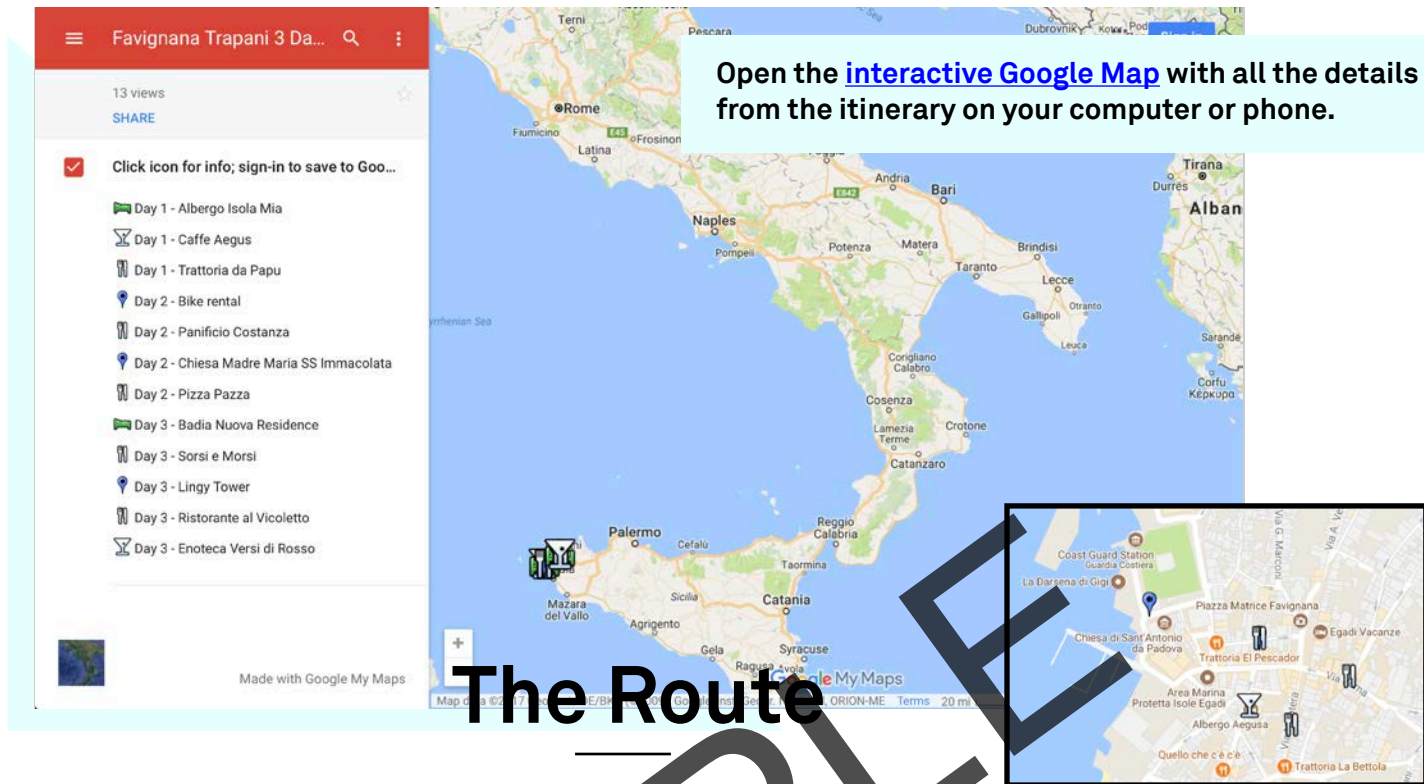


SICILY

Explore Favignana
& Trapani

SAMPLE



How does the Travel Honey Contributor describe their trip? This itinerary is for 3 days in Favignana, an island off of Sicily. Favignana is known by few outside Europe but is very easy to reach from Rome via an hour boat ride from Trapani's port. John, the Travel Honey Contributor, went on this adventure with his girlfriend to celebrate his birthday. They came for the solitude and the Sicilian cuisine, which is their favorite in Italy. They also came to Favignana for the sea, which was ranked 13th among the clearest waters in the world. The Mediterranean here is the turquoise color of Italy's summer sky. They also spent one night in Trapani, an underrated town on Sicily's west coast.

