

IMAGINE/DISCOVER/LIVE

Enigmatic lands

EXCITING
HORIZON
Be Your Journey

ITINERARY 1

Center north

During this journey, in each of the different areas we will visit, you will be accompanied by specialized guides. Our Living Heritage, on the other hand, will be able to introduce you to that mysterious atmosphere to understand the signs and reasons for the revelation.

10 DAYS

Alcantara gorges



ITINERARY 1

ENIGMATIC LANDS



NORTH AND CENTER

DAY 1 - Arriving in Catania

Arrive in Catania, transfer to the accommodation. Dinner with briefing on the trip in the company of the writer who inspired our itinerary, professor Marinella Fiume. A teacher, an anthropologist, a politician, a writer, a universal woman who studied and interpreted her land, its men, its women. Great personality of our land.

DAY 2 - Etna, the immortal beings' housing

After breakfast, our journey can only begin by walking along the paths of the most inspiring, over the centuries, of myths and legends: Etna and Mongibello.

You understand the reason why it is the place of Hephaestus forge house, but also the place where the giants Encelado and Tifeo and Empedocles the philosopher rest; the reason why Queen Arthur and Queen Elisabeth I of England have chosen this as eternal home and much more... Immortal place for immortals. Light lunch with a toast to the Volcan, in an outdoor area, if the weather would allow, with typical local products.

Come back and dinner in company of our luttist living heritage and medieval musician Giuseppe Secerini. who will let you enter, in reality, in distant and suggestive environments and backgrounds.

DAY 3 - The Etna of monsters

After breakfast we go to Valle dell' Alcantara. Its particularity, because of the many gorges, already justifies itself as a myth; just as it is still said, yet today, that the river that crosses is inhabited by legendary and frightening creatures.

An enchanting area which is placed between the municipalities of Castiglione di Sicilia and Motta Camastra, on the north-east side of Etna, where real canyons open up which, unlike what one might think, have not been created from the Alcantara stream which flows through it, but originated from cooling phenomena of ancient lava flows.

DAY 4 - Over painting and sculpture

After breakfast we will move to Capo D'Orlando, in the Messina area, to visit Villa Piccolo. Built at the end of the 9th century, it was the home of the Casimiro

brothers (Baron of Calanovella), Lucio and Agata Giovanna. Extraordinary, we will be received by the heirs. We will focus on Casimiro, man of the night, who devoted himself to photography, occultism and fantastic genre watercolors. Through all of his works, he speaks to us of a world populated by gnomes, fairies and elves, nymphs, mermaids, sylphs and salamanders.

Light lunch, then towards Bagheria, to visit Villa Palagonia, also known as the "villa of the monsters". It was built, starting in 1715, by Prince Ferdinand Francesco I Gravina Cruyllas, prince of Palagonia, but the driveway, surmounted by a triumphal arch, populated by a row of statues depicting deformed monsters and disturbing-looking animals, was commissioned by the prince's nephew, Ferdinando Francesco II, nicknamed, not surprisingly, "the necromancer". Dinner and overnight in Palermo.

DAY 5 - Mysterious Palermo and palazzo Steri

A day entirely dedicated to Palermo and which begins, after breakfast, with a unique internal itinerary to discover the occult symbols among the streets and monuments of Palermo: from the astrological symbol of the triquetra, to the genius of Palermo up to the esoteric reading of the praetorian fountain. Lunch with Palermo street food in characteristic bars. In the afternoon we will take a leap in time of more than 400 years. We will go to Palazzo Steri reliving the emotions, resignations, hopes, desires, and much more, of the men locked up in cells and sentenced by the court of the Holy Office.

The palace, in fact, was the seat of the Inquisition Tribunal and its prison between 1500 and 1782.

The inmates used the walls as a prison diary. The walls reveal writings and drawings in a unique story that unfolds over time.

DAY 6 - Palermo Cagliostro and Beati Paoli

Full day in the Palermo, walking through the most evocative and mysterious alleys that evoke two fascinating stories, narrated by the Palermitan writer Luigi Natoli, aka William Galt, in the early 1900s.

You will be accompanied, as well as by our guide, by one of the most profound connoisseurs and scholars of these stories who will allow you to enter exclusive places. We will collect the well-known literary character, but actually lived, Giuseppe Balsamo,

born in Palermo in 1743 and known with the name of Cagliostro. Alchemist and esotericist, he made these two disciplines a reason for living that led him to heresy.

We will be led on an adventure between clues and evidence, to shed light on this occult and legendary history, between science, alchemy and Freemasonry. In the afternoon, we'll immerse ourselves in the history of the Beati Paoli, a secret sect that protected the oppressed. A popular rumor that has become historical truth. It starts from the wonderful church of Gesù e Maria al Capo, the church of the Beati Paoli, to understand who they were, their hidden struggles and countless secrets, as well as cunning disguises.

