



ITALY

DISCOVER THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST (TOUR CODE: 12370)

STARTS AND ENDS

Rome to
Taormina

TRAVEL PERIODS

06 Oct 24 - 22 Mar 26

EXPERIENCE

Escorted
Food & Wine

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Unearth the wonders of Southern Italy from the historic cities of Naples and Pompeii to the Sicilian ancient ruins and crystal clear waters.

Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures**
- **English only Tour**, with English-speaking Tour Director.
- Enjoy a stay in **Sorrento, Palermo, & Taormina**
- **Guided visits** in Rome, Pompeii, Capri, & Palermo.
- Entrance to **Pompeii, Valley of Temples in Agrigento, Villa Romana del Casale**
- Specialty dining & tasting experiences.

This 11-day escorted tour starts in the capital of Rome and then to Naples, where you'll witness breathtaking views of the city on a hilltop district.

Visit the famous UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pompeii, a once wealthy city buried under volcanic ash and is now a famous archaeological site. Continue along the stunning Sorrento Coast and cross the crystal-clear waters to the island of Capri. You may join an exciting excursion to the Blue Grotto when the weather is fair.

Return to Naples and board a ferry to Palermo, the magnificent capital of Sicily. Enjoy a tour to Monreale to see the town's splendid Norman architecture, explore the beautiful villages of Erice and Saline, and depart for Agrigento, a hilltop city known for its Greek monuments and ruins at the Valley of Temples. Visit Sicily's most fascinating towns, including Piazza Armerina, Ragusa, Noto, Siracusa and Taormina. You'll also have an opportunity to climb Europe's largest active volcano, Mount Etna, depending on the weather and your eagerness for thrill and adventure



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 9-night accommodation in 4-star hotels and 1-night onboard
- Transportation by coach
- Daily breakfast (not included on day 5 onboard the Tirrenia/Snav ferry)
- Lunch and Dinners as per itinerary
- Visit of a historic Cellar and enjoy a Wine Tasting with light lunch in Marsala on day 7
- Eat an authentic Neapolitan pizza for lunch in Pompeii in day 2

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Rome

Benvenuti a Roma! After you arrive at the airport, make your way to your hotel and then enjoy your first day in the city at your leisure.

At 07:45 pm pick up at the hotel and reach **Via del Teatro Marcello**. A local expert guide will lead you to discover the wonders of the **Eternal City**, charming by day - absolutely romantic at sunset. You will cross the characteristic area of the **Jewish Ghetto**, one of Rome's most beautiful neighborhoods, full of history and Roman atmosphere. As you know, one of Rome's typical landmarks is its beautiful fountains, and one of the prettiest is the **Turtle Fountain (Fontana delle Tartarughe)** in Piazza Mattei. The **Jewish Ghetto** of Rome is the second most ancient after the one in Venice, and it can be considered the heart and soul of Roman cuisine!

Then you will walk into Piazza Della Rotonda and enjoy the lit view of the **Pantheon**, the former temple of Marcus Agrippa later converted into a church: this is the only ancient Roman temple that remained untouched through the centuries and it's stunning at night when the crowds are away.

Close your eyes and throw a coin over your right shoulder straight into the **Trevi Fountain** as your next stop: it said that those who do so, are granted to come back to Rome someday. Your walk continues towards **Piazza di Spagna**, one of the city's most popular squares, known for its setting at the bottom of the Spanish Steps. Walk up these famous steps to enjoy a lovely view from the top! After this intense and gratifying walk, there is only one thing missing to end this experience: relax enjoying a creamy and tasty Gelato! The tour ends in the Spanish Steps area. Enjoy the rest of the night on your own.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Hotel San Martin** or similar.



Day 2

Rome Naples Pompeii Sorrento

After breakfast, pick up at your hotel approximately 7:00 am. Depart by coach heading south, crossing the regions of Lazio and Campania.

Arrive in **Naples** and have a short panoramic tour. Climb up to **Vomero hill** to enjoy beautiful views over the Gulf of Naples with the Vesuvius, Capri, Ischia, and Procida and the city below and take some nice pictures. Descending towards the port of Mergellina, you will leave the city and travel south toward Mount Vesuvius, and once you reach the town of Pompeii, you will have lunch with Neapolitan pizza!

After lunch, you will enter one of the most important archaeological sites in the world: a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the **ruins of Pompeii**, with Skip the Line entrance and a guided tour. Visit the haunting ruins of Pompeii, traveling back in time to the tragic days in 79 AD when the silent Mount Vesuvius suddenly erupted, covering the prosperous Roman city in deadly volcanic ashes and poisonous gases, leaving this city crystallized until our days. You'll learn how people lived at that time, visiting houses and bars of the time, admiring frescoes and mosaics to imagine how prosperous was the city before the dreadful day.

After the visit, you will drive along the Sorrentine Coast, arriving in Sorrento for dinner (dress code: jacket for men)

Overnight stay in Sorrento at **Hotel Michelangelo** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3** Sorrento Capri Sorrento

After breakfast, get ready for an exciting excursion to the island of **Capri**: one of the most exclusive summer destinations of the Mediterranean! Depending on the weather and sea conditions, you will admire the dreamy **Blue Grotto** on a small rowboat. Afterward, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and roam the island at your own pace.