Who took this amazing trip? Meet John, our savvy traveler. He seeks out and gets to know locals to ensure the most authentic experience. He and his girlfriend have both been to Sicily numerous times and their real value-add is the tips they've collected living in Rome and the advice they got from locals in Sicily. Learn more about John's travel style [here](#) and see more photos of his trip [here](#).



What is Travel Honey? At www.travelhoney.com we find expert travelers and document where they stayed, ate, explored and how they got around – along with what they loved and would have done differently. We provide all the information you need in one place, give you trip advice you can trust, simplify logistics, and save you time. If you have questions, or want to tell us about a trip, we'd love to hear from you at support@travelhoney.com.

OVERVIEW*

* Dark blue text in this highlights page links to more details; bright blue text is an external link

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Arrived in Favignana by plane, bus and boat and explored the village by foot.

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We rode bikes around east end of island and attended Friday night mass.

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NOTE:

We do our best to check regularly, but hours and costs are subject to change, especially in Italy

SHARE YOUR AWESOME EXPERIENCE!

Make sure you tag us [@travel_honey](#) & use the hashtag [#travelhoney](#)



TRAVEL JUST GOT SWEETER
[travelhoney.com](#)

Background Info

Time of year

End of March, start of April. This is a very good time to visit Sicily. The weather is turning warm but not so hot you're drinking Peroni all day. Students are in school and Italians aren't on vacation. Watch for Easter holidays, though. That's when many visit. The negative of spring is the sea is too cold to swim -- unless you can handle 57-degree water temperature. Locals tell us the best time to visit is September. The students are back in school, the Italians' vacations have ended and the sea is still warm from the sun's steaming rays all summer.

Costs

- Average accommodation: 65 euros a night
- Average meal: 10 euros
- Average activity: 3 euros

Driving required

None.

About 25 percent mainstream and 75 percent off the beaten path

Ratings

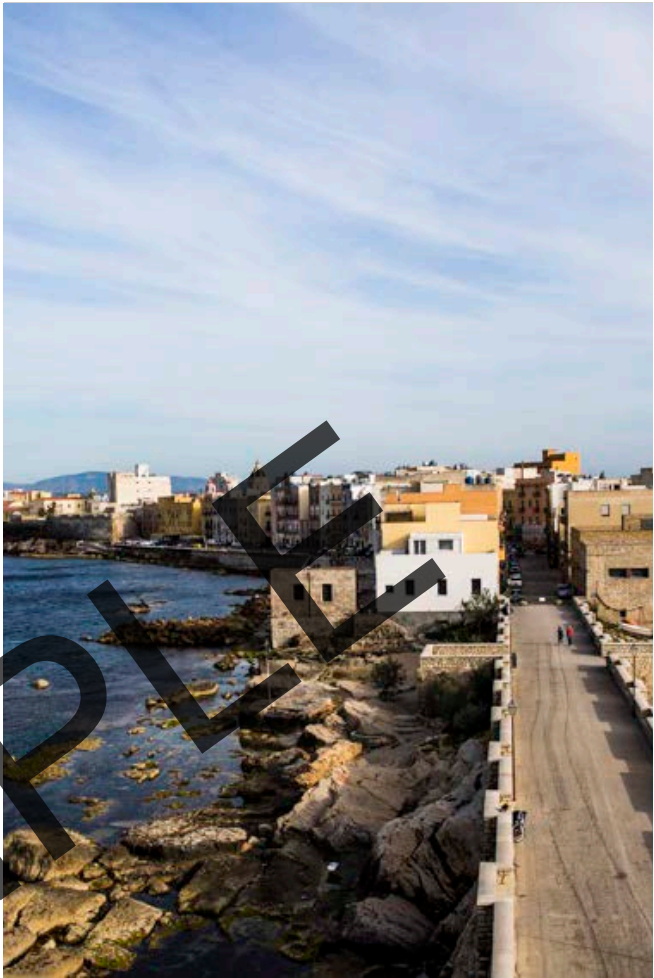
Physical activity ★★☆☆☆

Foodie ★★★★★

Art/Architecture ★★☆☆☆

Cultural/Historical ★★★★★

The view from Ligny Torre ©MarinaPascucci



Symbols to Remember



Accommodation



Activities | Attractions



Dining



Nightlife

★★★★★ Rating System*

*The ratings have been vetted by Travel Honey but are from the point of view of the Contributor who took this trip.



Day 1

To check out arrival and other insider tips before jumping into the itinerary, click [here](#).

Arrived in Favignana via Trapani in the afternoon with enough time to wander Favignana.

