

LRAC Sicily: Heritage, History and Art

19 -25 May 2010



Sicily, the Mediterranean's largest island, has a rich and fascinating legacy of architecture and art ranging from Greek and Roman architecture, to Norman and Moorish art. Its capital, Palermo, a town situated in a spectacular position under Mount Pellegrino, still retains a great deal of the influence of Norman and Moorish art in its 12th century churches and other buildings. The Norman churches of San Cataldo and La Martorana, the latter decorated with outstanding 12th century mosaics, and the Cathedral, are major sites of interest. The Palazzo Reale, which was the centre of power from Byzantine times, and the Capella Palatina, designed by Roger II in 1132, whose mosaics are splendid examples of Norman-Moorish art stand as testimony to the importance of Sicily as a major power in the Middle Ages. The Archaeological Museum of Palermo is one of the major collections of antiquities in Italy.

Monreale was the sumptuous creation of the Norman King, William II. Its Cathedral and its Romanesque cloisters are spectacular sights, which express Williams' love of Islamic art but also reflect the cosmopolitan nature of the Norman court. Craftsmen from Provence, Greece, Venice, Pisa, Persia, Asia and Africa all worked on Monreale. Greek colonies dominated ancient Sicily. Their inhabitants built temples in dramatic landscapes such as at Segesta where a Doric temple stand isolated on a lonely hill at the head of the valley. Selinunte, located on the coast, is a pocket of Magna Graecia in African Sicily. It was founded by colonists in 628 BC, and was the largest Greek city in western Sicily. At Agrigento, temples are set in a valley with groves of almonds and ancient olive trees. Here are found some of the best-preserved monuments of the Greek world such as the Temple of Concord. Agrigento's archaeological museum possesses an extensive collection of classical art.

Siracusa, an ancient city, originally founded by Corinthian settlers in 733 BC became the supreme Mediterranean power of its age surpassing Athens in its prestige. It is a major architectural site, including the cathedral, founded on the remains of a 5th century BC temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. Siracusa is also famous for its classical park 'Neapolis' which contains a Roman amphitheatre, a Greek theatre which dates from 474BC and the famous 'Ear of Dionysius', which was supposedly used by Dionysius to eavesdrop on prisoners.

Accommodation

Single room supplement £180

Centrally located Hotel Europa*** in Palermo and Hotel Gutkowski*** on the island of Ortigia

(Siracusa). Bed and Breakfast tariff in twin-share room with private facilities.	
Course Cost	£825
Inclusive of tuition, visits to Monreale, Erice, Segesta, Selinunte, Agrigento and Piazza Armerina, airport transfers (airport transfers are only available for the Siragusa Ltd nominated flight), transfer to Siracusa, accommodation and breakfast.	
Travel Insurance	
Once tour is viable and if we have booked a flight for you through Travepack, you can call Lorraine on 08444 930465 for an immediate quote (unless you already have insurance).	
Flight	Ca. £200 flight to Palermo and back from Catania (this may be via Rome or Milan)
Note that the cost is an estimate and if it is less you pay less. Please see Booking Conditions for more information concerning nominated flights.	
Local Transport	
Airport transfers, transfer to Siracusa and day visits by coach.	
Group Size	20
Tutor(s)	<i>Dr Neil Faulkner</i>
Related OU Courses	General interest/Classics/A219
<i>Itinerary</i>	
DAY 01	
Arrival at Palermo airport, transfer to Hotel in Palermo. Course introduction, orientation.	
DAY 02	
Palermo: National Archaeological Museum, San Cataldo, La Martorana, San Giovanni degli Eremitani, Cappella Palatina, Duomo	
DAY 03	
Visit to Segesta: Temple, Ancient town and theatre Visit to Selinunte: Classical Site	
DAY 04	
Visit to Monreale: Cathedral and Cloisters, Visit to Medieval Erice	
DAY 05	
Visit to Agrigento: Archaeological Museum, Valley of Temples. Transfer to the island of Ortigia (Siracusa) with stopover at Piazza Armerina, orientation in Ortigia	
DAY 06	
Siracusa: Archaeological Park and Museum, Ortigia, Duomo, Castello Eurialo	
DAY 07	
Free time until departure	
This itinerary and study programme is provisional and may be subject to change in response to local conditions	

Siragusa Ltd, Unit 26, JBJ Business Park, Northampton Rd, Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DW
Tel: 01604 859491 Fax : 01604 858511 info@siragusatours.co.uk
www.siragusatours.co.uk