Once back on the mainland, return to the hotel for dinner and your last overnight in Sorrento.

Overnight stay in Sorrento at **Hotel Michelangelo** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **4** Sorrento Palermo (overnight on ferry boat)

Breakfast at your hotel, then spend a leisurely morning exploring **Sorrento**.

In the afternoon, you will reach the port of **Naples**, where you will board the **Tirrenia/Snav ferry** to **Palermo**. Let the waves

rock you to sleep. Dinner and breakfast are not included on the ferry.

Overnight onboard the **Tirrenia/Snav Ferry** to Palermo.

Breakfast



Day **5**

Palermo

Arrive in Palermo and transfer to your hotel. That night, have dinner in the hotel and rest for the adventure that lies ahead.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Hotel Mercure** or similar.

Dinner



Day **6**

Palermo

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and then head out on a morning excursion to **Monreale**, recently included on the UNESCO

World Heritage List, an ancient royal town famous for its almonds, olive oil, and citrus fruits, as well as for its fine Norman architecture. Visit the elaborate **Cathedral of Monreale** and then enjoy shopping at the local delicatessen and souvenirs.

Back to **Palermo** and continue with a walking tour of the city. Wander the streets of the Old Town, hearing tales of Palermo's 3,000- year history and discovering attractions like **Palermo Cathedral**. Walk inside the impressive-looking place of worship and marvel at its arches, cupolas, and mosaics - with an incredible mix of influences coming from several dominations on the island. Enjoy free time in the late afternoon.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Hotel Mercure** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



CATHEDRAL OF MONREALE

Day **7**

Palermo Erice Marsala Agrigento

Early breakfast and departure to Erice, a medieval village stacked into the side of Monte San Giuliano. Many say that little has changed in the Village since the sixth century, and its labyrinth-like twist of lanes is perfect for a cool and pleasant morning amble.

Continue to visit the Saline, an extraordinary lagoon, where history, nature, and archeology find a perfect synthesis and allow the visitor to try different, unique and charming experiences. Afterward, we'll set off to Marsala, whose lands are known for its Marsala wine. You'll take part in a delectable experience, for you will visit a traditional tavern and taste regional wine and products during a light but unforgettable lunch.

Return to your coach and travel to Agrigento, your last destination of the day. Visit Ancient Greek monuments and ruins at the **Valley of Temples** (entrance included) - a UNESCO World Heritage site - and learn about archaeological relics like the Classical Temple of Concord, the Temple of Hercules; the Temple of Jupiter, one of the largest Doric-style buildings.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Agrigento at **Hotel Della Valle** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **8** Agrigento Ragusa Ibla Ragusa

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart to **Ragusa** and visit the enchanting historical center **Ibla** with its stunning baroque palaces and churches; together with seven cities in the Val di Noto, Ragusa is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Visit the old gate of San Giorgio, the Giardini Iblei, and then walk to Piazza Pola, where we will visit the church of San Giuseppe: a little gem. Be enchanted by the elegant Cathedral of San Giorgio, the Church of the Souls in Purgatory, and the magnificent Cosentini palace, one of the most interesting Late Baroque palaces in Sicily!

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Ragusa at **Hotel Poggio del Sole** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **9** Ragusa Noto Siracusa Taormina

Breakfast at the hotel and travel to **Noto**, a picturesque fishing town popular for its stately Baroque architecture. Visit the **Cathedral of San Nicolò**, recently restored after an earthquake, and then have a nice walk in the town's center.

Continue along the south coast to **Syracuse**, on Sicily's southeastern tip. Visit **Parco Archeologico della Neapoli**, Syracuse's famous archaeological area, home to a vast collection of Greek and Roman ruins from all over Sicily. Head inside to see impressive landmarks such as the Greek Theater, the Roman Amphitheater, and the Ear of Dionysius - an artificial limestone cave.

After the visit, cross one of the city's bridges to visit the island of **Ortygia** - the most ancient part of Syracuse - home to a wealth of Baroque churches and medieval palaces. In the late afternoon, arrive in Taormina, check in to your hotel, and enjoy dinner.

Overnight stay in Taormina at **Hotel Splendid** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 10 Taormina

Breakfast at your hotel and then head off to **Mount Etna**, the largest active volcano in Europe and the highest mountain in Italy. Learn about volcanic activity and marvel at the old lava fields and black magma rock that comprises Etna's landscape. If weather permits, you have a chance to climb to the summit (1800 m).

Lastly, return to Taormina, the beautiful and romantic town on **Mount Tauro**. Return to Taormina in the afternoon and spend the rest of your day at leisure.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Taormina at **Hotel Splendid** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 11 Taormina

Enjoy one final breakfast before the tour comes to an end.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Italian

LOCAL CURRENCY

EURO

- No age limit, maximum group size up to 40 people.
- All passengers must be able to independently board and alight the coach.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.
- For organizational reasons, the itinerary may be reversed or modified without notice. In this case, our supplier ensures similar visits and excursions in accordance with the spirit of the tour program.
- Blackout dates may apply during festive season.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package