

11-Day Sicilian Culture and Beach Roadtrip

11 days · 13 stops · 2026-08-24

Embark on an unforgettable 11-day Sicilian road trip from San Francisco with your cousin, exploring the island's rich **culture, history, and stunning beaches**. The first half of your journey covers vibrant Palermo, charming Cefalù, historic Marsala, scenic Trapani, picturesque San Vito Lo Capo, and relaxing Mondello. The second half takes you to the enchanting towns of Taormina, Catania, Siracusa, Noto, and Ragusa, blending ancient sites, local cuisine, and breathtaking coastal views. With the freedom of driving, you'll immerse yourself in authentic Sicilian experiences and Mediterranean sea

San Francisco → Palermo → Cefalù → Marsala → Trapani → San Vito Lo Capo → Mondello → Taormina → Catania → Siracusa → Noto → Ragusa → San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

DAY 1-1

Palermo, Sicily, Italy

DAY 1-2

Palermo, the vibrant capital of Sicily, is a treasure trove of rich history, stunning architecture, and bustling markets. Dive into the cultural melting pot with its Arab-Norman palaces, baroque churches, and lively street food scene. It's the perfect starting point for your Sicilian adventure, blending beach vibes with historical exploration.

ARRIVE · FLIGHT

SFO → PMO

19h 43m · 2 stops

\$756.54

STAY

Grand Hotel Wagner

Via Riccardo Wagner, 2, 90139 Palermo · 8.8

ITINERARY

Day 1 · Arrival and Evening Stroll in Palermo · 1 experiences: Osteria Ballarò
Day 2 · Palermo Markets and Historic Sights · 6 experiences: Palermo: Street Food and Local Market Tasting Tour, Palermo Cathedral, Piazza & Fontana Pretoria, Antica Focacceria San Francesco, Palatine Chapel (Capella Palatina), Caffè del Kassaro

Cefalù, Sicily, Italy

DAY 2-3

Cefalù is a charming coastal town in Sicily known for its stunning beaches, medieval streets, and the impressive Norman Cathedral. It's a perfect blend of history and seaside relaxation, offering picturesque views and authentic Sicilian culture. Exploring Cefalù will give you a taste of both the rich heritage and the beautiful Mediterranean coast.

ARRIVE · CAR

Palermo → Cefalù

58m

STAY

Sunset Hotel

Lungomare Giuseppe Giardina 119, 90015 Cefalù · 8.8

ITINERARY

Day 2 · Explore Historic Cefalù and Scenic Views · 5 experiences: Cefalù: History and Legends Guided Walking Tour, Cefalù Cathedral (Duomo di Cefalù), Medieval Washhouse, Rocca di Cefalù, Ristorante La Brace
Day 3 · Cultural Gems and Departure to Marsala · 4 experiences: Cloister of Cefalù Cathedral, Mandralisca Museum, Osteria Magno, Bastione Capo Marchiafava

Marsala, Sicily, Italy

DAY 3–4

Marsala is a charming town in western Sicily known for its historic wine production, especially the famous Marsala wine. It's a great spot to explore ancient architecture, enjoy beautiful coastal views, and experience authentic Sicilian culture. Marsala also offers access to nearby salt pans and windmills, adding a unique touch to your cultural and beach itinerary.

ARRIVE · CAR

Cefalù → Marsala

2h 9m

STAY

Grand Hotel Palace

Lungomare Mediterraneo 57, 91025 Marsala · 7.8

ITINERARY

Day 3 · Exploring Marsala's Wine and History · 4 experiences: Florio Winery (Cantine Florio), Marsala: Florio Winery Tour with Local Wine Tasting, Marsala, Osteria Il Gallo e L'Innamorata
Day 4 · Cultural Sights and Departure to Trapani · 2 experiences: Church of Itria, Caffè Garibaldi

Trapani, Sicily, Italy

DAY 4–5

Trapani is a charming coastal city in western Sicily known for its historic old town, beautiful sea views, and proximity to stunning beaches like San Vito Lo Capo. It's a great base for exploring the nearby Egadi Islands and offers a rich blend of culture, history, and seaside relaxation that fits perfectly with your interests. Don't miss the local seafood and the vibrant markets!

ARRIVE · CAR

Marsala → Trapani

35m

STAY

Residence Garibaldi

Via Garibaldi 104, 91100 Trapani · 8.2

ITINERARY

Day 4 · Discover Trapani's Charm and History · 2 experiences: Osteria La Bettolaccia, Trattoria del Sale
Day 5 · Salt Flats and Medieval Erice · 1 experiences: La Pentolaccia

San Vito Lo Capo, Sicily, Italy

DAY 5–6

San Vito Lo Capo is a stunning coastal town in Sicily, famous for its pristine sandy beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters, making it a perfect spot for beach lovers. The town also offers a charming blend of local culture and traditional Sicilian cuisine, especially known for its delicious couscous festival. Its proximity to the Zingaro Nature Reserve provides excellent opportunities for hike

ARRIVE · CAR

Trapani → San Vito Lo Capo

49m

STAY

Alaba Hotel

Via Mazzini,13, 91010 San Vito lo Capo · 9.1

ITINERARY

Day 5 · Explore San Vito Lo Capo and Boat Adventure · 2 experiences: Ristorante Il Tramonto, La Conchiglia

Day 6 · Local Culture and Departure to Mondello · 2 experiences: Bar Pasticceria Gelateria Savoia, Ristorante Tannure

Mondello, Sicily, Italy

DAY 6–7

Mondello is a charming seaside village near Palermo, famous for its crystal-clear turquoise waters and soft sandy beaches, perfect for a relaxing beach day. The area also offers a glimpse into Sicilian culture with its art nouveau architecture and vibrant local markets. It's an ideal spot to unwind while soaking up the historic and cultural vibes of Sicily.

