



EXPAT EXPLORE TRAVEL LTD.
TRAVEL SPECIALIST VENTURES
General Sales Agent (Philippines)
travelspecialist001@yahoo.com
921-0580 / 373-1449

Highlights of Southern Italy & Sicily - 10 Days

Start point: Rome

End point: Rome

DAY 1: Arrive in Rome (D)



Welcome to Rome! Meet up with your tour guide at our hotel in the afternoon and prepare for the tour of a lifetime! This evening, we'll enjoy a 'Rome by night' driving tour, where you'll see the many historical sights of Ancient Rome, including the Trevi Fountain, Colosseum and Pantheon. During the tour we will stop off at a local restaurant for dinner so you can really get to know the other passengers on your tour.

Experiences

Your tour begins! Tonight you will enjoy a evening driving tour of Rome - see the capital in all it's glory, including views of the Colosseum, Circus Maximus, Castle d'Angelo, the Tiber river and much more!

Try some classic Roman cuisine and get to know your Expat Explore tour leader and fellow travellers at the welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodation

Hotel American Palace
Hotel Club House Roma
Hotel Cristoforo Colombo

Other Foods to try

After joining the tour, you will enjoy a dinner in the evening - the perfect opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers! Typical dishes include penne carbonara, spaghetti with garlic and olive oil, as well as a range of meat dishes, including roasted chicken and beef.

DAY 2: Rome – Sorrento (B/D)



Leaving Rome, we'll head to the Sorrento peninsula, stopping off along the way to see Mount Vesuvius and to explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in 79AD in a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Upon arrival on the Sorrento peninsula we have a two night stay. This area is famous for limoncello (a sweet lemon liqueur), the perfect way to finish off your included dinner this evening!

Experiences

See Mount Vesuvius and explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii - preserved since ancient times under meters of ash and pumice, it offers superb insights into life (and death) in the ancient Roman Empire. An expert local guide will accompany you and introduce you to the history of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Optional Excursions

Isle of Capri €70

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

Accommodation

Hotel Oriente
Giosue A Mare

Other Foods to try

After arriving in Sorrento you will be treated to a Neapolitan dinner. As Sorrento is on the Mediterranean coast, seafood features heavily in the local cuisine. You can expect to enjoy dishes such as fresh fish, margherita pizza - which was created in this region - and meatballs. After the meal, why not opt for a glass of limoncello; this sweet lemon liqueur is a speciality of this area and is commonly taken as a digestif at the end of the meal.

DAY 3: Sorrento - Free day

A gorgeous old town hugging the coastline, the Sorrento peninsula is our base for the day. Explore the towns in your own time, or alternatively choose our optional excursion to the famous Isle of Capri, where you can spend some free time exploring the rugged coastline, ancient Roman ruins and stylish piazzas.

Attractions to discover in your free time

Museo Correale	Tue-Sat 09:30-18:30, Sun 09:30-13:30	Adults €7, Children €5
Duomo	08:00-12:00, 16:00-20:00	Free
Museo Bottega della Tarsia Ligna	Tue-Sun 09:30-13:00, 16:00-18:00	Adults €8
Basilica di Sant'Antonino	09:00-12:00, 17:00-19:00	

Optional Excursions

Isle of Capri €70

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 4: Sorrento – Alberobello (B)



Today we'll head east and explore the southern Italian region of Apulia. Arriving in Alberobello, we'll enjoy an orientation tour of the region's famous 'trullo' houses. These beautiful 14th century whitewashed stone huts have iconic conical roofs, and are specific to the Itria Valley. This afternoon you'll have free time to further explore Alberobello; check out the trullo church of St Antony and the trulli museum.

Experiences

Explore the 14th century trulli stone houses, the Parrocchia Sant'Antonio di Padova church, and the Trullo Sovrano museum. Originally constructed as temporary shelters and storehouses by farm labourers, the trulli are now permanent features of Alberobello.

Accommodation

Hotel Astoria

Other Foods to try

Puglia - the 'spur' and 'heel' of Italy's 'boot', is a great agricultural area, producing much of Italy's durum wheat, so this is the perfect place for you to try the best fresh pasta in the world!