🐾 **Day 1 Transport:** From the Trapani airport, we took a 30-minute bus ride to Trapani's port and a 30-minute hydroplane boat ride from Trapani to Favignana. We explored Favignana by foot.

Favignana and Trapani Tips

- Don't open a discussion with a local with a question about the mafia. Yes, the Cosa Nostra still exists in Sicily. No, there isn't much visible evidence anymore. Public assassinations are fewer but the influence remains. The influence is less in a small island such as Favignana.
- For the best look at local life and great photo ops, hang out at the Favignana harbor. The tuna industry dominated the island's economy for centuries but overfishing has pushed tourism to the top source of income. However, fishermen in authentic Sicilian fisherman's hats can still be seen on the docks, mending nets and hauling fish. Stray cats run around hoping to commandeer a tuna.
- Favignana has no beautiful sandy beach. It's mostly rocks and algae, the sea plant life that squishes between your toes. Wear flip flops to maneuver into the water, which is well worth the journey.
- Trapani has Sicily's most celebrated Easter procession. I Misteri is a four-day night time ceremony with life-sized wooden effigies being carried through the Old Town to Piazza Lucatelli. The best night is Good Friday.

Bike in countryside ©MarinaPascucci



Day 1

Open the [interactive Google Map](#) with all the details from the itinerary on your computer or phone.

Sleep @ [Albergo Isola Mia](#)

Description/Tips: A two-star, single-story hotel that seems more like an American-style motel except for the red-tile roof and the friendly couple who run it. Giuseppe and Tiziana give it more of a bed & breakfast feel with pickup service at the port and handsome breakfast tray of coffee and biscuits in the morning. The room was big for Italy with a handy refrigerator. The little backyard patio had a view of the island's countryside, making you feel you truly are away from it all. They also gave us some great restaurant recommendations.

Cost: 70 euros for two people with breakfast in March. The room jumps to 130 euros in July and 150 in August.

Address: Strada Punta Marsala 18, Favignana

Stroll Favignana

Description: Favignana's village is tiny and hovers around the harbor, which is bustling in the morning and is quiet much of the afternoon. We wandered through the narrow alleys above the harbor then hung out at a little scruffy beach area where rusted boats stand guard and apartment houses sport balconies over the water. Then we settled in Piazza Madrice, the island's nerve center.

Is the recommended lodging already booked or not your jam?

- [Tempo Di Mare](#) - If you want spectacular ocean views in the center of the village and more of a hotel feel.
- [Cave Bianche](#) - Lounge by the pool of this one-of-a-kind boutique hotel built into a stone quarry.
- Click [here](#) for all recommended places to stay in Sicily.

Fisherman on the Harbor ©MarinaPascucci



✂ Before dinner drinks @ Caffè Aegus

Description/tips: Everywhere I go I stake out a local cafe to meet the locals. This is where to go on Favignana. It maintains a prominent corner in Favignana's main piazza with outdoor seating where you can watch boys kick a soccer ball and hear the nearby church bells peal. Lifetime residents and long-time locals who escaped the cities gather in the late afternoon and talk over wine and coffee. Few people in Favignana speak English but some transplanted Italians do if you want to seek out answers to questions. **FINAL THOUGHTS:** This will be the first place we'll go when we return.

Cost: An aperitivo with a glass of Nero d'Avalo and snacks is 3 euros.

Hours: 5 a.m.-2 a.m.

Approximate time: 15 minutes is plenty

Address/Directions: Piazza Madrice 10, Favignana. All roads seemingly lead to Piazza Madrice smack dab in the middle of the village.

✂ Dinner @ [Trattoria da Papu'](#)

Description/tips: A Giuseppe (owner of Albergo Isola Mia) said this is his favorite restaurant on the island and it wasn't hype. This fish restaurant's walls are covered in fish nets, anchors and starfish with black and white photos of old fisherman scenes. The tuna, the local specialty, is highly recommended. It's in the Antipasti du Papu' which also included shrimp. I discovered a new pasta here: busiate, a thick, twisty pasta that holds sauce very well. My Busiate al Profumo di Mare had

shrimp, clams courgettes and bread crumbs for 13 euros. Tip: If you don't want to pay 2 euros per person for bread, tell them not to bring it. They serve it without asking. **FINAL THOUGHTS:** A casual yet romantic place perfect to try local specialties.