ARRIVE · CAR

San Vito Lo Capo → Mondello

1h 21m

STAY

Splendid Hotel La Torre

Piano Gallo 11, 90151 Mondello · 7.5

ITINERARY

Day 6 · Relaxing Beach Day and Scenic Boat Tour

Day 7 · Leisurely Morning and Departure Preparation

Taormina, Sicily, Italy

DAY 7–8

Taormina is a stunning hilltop town on the east coast of Sicily, famous for its ancient Greek Theatre with breathtaking views of the sea and Mount Etna. The town offers a perfect blend of rich history, charming medieval streets, and beautiful beaches nearby, making it a must-visit for culture and beach lovers alike. Don't miss the vibrant local markets and delicious Sicilian cuisine while soaking

ARRIVE · CAR

Mondello → Taormina

2h 43m

STAY

Mendolia Beach Hotel

Via Nazionale 198, 98039 Taormina · 8.3

ITINERARY

Day 7 · Arrival and Evening Stroll in Taormina · 3 experiences: Taormina Old Town (Centro Storico), Piazza IX Aprile, Ristorante La Grotta Azzurra

Day 8 · Cultural Immersion and Beach Relaxation · 3 experiences: Taormina: Sicilian Cooking Class, Greek Theatre of Taormina (Teatro Greco), Mazzarò Beach (Lido Mazzarò)

Catania, Sicily, Italy

DAY 8–9

Catania is a vibrant city on the eastern coast of Sicily, known for its rich history, baroque architecture, and proximity to Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano. It's a perfect blend of culture and natural beauty, offering stunning beaches and lively markets. Exploring Catania will immerse you in authentic Sicilian life and provide a gateway to nearby historical sites like Siracusa and Taormi

ARRIVE · CAR

Taormina → Catania

52m

STAY

Hotel Centrale Europa

Via Vittorio Emanuele II° N° 167, 95124 Catania · 8.0

ITINERARY

Day 8 · Explore Catania's Historic Heart and Vibrant Streets · 6 experiences: Piazza Duomo, Via Etnea, Caffè del Duomo, Ursino Castle, Via Crociferi, Osteria Antica Marina

Day 9 · Mount Etna Adventure and Scenic Coastal Views · 2 experiences: Catania: Mount Etna Morning or Sunset Day Trip with Tasting, Aci Castello

Siracusa, Sicily, Italy

DAY 9–10

Siracusa is a stunning destination in Sicily known for its rich ancient Greek history, beautiful archaeological sites, and charming seaside atmosphere. Explore the impressive Neapolis Archaeological Park, wander through the historic Ortigia Island with its baroque architecture, and enjoy the vibrant local culture and cuisine. It's a perfect blend of culture, history, and coastal beauty that fits y

ARRIVE · CAR

Catania → Siracusa

52m

STAY

Hotel Casa Mia

Corso Umberto I 112, 96100 Siracusa · 8.1

ITINERARY

Day 9 · Explore Historic Ortigia and Culinary Delights · 4 experiences: Ortygia, Syracuse Cathedral (Duomo di Siracusa), Syracuse: The Street Food Tour in Ortigia with a Local Guide, Don Camillo

Day 10 · Ancient Ruins and Coastal Nature · 4 experiences: Neapolis Archaeological Park (Parco Archeologico della Neapolis), Ear of Dionysius, Plemmirio Marine Protected Area, Caseificio Borderi

Noto, Sicily, Italy

DAY 10–11

Noto is a stunning example of Baroque architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage site, perfect for soaking in rich cultural history. Its charming streets and beautiful churches make it a must-visit for lovers of art and history. Plus, it's close to some lovely beaches, offering a great mix of culture and seaside relaxation.

ARRIVE · CAR

Siracusa → Noto

28m

STAY

Hotel Porta Reale

Corso Vittorio Emanuele 161, 96017 Noto · 9.1

ITINERARY

Day 10 · Explore Baroque Noto and Cooking Experience · 1 experiences: Caffè Sicilia

Day 11 · Beach Relaxation and Historic Churches · 1 experiences: Baroque Café

Ragusa, Sicily, Italy

DAY 11–12

Ragusa is a stunning city in Sicily known for its baroque architecture, historic old town, and charming narrow streets. It's a perfect blend of culture and history, offering beautiful views and authentic Sicilian experiences. Exploring Ragusa will give you a deep dive into the island's rich heritage and picturesque landscapes.

ARRIVE · CAR

Noto → Ragusa
55m

STAY

San Giorgio Palace Hotel Ragusa Ibla
Via Avv. Ottaviano (Circonvallazione Ragusa Ibla), 97100 Ragusa · 9.2

ITINERARY

Day 11 · Explore Ragusa Ibla's Baroque Charm · 2 experiences: Ragusa Ibla: Walking Tour with Local Guide, Locanda Don Serafino

Day 12 · Relax and Prepare for Departure · 2 experiences: Caffè Sicilia, Church of San Giuseppe

San Francisco, CA

DAY 12–12

ARRIVE · FLIGHT

CTA → SFO
21h 22m · 1 stop
\$1,080.02