



## **SICILY LUXURY TOURS, ITALY**

An extraordinary insider journey to Sicily and the Aeolian Islands

## JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Your Sicily luxury tour begins in Palermo, where you will tour the highlights of Sicily's capital city before heading south to Agrigento. Explore the Valley of the Temples, where you will admire the well-preserved Temple of Concordia, built by the Ancient Greeks, before taking in the area's striking coastline. Next, your tailor-made tour of Sicily continues with a private transfer to the Baroque Valley, home to the villages of Noto, Ragusa, and Modica. There, meander through the picturesque landscape on bike, passing through captivating fishing villages and scenic valleys before stopping for a delicious meal of freshly-caught seafood delicacies. Stop in the historic town of Siracusa, located on Ortygia Island, as you head to the next destination of your private tour: the iconic Taormina. Not only is the town home to fascinating Greek and Medieval sites, it is also the perfect place to enjoy beautiful hikes around Mt. Etna, before learning about the local viticulture. The last stop of your Sicily luxury tour is the Aeolian Islands, which you will access by private helicopter transfer. While there, take a day-trip via boat to Stromboli Island, where you can take a sunset hike ascending the island's live volcano in order to witness the spectacle of glowing lava after dark. During your remaining time in the Aeolian Islands, you may also trek up Salina Island's Monte Fossa delle Felci for a panoramic view, or boat to secluded swimming holes for a relaxing afternoon in the cerulean blue waters of the Mediterranean.

### A Taste of Blue Parallel's Insider Access

- Exclusive after hours tour of Monreale Cathedral
- Private helicopter transfer to the Aeolian Islands
- Exclusive access to the "Old Route Trail" on the Stromboli Volcano
- Private granita tasting with world-famous Pastry Chef Corrado Asseza
- Enjoy a private boating trip to Panarea Island, and visit secret swimming spots
- Gourmet picnics in spectacular natural outdoor settings

### The Discovery

- Palermo
- Valley of the Temples
- Baroque Valley (Ragusa, Modica, Noto, Siracusa)
- Mount Etna Volcano
- Taormina
- Aeolian Islands (Salina, Panarea, and Stromboli)

### The Adventure

- Biking
- Hiking
- Private boating
- Swimming

### Duration

11 Days

### When to go?

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

DESTINATIONS			TRAVEL TIME
PALERMO		REGALEALE NUOVA	2 hrs
REGALEALE NUOVA		AGRIGENTO	1 hr 30 min
AGRIGENTO		NOTO	2 hrs 30 min
NOTO		SIRACUSA	1 hr 30 min
SIRACUSA		TAORMINA	1 hr 30 min
TAORMINA		SALINA ISLAND	45 min
SALINA ISLAND		CATANIA	1 hr



## PHOTOGRAPHY



## PRIVATE TOUR SICILY

*Please note this private Sicily tour is an example, as all of our luxury journeys are custom-made. You will find below a summary outline.*

Please contact us to start planning your custom-made private adventure of a lifetime.

### Palermo (1 night)

You will be greeted in Palermo by your personal guide and taken by private transfer to your hotel located near the port. Later, enjoy a private tour of the city highlights. Palermo is Sicily's capital and is most known for its distinct atmosphere. Its strategic position in the middle of the Mediterranean brought a variety of invaders including the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Saracen Arabs, the Normans, the Swabians, the French, and the Spanish Bourbons just to name the most influential. The result of this quilted history is evident today in the range of architectural styles, and the intriguing fusion of ingredients used in many local dishes. In the evening, we will take you to the city's best restaurant for a traditional Sicilian meal.

### Agrigento (2 nights)

Visit the village of Monreale where you will see the famous Norman cathedral, well-known for its Norman architecture and for the vast Byzantine-style frescoes which cover the interior. Later, continue to the Regaleali Estate in the heart of the Sicilian countryside where you will have a delicious traditional lunch prepared for you. The estate is a restored 18th-century farm villa built by Sicilian aristocracy and contains almost 1,000 acres of vineyards. The area is characterized by greenery that stretches over several hundred acres through the Sicilian interior between Palermo and Caltanissetta to the Sclafani Bagni hills. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to explore the hillsides of the property and the surrounding area. Continue to Villa Athena, your hotel in Agrigento, where you can rest at leisure.

