



Western McIntoshGallery

THE MCINTOSH GALLERY ART & TRAVEL COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO PRESENT:

Malta & Sicily

GRAND ISLANDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

October 18 – 31, 2022

Begin at the beginning with Malta's spectacular Neolithic temples. These are some of the world's earliest stone temples, predating the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge. Malta was desired by every invading group in the Mediterranean from the Phoenicians and Romans to the maritime warrior monks of the Knights of St John Hospitaller and both sides of the Second World War and we'll see evidence of each of these. Our stay in Malta includes a visit to the rural island of Gozo.

Moving to the island of Sicily we explore the incredibly varied influences of periods of Greek, Roman, and Norman occupation plus outstanding examples of the Renaissance and Baroque. This exceptionally rich inventory of art, architecture, and archaeological sites includes the fine Greek Temple at Segesta, the brilliant floor mosaics at Piazza Armerina, the Arab-Norman Castle in Palermo, and the outstanding Byzantine mosaics at Monreale. The experience is enhanced by the picturesque hill towns, the entrancing coastlines, and the superb food and wine on this trip to the crossroads of the Mediterranean.



TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:


WorldwideQuest
ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH TRAVEL | Since 1970

Why travel to
Malta and Sicily
with us?



Teatro Greco, Taormina

- 🌀 Explore Malta's extraordinary megalithic temples
- 🌀 Linger in Agrigento's Valley of the Temples
- 🌀 Enjoy an aperitif with the countess at a Palermo palace
- 🌀 See the magnificent Roman mosaics at Piazza Armerina
- 🌀 See the splendid baroque buildings in picturesque Noto
- 🌀 Taste olive oils with the maker at your country resort

Your Hosts

Mary Lake Collins is a retired teacher with a degree in Fine Art History. Since retiring she has volunteered with Museum London & the McIntosh Gallery at Western University taking groups on art trips across the United States, China, Chile, and Argentina. These trips specialized in rich art experiences and cultural appreciation.

For over 30 years, **Wilda Thomas** has been the owner of Creative Art & Frame. She has studied Interior Design and Art History at the University of Manitoba and organized and conducted art trips for over 25 years while volunteering at Museum London and now with the McIntosh Art & Travel Committee.

Detailed Itinerary



Tuesday, Oct. 18: Meet in Malta

Participants are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel in Sliema, Malta's perfect mix of quiet backstreets and cosmopolitan sparkle. Meet for our briefing, followed by dinner together.

Overnight: Hotel Victoria, Sliema

Meals: Dinner

Wednesday, Oct. 19: Malta

Start the date at the National Museum of Archaeology to see the 'Fat Ladies of Malta' and other Neolithic-era carvings. Visit the marvelous baroque St. John's Co-Cathedral with elaborately carved tombs and paintings by Caravaggio, and the 16th century Grand Master's Palace with its sumptuous decorations. Take in "The Malta Experience" film which showcases 7000 years of the island's history.

Overnight: Hotel Victoria, Sliema

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Thursday, Oct. 20: Excursion to Gozo

A thirty-minute ferry crossing takes us to the rural island of Gozo. Here see the temple of Ggantija, one of Malta's oldest prehistoric monuments and enjoy the town of Victoria. Note Malta's fishing boats – the prows painted with eyes as they were in Phoenician times.

Overnight: Hotel Victoria, Sliema

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Ggantija Temples, Xaghra, Gozo



Friday, Oct. 21: Fly to Palermo

The island's outstanding prehistoric sites are out in the open; gigantic temples and towers stand watch over the sea. Visit the best-preserved of these; the megalithic temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdar with inspiring locations atop sea cliffs. Another extraordinary site is underground; the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum is a 5000-year-old necropolis carved from the living rock. This evening transfer to the airport for the short flight to Palermo. Upon arrival transfer directly to our city centre hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Piazza Borsa, Palermo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Saturday, Oct. 22: Palermo

After breakfast, set off on a guided **tour of Palermo**, a magical patchwork of architecture from Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, and Spanish conquests. Visit the **Cappella Palatina**, one of the Arab-Norman UNESCO sites of the town and continue to the **Capuchin Catacombs** to learn about a most peculiar local custom and a unique cultural heritage. Walking along Corso Vittorio Emanuele see the **Cathedral of Palermo**, the **Quattro Canti**, the Renaissance fountain of **Piazza Pretoria**, the Baroque church of **Santa Caterina** and the Arabic red domes of **San Cataldo**. Gather for dinner al fresco this evening on a delightful piazza.

