

# Giardini, Taormina and Castelmola

Every Monday / Friday

**Duration:** about 5 hours

## Highlights

- Pick up from hotel
- Visit of the fishing town of Giardini Naxos
- Stop at the nature reserve "Isola Bella", possibility to bathe in the cristal clear waters
- Visit of Castelmola
- Visit of Taormina
- Return to hotel

## Detailed description

The tour will begin by visiting the fishing town of Giardini Naxos, the first Greek colony in Sicily, founded in 734 b.C.

After driving along the seafront and enjoying the beautiful Naxos bay, you will head for Castelmola, but first you will stop at the wonderful "Isola Bella", a Wildlife Reserve considered the "pearl of the Ionian" for its natural beauty, connected to the mainland by a thin strip of sand. From here it is possible to admire the bay, and the promontories of Capo S. Andrea, that hosts the renowned Grotta Azzurra (The Blue Cave), and of Capo Taormina. It may be possible to bathe in these marvellous crystal clear waters.

In Castelmola you will walk along the characteristics streets of the town, and stop to see the ruins of the imposing Norman walls and the main square (Duomo) with the Mother Church, rebuilt between 1934 and 1935 on the existing cathedral and dedicated to St. Nicholas of Bari. The last part of the excursion will be dedicated to visiting the picturesque town of Taormina.

Along the main road of this town, Corso Umberto, with the Messina Gate below and the Catania Gate on the mountain side, you will admire the most important monuments: Palazzo Corvaja (The Corvaja Palace) (Museum of Arts and Folk Traditions\*), the Teatro Antico\* (The Old Theatre), Piazza IX Aprile, the Torre dell'orologio (The Clock Tower), the Cattedrale Fortezza (The Fortress Cathedral), the Badia Vecchia (The Old Abbey), and the Palazzo Duca di Santo Stefano (The Duke of Saint Stephen Palace), and much more. It will also be possible to go shopping in the exclusive shops which alternate with workshops.

## Suggested Equipment

Comfortable shoes / Water / Hat and sunglasses / Bathing suit and towel.

## Costs

**Price per pax:** € 60 (3-12 years € 42)

**The cost includes:**

Shuttle bus (return) / Multilingual guide.

**The cost does not include:**

Authorized tourist guide in Taormina (on request) / Optional visit of Greek Theatre € 10,00 /  
Museum of Art and folk traditions € 2,60 / All that is not specified under “the cost includes”.