The following day, you will visit the UNESCO awarded Valley of the Temples, which is conveniently located in front of your hotel. This splendid archaeological park consists of eight Greek temples built between 510 BC and 430 BC. In the afternoon, visit the Scala dei Turchi, a dazzling white rocky cliff that meets the sea, rising 50 meters above sea level. Its gleaming color is eye-catching enough, but what makes it all the more remarkable is that it looks like a staircase carved by man, even though its shape is entirely natural. It was formed by marl, a sedimentary rock with a characteristic white color. It lies between two sandy beaches where you can swim, and is accessed through a limestone rock formation in the shape of a staircase, hence the name.

### Noto (2 nights)

In the morning, begin your journey via private transfer to the Val di Noto (the Noto Valley, also known as the Baroque Valley). Begin by visiting Ragusa, one of the most picturesque towns in Sicily, for a sightseeing tour on foot followed by a delicious lunch. Then, continue your journey through the Noto Valley and arrive in Modica where you can enjoy a private chocolate tasting in an iconic patisserie dating back to 1880. This dessert shop still uses the original Aztec technique brought to Sicily by the Spaniards in the 16th century to create its delectable chocolates. Afterwards, continue to Noto where you will check-in to your hotel located in the city's beautiful historic district before enjoying a traditional Sicilian dinner in town.

The following morning, depart on a private biking tour for the fishing village of Marzamemi with your personal guide. As you bike through the Sicilian countryside, take in the beautiful seaside views and agricultural farms situated around Marzamemi, a town established by the Moors in the 10th century and once known as “Marsà al-hamam” or Turtle Dove Bay. The town is famed for its artisanal fishing, and it produces a variety of seafood delicacies. Meander through the streets that wind in-and-out of the main plaza offering glimpses of the turquoise sea to the east and north.

Following lunch in Marzamemi’s main square, return to Noto for a sightseeing tour of the old city in the afternoon. In 1693, Noto was completely destroyed by an earthquake and was later rebuilt from scratch on a new site, about 10km from the old center. Intent on creating a new town based firmly on Baroque ideals, three architects, Labisi, Sinatra and Gagliardi contrived a city with a perfectly proportioned urban centre whose parallel lines provide myriad panoramas. In the evening, enjoy a delicious dinner in Noto before continuing to a private dessert tasting with a world-famous granita chef in the heart of the city.

### **Taormina (2 nights)**

Your personal host will take you via private transfer to Siracusa. Upon arrival, enjoy a walking tour of the highlights of Ortygia Island. Learn about Siracusa and Ortygia’s deep history, known for its varying architectural styles which encompass Greek and Roman remains, medieval Norman and Baroque buildings. In Ortygia, enjoy a private cooking demonstration by Chef Fiora Piccione in her apartment – a truly authentic experience. Relax in your luxury hotel in Taormina before an evening show at the Greek Theatre, one of the oldest theatres in the world. Built in the 3rd century BC, the theatre was remodeled by the Romans and later destroyed by the Moors and is a testament to Sicilian resilience.

The next day, head to Mount Etna for a beautiful 3-hour hike to the Silvestri craters on the north side of the volcano. Mount Etna is one of the world’s most active and highest volcanoes in Europe. The cone of the crater rises to 11,000 ft above sea level and has been designated a “Decade Volcano” by the United Nations and added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Your hike will begin near the Rifugio Sapienza on the north side of the mountain where the two extinguished Silvestri craters that appeared after an eruption in 1892 are located. Ascend to the observatory with a view of 9,000 ft high.

Later, enjoy a delicious lunch at a nearby vineyard, which includes a wine tasting tour. The mineral rich soil surrounding the Etna volcano produces some of Italy’s most interesting varieties. Etna’s wine producers are experimenting with vineyard sites further and further up the volcano’s slopes, to gauge the effects of the richer, blacker soils and increased altitude. Some might say this is tempting fate, but the cachet of owning high-altitude vineyards is growing, and early results from these vines show promise. Return to your hotel to relax and later explore the city’s highlights with your expert guide, including the Villa Comunale Gardens.

### Salina Island (3 nights)

In the morning, take a private helicopter to Salina Island, one of the seven Aeolian Islands in the far south of Italy, where you will explore the volcanic landscape through breathtaking hikes and peaceful boat excursions around the area. On your first afternoon, visit the village of Pollara, made famous by the movie *Il Postino* where you can watch the sun set over the horizon. You will be captivated by Salina's raw scenic beauty with dramatic volcanic cliffs plunging into the sea, sleepy villages amidst verdant mountains, colorful fishing boats on pebbly beaches, hills covered in wild capers, and vines heavy with grapes for sweet malvasia wine.

During your stay in Salina, you will have the opportunity to explore its natural scenery and hike to the midpoint or the top of the extinct volcano, Monte Fossa delle Felci, the highest point on Salina Island. Starting in Pizzo Capo, you will witness varying types of vegetation that develop into evergreen forests reminiscent of the Alps with ferns, poplars, chestnut trees and other typical Mediterranean flora. Witness sky-high views of the entire region and notice the color of the water change from a lighter to darker blue as it meets the sky.

During your trip, go boating to the nearby island of Panarea where you will have access to secret swimming spots on the way, and visit the volcano of Stromboli Island, one of the most active volcanoes in the world. There you will hike the rugged landscape, ascend the volcano and watch it erupt with all its elemental power at sunset. The volcano is covered in lush, green vegetation and provides some of the best views in the world as the sky blends in with the water at the horizon.

On your last day, take a private helicopter to Catania Airport in time for your flight back home.

## ABOUT BLUE PARALLEL

### Blue Parallel is a bespoke luxury travel boutique.



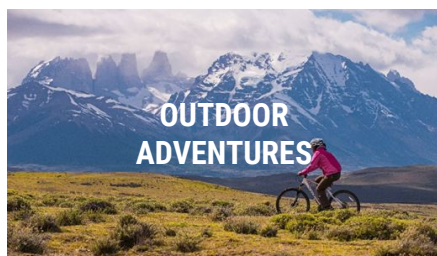
Our mission is to take discerning, time-constrained travelers to the most spectacular natural and cultural wonders of Latin America, the Mediterranean, and the Polar Regions.



We create private, tailor-made journeys that focus on UNESCO World Heritage Sites, insider access experiences, and extraordinary outdoor adventures.



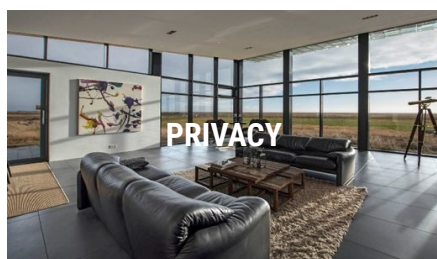
Since launching in 2003, we have become the go-to service for luxury travelers searching for top-of-the-line experiential journeys. We have been selected as an A-list Top Travel Advisor by Travel + Leisure every year since 2009, and are proudly part of the leading luxury travel network Virtuoso and their Ultraluxe Community (a by-invitation-only membership for the industry's most exclusive services and providers). We have hosted numerous eminent travelers since our inception and are frequently featured in prestigious international publications.



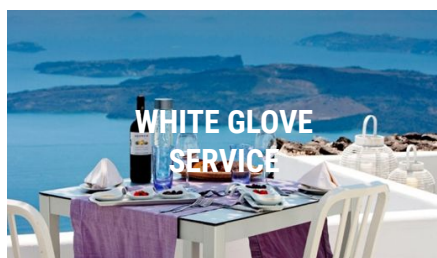
Blue Parallel journeys feature breathtaking outdoor adventures led by expert guides or accomplished athletes. Scuba diving in the Belize Reef, biking through Berber villages in the Atlas Mountains, ice-trekking on the Perito Moreno Glacier, dog sledding in Lapland, rafting on the Pacuare River in Costa Rica, and hiking the fjords of Norway are only a few examples of the extraordinary outdoor adventures we incorporate in our tailor-made itineraries. We take great satisfaction in designing custom-made adventures of a lifetime.



At Blue Parallel, we open doors to unique opportunities that match our travelers' interests. Our team travels year-round, seeking out the most intriguing insider experiences. Over the years, we have developed invaluable relationships with esteemed scholars, acclaimed artists, Olympic athletes, renowned chefs, directors of historical and natural landmarks, as well as with local leaders in politics and business, to name just a few examples.



Privacy has always been a top priority in all aspects of a Blue Parallel journey. Exclusive accommodations range from remote, fully-serviced villas in Iceland, a lighthouse on a private island in Norway, or a luxury private camp in the Sahara Desert. Examples of private custom experiences include an after-hours tour of the Alhambra in Andalusia, chartering a luxury yacht in the Galapagos Islands, or taking a private train ride to Machu Picchu. We can provide all these ultimate exclusive experiences and more so that our travelers can have the option to enjoy some of the world's most spectacular sights without the crowds.



