

# Study trip to Sicily

## Campus Luzern & Campus Zürich

### Online meeting (date to establish)

### A brief introduction to the history and problematic of the Sicilian Mafia (Cosa Nostra)

**Dr. Anita Bestler** will give us (online) a lecture on the Sicilian Mafia (Cosa Nostra). The meeting will last (with brakes) about three hours. She will use a PPT.

### Day 1 (Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September) – Arrival in Palermo

Arrival at the airport or railway station in Palermo **by 16:00 at the latest**. Arrival and departure must be organised by the participants themselves and is not included in the price.

We advise you to travel together with others.

Please let us know your exact arrival time so that we can organise in the case the transport from the airport to your accommodation. The train station is really close to our place, maybe 20 minutes' walk.

(Alternative to the shared transfer: metro or airport shuttle bus. The metro runs directly from the basement of the airport to the main railway station. You can get off at the Palazzo Reale/Orleans stop or at the central station and walk to your accommodation, (it is not very far, maybe 15-20 minutes). The fare is around € 6. The Prestia & Comande airport bus leaves from the left of the arrivals hall. You get off at the main station (terminus) and walk to your accommodation. The fare is € 6.50. There are also share taxis from the airport to the city centre (approx. € 10)

### **Early arrivals and late departures are possible. If this is the case, please let us know!**

However, we recommend taking a taxi from the main railway station or airport to **Porta Sant'Agata (one of the middle-age city gate)**. Then take Via Porta Sant'Agata to the junction with Via Giovanni Grasso and stay on the right-hand side of the road. The hostel is 50 metres from the crossroads (from the Porta Sant'Agata gate it is a maximum two-minute walk).

At 5.00 pm at the latest: Meet at the accommodation "CASA DI ACCOGLIENZA" RELIGIOSA "IL CARMINE" in Piazza Carmine (Piazza Carmine, 1, 90134 Palermo), more precisely on the

side of Via Giovanni Grasso. Each person gets a single room with shower. Breakfast is included.

First dinner together **at 6.00 pm** in the best pizzeria in Palermo, "[Mastunicola](#)", Via Venezia, 71 - Palermo (tables will be divided into 4 small groups of 4/5).

For the dessert, we are going to take one of the best ice creams of Sicily and probably Italy. Gelateria "[Cappadonia](#)", in via Via Vittorio Emanuele, 401, 90134 Palermo PA.

## Day 2 (Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September)

### A City tour of Palermo

Morning: at **8:15 a.m.**, we are moving directly to the [Norman Palace](#) with the [court chapel](#) (Cappella Palatina), the Sicilian regional parliament, the royal apartments and the Phoenician foundations of the palace.

For lunch, we are going to the [Bar Santoro](#) (Piazza Indipendenza), where you can enjoy on of the best arancini (rice balls) in Palermo.

**After lunch**, we are walking through the most notorious places and streets of Palermo. We will stop in different places and visit them. **On the list: Casa Professa** (Chiesa del Gesù), the most beautiful baroque Church in Sicily (if not in the world); the **Cathedral of Palermo**, where we will visit the astronomical meridian, the Rosalia Chapel and the chapel of Padre Pino Puglisi, who was murdered by the Mafia.

We walk to the **Teatro Politeama** (exterior tour), then to the **Teatro Massimo** (exterior tour), the third largest opera house in Europe; then via Via Maqueda to the baroque **square Quattro Canti**, the heart of the old town, where the four historic districts meet. After a few steps, you reach Piazza Pretoria with the town hall and the **Pretoria Fountain**, which once caused a scandal because of its "Naked" marble.

At the end of the tour, Emilia will leave us and we can relax in the dormitory.

At **6:00 p.m.**, we will meet – at the **Army Officers' Club**, Piazza Sant'Oliva, 25, 90141 Palermo – the brothers **Franco and Carmine Mancuso** (ex-senator of the Italian Parliament), the sons of Lenin Mancuso, a police inspector murdered by the Mafia in 1979 together with the Judge Cesare Terranova. They will share their life story and their personal fight and visions against the mafia. Eventually, as well the nephew of the Judge Cesare Terranova, Vincenzo Terranova, will be there and some other surprises.

On this, day **Emilia Maggio** as well as the sociologist and political scientist, **Dr Anita Bestler** (from the late afternoon) will guide us through the history of these places.

