



SADDLETRAVEL.COM

Deep Sicily

Weight limit: 90kg / 14 stone
Nearest airport: Palermo / Catania
8 days / 7 nights / 6 days riding



Discover the heart of Sicily on an unforgettable horseback adventure through ancient landscapes, remote villages and the island's beautiful heartlands. The Deep Sicily Trail takes you well beyond the usual tourist routes, travelling from the wild Madonie Mountains into a fascinating interior shaped by centuries of history, farming and tradition. Over six full days of riding, you'll follow old pathways through rolling wheat fields, eucalyptus forests and peaceful valleys, discovering remarkable places that few visitors ever see. Explore the cave dwellings and rock-cut castle of Sperlinga, ride past mysterious medieval fortresses and ancient archaeological sites, and visit the magnificent Roman mosaics of Villa Romana del Casale.

Each evening brings a warm Sicilian welcome at a carefully chosen country hotel or traditional agriturismo, where generous home-cooked meals showcase the island's exceptional local produce. With long days in the saddle, varied terrain and the opportunity for some exhilarating riding, this is a rewarding adventure for confident, experienced riders who want to discover the real Sicily.

The Riding

This trail is suitable for intermediate and experienced riders. All participants should be confident and comfortable at all three paces riding over varied and rough terrain and they

should have experience in hacking out in the open. A good level of fitness is required as there may be long trots and gallops along the way, riding between 6 and 8 hours each day.

Guides & Group sizes

You will be guided by Alex who is a true expert of Sicilian culture, history, biodiversity and natural wonders. He has guided trails through the island for more than ten years and will guide you safely through the most remote parts of Sicily.

Maximum number of riders in a group is 10.



Horses & Tack

The horses are Sicilian native breeds crossed with Arabs. All bred in Sicily. They live out all year round in a herd environment and are hardy and sure footed on the rough terrain. All horses are trained to be obedient, well-behaved, energetic and forward going.

The saddles used are light weight and English style with a sheepskin cover to add some extra comfort. Bridles are special trail riding bridles. Small saddlebags are provided for items such as water bottles, sun cream and extra layers.

Guests are not required to groom and tack up the horses.

Accommodation & Dining

Accommodation during the trail will be in Agriturismo, B&B or good quality hotels. Luggage will be transferred by car between the overnight stops.

Evening meals consist of authentic Sicilian cuisine prepared with local produce. A typical evening meal will include a variety of starters, a pasta course, a meat/main course, dessert,

wine, water and a digestif. Picnic lunches are provided by the support vehicle and include fresh bread, salads, cheeses, olives, charcuterie, Sicilian specialities, wine or other drinks on request, coffee or tea. Special diets and allergies can be catered for with advance notice.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive at Casa Il Bosco, a beautifully restored nineteenth-century country house surrounded by the wild landscapes of the Madonie Natural Park. Enjoy breathtaking views towards Sicily's northern coastline and the Aeolian Islands before settling in for your first evening. Meet your fellow riders over a delicious dinner prepared using fresh local ingredients.

Day 2

Your adventure begins with a climb through Mediterranean woodland, enjoying spectacular views of the Tyrrhenian Sea as you ride towards Castelbuono. Stop for a picnic lunch beside an old watermill before following the beautiful Pollina River valley through one of Sicily's wildest and least explored regions. After approximately 7.5 hours in the saddle, arrive at Agriturismo Casalvecchio, where a traditional farmhouse dinner awaits.



Day 3

Ride through open pastures and along ancient country tracks towards the fascinating village of Sperlinga, famous for its cave dwellings and extraordinary castle carved directly into the rock. After a picnic lunch, explore the village and its castle before continuing to Baglio San Pietro, a beautifully restored seventeenth-century farmhouse near Nicosia. Relax by the swimming pool before enjoying dinner after approximately 6.5 hours of riding.

Day 4

Descend into the valley of the Salso Cimarosa River, following peaceful trails beneath the dramatic peaks of the Erean Mountains. Stop for a picnic lunch near the village of Nissoria before continuing through eucalyptus forests and rolling countryside towards Agira, deep in Sicily's agricultural heartland. After approximately 7 hours of riding, leave the horses for the night and take a short transfer into the historic hilltop town, where you'll stay at Case al Borgo.

Day 5

Ride across sweeping fields of grain and gently undulating countryside towards the remarkable Castello di Pietratagliata, a mysterious medieval fortress perched dramatically on a rocky outcrop. Enjoy a picnic lunch beneath the castle before continuing through agricultural landscapes and past the ancient site of Monte Rossomanno. Sandy tracks lead through eucalyptus and pine forests to Agriturismo Bannata, a charming rural hotel with a swimming pool, where you'll spend the evening after approximately 7.5 hours in the saddle.

