

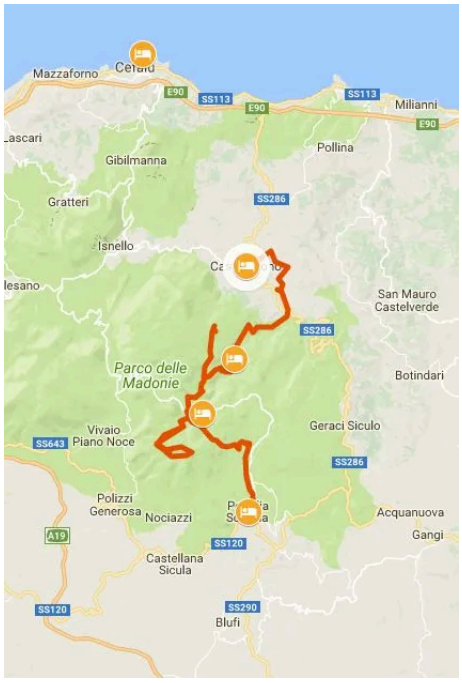
GASTRONOMY SUMMER

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours
level :	
duration :	7 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Sep Oct
code:	ITSW060

Madonie: the mountains of Sicily - Italy

Madonie: the mountains of Sicily

7 days, PRICE FROM *€ 796*



Not far from Mount Etna, Sicily rises beyond 2,000 meters with its highest mountains. **The Madonie Mountains represent an alternative side of Sicily, a rugged and earthy part of this region**, adorned with perched villages and countryside. This area is the heart of our **Madonie Mountains Hiking** experience, where vegetable gardens and olive groves thrive, **producing almonds, figs, and hazelnuts.**

You'll walk with frequent **breathtaking views of central Sicily, Mount Etna, and the sea**. Throughout your **Madonie Mountains Hiking** journey, you gradually descend toward the Mediterranean scrubland and the **emerald sea of Cefalù, known for its Norman Cathedral and Byzantine mosaics.**

Route

Day 1 Arrive in Petralia Sottana

Arrive in Sicily and breathe in the warm island breeze and aroma of the outstanding local flora. If pre-arranged with us, a private transfer takes you from airport to your accommodation in **Petralia Sottana**, in the south of the Monti Madonie. Enjoy your first dinner in a local restaurant of your choice trying the many flavors of the tasty regional cuisine.

Day 2 Loop walk around Petralia Sottana, 15 km

Today's walk It is a quite easy path through Petralia's hills from where it is possible to enjoy **superb landscapes over the southern side of Sicily**, inclunding **Mt. Etna**. Some stretches of the route are on clayey terrain which can be challenging in case of rain. The elevation is fairly gradual; there is only one steep stretch. The walk can start in Portella Ferrone (wp17) with transfer organized by the accomodation; the walk is then shortened of 2 km and the steep stretch to wp14 is avoided.

Distance: 15 km

Elevation gain: +470/-470 m

Day 3 Transfer to Gangi and walk to Geraci Siculo, 12 km

A morning transfer will take you to the start of the walk in **Gangi**, a medieval hilltop town often lauded as **one of the most beautiful villages** in Italy. The walk starts off on a fairly steep route crossing the typical Sicilian rural landscape and passing by ancient masserie and panoramic views of the surrounding countryside, characterized by rolling hills, verdant valleys, and the distant silhouette of the Madonie mountain range.
Arriving in Geraci Siculo, you'll find another enchanting medieval town with a rich history and vibrant local culture. Known for its well-preserved **Norman castle** ruins, Geraci Siculo offers a charming end to your hike.

Distance: 12 km

Elevation gain: +484/-278 m

Day 4 From Geraci Siculo to Rocca di Gonato, 15 km

The walk from Geraci Siculo to Rocca di Gonato is a delightful journey through the heart of Sicily's Madonie Mountains. Along the way there are **spectacular views** of the **mountains** and the **coast**. On a clear day, it is also possible to see the islands of the Aeolian archipelago. Along the way it is suggested a short extension to reach the Church of Saints
Cosma and Damiano. Once you arrive at the destination you can relax and enjoy its **natural beauty** and **serene environment**.

Distance: 15 km

Elevation gain: +433/-677 m

Day 5 From Gonato to Castelbuono, 12,5 km

Bid adieu to the lovely Madonie Mountains an descend to the hills around **Castelbuono**. A short and easy descent brings you to Agriturismo Bergi. Here you can spend the afternoon relaxing into the village of Castelbuono. Do not miss a visit to the nearby medieval village of Castebuono. Stroll along ancient narrow streets and squares for a true taste of small-town Sicily.

Distance: 12,5 km

Elevation gain: +285/-728 m

Day 6 Cefalù loop walk, 3 km

After breakfast, a short transfer takes you to the bus stop in Castelbuono where you board the bus with your luggage to **Cefalù**. Check in at your hotel and explore the town's breathtaking **Norman Cathedral** and awe-inspiring **Byzantine mosaics**. Climb the ancient fortifications of the Rocca or go for a refreshing swim on the long sandy beach in front of the hotel. To end this fabulous walking trip celebrate with a delicious dinner in one of Cefalù's many fine fish restaurants.

Distance: 3 km

Elevation gain: +207/-207 m

Day 7 Arrivederci Cefalù!

The trip and services end after breakfast. From Cefalù you depart by train to reach Palermo or Catania Airports.

Accommodation

6 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast



Hotel Il Castello - Petralia Sottana
Hotel Il Castello is housed in ancient Norman Castle dated back to 1062. It offers well-furnished rooms with free Wifi, satellite TV, private bathroom and rustic style. Staff is courteous and helpful. Highly recommended the restaurant. Buffet breakfast with homemade products.

Hotel Donna Vì - Geraci Siculo



Agriturismo Bergi - Castelbuono
Agriturismo Bergi is a part of the Farm Azienda Agricola Bergi that produces and commercilizes quality biological products by Sicily from years. Rooms are well-finished, elegant and welcoming with private bathroom, air conditioning/heating and TV. The cuisine offers typical dishes from Sicily and the buffet breakfast is both savoury and sweet.



Hotel Riva del Sole - Cefalù
Hotel Riva del Sole is located along the seafront of Cefalù and it offers a panoramic terrace overlooking the sea. Hotel offers spacious rooms, clean and well-finished with free Wifi, TV, private bathroom. International breakfast is rich and various of sweet and savoury products.

Masseria Rocca di Gonato - Castelbuono

Practical info

From the airport PMO, you first need to reach Palermo train station by bus. From Palermo bus station (located in front of the train station), busses run directly to Petralia Sottana. Check times and prices on www.saistrasporti.it.

From Catania airport (CTA), you can reach the train station by bus. Once there, take a train to Palermo, and then a bus to Petralia Sottana.

On departure from Cefalù, take a train to Palermo Centrale and then a bus connection to Palermo Punta Raisi airport (PMO). Click here for further info.

If flying from Catania (CTA), take a train from Cefalù to Catania Centrale (with change in either Messina or Palermo), and then a bus to the airport.

Train timetables available on www.trenitalia.com.

Thanks to our special APP, you will be able to follow the track of the whole trip on your mobile phone, with no need for internet. GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 6 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast
- 2 dinners (Castelbuono)
- 2 packed lunch
- transfers as described in the day by day program
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, app
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.
- travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel