

tmr.

TAILOR MADE RAIL

London to Sicily & Malta by Rail and Sea

From £1,799 per person // 13 days



Travel by train from the UK through France and Italy to the island of Sicily, then hop on a boat and travel across the Mediterranean to Malta on this great island-hopping itinerary. Your holiday includes nights in Turin, Naples and Taormina on Sicily along with 3 nights in historic Maltese capital Valletta.

The Essentials

- Travel by rail from London to Sicily and enjoy 3 nights in Taormina
- A boat train across the Straits of Messina and a ferry ride into the historic heart of Valletta
- Three nights on the island of Malta
- Return via Siracusa, Milan and Basel with a stunning rail journey over the Alps

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade your hotels
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 11 nights' central hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Return ferry from Sicily to Malta
- Private transfer from ferry port to hotel in Valletta
- Private transfer from Pozzallo port to Siracusa
- Overnight sleeper from Siracusa to Milan in a private 2-berth compartment
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Easy-to-follow travel documentation
- Despatch of tickets by email, post or collection from our London office

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Turin

Catch a Eurostar service from London St Pancras this morning and speed under the English Channel to Paris. On arrival, an easy connection will bring you to the Gare de Lyon. Here, board a high-speed TGV service which will take you south through France and across the Italian border. The landscapes become more mountainous as you head via Chambery and the Italian ski-resort town of Bardonecchia to Turin. On arrival, make your way to the Starhotels Majestic (or similar) and check in for an overnight stay.



Day 2 - Turin To Naples

You have a free morning in Turin to explore this lovely city with its UNESCO World Heritage listed landmarks and world-class museums, before collecting your bags from your hotel and making your way to Turin Porta Nuova station. Here, board a Frecciarossa service which will take you 550 miles south down the spine of Italy at speeds of up to 190 miles per hour, via Milan and Rome to Naples. On arrival into Naples central station, head for the San Pietro Hotel (or similar) for your overnight stay. Naples is a fascinating destination in its own right, founded in the 2nd millennium BC and with plenty to see. If you have time, why not extend your stay here?



Day 3 - Naples To Taormina

Leave Naples this morning and catch a train south right down into the 'toe' of mainland Italy. You'll reach a town called Villa San Giovanni where the train rolls onto a boat and carries you across the Straits of Messina to Malta. On arrival in Messina, the train rolls onto dry land and you continue your journey along the coast to Taormina. When you get to Taormina, make your way to the Excelsior Palace Hotel (or similar) where you will be staying overnight. There's time to have a wander around town or take in the panoramic sea views before you choose a restaurant for dinner this evening.



Days 4 & 5 - Taormina

Spectacularly perched on a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea, Taormina has been a popular travel destination since the 18th century, when it became a feature of the 'Grand Tour'. Visitors still flock here to see the amazing Greco-Roman theatre (pictured) and to drink in the fabulous panoramic vistas. You may also like to browse the shops along the pedestrianised Corso Umberto I or take in the views from the top of Monte Tauro. Don't miss walking barefoot across the narrow sand bar from the beach to the tiny island of Isola Bella.



Day 6 - Taormina To Valletta

This morning, catch a regional Sicilian train via Siracusa to Pozzallo on the south coast of the island. If you prefer, we can arrange an earlier service so that you have time for lunch and a look around in Siracusa before making your onward journey. When you arrive in Pozzallo, there will be plenty of time to get to the port for your Virtu Ferries service across to Malta. Make sure you're on deck to watch the arrival into Valletta's beautiful Grand Harbour and when you disembark, a private transfer will be waiting to take you to your hotel, La Falconeria (or similar), where you will be staying for the next 3 nights.



Days 7 & 8 - Valletta

Enjoy two full days in Malta's historic capital city. Valletta's 16th century core was built by the Knights Hospitaller and named after a French nobleman and member of the Knights who successfully defended the island from an Ottoman invasion in 1565. There's a huge host of attractions to see here, from the sumptuous interiors of St Johns Co-Cathedral to the Upper Barrakka Gardens, offering stunning views across the Grand Harbour and the Saluting Battery, with a row of cannons that are still fired twice a day.



Day 9 - Valletta To Siracusa

After another day to explore, it's time to leave Valletta and catch a boat back to Sicily. Your evening sailing brings you back to Pozzallo, where you'll meet a private transfer driver who will take you directly to your hotel in the old town area of Siracusa. You have an overnight stay at the Hotel Gran Bretagna (or similar).



Days 10 & 11 - Siracusa Overnight To Milan

Founded by the Ancient Greeks, Siracusa is a city rich in history and also the birthplace of famous polymath, Archimedes. There's some time this morning to explore some of the wealth of monuments and historic landmarks before your lunch-time sleeper service departs for Milan. If you have the time, we would recommend an extra night here. On arrival into Milan the following morning, check in at the conveniently located Starhotels Anderson (or similar) for an overnight stay.



Day 12 - Milan To Basel

After a leisurely breakfast and time to have a last wander in Milan, it's time to return to the station for a beautiful rail journey up into the Italian speaking region of Switzerland and then over the Gotthard Pass high in the Alps. This route is slower than taking the direct train through the Gotthard Base Tunnel – but is far more scenic! Once you arrive into Basel, check in for an overnight stay at the Hotel Gaia (or similar) and then stroll into the city centre for some dinner in Basel's lovely Old Town.



Day 13 - Basel To London

You have a free morning in Basel today so why not enjoy a visit to one of the city's great art galleries or enjoy a cruise along the Rhine? After lunch, collect your bags and return to the station for a train to Lille via Strasbourg. Once in Lille, your Eurostar service back to London departs from the same station.

Pricing

From £1,799 per person

Low season (November-March) **from £1,799pp**

High season (April-October) **from £1,999pp**

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.