Day 6

Continue through fragrant eucalyptus forests and remote valleys towards Montagna di Marzo, a fascinating archaeological site hidden in Sicily's interior. Explore the area on horseback before stopping for a picnic lunch surrounded by beautiful countryside. The afternoon takes you across peaceful farmland to Agriturismo Il Mandorleto, a traditional rural property renowned for its almond production. Enjoy a delicious Sicilian dinner after approximately 7 hours of riding.

Day 7

Your final riding day takes you through rolling wheat fields, quiet woodland and picturesque countryside towards the lake at the Olivo Dam. After a picnic lunch in the forest, descend through a beautiful valley to reach the UNESCO-listed Villa Romana del Casale, home to some of the world's finest surviving Roman mosaics. Explore this extraordinary archaeological site before continuing to Torre di Renda, a charming country hotel near the medieval town of Piazza Armerina, where you'll celebrate the end of your adventure after approximately 6 hours in the saddle.

Day 8

Enjoy a final breakfast at your hotel before transferring to the airport for your journey home, taking with you wonderful memories of Sicily's hidden landscapes, historic villages and unforgettable days on horseback.



The price includes

- Airport transfers
- 7 nights accommodation
- 6 full days of riding
- Breakfasts
- Lunches
- Dinners
- Luggage transfer by support vehicle each day.

Not Included

- Flights
- Tips

Flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com.

Airport transfers to/from Palermo and Catania airports are included in the holiday. Pick-up times on the first day of your holiday will be confirmed after the booking has been made.

What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your riding hat in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

Please use this packing list as a guideline, bearing in mind the time of year you are riding.

- Your own well-fitted hard hat of the current standard
- Comfortable riding trousers – jeans are not recommended
- Riding or hiking boots with a definite heel and good grip. Ensure that your shoes are comfortable and safe for walking on difficult terrain. Waterproof footwear is recommended.
- Chaps
- Riding gloves
- Bumbag
- Long sleeved T-shirts – to protect you from the sun
- Warm jumper / fleece – essential for riding at altitude and on colder days. It can be surprisingly cold at higher altitude so we recommend bringing several warm items which can be stored in your saddlebags.
- Waterproofs – in the mountains the weather can be unpredictable. Bring a good waterproof coat and lightweight waterproof trousers.
- Buff / bandana
- Comfortable clothing for evenings
- Light weight shoes to wear after riding
- Sun cream & lip balm
- Sunglasses – to protect your eyes against the sun and dust
- Swimming costume & light weight towel
- Reusable water bottle
- Plug adapter
- Insect repellent & bite cream
- Personal medication

Climate

Sicily has a mixture of Mediterranean climate close to the coast and more continental climate in the inland areas. Summers are generally very warm with temperatures between 25-30°C during the day, and precipitation is quite low. Spring and autumn are fairly warm with daytime temperatures at low 20s and slightly higher chance of rain.

During the trail you will be riding over higher altitudes and mountain ranges where the weather can be surprisingly cold and unpredictable all year round. Rain can occur at any time of the year. Please be prepared for any type of weather during your holiday.



Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>

Travel documents

For entry requirements to Italy for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/italy/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.

Currency & tipping

The local currency in Sicily is Euro. Your holiday is fully inclusive and we recommend not to bring too much cash with you, just enough if you wish to buy drinks outside of mealtimes or souvenirs etc.

Tipping your guide is at your discretion.

Riding declaration

"I am an experienced rider and able to mount & dismount unaided. I have a firm seat and I'm confident and in control at all paces over rough terrain (including rising trot, light seat canters and gallops) and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any

illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others.”



Booking conditions

You are booking with the riding holiday operator, these are their booking conditions:

1. By booking a trail, each participant confirms that he/she is an experienced rider, comfortable riding at walk, trot and canter in open spaces. The trail organiser may, at its discretion, refuse to allow a participant to ride should it consider a participant to be below the required standard of riding ability.
2. All participants undertake to ride in a manner that is safe and respectful towards the horses and other participants on the trail. The trail organiser may, at its discretion, refuse to allow a participant to ride should it consider a participant to be riding in a manner that is unsafe.
3. Riding helmets are not mandatory but are recommended. Any participant that decides to ride without a helmet does so fully at his/her own risk.
4. All participants must comply with a strict weight limit of 90kg. The trail organiser may, at its discretion, refuse to allow a participant to ride should he/she surpass this weight limit.
5. All participants must have in place a valid insurance policy (travel or otherwise) that covers them for horse riding abroad.

Cancellation policy

Payment & Cancellation Terms
saddletravel.com

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit.

The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

28 days or more - 30%

less than 28 days - nil

Travel insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.



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