DAY 7 - Meeting with the Baroness of Carini

After breakfast we'll move to Carini, a town west of Palermo, made famous by its Castle, a magical place characterized by apparitions, stories and legends. The castle is the place where a sad love story was consummated, which ended on 4 December 1563 with the murder of the young baroness, victim of an arranged marriage, and never accepted, at the hands of her father for reasons of honor.

A legend tells that, on the occasion of the murder's anniversary, the imprint of her bloody hand would appear on a wall of the room where Baroness Laura Lanza was killed, and that her spirit would wander among the rooms of the castle.

This story has been the subject of the tales of Sicilian storytellers who have preserved the memory through the public representation of the ballad which bring the same name, and therefore it has never been forgotten. After a light lunch, return to Palermo and free afternoon.

The evening will end with dinner in a private noble Palace with a special agreement, exclusively for you, in the company of the hosts.

DAY 8 - The land of Demeter and Kore

After breakfast, transfer to Enna. Here everything speaks of Demeter, Greek goddess of cultivated land and crops (the Romans called her Ceres), who saw her daughter Kore kidnap her right on the shores of Lake Pergusa. The most important site is known as Rocca di Cerere, a unique symbolic place of its kind. We will discover all its secrets thanks to the signs left in this large area, which also includes the current

Castle of Lombardy and the archaeological site of Cozzo Matrice, where we will visit the cave where Kore was imprisoned.

DAY 9 - Coming back home

At the end of our journey on Demeter and Kore, we'll discover the most representative and ancient representations of our trip: two acroliths, statues of which the Greeks modelled only the head, arms and feet using stone, marble or ivory, while the rest of the statue it was made with less valuable material, such as wood. The statues were then covered with fabric drapery.

The two finds are now kept in the museum of Aidone. Until a few years ago, they were exhibited in various museums in the U.S., including the Getty's Museum in Malibu which had bought them after they were stolen, around 1981. We'll also get the chance to know the very famous Venus of Morgantina, who has finally returned also from the USA, where it was exhibited at the Getty Museum.

In the afternoon, we'll discover Roman's uses and customs, visiting the Villa del Casale in Piazza Armerina, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, with its famous mosaics.

DAY 10

The trip has come to an end: after breakfast, check-out transfer to the airport for the end of the services.

The estimated budget for this trip is:

**from € 6.550,00 per person (minimum 4 pax)
to € 4.500,00 per person (maximum 16 pax)**

Ad hoc quotation for 2 pax.

Maximum group 16 pax.

Included

Half board for 8 days in a double or twin room, lunch organized for 9 days, service of a Guide for all days of the tour, living heritage, transport by private vehicle and driver, medical insurance, possible Covid-19 tampon through an approved laboratory.

Not included

Flight, single room supplement, tips, portage at the airport, luggage tax at the hotel, drinks at dinners, meals not mentioned in the program, tastings for a fee. Anything that is not specified under "included".

IMAGINE/DISCOVER/LIVE

Enigmatic lands

EXCITING
HORIZON
Be Your Journey

ITINERARY 2

South-East

During this journey, in each of the two areas where we will stay, you will be accompanied by specialized guides. These, together with our Living Heritage, will reveal to you a land rich in history and cultural intertwining which, at times, remain unknown even to most Sicilians.

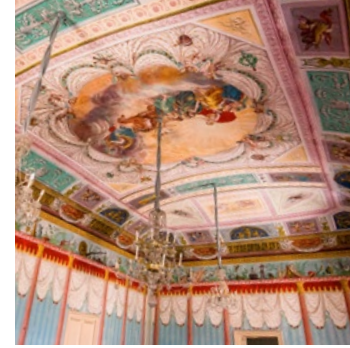
7 DAYS

*Sant'Agata's
reliquary-bust*



ITINERARY 2

ENIGMATIC LANDS



**EXCITING
HORIZON**
Be Your Journey

CENTER AND SOUTH-EAST

DAY 1

Arrive in Catania, transfer to the accommodation. Dinner and briefing on the trip with the writer who inspired our itinerary, professor Marinella Fiume. A teacher, an anthropologist, a politician, a writer, a universal woman who studied and interpreted her land, its men, its women. Great personality of our land.

DAY 2 - Sacred and profane in Catania

This is the day entirely dedicated to understanding the devotion of the people of Catania to its patron Saint Agatha.

A veneration that dates to the years following his martyrdom in the mid-third century AD, and which is linked to a series of miraculous acts that saved the city from lava eruptions and earthquakes, demonstrated by a series of vicissitudes linked to her relics, proven by the modalities and the rites that take place within the days dedicated to her feast which culminates on 3, 4 and 5 February.