**Anita Bestler** and Valerio will interpret your questions and their talk and answers. We are eating with the two guest and with Anita.

### **Day 3 (Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September) (Bus)**

#### **“Casa-Museo Padre Pino Puglisi”, “Centro Padre Nostro” and “anchovy museum” in Aspra**

**Morning:** We meet at **8.30 a.m.** at the hotel reception and drive to the home of the priest **PADRE PINO PUGLISI**, who was murdered by the mafia on **15 September 1993**. Activists show us the priest's home, which has been converted into a museum, and tell us about his life. We then continue to the Centro Padre Nostro social centre founded by Padre Puglisi, which does outstanding social work in the Brancaccio district. We meet **Maurizio Artale**, the president of the centre, who tells us about the centre's work. We have a simple lunch at the centre.

We will eat lunch on the way to Michelangelo Balistreri. (@Anita puoi trovarci una rosticceria/ristorante dove prendere una caprese?)

**Afternoon:** At **2.15 p.m.**, we take the bus to **Aspra**, a former fishing village near Palermo. We meet **Michelangelo Balistreri** there at 3.00 pm, an anchovy manufacturer who refused to pay protection money to the Mafia and has been under police protection ever since. Michelangelo tells us his story and shows us his old anchovy factory, which he has converted into an **unusual anti-mafia and anchovy museum**. A normal "museum tour" does not await us there, after all Michelangelo is not only an entrepreneur, but also a poet and musician...

**Ms. Luana Ilardo** the daughter of **Luigi Ilardo**, will accompany us the whole day. His father, a former Mafia boss from the province of Caltanissetta, started to collaborate with the Italian state to steal mafia secrets from inside the organisation. However, he was killed by the Mafia and by parts of the “state” apparats, who were not “interested” in his information.

In the evening, around **19:30**, we will have dinner at the **Restaurant**, [www.bissobistrot.it](http://www.bissobistrot.it), Via Maqueda, 172A, 90134 Palermo. [bissobistrotsrl@gmail.com](mailto:bissobistrotsrl@gmail.com).

On this, day sociologist and political scientist, **Dr Anita Bestler**, will accompany us.

### **Day 4 (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September) (Bus)**

#### ***Excursion to Erice and to the old Town of Trapani***

**Morning:** We will take the bus to Erice at **8:00 a.m.**, from Porta Sant'Agata (about 1.5 hours).

Erice is a medieval mountain village in the far west of Sicily that was founded in prehistoric times by the Elymians and was famous among the Romans for its Venus sanctuary. We take a walk past old palazzi, monasteries and churches. From the city park, you can enjoy marvellous views of the Egadi Islands and Trapani as well as Monte Cofano and the marble quarries of Custonaci. The delicious almond biscuits in Maria Grammatico's patisserie are an absolute MUST.

We will have **lunch in the old Town of Trapani**. In the Osteria "[La bettolaccia](#)", Via Generale Enrico Fardella, 25. Trapani. After lunch, we will visit different places in the old town or nearby, like the old salt production area. Then we are driving back to Palermo and on the way, *if we have time, we will stop briefly in [Segesta archaeological area](#).*

*On the way back we will stop briefly at the Capaci along the Highway - this is the spot where the assassination of the public prosecutor Giovanni Falcone, his wife and three police officers took place on 23 May 1992.*

At **04:00 p.m.**, we drive back to Palermo.

At **06:00 p.m.**, we will meet **Antonino Balsamo**; former President of the Court of Justice in Palermo at the Cueva. La cueva, Via Isidoro la Lumia, n. 20, Palermo. It is a large private apartment managed by the local Jesuits. We will meet there the judge and some local's young professionals. Then we will have dinner together through a catering service.

The tour guide **Emilia Maggio** accompanies us throughout the day.

## **Day 5 (Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September) (Bus)**

### **Excursion to "Polizzi Generosa" and Cefalù**

**Morning:** We meet at **8.00 a.m.** at the entrance to the hostel. We will take the bus to "[Polizzi Generosa](#)" (about 1:30 hour drive). After lunch, we are moving to [Cefalù](#).

That is a picturesque city with many sightseeing to explore. We will visit the **Cathedral of Cefalù**, which is another master piece of Norman architecture.

