



Palermo City Centre



ITALY

ITALY ENCOMPASSED (TOUR CODE: 12371)

STARTS AND ENDS

Rome to
Taormina

TRAVEL PERIODS

31 Mar 25 - 16 Mar 26

EXPERIENCE

Escorted
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Uncover the timeless beauty of Italy with a journey across its breathtaking regions. Visit Florence, Venice, Rome, Capri, Palermo and more!

Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures**
- Transportation by **deluxe motorcoach with Free-Wi-Fi** connection on board and tour-escort in English Only.
- Visit of a historic **Cellar in Marsala**, and enjoy a Wine tasting
- **"Skip the Line" access** of the Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Square and of Pompeii Site
- Lunch in a typical restaurant around **Montepulciano!**

Italy entices tourists all over the world with its diverse landscape, the greatest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world, mouth-watering cuisine and so much more. This incredible, 17-day tour takes you to the most beautiful regions and cities of Italy from Rome to Sicily.

Explore the medieval cities of Assisi and Siena en route to Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance and the sanctuary of many famous Italian artists. Continue to Venice, Italy's *Floating City*, via Bologna and Padua. Discover the highlights of religious and ancient Rome at the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. Head south to Sorrento, the garden of Italy, visiting the archaeological excavations of Pompeii along the way and take an excursion to the beautiful Isle of Capri.

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

- 15-night accommodation in 4-star hotels and 1-night onboard
- 1 night onboard the Tirrenia/Snav Ferry
- Transportation by coach
- Daily breakfast
- Lunch and Dinners as per itinerary
- Have lunch in piazza Santa Croce, in the heart of Florence in day 2
- Traditional Tuscan lunch in Montepulciano in day 5
- Eat an authentic Neapolitan pizza for lunch in Pompeii in day 8
- Enjoy a lunch at local restaurants in Anacapri in day 9
- Visit of a historic Cellar in Marsala, Wine tasting and Light Lunch (regional products)

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Rome Assisi Siena Florence

Departing at 7:15 am from your hotel by a deluxe coach, you will arrive in **Assisi**, ready to explore, at your leisure, this tiny town surrounded by walls built in the Middle Ages. Take your time to visit the basilica of **St. Francis**, where you will see masterpieces by Giotto and Cimabue and then have free time for lunch (not included).

Board on the bus to reach **Siena**, a Unesco World Heritage Site, world-known for the Palio, the historical horse race around the shell-shaped town square: **Piazza del Campo**. Next, you will continue to **Florence**, where you will check in at your hotel before enjoying dinner and a well-earned night of rest.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Hotel Raffaello** or similar.

Dinner



Day **2**

Florence

After breakfast, you will spend the day venturing around beautiful **Florence**, the Cradle of Renaissance, where, with the help of Michelangelo, Italian art reached its pinnacle. Based on Etruscan Roman origins, the city flourished in the Middle Ages as a free **Comune** and further refined during the Renaissance.

You will be fascinated by the uncountable monuments, churches, and buildings at **Santa Maria del Fiore**, more commonly referred to as the **Duomo**. On your visit, you will be amazed by its magnificent dome built by Filippo Brunelleschi. Cross a small piazza to see the **Campanile** tower (partly designed by Giotto) and the Baptistery, with its bronze doors where Michelangelo imagined the **Gates of Paradise**.

In the heart of the city, you will see **Piazza della Signoria**, **Palazzo della Signoria** (also known as Palazzo Vecchio), and the **Basilica of Santa Croce**. Lunch in a typical Tuscan restaurant in Piazza Santa Croce. Spend the afternoon strolling the cobblestone streets of Florence on your own or take a short trip to Pisa (optional), one of the four main historical Marine Republics of Italy. There, you will tour the Piazza dei Miracoli with the Duomo, Pisa's symbol "the Leaning Tower" and the Baptistery.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Hotel Raffaello** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



FLORENCE

Day **3** Florence Bologna Padua Mestre

After breakfast in Florence, depart to **Bologna**. You will discover the elegant city center with its porticos, shopping streets and so on. From Piazza Malpighi, you will walk to Piazza del Nettuno and Piazza Maggiore (Neptune square and Major square) in the heart of the city, then King Renzo's Palace; Palazzo Podestà and the basilica of San Petronio, one of the biggest in the world.

With a **street food light lunch experience** at a local eatery offered by us, this is your chance to savour the authentic flavors and unique dishes that define Bologna's renowned gastronomic identity.

Later in the afternoon, we will continue our journey to Venice (Mestre). Upon arrival, check in at your hotel for a restful overnight stay.

Overnight stay in Mestre at **Hotel Delfino** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



NEPTUNES FOUNTAIN BOLOGNA

Day **4** Mestre Venice Mestre

After breakfast, enjoy your transfer to **Piazza San Marco** and visit the most iconic places of the Floating City: the **Palazzo dei Dogi**, a symbol of Venice's glorious past, and the legendary **Bridge of Sighs**.

While you sit comfortably and savour your drink, you will also have the opportunity to enjoy a taste of the famous "**cicchetti**," a **Venetian variation of tapas (a light lunch)**. Spend the afternoon roaming along Venice's canals at your leisure.

Overnight stay in Mestre at **Hotel Delfino** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **5**

Mestre Montepulciano Rome

After breakfast, a departure from Piazzale Roma heading to **Tuscany**, world-known for its landscapes, churches and castles, and delicious wines. You will proceed to **Val di Chiana** with a stop in **Montepulciano**, a medieval town rich in history and art. Known for its "Nobile" wine, on purchase in local wine houses, Montepulciano also hosts an annual Jazz and Wine Festival every July. Lunch in a typical restaurant is included! After lunch, a quick stop to spend some free time.

In the evening, you will arrive in Rome to check in to your hotel.

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

Breakfast, Lunch



Day **6**

Rome

Between 7:45 - 8:00 am, after breakfast, a departure from the hotel for the included tour of the **Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Square with our exclusive "Skip the Line" access!**

No stress to reach the area: upon arrival, your guide will lead you to the museums where you'll visit one of the most important art collections in the world. Walk along the beautiful Galleries of Tapestries and Geographical Maps before admiring Raphael's Rooms and, then, the amazing Sistine Chapel. After this incredible masterpiece, the tour ends in St. Peter's Square where you can admire the astonishing masterpiece of St. Peter's Basilica: the biggest church in the world!

Enjoy the rest of the day exploring the city at your own leisure.

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

Breakfast



Day **7**

Rome

Enjoy an energetic breakfast at your hotel before spending the day exploring Rome on your own in the city or its surroundings. Return to the hotel for your last overnight in Rome.

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

Breakfast



Day 8

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 **9** 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, time to 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, Dinner



Day **10** 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 11 Palermo

Arrive in Palermo and transfer to your hotel.

Enjoy a dinner in the hotel and rest for the adventure that lies ahead.

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

Dinner



Day 12 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 13 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. Check-in to your hotel in the evening.

Dinner at the hotel is included.

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

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **14** Agrigento Piazza Armerina Ragusa Ibla Ragusa

Breakfast at the hotel and travel to **Piazza Armerina**, a pretty and historic town nestled into the heart of Sicily. Entrance to Villa Romana del Casale to admire the largest, richest, and most complex Roman mosaics and one of many UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Italy since 1997. The mosaics spread over 3,500 sq m show mythological scenes and portrayals of daily life.

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 **15** 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 **16** 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.

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

Breakfast



Day **17** 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