Cost: Main courses were 12-15 euros with antipasti around 10. A half liter of good house wine was 6.

Hours: 1 - 3:30 p.m., 8 - 11:30 p.m.

Address/Directions: Via Nicotera 7, Favignana. It's on the opposite edge of Piazza Madrice from Caffè Aegus.

Contact: 324-532-1497

"Cannoli Prepared at The Moment" ©MarinaPascucci



Day 2

Open the [interactive Google Map](#) with all the details from the itinerary on your computer or phone.

We adventured on bicycles around the east end of island and attended a Friday night mass. 🐾 **Day 1 Transport:** Biking the island and to lunch then walking to dinner and the church.

🔪 Breakfast @ [Albergo Isola Mia](#)

Description/Tips: It's only coffee and biscuits. The night before, we went to Alimentari San Paolo on Via Mazzini which runs into Piazza Matrice. We bought yogurt, milk, cheese, cookies and scatolina di verdure, a local vegetable mix, for about 13 euros. **FINAL THOUGHTS:** It's best to eat a hearty breakfast before a bike ride. There is hardly anywhere to eat on the road.

Cost: Included with stay

📍 Bike Favignana

Description/Tips: This is the best way to see the island. The multi-gear hybrid bikes are both male and female and in very good condition. The guys at the rental shop by the harbor will draw the best route to take on the map they give you. You ride from the harbor directly out of town past pine and lemon trees and some cactus. You head along the north coast where you get great views of the turquoise sea. Go to Cala Rossa on the far northeast tip for a beautiful photo op and possible swim if it's warm enough. You then backtrack, cut inland and wind your way south to Cala Azzurra, possibly the prettiest spot on the island. It's a secluded cove with a beautiful turquoise sea. A great spot for a picnic. You then head west along the southern coast back to town, passing the huge Castello San Giacomo along the way. **Tips:** At Cala Rossa a man sells pane cunzatu, a traditional Sicilian sandwich made with tomatoes, anchovies and cheese. Be prepared to ask directions in Italian. The roads aren't well signed and no one speaks English. Also, the road turns into dirt in some spots but it's very flat. **FINAL THOUGHTS:** One of the easiest and prettiest bike rides you'll take.

Cost: 5 euros a day

Hours: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Physical activity:

Approximate time: 3 hours including stops

Address/Directions: The Bike rental shop is called [Noleggio Ginevra di Catalano Amedeo](#), Piazza Marina, Favignana, Italy

Contact: 334-851-0547

Favignana Bike Ride ©MarinaPascucci



Lunch @ [Paninoteca Costanza](#)

Description/tips: My panino camparia special may have been the best sandwich I've ever had in Italy. It's a big, fat, chunk of fresh, warm tuna and tomato inside a toasted sesame bun. Ask for mayo packets. They also sell hamburgers FINAL THOUGHTS: A perfect place for a casual, cheap lunch while you're still sweating from your bike ride.

Cost: My sandwich was 6 euros. Most are from 2-5 euros.

Hours: 10am - 3pm, 4:30 - 8pm

Address/Directions: Via Roma 31, Favignana, Italy. The road leads into the southeast corner of Piazza Madrice.

Contact: 09-23-921-773

Friday night mass at [Chiesa Madre Maria SS Immacolata](#)

Description/tips: If you're not Catholic and into mass, the church is at least a nice place to see locals and admire a pretty church. It was built in 1764 on orders from King Philip IV. It features late Baroque architecture and a pretty stained-glass window of the Madonna Immacolata. FINAL THOUGHTS: If you've been to Rome, this church will pale in comparison but it was a good art fix on the small island and see locals; we're glad we went.

Cost: Free

Hours: 6 - 6:30 p.m

Approximate time: 30 minutes

Physical activity: ★☆☆☆☆

Address/Directions: Via Giuseppe Mazzini 16, Favignana. On Piazza Madrice.

Dinner @ [Pizza Pazza](#)

Description/tips: Locals recommended this place as the best pizza in town. It's authentic Sicilian pizza with thicker crust. The wall menu lists 30 pizzas and they're served on cardboard trays and pre cut, similar to American pizzerias. My corvo pizza had spicy salami, gorgonzola, mozzarella, onions and tomatoes and was absolutely delicious. FINAL THOUGHTS: We'll definitely go back.

Cost: Pizzas average about 6-6.50 euros

Hours: Open every day (7 p.m.-12 p.m.)

