



# Transfer with Sightseeing from Taormina to Siracusa

Transfer from Taormina to Siracusa with stopovers into Ragusa Ibla, Modica and Noto, three wonderful example of the Late Baroque Towns of the Noto Valley, declared Unesco World Heritage Site in 2002.



Location



Days

1



Duration

8h



Category

Transfer with sightseeing



Season

Anytime Round



Tour Type

Private

## TOUR OVERVIEW

Transfer with Sightseeing from Taormina to Siracusa

Taormina> Ragusa Ibla, Modica and Noto > Syracuse

Approximately Travel Time and Unit: Full Day – 160 Miles (250 Kilometers)

Private Vehicle and English Speaking Driver Disposal: full day from h 8.30AM

Today meet our staff and departure for Ragusa to visit one of the most fascinating towns in Sicily, Ragusa has caused many a visitor's jaw to drop as they first set eyes on the lower part of the town. Essentially Baroque, the Ragusa you will see today dates almost entirely from 1693. Indeed, it was in this year that Ragusa, along with its neighbours, Noto, Modica, Scicli and Catania, was razed to the ground by a terrible earthquake that hit most of the eastern side of Sicily. Public opinion on where to rebuild the town was divided, and so a compromise was made. The wealthier, more aristocratic citizens built a new town in a different site, now Ragusa "Superiore", while the other half of the population decided to rebuild on the original site, on a ridge at the bottom of a gorge, now Ragusa Ibla. The two towns remained separated until 1926 when they were merged to become the chief town of the province, taking the place of Modica. While the upper part has its fair share of architectural delights, it is the smaller Ragusa Ibla down below that really draws visitors. Whether you approach it from Modica to the south or from Ragusa Superiore, the sight of the jumble of houses, churches and civic palazzi piled on top of each other, clinging to the walls of the gorge, is really quite breathtaking. Although seemingly Mediaeval from a distance, once you enter the town's heart, the Baroque logic of its plan becomes more obvious.

Then to Modica. Like the other towns in the Val di Noto, was badly damaged in the 1693 earthquake and largely rebuilt in Sicilian Baroque style. It is divided into two parts, "higher" Modica and "lower" Modica, which are connected by numerous flights of steps. Palazzi and houses rise from the bottom of the gorge seemingly stacked one on top of the other. Magnificent churches, with their inspiring domes, bell towers and intricate facades, punctuate the red-tiled roofs and one is struck by the uniform beauty of the whole. Modica has a long and varied history, complete with the usual toing and froing of successions of invaders. It came to real prominence in 1296, when Frederick II of Aragon (not to be confused with Frederick II "Stupor Mundi") formed the "County of Modica", a kind of "state within a state" that was initially governed by Manfredi I Chiaramonte. Modica is custodian of a 400 year tradition of Sicilian chocolate-making. Being part of the Spanish kingdom for so many years meant that Sicily was often one of the first recipients of the new foodstuffs being brought back from South America. Cacao was one of these and today Modica still specialises in making granulous chocolate, often flavoured with chilli pepper, cinnamon or vanilla, that is based on Aztec methods and recipes. Chocolate shops abound and, for the real chocoholic, it is sometimes possible to watch the "chocolatiers" at work. Tasting of Modica chocolate is a must.

Later onto Syracuse.

This transfer tour is operated with English speaking Driver.

Licensed local guide is not included.

FULL DAY TRANSFER-TOUR: Full day excursion is approximately 7-10 hours in accordance with the itinerary and route.

PRE-POST TOURS: pre-post tours and packages are available on request.

BAGGAGE HANDLING: One big size and one trolley per person are allowed in this tour.

ADMISSION FEES: The price of this tour does not include Admission Fees.

TOUR CODE: TAORAGSRS

## TOUR MAP



WHAT IS INCLUDED?

NOT INCLUDED