DAY 5: Alberobello - Matera – Taormina (B/D)



This morning we'll make our way to the 'football' of Italy, taking a comfort stop along the way in the ancient cave city of Matera. Known as "la Città Sotterranea" (the Subterranean City), it is famous for its extensive cave-dwelling districts, the 'sassi'. We'll then take a drive through the beautiful Reggio Calabria region before enjoying a ferry crossing to the island of Sicily. Prepare for a stunning view of Mount Etna as we make our way to Taormina, where we'll enjoy an evening walking tour before dinner.

Experiences

Comfort stop in the ancient cave city Matera. Human remains from 7,000 BC have been found here, and the historical center and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Walking tour of Taormina on the island of Sicily. One of the most popular holiday resorts in Sicily, the city was founded by the Greek's who built an amphitheater in a stunning hilltop location overlooking Mount Etna.

Accommodation

Hotel Albatros

Other Foods to try

Why not try 'pasta alla Norma', it is among Sicily's most historic and iconic dishes! It's made with tomatoes, fried aubergine, grated ricotta salata cheese, and basil.

DAY 6: Taormina - Free day

Enjoy a free day to relax on Sicily's beautiful beaches, or explore the island's quaint towns. The town of Taormina itself is one of Italy's most popular summer destinations, perched on the side of a mountain and offering medieval churches, a castle and Greek amphitheater. For those looking to explore further afield, you can choose our optional excursion to Syracuse. The Sicilian town of Syracuse is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is notable for its rich Greek history, culture and amphitheatres. Here, you will have time explore the town as well as ancient Greek and Roman ruins including the Theatre of Syracuse and the Ear of Dionysius.

Optional Excursions

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 7: Taormina - Catania – Agrigento (B)



Today we'll drive to through the heart of Sicily, along the way taking a comfort stop in Catania. With a Unesco-listed historic centre boasting many beautiful baroque buildings. This afternoon, get your cameras ready as stopping at the 'Valle dei Templi' (Valley of the Temples), one of the most outstanding examples of Greater Greece art and architecture. We'll then arrive at our accommodation in Agrigento.

Experiences

Comfort stop in Catania, a vibrant and energetic city, with a UNESCO-listed historic center, where palazzi (grand residences) tower over baroque-style squares.

Explore the Valley of the Temples, a national monument of Italy and archaeological site in Agrigento. The Valley includes the remains of seven temples built in the Doric style.

Accommodation

Hotel Akrabello

Other Foods to try

For dessert why not try Cassatelle alla Trapanese, these are small soft crescents of dough filled with cream, ricotta, and chocolate chips. They are sprinkled with icing sugar and are served hot.

DAY 8: Agrigento – Palermo (B/D)



Enjoy a beautiful drive this morning as we make our way round the western tip of Sicily to the island's capital, Palermo. Founded more than 2,700 years ago by the Phoenicians, Palermo is noted for its history, culture, architecture and food. Arriving early afternoon, you'll enjoy a walking tour to introduce you to the city's highlights, including the San Giovanni degli Eremiti church, Piazza Indipendenza, Porta Nuova (The New Gate) and the Cathedral of Palermo.

Experiences

Drive along the western coast of Sicily, with stunning views of the Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian Seas.

Enjoy a walking tour of Palermo; see the highlights of this historic city, a melting pot of cultures over the centuries. Make a note of all the places you want to explore further on your free day tomorrow.

Accommodation

Hotel San Paolo

Other Foods to try

Feeling like a snack? Arancini are stuffed rice balls which are coated with breadcrumbs and then deep fried. They are usually filled with meat and tomato sauce, mozzarella, and peas.

DAY 9: Palermo - Free day

Enjoy a full day to further explore Sicily's capital. Over the centuries Palermo has been colonized by many different rulers over the centuries, including the Greeks, Romans and Normans. This melting pot has resulted in a variety of architectural styles for you to explore in the historic old town. This evening, we'll take an overnight ferry back to the Italian mainland. For travellers who wish to stay on in Palermo, tonight's hotel accommodation will be included in the tour price.

Optional Excursions

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 10: End of tour - Naples/Rome (B)



This morning we'll arrive in Naples where travellers can choose to end their tour, or continue on the coach with the tour leader and make our way back to Rome, where the coach will drop off at the hotel and Termini station for your onward journey.

Experiences

You can choose to end your tour in Naples this morning if you wish to extend your stay in southern Italy, or carry on back to Rome where the tour will end this afternoon.