Address/Directions: Via Mazzini 16. The street that goes southwest from Piazza Madrice.

Contact: 327-369-6750

Trapani boats ©MarinaPascucci



Day 3

Open the [interactive Google Map](#) with all the details from the itinerary on your computer or phone.

We returned to Trapani and spent the night before flying out the next morning. 🐾 **Day 1**

Transport: We took the hydrofoil boat back Trapani (boats run about every hour 7:10 a.m. to 8:05 p.m. to Trapani) and walked to lunch in dinner in Trapani.



Sleep @ [Badia Nuova Residence](#)

Description/Tips: It's a pretty boutique hotel on a quiet, small street a minute's walk from Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the main drag in Old Town. It was a big room with a mini-fridge and a big-screen TV featuring every Sky channel. If you like sports, you'll love this room. It also had a small balcony and table with two chairs overlooking the quiet street. It was the perfect place for a glass of wine to start our afternoon. **FINAL THOUGHTS:** Perfect for a romantic getaway.

Cost: 60 euros for two without breakfast, it goes to 79 in July.

Address: Via Badia Nuova 33, Trapani

Contact: 39-0923-24054



Lunch @ [Sorsi e Morsi](#)

Description/tips: A good place to try an arancino, Sicily's signature rice ball filled with cheese and sometimes meat. It has comfortable outdoor seating and a friendly staff. **FINAL THOUGHTS:** We'll definitely go back.

Cost: 2 euros for an arancino.

Hours: Summer (7:30 a.m. - 2 a.m.); Winter (only open weekends, call to confirm times)

Address/Directions: Corso Vittorio Emanuele 55, Trapani. Corso Vittorio Emanuele is the main pedestrian street in Old Town.

Contact: 368-787-3024 / 324-866-1069

Balcony Badia Nuova ©JohnHenderson



Return to Overview

[Ligny Tower](#)

Description/tips: Built in 1671 in 1979, it was built to fend off attacks from Barbary corsairs. It has been a lighthouse, a fortress and during World War II was equipped with anti-aircraft guns. It is now an archeological museum with urns and helmets dating back to 240 B.C. Tip: Climb the stairs to the top and you'll get one of the best views of Trapani in town. FINAL THOUGHTS: I'm glad I went but only for the view. The historical artifacts aren't much.

Cost: 1 euro

Approximate time: 30 minutes is sufficient

Physical activity: ★☆☆☆☆

Address/Directions: Via Torre di Ligny 37, Trapani. Take Vittorio Emanuele all the way to the west, past Piazza General Scio and to the end of Via Carolina. The tower is on the spit of land at the end.

Contact: 0923-547-275

[Stroll Old Town](#)

Description/tips: Old Town is in the triangle that is bordered by the port on the south end and the Mediterranean on the north. We walked along the long seawall of Lungomare Dante where we had great views of the sea and the cityscape over the wall. The Old Town, dripping with 18th century Baroque architecture, is a labyrinth of small alleys surrounding Vittorio Emanuele. Walk down the pedestrian street and gaze at the huge Cattedrale di San Lorenzo and Palazzo Senatorio. FINAL THOUGHTS: Don't miss a walk through Old Town but go early evening when the locals take their *passaggiate*.

Dinner @ [Ristorante al Vicoletto](#)

Description/tips: This is a cozy, romantic seafood restaurant where the locals go. We know because it had no English menus. Started in 2006, it uses only products found in the immediate area. My bursiate vongole and pesto alla Trapani (twisty pasta with clams and pesto) was an absolutely huge, American family style portion. It was 16 euros. FINAL THOUGHTS: We'll definitely come here again.

Cost: Most main dishes 12-18 euros.

Hours: 7:30 - 10 p.m.

Address/Directions: Via Biscottai 6, Trapani. It's on a tiny alley just off of Biscottai one block off the port.

Contact: 39-320-810-3689 / 327-3422778

After-Dinner Drinks @ [Enoteca Versi di Rosso](#)

Description/tips: This is a lively, fun local bar where Sicilians go to drink Sicilian wine. Marina and I went with two local friends and our total bill was only 30 euros. Tip: Try the Zibibbo, one of Sicily's sweet dessert wine made from the Moscato grape. FINAL THOUGHTS: We'll definitely come here again.

Cost: Glasses of wine run 5-8 euros.

Hours: 6:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Address/Directions: Corso Vittorio Emanuele 63, Trapani. On the main drag not far from Porta Ossuna.