This feast, perhaps, is also linked to a religious/cultural heritage connected to the cult of Isis.

You will be accompanied by our living heritage which is among the greatest references and expert in Agatini themes, who will open exclusive environments denied to most people.

In the afternoon we will attend a show with Sicilian puppets, consecrated to assets of the intangible oral heritage of humanity by Unesco, which evoke the passion and martyrdom of Sant'Agata.

DAY 3 - The legendary women of Catania

Even today the whole day is spent in the city of Etna. In the morning, after breakfast, we will discover together the religious, profane, Egyptian, Masonic and esoteric symbols scattered in the Etna city, we will also go to interpret those of the Ursino Castle, and the places linked to the legends of the famous women of Catania such as Viridimura, Gammazita and the Baroness of San Giuliano will be open for us. Light lunch with Catania Street food and free afternoon.

Dinner in a private noble palace with a special agreement, exclusively for you, in the company of the hosts.

DAY 4 - Not only baroque

After breakfast we will move to Noto where we will be based for the next few days. As soon as we arrive in the capital of the Sicilian south-east baroque, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we will go to the most representative building of the city: the "Nicolaci" Palace. This, also known as Palazzo Villadorata, is unique in the world for its stupendous halls and for those marvelous "griffins", "winged horses", "chimeras" and "mermaids" that support those breathtaking balconies, and which constitute a spectacular corollary to the various editions of the Infiorata di Noto, an event that takes place in May every year. The large hall, now used for festivals and cultural events, is historiated with symbols that refer to initiatory and symbolic paths, with references to the Egyptian religion and to Masonic and initiatory symbols.

In the afternoon we will go to the library "Principe di Villadorata", where exclusively for us the letters of the poet Mariannina Coffa Caruso, the "Sappho", the "Capinera di Noto" will be read. His human story, in some ways common to many nineteenth-century bourgeois, and not only in Sicily, evolves in an original key through contact with lines of thought attributable to Masonry, Magnetism or animal Mesmerism, Sleepwalking, Spiritism.

DAY 5 - The hidden Pantalica

This day is entirely dedicated to the knowledge of an area elected as Unesco heritage: the plateau of Pantalica, a site that shows the ancient signs of the man who lived here since the second millennium BC, and the Anapo Valley, the nature reserve protected where the homonymous river flows, which together with the Calcinara, its tributary, has dug deep canyons thus creating the famous plateau. And perhaps, from this millenary history, mysterious stories are born, as well as Vincenzo Consolo, Sicilian writer and essayist, writes in his book "The Stones of Pantalica", meeting an old man in this area: "... He told me about herbs and of animals, snakes of the Anapo, and an enormous snake, the biddina, a fantastic dragon, which few have seen, which fascinates and swallows' men, donkeys, sheep, goats."

You will be led by an exceptional guide, connoisseur, scholar and writer of ancient rituals, documentary maker who collaborates with the major national

television newspapers, and president of the Iblei Museum Network.

DAY 6 - The castle of a thousand meanings

Last day before departure is dedicated to the Donnafugata castle. The castle is located in the territory of the municipality of Ragusa, about 15 kilometers from the city. The current building is a sumptuous noble residence from the late 19th century. The residence overlooked what were the possessions of the rich Arezzo De Spuches family. Upon arrival, the castle already reveals its sumptuousness: the building covers an area of over 7,500 square meters on 3 floors in neo-Gothic style, crowned by two side towers. Beautiful to see, to walk through, both outside and inside among its 120 rooms and halls, to be enjoyed in its melodic and harmonious contrast between the visible and the veiled.

Already from the entrance of the main door, two large statues depicting Hercules and the goddess Minerva welcome us, symbolically strength and wisdom; then, the countless frescoes, in which representations lead us back to initiatory and mysterious symbolologies await us.

But also, the surrounding park is built following mysterious and cryptic messages that want to strongly express the allegory of life, with hints of the frenetic and obvious dualism of its aspects of life and death, of joy and sadness, of passion and indifference.

DAY 7

The trip has come to an end: after breakfast, check-out transfer to the airport for the end of the services.

The estimated budget for this trip is

**from € 4.250,00 per person (minimum 4 pax)
to € 2.820,00 per person (maximum 16 pax)**

Ad hoc quotation for 2 pax.

Maximum group 16 pax.

Included

Half board for 5 days in a double or twin room, lunch organized for 6 days, service of a Guide for all days of the tour, living heritage, transport by private vehicle and driver, medical insurance, possible covid 19 tampon through an approved laboratory.

Not included

Flight, single room supplement, tips, portorage at the airport, luggage tax at the hotel, drinks at dinners, meals not mentioned in the program, tastings for a fee. Anything that is not specified under "included".

