

ALEXANDER+ROBERTS®

ORIGINAL JOURNEYS SINCE 1947

Enhance Your Stay in Taormina with Additional Privately Guided Sightseeing

Private Half-Day Tour to Catania: Enjoy the chauffeured journey southward to Catania, a charming Baroque town nestled on the coast in the shadow of Mt. Etna. On arrival, meet your expert local guide for an in-depth tour of the city's architectural landmarks, starting with *U Liotru*, an 18th-century basalt carving of an elephant carrying an obelisk on its back. Continue through the Piazza del Duomo as your guide shares insight into Catania's culture and history. Many of the notable landmarks you'll see were built after the devastating 1693 earthquake—using a local volcanic stone that gives the buildings a very distinctive character. In addition to the massive Cathedral of St. Agatha, founded in the 11th century and extensively rebuilt after the earthquake, you'll also discover the lavish Massimo Bellini Opera House and the finely preserved Greco-Roman Theater. *Tour Duration: 5.5 Hours*

Private Half-Day Tour to Mt. Etna 🌐 by 4-Wheel Drive Vehicle: Set out in your comfortable 4x4 vehicle with an expert driver to ascend the slopes of the tallest active volcano in southern Europe. As you leave Taormina behind, you'll pass picturesque Sicilian villages and travel through some of the island's most famous wine-growing regions. Learn how the geological and volcanic forces of Mt. Etna have shaped these landscapes over millennia and see the many ways in which the volcano continues to impact the region. Your driver will, of course, make a few stops so you can take in the spectacular views and capture some photos. Although the main craters of this active volcano are closed to the public, you will have a chance to take an easy hike to the edge of an inactive side crater. This memorable excursion includes about 30 minutes venturing off road, as well as a sampling of traditional Sicilian foods accompanied by a glass of wine. *Tour Duration: 5 Hours*

Private Full-Day Tour to Mt. Etna 🌐 + Wine Tasting and Lunch at Barone di Villagrande: Enjoy the pastoral landscapes as you depart Taormina in a comfortable 4x4 vehicle with your expert driver. As you begin your journey up the slopes of Southern Europe's highest active volcano, you'll discover timeless Sicilian villages and beautiful vineyard estates famed for their fine wines. Along the way, you'll learn about Mt. Etna's geological history and how its volcanic activity continues to shape the region. You'll make a few stops to experience the breathtaking views and spend about 30 minutes venturing off-road. There will also be opportunity to take an easy hike to the edge of an inactive side crater. Before returning to Taormina, you'll spend time on the Barone di Villagrande Estate. Situated on the slopes of Mt. Etna about 2,300 feet above sea level, this historic vineyard has been owned and managed by the Nicolosi family since the 18th century. Enjoy a tour of their vineyards and winery, and then sit down to a delightful lunch featuring traditional Sicilian dishes paired with some of the estate's fine wines. *Tour Duration: 8 Hours*

Private Full-Day Tour to Mt. Etna 🌍 Summit: Enjoy the chauffeured drive from Taormina, traveling deep into the beautiful landscapes of Mt. Etna, punctuated by timeless Sicilian village and picture-perfect vineyard estates. Continuing up the slopes of Southern Europe's tallest active volcano, you'll ascend to 6,300 feet above sea level. From here the Mt. Etna Cable Car promises breathtaking vistas as you travel up to an elevation of 8,200 feet. From this point, local mountain guides will take you by 4-wheel drive bus up to 9,500 feet where you'll embark on an expertly-guided hike. On a clear day, magnificent views encompass the entire region from the volcano's summit all the way to the sea. Descending by bus and cable car back to 6,300 feet, you'll rendezvous with your driver for the return journey to Taormina. *Tour Duration: 8 Hours*

On "The Godfather" Steps Private Full-Day Tour: With your engaging personal guide, this tour is a must for fans of Francis Ford Coppola's Academy Award-winning film about the Corleone family. Encompassing some of The Godfather's most memorable scenes, you'll visit Fiumefreddo, Forza d'Agrò, and Savoca—captivating villages that the director selected in the early 1970's because they still retained the look and feel of Sicily in the 1940's. Among the filming locations that you'll discover is the handsome Baroque villa where Michael Corleone realizes that he has been betrayed. You'll also visit Bar Vitelli in Savoca, where Michael sees Apollonia for the first time, and beautiful St. Nicolò Church where they wed. Beyond their importance to movie buffs, the sites included on this memorable full-day excursion promise another perspective on Sicily's wealth of architectural landmarks and its vibrant culture. *Tour Duration: 8 Hours*

Market Tour + Cooking Class in Taormina: Join the engaging Chef Massimo for this immersive foray into Sicilian cuisine and culture. Begin at the local market where city residents come for their daily shopping. Learn about the various products and their importance to Sicily's enduring culinary traditions. Then follow Chef Massimo to his professional kitchen for a hands-on cooking class featuring fresh pasta, three different fish-based main courses, and dessert. Then sit down with your fellow students to enjoy the fruits of your labor paired with fine Sicilian wine. The recipes and apron from today's class are yours to keep as mementos of this wonderful cultural experience. *Tour Duration: 5.5 Hours*