Contact: 39-0923-27985

Pre-Travel Advice

Things to book (or do) ahead

- If you're going in summer, book Favignana by winter. Accommodations are limited. Book a couple months ahead for Trapani. There are less tourists in the Spring except for Easter weekend.
- Book ahead for al Vicoletto in Trapani. It's extremely popular among locals and was packed the night we went.
- For the boat, no need to book ahead in the spring but consider booking ahead in July and August when it's busier.
- The Trapani port is right next to the Old Town. Get a hotel near the center so you can walk from the boat.
- For traveling to Europe from the U.S, your passport **must be valid for at least three months** beyond your planned date of departure and have two pages for each entry stamp.
- Call you credit card company and bank or fill out a form online to let them know that you'll be traveling abroad.

Trapani Sea Wall @MarinaPascucci



Overwhelmed by what to pack? We've got you covered!

- In spring, bring a light jacket or sweater and scarf. The wind off the sea can be cold at night.
- Sneakers for cycling and maneuvering around the rocks to the water.
- Flip flops if you're going on one of the beaches with algae.
- No need for elegant clothes in Favignana. It has island casual down. In Trapani you can dress up without looking out of place.
- Swimsuit. It may be too cold for swimming but you can at least get your feet wet and if you're feeling bold.
- Sunscreen and/or hat. The cool ocean breeze will keep you cool but won't keep you from getting sunburned. The sun is very strong here.
- A day pack to bring a picnic lunch on your bike ride.
- Fins and snorkel. With the 13th most clear waters in the world, the Egadi Islands are famous for their snorkeling and scuba diving. The visibility is fabulous. But wait until summer.
- A long lens. Favignana's bird life is remarkable. You'll need a lens to capture colorful birds resting on boat bows and fences.



Arrival Tips

Tips for airport, bus, train, etc.

- To get the bus from the Trapani airport to the port, go straight outside from the arrivals gate and it's on your left. There's a bus about every hour and it costs 4.90 euros. You pay as you board.
- The bus drops you off at the port but you must walk about 300 meters north to the ferries.
- Liberty Lines has 15 boats per day with the price at 11 euros one way for the 30-minute trip. There's almost one boat an hour to Favignana from Trapani (6:50 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.).
- Siremar runs three ferries a day for 7.70 euros and takes one hour. Unlike with Liberty Lines, Siremar has outdoor access for better viewing.
- Giuseppe at our Albergo Isola Mia met us at the Favignana port when we arrived. See if your lodging will do the same - we just had to text or call him when we knew what boat we were take.
- After unpacking, go to one of the local grocery stores and stock up on food and drinks. Isola Mia has a handy fridge where we stored cheese, yogurt, milk and beer. Isola Mia provided coffee and biscuits in the morning.

Advice Once You're There

Spending:

- Tipping isn't big in Italy but I always leave 10 percent for a particularly good meal
- Most places take credit card but have cash on hand just in case.
- ATMs are not hard to find.

In an Emergency

- U.S. Embassy: (+39) 06 46741; Via Vittorio Veneto 121, 00187 Roma
- What to dial in an emergency: 112

What do I Say?

- Hello -> Ciao
- Goodbye -> Ciao or Arrivederci
- Good morning -> Buongiorno
- Good Afternoon -> Buongiorno
- Good Evening (greeting) -> Buonasera
- Good Night (to say goodbye) -> Buonanotte
- Please -> Per favore
- Excuse me (let me by) -> Permesso
- Excuse me (excuse my interruption) -> Scusa
- Where is the bathroom? -> Dov'è il bagno?
- How much is this? -> Quanto costa?
- To compliment a meal -> Sapi Beddu
- Cheers -> Salute
- The bill, please -> Il conto, per favore

One More Day

If you had one more day, I would rent the same bike again and explore the larger, less-inhabited western side of Favignana. The road goes more into the interior featuring forests and grottoes.

One Less Day

If you had one less day, I would've dropped the day in Trapani. It can always be easily reached from Rome and it's better to spend more time in one place, especially an island where you can get to know the locals easily.

Fisherman in Trapani ©MarinaPascucci



ENJOY YOUR TRIP!

We hope you enjoy your trip! Learn more about Travel Honey at www.travelhoney.com and make sure you download the map of this itinerary to use offline on your trip. Don't have the map, have questions, or want to tell us about a trip? We'd love to hear from you at support@travelhoney.com.

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