



I.C.S.A. is an Association committed to promote cultural bridges between Sicily and Australia and in doing so aims to promote the knowledge of each of these lands through a number of activities, amongst which that of promoting *"Culture through Tourism and Tourism through Culture"*.

ICSA offers a free of charge consultancy in developing itineraries that foster a deeper knowledge of Sicily and Australia. On this line, ICSA proposes a Study-Tour of Sicily focused on highlighting its geological, archaeological and naturalistic features.

In 2014 a similar itinerary will be proposed with destination AUSTRALIA



In 2013, in collaboration with :

- **ProGEO** The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage -
- **SIGEA** Società Italiana di Geologia Ambientale
- **Echoes Events PtyLtd** - Melbourne - **Mata Club** - Catania



Will Present

Sicily Geo-heritage Week 2013

From West to East coast of Sicily linking Geological and Cultural heritage

Tour Duration ~ 7 Days – 6 Nights

Departs Palermo (or by prior arrangement Trapani) ~ 24th June 2013 ~ Concludes Catania ~ 30th June 2013

The “Sicily Geoheritage Week 2013” is a proposal of field group experience on the relationship between geological and cultural heritage and the complexity of geological processes in Sicily.

The main idea is to link a trial of “Geointerpretation” (*the art or science of determining and then communicating the meaning or significance of a geological or geomorphological phenomenon, event, or location*) with Sicilian history.

Many small and large Sicilian “geosites” (*key localities or areas showing geological features of intrinsic scientific interest*) are fundamental to our understanding of the Earth evolution, especially of the Mediterranean area, besides, the island of Sicily includes a large variety of sedimentary, metamorphic and volcanic environments, where geological and cultural sites converge and interact carrying out to original links.

Therefore, the idea of a Tour starts from a panoramic viewpoint in the “Stagnone Lagoon” - Marsala area - to continue with a guided travel from the East to West coast, overcoming the common idea of a static landscape, and giving to those interested, a chance to reach easily the most interesting geological and cultural sites. Several stops will be made on the way, some of these will be in Geoparks, Regional Parks, Nature Reserves, Marine Protected areas, Nature 2000 network while others will be in rural or urban areas.

All participants are invited to contribute to the briefings post-excursions through informal exchanges that focus on activities and practical experiences and provide reflections on visited sites and ideas on the promotion of new “cultural bridges” between the island of Sicily and other areas of relevant geological and cultural interest.

An illustrated guide (with geographically referred sites, thematic maps and annexed literature cited) will be sent to all participants by email before the tour in Sicily.



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Day	Where	Most relevant Geosites	Main Cultural and Archaeological sites
1	Stagnone Lagoon (Motya)	Coastal lagoon with salt in shallow carbonate platform (Tyrrhenian-Holocene)	
	Erice		Historic town located on top of Mount Erice (750 m s.l.m.)
	"Sicily Geoheritage Week 2013" Presentation		
2	Stagnone Lagoon (Motya)	The ancient salt pans and flats	- Archaeological area with port (Phoenician and Carthaginian city) - Museum Whitaker - Ettore and Infersa Salt Museum
	Marsala	Calcareni di Marsala (Pleistocene marine deposits)	- Regional Archaeological Museum Anselmi (Punic Warship) - Historical center of Marsala
3	Scurati		Cave Mangiapane of Scurati (prehistoric remains and primitive dwellings)
	Custonaci	Marble quarries ("Perlato" and "Perlatino di Sicilia")	
	Zingaro Natural Reserve	High carbonate cliffs and beaches with marine stacks in Scopello	Tonnara of Scopello (Traditional Mediterranean tuna fishery) and ancient watchtower
	1° Briefing post-excursion		
4	Piazza Armerina		Roman Villa del Casale (the largest and most complex collection of Roman mosaics in the world)
	Morgantina	Water supply and drainage reflecting the underlying geological conditions	Archaeological site (Ancient Greek)
	Rocca di Cerere Geopark	Mining Park of Floristella – Grottacalda (gypsum crystals)	Mining Park of Floristella – Grottacalda
5	Regional Park of Etna	Mount Etna (an active stratovolcano with a variety of historical eruptions and patterns)	Etna wine tasting (Cantine dell'Etna DOC)
	2° Briefing post-excursion		
6	Regional Park of Alcantara	- Natural canyon and gorges with vertical basalt cliffs (Gole dell'Alcantara) - Le Gurne (small round lakes formed in the lava river bed)	
	Marine Protected Area "Isole Cicli"	Various distinctive marine stacks, presence of columnar basalts and high reef carapaces adhering to early basaltic lavas	Small fishing village of Acitrezza
	3° Briefing post-excursion		
7	Catania		Historical center of Catania
	"Sicily Geo-heritage Week 2013" Conclusion		

Itinerary Outline

Day 1: Morning arrival at the Airport of Palermo. Welcome by Tour Escort and **Transfer to Marsala.** Crossing of the **Stagnone Lagoon** to reach the **Isle of Mozia** where we will stay for 2 nights as guests of the Whitaker Foundation. Check-In. Short break and visit to the hilltop town of **Erice**. Free Time. Return to Mozia in the evening. **Aperitif and Welcome Dinner.** Overnight stay in Mozia.

Day 2: After breakfast, guided visit of the **Isle of Mozia**, the Museum and Archaeological site. Lunch. In the afternoon transfer to **Marsala** and visit of **Museo Anselmi, Salt Pans, Museum of the Salt, Historical Centre of Marsala.** Self managed Dinner and return to Mozia. Briefing Post Excursion. Overnight stay in Mozia.

Day 3: After Breakfast transfer to **Scurati** a little village at the foot of Erice and visit of the **Mangiapane Cave** and the **Marble Quarries** (Perlato and Perlatino di Sicilia) at **Custonaci**. Picnic inside the Mangiapane Cave. In the afternoon transfer to **Castellammare del Golfo** area to visit the village and the **Tonnara of Scopello** located in the **Riserva Naturale dello Zingaro**. Transfer to Hotel in **Cefalu'** area. Self managed Dinner and return to hotel. Briefing Post Excursion. Overnight stay in Cefalu'.

Day 4: After breakfast departure for **Piazza Armerina** to visit the **Villa Romana del Casale** and the archaeological site of **Morgantina**. Visit of the Mining Park of **Floristella** (geoparco Rocca di Cerere). Self managed Lunch. In the evening Check in at Hotel in Catania/Mt Etna. Self managed Dinner. Briefing Post Excursion. Overnight stay in Catania/Etna..

Day 5: After breakfast visit of **Mt Etna** (Parco Naturale Regionale) possibility to visit the central crater (for those interested and weather permitting). Degustation Lunch in a DOC Cellar on the mountain. Self managed Dinner and return to Hotel. Briefing Post Excursion. Overnight stay in Catania/Etna.

Day 6: After breakfast visit to the **Alcantara Gorge**. Picnic on the shore of the river. In the afternoon visit to the fishing village of **Acitrezza** (Riserva Marina Isola dei Ciclopi) In the evening Farewell Dinner in a typical restaurant. Briefing Post Excursion. Overnight stay in Catania/Etna.

Day 7: After breakfast transfer to the Airport of Catania. Depending on Departure times, visit of a **Lava Cave** crossed by an underwater river located under the historical centre of Catania. Possible Free time. **END OF OUR SERVICES**

NB: The Tour is conceived and promoted by I.C.S.A. in collaboration with ProGEO and SIGEA (Italian Society of Environmental Geology) - Section of Sicily .

The management of the Tour is by Echoes Events Pty Ltd of Melbourne

Tour Costs Per Person

€ 1. 177, 00 – In Single Room

€ 1. 047, 00 – In Double Room

€ 996, 00 – Family Room

NB. On the Isle of Mozia accommodation is limited to what described in note 2 following.

Supplement: Medical and Luggage Insurance is the responsibility of each participant.

Technical Direction: Mata Club – Catania

Nota Bene:

1. **Tour costs quoted apply to a group of 10 participants or more.** An increase in cost may be applied to groups with lesser number of participants
2. On the Isle of Mozia, accommodation will be in a purpose built structure dedicated to accomodate visiting Archeological teams. Other accommodation is available in the same building and consists of 2 double rooms and a single room. Other types of rooms are available in all other hotels used in the Tour.

Please note: A Discount of EURO 60,00 applies to **Members** of:

- **Istituto di Cultura Sicilia Australia (I.C.S.A.)**
- **ProGEO** The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage
- **SIGEA** Società Italiana di Geologia Ambientale

Tour Inclusions

- 7 Day – 6 nights Tour as specified in the Itinerary
- Luxury Minibus with Italian / English speaking Driver
- Italian/English Speaking Tour Escort/Guide for the duration of the Tour
- Petrol all Tolls and Parking
- Transfers to and from Airport (at arrival and departure)
- All Ferry Transport to the Isle of Mozia
- Accommodation on the Island of Mozia (Whitaker Foundation) as specified in the itinerary and other stays in B&B, Farm stays and Hotels rated 3 and 4 Stars with Breakfast.
- Accommodation and meals for the Driver and the Tour Escort
- 2 Lunches at the Whitaker Foundation (Isle of Mozia)
- 2 Dinners in Restaurants (Beverages excluded)
- 2 Picnics at Scurati and at the Alcantara River
- Tasting Lunch at a Wine Cellar
- Dietary Requirements accommodated if advised before Tour commences.
- 24x7 Assistance each day of the Tour
- Assistance and Discounts on Additional Services/Transfers/Accommodation for those of you who wish to stay in Sicily/Italy a little longer.

Tour Exclusions

- Flights To and From Sicily
- Transfers To and From Airports other than the ones identified in the Tour's Program
- Entry to Sites and Museums
- Local Guides
- Gratuities and Tips
- Supplements and general extras
- What not explicitly stated in Tour Inclusions

DISCLAIMER: The above stated services have not been booked or reserved, as such the Tour cost quotation and availability of services offered is subjected to Final Confirmation by Service providers.

Technical Direction: Mata Club - Catania

BOOKINGS CLOSE 20th April 2013



Payments Schedule

- A deposit equal to **50%** of the Total cost of the Tour is payable to Mata Club upon **Confirmation of Booking**
- **Full Payment required 2 weeks prior** to Tour Departure

Payment Details

- All payments will need to be in **Euro**. Payments can be by Cash, Bank Transfer or Credit Card and will be promptly receipted.

Cancellation by the Participant

If you cancel your Tour arrangements the following Cancellation Penalty Fees apply:

- 45 days prior to Tour departure 15% pp of Tour Costs
- 44-30 days prior to Tour departure 30% pp of Tour Costs
- 29-15 days prior to Tour departure 50% pp of Tour Costs
- 14-4 days prior to Tour departure 75% pp of Tour Costs
- 3 – to Day of Departure No Refund is Applicable
- No Refund is Applicable if cancellation occurs post the commencement of the Tour.
- Some providers may require different Cancellation Penalty fees. These will be communicated to you at the time of booking. No refund will be applicable to Services not used in part or total due to voluntary interruption of travel.
- All Cancellation notices regarding non participation on the Tour will be regarded valid **ONLY** if made in writing to our agency Mata Club of Catania, who are responsible for all Bookings. If notification is not received as indicated above, no reimbursement will be applicable. To prevent disappointments, we suggest you cover yourself through a Travel Insurance of your choice.



Technical Direction: Mata Club – Catania

Tour Cancellation by the Organisers

The Organisers may be forced to cancel a Tour. In this unlikely event, participants will be informed ASAP and not later than 1 week prior to departure date. Payments will be refunded in full.

How to contact us

For Study Tour and Logistic information :

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Stagnone Lagoon (Motya)



Itinerary