Blue Parallel travelers are assigned a dedicated team comprised of:

- A personal travel expert
- A personal host in each destination
- Expert on-site guides and scholars
- Behind-the-scenes logistical experts to monitor every step of the journey

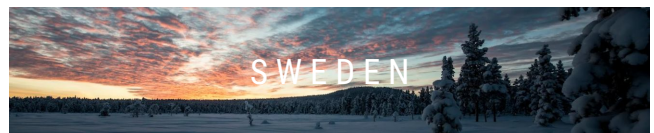
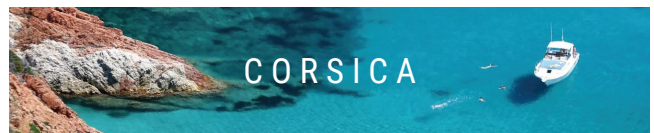
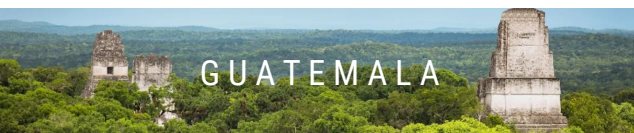
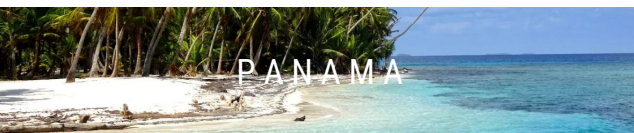
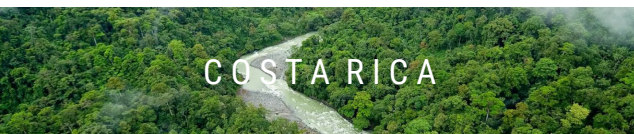
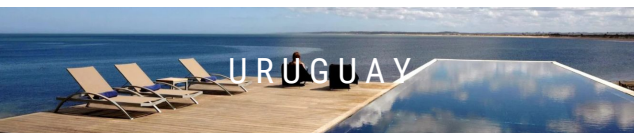
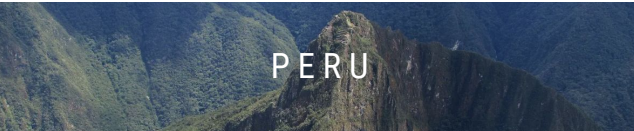
We are on call for our travelers 24-hours a day during their trip, ensuring a smooth and stress-free experience. Whatever happens, our team is one step ahead, and we provide the flexibility to change the program during the journey, if need be.

### CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

Blue Parallel's expertise and our obsession with details offer certainty in an uncertain world. We have almost 2 decades of experience handling unforeseen circumstances, and the recent pandemic has only increased the significant value of having our dedicated teams offer limitless support to our travelers before, during, and after their journeys.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

LATIN AMERICA



MEDITERRANEAN

POLAR

## BLUE PARALLEL IN THE MEDIA

Bloomberg

CENTURION  
MAGAZINECONDÉ NAST  
**Traveler**

DEPARTURES

*elite traveler*

Forbes

FOOD &amp; WINE

LUXURY  
TRAVEL ADVISORNATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

Robb Report

TRAVEL+  
LEISURE

VOGUE

## START PLANNING

We are experts in creating inspiring tailor-made itineraries. We will take your vision, try to enhance it, and then make your dream trip a reality. You can call us at 1-301-263-6670 Monday-Friday | 9 AM - 5PM ET, or send us an email to [info@blueparallel.com](mailto:info@blueparallel.com).

### How it all works

1

#### Contact us

Give us a call or send us an email in order to connect with one of our expert travel advisors.

2

#### Initial Consultation

We will ask you questions about your dream trip, make recommendations, and answer any questions you may have.

3

#### Summary Itinerary Outline

We will check availability for your preferred travel dates with our favorite accommodations and then provide you with a recommended summary trip outline.

4

#### Detailed Itinerary Proposal

Upon your approval of the summary outline, we will make tentative reservations and create a detailed custom-made itinerary with pricing documentation for your review.

5

#### Booking Procedures

If you would like Blue Parallel to secure your itinerary, we will email you our booking procedures and kindly request a deposit payment.

6

#### Pre-Trip Support

Closer to your travel dates, we will mail you a personalized travel package to ensure you are fully prepared for your journey.

7

#### During the Trip

While you are traveling, our team will be available to assist you with anything you may need at any time.

8

#### Post-Trip Debrief

After your journey, we would kindly ask to schedule a "debriefing call" to hear your feedback. Alternatively, you could fill in an online survey.

We will do our very best to surpass your expectations every step of the way. Most of our travelers are repeat travelers - we take great pride in forging long-term relationships with our savvy guests.