



Azure Window, Gozo



Greco-Roman temple, Sicily



Flamingos

USA
Saturday, April 26
Depart the USA.

VALLETTA, MALTA
Sunday, April 27
Arrive Valletta and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city on your own. Then gather for a welcome dinner. LE MERIDIEN PHOENICIA (D)

MALTA
Monday, April 28
Set out for a full-day walking tour of the three major habitats of Malta. Begin in Buskett, the only forested area of the island where we will hike through Mediterranean vegetation teeming with birds and butterflies. Then emerge to the common Maltese habitat of steppe and garrigue, which consists of rocky land and hard coralline limestone, dotted with small shrubs. Finally experience the panoramic views of Dingli Cliffs, an excellent example of a coastal habitat. LE MERIDIEN PHOENICIA (B,L,D)



MALTA – GOZO – MALTA
Tuesday, April 29
Enjoy a 30-minute ferry ride to the neighboring island of Gozo to explore the ancient hilltop village of Xaghra and its Ggantija Temples, which, at 5,500 years old, are hundreds of years older than Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. Visit the Medieval Citadel in the city of Victoria and learn its colorful history, then explore Dwejra, an area of Gozo with impressive geological features including the Azure Window, a fascinating eroded rock formation. After a lunch of Gozitian specialties, ferry back to Malta. LE MERIDIEN PHOENICIA (B,L,D)

MALTA – SYRACUSE, SICILY
Wednesday, April 30
Rise early for a 60-mile ferry crossing to Sicily. Upon arrival, continue to Cava Grande Del Cassibile, a deep canyon with freshwater lakes at the bottom, where a good (but somewhat steep) trail passes ancient rock carved funeral sites. Look for the Bonelli



Mount Etna, Sicily



Monreale Cathedral, Sicily



Peregrine Falcon

Eagle soaring overhead, while discovering over 400 species of plants. Following lunch in a local restaurant, continue to the town of Noto and wander through the charming narrow streets, admiring the town's golden-colored stone buildings, fantastical facades and ornate balconies. Spend the night in Syracuse. HOTEL ROMA (B,L,D)

SYRACUSE – TAORMINA

Thursday, May 1

Following breakfast, explore the extensive archaeological site of the city of Syracuse, the former Greek capital of Sicily. See the Greek Theater, the Roman Amphitheater, the Ear of Dionisio and the rest of this once vast city. Continue north to explore the lovely hilltop town of Taormina this afternoon.



VILLA DIODORO (B,L,D)

TAORMINA – MOUNT ETNA

Friday, May 2

Travel up more than 6,000 feet to explore the numerous habitats of

Mount Etna, ranging from the orchards and vineyards of the rich agricultural lower region to lava fields, where unique plants and birds (including the Royal Eagle) thrive in this most fascinating desert-like environment. VILLA DIODORO (B,L)

TAORMINA – PALERMO

Saturday, May 3

Traveling along the north shore of Sicily, stop for birding and exploration in the Nebrodi Mountain forests of oak, beech and century-old yew trees. After lunch in a typical mountain hut, continue to Santo Stefano di Camastra, the Almeda ancestral hometown noted for fine ceramics. Continue to Cefalu to visit a beautiful Norman Cathedral en route to Palermo. HOTEL CENTRALE PALACE (B,L,D)

PALERMO – MOUNT PELLEGRINO – PALERMO

Sunday, May 4

Tour the highlights of Palermo including its famous botanical garden, before moving on to Monreale to see its cathedral and cloister. Then travel up Mount

Pellegrino to explore and look for the Pellegrino Falcon, among other species. HOTEL CENTRALE PALACE (B,L)

PALERMO – NUORO, SARDINIA

Monday, May 5

After a short flight from Sicily to Sardinia, arrive in the capital city, Cagliari, where we visit Molentargius, an important salt marsh and a haven for bird watchers. Of the more than 200 different species that can be found here, 47 are in danger of extinction. The Pink Flamingo is king, but dozens of waders and duck species can also be seen. Continue along the east coast and into central Sardinia for two nights in the charming town of Nuoro.

HOTEL PARADISO (B,L,D)

NUORO – GENNARGENTU MASSIF – NUORO

Tuesday, May 6

Head inland to climb into the Gennargentu Mountain range. Pass through table lands and see a wild and rugged landscape; ascend Punta La Marmora, Sardinia's highest peak at over 6,000 feet, to discover schistose rock formations, eroded by the headwaters of Sardinia's major rivers. Here we may see several endemic plant species such as red currant and sea-thrift, while the broad green valleys are fragrant with the aroma of Thyme and Helichyrsum. There is also an opportunity to see Bearded and Eurasian Black Vulture, raven and Peregrine Falcon. HOTEL PARADISO (B,L,D)

NUORO – ALGHERO

Wednesday, May 7

Continue to explore the landscapes and habitats of Sardinia with an excursion into the Marghine Mountains and its highest peak, Punta Palai, at almost 4,000 feet. Explore on foot the natural forests and rock formations, including the abandoned grounds of the Piercy Estate. Then continue to the coast for a visit to a well-preserved Neolithic site, Palmavera Naraghe, a necropolis set on a wild sea cape. Finally, continue to the medieval town of Alghero for a farewell dinner of Catalan-style cuisine. HOTEL EL BALEAR (B,L,D)

SARDINIA – USA

Thursday, May 8

After breakfast proceed to the airport in Fertilia for connecting flights to USA. (B)