Note: Palermo's Teatro Massimo is Italy's biggest opera house, renowned for its perfect acoustics. When the schedule becomes available, we will offer tickets (at extra cost) for performances during your stay in Palermo.

Overnight: Hotel Piazza Borsa, Palermo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Cappella Palatina



Sunday, Oct. 23: Castello della Zisa and Palazzo Conte Federico

Visit the Zisa palace, one of the most beautiful legacies of the Norman-Arab presence in Sicily. The building dates from the 12th century and is named after an Arab term meaning “the splendid”. Join your host for an exclusive private visit to the Palazzo Alliata di Pietratagliata, a palazzo that has remained in the same family for six centuries. Built in the middle of the 15th century, it’s a stunning example of the blend of architectural styles from the 1400’s to Modernism. After our private aperitif at the palace, enjoy lunch at the restaurant in the beautiful XVIIsec. Piazza Bologni. The afternoon is at leisure to continue exploring independently.

Overnight: Hotel Piazza Borsa, Palermo

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Monday, Oct. 24: Monreale and Cefalù

Today you’ll visit the two major **Arab-Norman sites** outside Palermo, the **Cathedrals of Monreale and Cefalù**. These date from the era of the Norman kingdom of Sicily (1130-1194) and are listed in the UNESCO world heritage as “*an example of a social-cultural syncretism between Western, Islamic and Byzantine cultures on the island*”. Take time to explore Cefalù’s winding mediaeval streets flanked with all manner of shops and the lovely sandy beach. Return to Palermo this afternoon and enjoy dinner in a casual trattoria.

Overnight: Hotel Piazza Borsa, Palermo

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday, Oct. 25: Segesta, Selinunte, Agrigento

Leave Palermo, heading through the ‘Conca d’Oro’ (the Golden Shell), to **Segesta** where we pause to admire its spectacularly sited Doric Temple and the Greek theatre overlooking an unspoiled countryside. Continue south across the island to explore the site of **Selinunte** with its temples and acropolis overlooking the sea. Then settle in for a two-night-stay at our charming **olive-oil farm and resort** in Agrigento’s countryside. The owner will teach you the proper way to taste and smell a variety of olive oils while touring the olive groves and the oil press, before enjoying dinner family-style.

Overnight: Mandranova, Agrigento

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Temple in Segesta



Garden at Monreale Cathedral

Wednesday, Oct. 26: Valley of the Temples

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Listed site of the **Valley of the Temples** with a specialist archaeologist-guide and enjoy a walk in the Giardino dell Kolymbetra, a lush garden of olive and citrus trees between walls of soft volcanic rock. Visit the **Archaeological Museum of Agrigento** displaying the kouros known as the Ephebe of Agrigento and the Telamon giant statue from the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The afternoon is at leisure at the resort.

Overnight: Mandranova, Agrigento

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 27: Piazza Armerina, Taormina

Head inland to the centre of the island to **Piazza Armerina** to visit the **Roman Villa del Casale** boasting the largest and best-preserved collection of Roman mosaics in the world. Continue to the delightful town of Taormina, clinging to the hillside overlooking the sea. Enjoy a guided walk along the **Corso Umberto** to the celebrated **Greek Theatre**, world famous for its spectacular setting.

Overnight: Hotel Montetauro, Taormina

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday, Oct. 28: Mt. Etna

An early start today takes us to Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe (10,902ft) and undoubtedly the dominating feature of Eastern Sicily. Explore the mountain with a specialist **volcanologist guide** to see the lava flows of ancient and recent eruptions. The slopes of Mt. Etna yield a very particular terroir derived from the volcanic soil, hot Mediterranean sun, and constant sea breeze. Visit a **leading Etna estate** where the winemaker will host you for a Sicilian lunch to pair with his distinctive wines.

Overnight: Hotel Montetauro, Taormina

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Saturday, Oct. 29: Siracusa

Travel south along the coast to ancient Greek town of Siracusa. Visit the fifth-century B.C. theatre, the largest of its type to survive almost intact and the Roman amphitheater, as we explore the extensive **Archaeological area**. We're staying in the historic centre of the city, known as Ortigia. In the late afternoon we'll explore the area on foot admiring the picturesque townscape filled with magnificent buildings, little piazzas, and seaside promenades.