*After the visit of the Cathedral, we will visit the rest of the city.*

Alternatively, you can go up to the hills along the byzantine fortifications of the 6-8<sup>th</sup> century. On the hill, you will find ruins of ancient Greek temples.

At **04:00 p.m.**, we drive back to Palermo.

Before the dinner, at the **19:00**, **Henry Habegger**, a Swiss Journalist who writes may article in Switzerland concerning the infiltration of the organized crime in the country, we share is experience with us.

The **Restaurant**, [www.bissobistrot.it](http://www.bissobistrot.it), Via Maqueda, 172A, 90134 Palermo is waiting for us **8:30 p.m.** [bissobistrotsrl@gmail.com](mailto:bissobistrotsrl@gmail.com).

On this, day **Emilia Maggio**, will accompany us.

## Day 6 (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September)

### Aristocratic palaces and bunkerino

#### Morning:

At 9:00 a.m., we will visit one of the most beautiful palaces in Palermo, the "[Palazzo Conte Federico](#)". The tour will be in English and will last about one hour.

At 11.00 a.m. **Giovanni Paparcuri**, one of the closest associates of the two prosecutors Falcone and Borsellino, will be waiting for us in the at the [bunkerino](#). Paparcuri himself would have fallen victim to an assassination attempt on the Palermitan chief investigating magistrate Rocco Chinnici in 1983.

*We will have lunch together with Giovanni Paparcuri and probably with a public attorney.*

#### Afternoon is at your free disposal.

Before the dinner, we will meet in the residence where we sleep, the writer, **Piero Messina**.

We will have diner at 19:30 at the "[La Galleria](#)", close to the Cathedral of Palermo.

No guides on this day.

## Day 7 (Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September) – Beach day / free day

I suggest going to beaches of [Mondello](#). I will reserve there a place. We can go by public bus to the beach. We will have a light lunch on the beach or close to it.

Alternatively, you are free to enjoy the city of Palermo by your own. I suggest being always in-group of at least two people. Find here bellow some suggestions:

From your accommodation, walk to the **Oratorio di Santa Cita** (admission approx. €3), a small Baroque gem where you can see the marvellous stucco work by Giacomo Serpotta with the Mysteries of the Rosary. Continue to the **Dominican church** (free of charge, except for the cloister, which you don't have to visit), where many famous Sicilians, including Giovanni Falcone, were buried. Via the Vucciria market, Via Paternostro, Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi, past **Palazzo Valguarnera-Gangi** (entrance is really expensive) and **Piazza Bellini**, you reach the old town district of Albergheria.

**Museo Archeologico** or Palazzo Abatellis. The Museo Archeologico, which is housed in a former Oratorian monastery, is home to numerous interesting exhibits from antiquity. Of particular importance are the famous "Metopes of Selinunte". If you decide to visit, we recommend that you have lunch afterwards in the Trattoria Basile (Via Bara All'Olivella, 76). It is incomparably cheap and very typical (be sure to order a portion of "panelle" for €1.50, the delicious fried chickpea patties). Palazzo Abatellis is home to the most important art collection in Sicily, in particular the fresco "Triumph of Death", the "Annunziata" by Antonello da Messina and the marble bust of "Eleonora d'Aragona" by Francesco Laurana. Afterwards, you can either enjoy a pizza at the Pergamene (Piazza Marina) or savour delicious sweets at the Cioccolateria Lorenzo (Via del Quattro Aprile, 7).

At 18:00 at the latest, we need to be back at the hostel. Our two guides, Anita and Emilia, are coming with us.

We are expected at **21:00** in the restaurant "**Al Fresco**", in, VIA MATTEO SCLAFANI, 1, Palermo, <https://www.alfrescopalermo.it/?lang=en> . The restaurant employs people with difficult social backgrounds, such as former prisoners or drug addicts.

## **Day 8 (Sunday 8th September) – Departure (at least for the most)**

We will have our last breakfast under the sun of Palermo (not in the hostel), before the departure.

### **Notes on the costs:**

The price includes accommodation, transport to places, guided tours by Emilia Maggio and Anita Bestler and the lunches & dinners. Arrival and departure are not included in the price. These are organised by the participants themselves. Other costs not listed in the programme are exclusive. We reserve the right to change the programme if the circumstances do not allow it to be carried out.