LAND PROGRAM COST INCLUDES

- Lectures and commentary by Audubon Naturalist Bob Turner
- Flight from Sicily to Sardinia, ferry from Malta to Sicily and sightseeing excursions by deluxe motorcoach
- Eleven nights accommodations
- Daily breakfast and lunch, and nine dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- Gratuities to drivers and guides
- Airport transfers for those traveling on program dates
- All transfers with luggage handling for those traveling on group dates
- English-speaking local guides and a Siemer & Hand tour manager to handle all of the trip details
- Pre-trip assistance including suggested reading list and pre-departure information

GENERAL INFORMATION

LAND PROGRAM COST: *Per person, double occupancy* \$5,945
 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: *Subject to availability* \$ 645

- **LAND COST EXCLUDES:** International airfare; transfers for those not traveling on program dates; charges for items of a personal nature including laundry, beverages and excess baggage charges; optional activities; independent travel arrangements; and travel and accident insurance.
- **TOUR SIZE:** The price of this program is based on a minimum of 20 participants. For a group of 12 – 19 participants, a small group surcharge not to exceed \$520 may be imposed. This trip is co-sponsored by Harvard Museum of Natural History
- **HEALTH:** All participants must be in good health. This program is active and involves walking and hiking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. All locations may not be handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require special medical attention or other accommodation must be reported at the time of your reservation.
- **DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT:** Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$500 per person. Final payment for all land and air costs is due by February 22, 2008, and must be paid by check.

- **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$275 per person, will be made if we are notified on or before February 22, 2008. No refunds will be granted after that date. All cancellations must be in writing. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. An application will be sent to you by Audubon Nature Odysseys.
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand, Inc. for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request.
- **SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL, INC:** Seller of fine travel programs since 1959. www.siemerhand.com CST 1004239-10

The mission of Audubon Nature Odysseys is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, through education about and the enjoyment of nature by offering the finest natural history travel programs around the globe.

**RESERVATION FORM
 SPRINGTIME IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Please make check payable to *Siemer & Hand Travel* and mail to Audubon Nature Odysseys, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003-9562.

Our trips are designed specifically for Audubon members. If you are not a member, please enclose the membership fee of \$20 per person in a separate check.

Enclosed is my deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) to hold _____ place(s) on Springtime in the Mediterranean. Or, charge my deposit to:

- MasterCard Visa Diner's Club American Express Discover Card

 Card Number Expiration

 Signature as it appears on credit card

 Name Date of Birth

 Name Date of Birth

 Street

 City/State/ZIP

 Telephone: Home Business

 Email

Accommodations:

- I wish to have single accommodations at an additional cost of \$645 (subject to availability).
- I will share accommodations with: _____
- I am willing to share with another participant: non-smoker smoker (shares cannot be guaranteed)

Please tell us how interested you are in birding:
 Very Interested Interested Not Interested

Please make roundtrip flight arrangements from: _____

I/We have read the General Information section and agree to its terms.

 Signature(s) Date

AUDMSS08



Dear Audubon Member and Friend:

Audubon Nature Odysseys is pleased to offer Springtime in the Mediterranean: Malta, Sicily & Sardinia: April 26-May 8, 2008. This program is a fascinating blend of nature and culture. Timed to coincide with the Mediterranean's profusion of spring wildflowers, this journey explores beautifully preserved archeological monuments and breathtaking natural habitats.

Leading this program for Audubon will be **Robert Turner**. Bob was the Senior Advisor for the National Audubon Society and its Rocky Mountain Regional Vice President for 26 years. He combines a life-long enthusiasm for birding with extensive knowledge of birds from around the world and is sure to add a great deal to your Malta, Sicily and Sardinia experience!

I hope you will join Bob and other Audubon members on this custom designed itinerary and explore the Mediterranean Islands at this most beautiful time of year. Call Debrah-Ann Douglas today at 800-967-7425 or 212-979-3066 to hold your space!

Sincerely,

Margaret Carnright

Margaret Carnright
Director, Travel Programs

AUDUBON NATURALIST

Bob Turner, National Audubon's Western Senior Advisor, has been active with the Society since 1970. He held the position of Rocky Mountain Regional Vice President for 26 years, and in 2001 was the recipient of the prestigious Great Egret Award. Bob currently serves on a variety of Boards and Commissions representing Audubon on matters related to Western Public Lands, wetland habitat restoration, and environmental education. He is an avid, lifelong birder and is especially knowledgeable about global threats to birds and their habitats. Bob has led over 60 Audubon Odysseys, including several to Europe. His recent election to the internationally esteemed Explorers Club was in recognition of these experiences.

For more information or to join this trip, please call Debrah-Ann Douglas at (800) 967-7425 or (212) 979-3066

Highlights of this exciting expedition...

- The lush forests and spectacular coastal cliffs of Malta
- Archaeological ruins older than Stonehenge on the island of Gozo
- 400 species of wild plants in Cava Grande Del Cassibile
- Orchards, wildflowers, vineyards and lava fields of Mt. Etna
- Molentargius, a salt marsh where 47 endangered bird species thrive

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN THIS TRIP, PLEASE CALL
DEBRAH ANN DOUGLAS AT (800) 967-7425 OR (212) 979-3066

Front cover: Sardinia, photo by Vito Arcomano; This page: Sardinia
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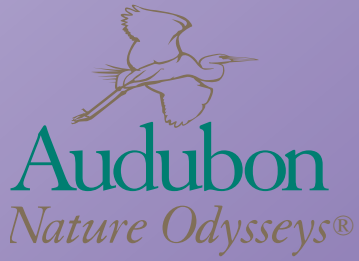
Bring a Friend and Save

Because a memorable trip can be even more special when shared with friends, we are pleased to offer a savings of \$150 per person to you and to any of your friends who join you on the trip, when they register, even if at a later date. (Please note that friends must reside at different addresses.)



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SPRINGTIME IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN:

MALTA, SICILY &
SARDINIA



with Audubon's Bob Turner

April 26 – May 8, 2008