Overnight: Ortea Palace Hotel, Siracusa

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Sunday, Oct. 30: Siracusa

Travel to nearby Noto to admire the splendid baroque buildings of one of Sicily's most beautiful historic centres. All of honey-coloured stone, the palazzos are ornamented with carved stone balconies decorated with iron work. Return to Siracusa to enjoy the afternoon at leisure before our celebratory dinner this evening.

Overnight: Ortea Palace Hotel, Siracusa

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday, Oct. 31: Depart Catania

After breakfast at the hotel we are transferred to the Catania airport for homeward-bound flights.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this detailed itinerary are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.



Maltese snack



Siracusa



Ruins of the Greek theatre of Syracuse



Tour Details

Tour Cost (per person): C\$8495

Including all taxes and gratuities and flight from Malta to Palermo.

Single Supplement: C\$2295

If you are travelling on your own and would like to share accommodation, we would be happy to try to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to do so, the single cost applies.

Group Size:

18 – 22 participants

What's Included:

- Accommodations based on double occupancy in listed hotels or similar
- Airport transfers at destination for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Flight from Malta to Palermo in economy class
- All ground transportation by comfortable private coach
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (breakfast and either lunch or dinner daily)
- Excursions with experienced English-speaking local guides
- Whisper audio guide system in Sicily
- All entrance fees
- All taxes
- Gratuities for all group services (guides, drivers, restaurants, and hotels)
- Fully escorted by Wilda Thomas and Mary Lake Collins

Not Included:

- Roundtrip international airfare from your home
- Airport transfers if arriving or departing separately from group itinerary
- Meals and beverages not included in the itinerary
- Performance tickets at Teatro Massimo (subject to availability)
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc.)
- Travel insurance
- Additional transport due to any emergency situation

Payment Details:

A non-refundable deposit of C\$500 per person is required to reserve a place on this tour. A second non-refundable deposit of C\$1500 per person is required six months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.



Palermo cathedral

What to Expect

Joining Instructions

This tour begins with our briefing 6PM on October 18th. Please ensure that you arrive in Malta by 3PM to join the group. All travellers arriving on the start date of the tour will be met on arrival and transferred to the group hotel. This transfer is included in the cost of the tour. When you book pre-trip arrangements including flight and accommodations with Worldwide Quest, your transfer from the airport to our group hotel on arrival is also included. If you are making your own pre-trip arrangements, this transfer can be provided at additional cost. The tour concludes with a single complimentary transfer from the hotel in Taormina to the Catania airport on October 31st. **Please contact us to verify timing of this transfer prior to making any flight arrangements.**

Level of Activity: Moderate

We will be doing quite a bit of walking on this tour as we tour the city centres and visit museums and galleries. You should be comfortable walking up to two hours at a time at a steady pace. Not all museums have elevators.

Accommodation

The Hotel Victoria is a contemporary hotel in the Victorian style in the heart of the Sliema district of Malta. The Grand Hotel Borsa is a four star monastery-turned-hotel ideally located in the historic centre of Palermo. Mandranova is an elegant rural resort designed in a combination of contemporary and traditional Sicilian furnishings. The Hotel Montetauro is a modern hotel with fantastic views over the Mediterranean coastline, a few minutes' walk to the Greek Theatre. The Ortea Palace is a luxury hotel overlooking the harbour in the heart of the historic Ortigia district.

Transportation

We will be using a 35-seater minibus for our daily excursions. The flight from Malta to Palermo is included in the cost of this tour.

Weather

Late fall is a splendid time to travel in Sicily and Malta; the crowds have largely departed and the weather remains warm and sunny. We expect temperatures of about 24°C during the day with overnight lows of 16°C.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for your trip to Italy and Malta. Please make sure that it is valid for six months after the date of your return home. Currently visas are not required for Canadian passport holders.

Travel advice

Before booking, please refer to the Canadian government website to obtain travel advice for the destination(s) you are visiting: www.travel.gc.ca

Additional Info

Extend your Stay

If you are interested in exploring more of this region, we would be happy to design a personalized extension for you either before or after this tour. Please let us suggest some options, based on your time available, budget and interests.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.



How to Book

Please contact the Worldwide Quest office for more information and to secure your booking.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666 | travel@worldwidequest.com