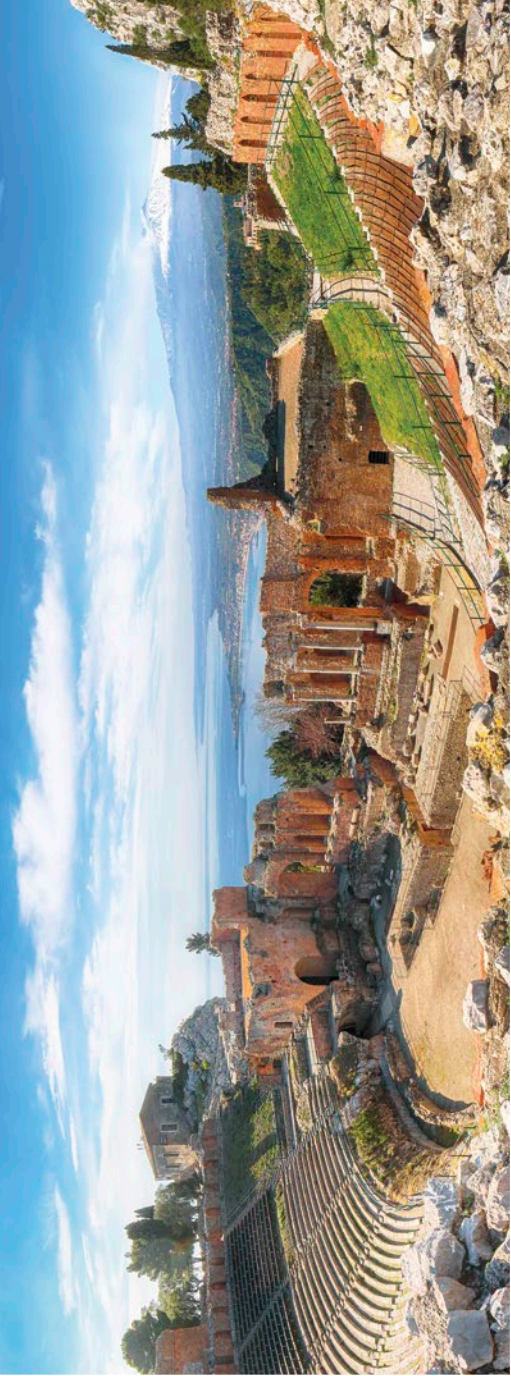
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