

GRAND TOUR OF SICILY OCTOBER 15-23, 2018

Day 1: Monday, Oct 15th ~ Depart late evening (9:50 PM), from Boston Logan International Airport for your overnight flight to Palermo. Arrive at 2:25 PM on Oct 16th.

Day 2: Tuesday, Oct 16th ~ PALMERO:

Upon arrival in Palermo, we will be met by our tour guide who will assist with our transfer to our hotel. After time to freshen up we will enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner at the hotel. Overnight at *Hotel* this evening. (dinner)

Your accommodations from 10/16 to 10/18

Hotel Astoria Palace

Via Montepellegrino, 62

90142 Palermo PA, Italy

+39 091 628 1111

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c,

<http://www.gshotels.it/astoria>

Tourist / City Tax is euro 2,00 per person per night to pay directly to the hotel

Day 3: Wednesday, Oct 17th ~ PALERMO~MONREALE: After breakfast, we will visit the Cathedral of Monreale, site of the capital for the Monasteries. After this visit we tour the capital of Sicily - Palermo! We will visit the highlights of Palermo's Arab, Norman, and Svevo periods. We will visit the Norman Cathedral, the Norman Palace (today home of the Parliament), the Cappella Palatina, followed by a walk to the Piazza Politeama in the heart of the city. Lunch on our own (breakfast & dinner)

Day 4: Thursday, Oct 18th ~ SEGESTA-ERICE-MARSALA-ARIGENTO:

After breakfast and hotel check-out we head west to Segesta to experience the Inspiring Doric temple (built in 424 BC).

Continuing along, will visit the mountaintop town of Erice and enjoy its spectacular panoramic views prior to travelling to the westernmost tip of Sicily and Marsala. In Marsala we will enjoy

a wine tasting and have a panoramic tour of the city (*founded by the Phoenicians in the 8th century BC*) to see the Duomo, and much more the church of St. Peter is closed and the Church of St. Mary of the Grotto can not be visited. We will stop for lunch (on our own). In the afternoon we proceed to Agrigento for hotel check-in ,dinner and overnight at the Hotel.
(Breakfast and dinner)

Your accommodations from 10/18 to 10/19:

Grand Hotel Mosè
Viale Leonardo Sciascia, n°47A3,
92100 Villaggio Mosè AG, Italy
+39 0992 608388

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, out door swimming pool

<https://www.grandhotelmose.it>

Tourist / City tax euro 3,00 per person per night to pay directly to the hotel

Day 5 : Friday, Oct. 19th ~ AGRIGENTO~PIAZZAARMERINA~TAORMINA:

After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel paying any incidentals. Our first stop this morning is the Valley of the Temples, where we will view the remains of seven Greek temples, the largest concentration outside of Greece itself. We will enjoy a CANNOLI tasting and vinter's lunch. (THE VISIT of the house of Luigi irandello is not included as there is not enough time to do it) Following that, we will visit Piazza Armerina, where we will be able to alk through the impressive 3rd century Roman Villa of Casale, a country estate from the 2nd century of Roman era. We will check in our hotel in Taormina. Dinner and overnight. (Breakfast,lunch,&dinner)

Your accommodations from 10/19 to 10/20:

Hotel Ariston
Via Bagnoli Croci, 168
98039 Taormina ME, Italy
+39 0942 643131

Amenities Include: Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, out door swimming pool

<http://www.hotel-ariston.org>

Tourist / City Tax euro 3,50 per person per night to pay directly to the hotel

Day 6 : Saturday,Oct. 20th~ TAORMINA

After breakfast at the hotel, we will attend a cooking class and have lunch, and then a local expert guide will conduct a half-day sightseeing tour of Taormina, including visits to all of the major attractions (*such as the world famous Greek and Roman theater*) and a complete orientation of the city. The afternoon is free for independent sightseeing, shopping or a visit to the beautiful local beaches in the Taormina area! Dinner and overnight. (Breakfast,lunch,&dinner)

Day 7: Sunday, Oct. 21th ~ CATANIA~MOUNT ETNA:

After breakfast, we travel to the southern foot of Mount Etna in Catania. We will have a panoramic tour of this wonderful city known for its straight streets and attractive buildings which date from the reconstruction after the eruption of 1693. We will visit the Duomo (*site of the Chapel of Saint Agatha*) and the open-air market. Lunch is on our own. In the afternoon, we will travel through the many varied vegetable and fruit areas on the slopes of Mount Etna. Arriving at an altitude of 2,500 feet, we will be above the tree line, where we'll enjoy a perfect view of the three Silvestri Craters and the River of Lava (*a remnant of the 1983-1985 eruption*). Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 8: Monday, Oct. 22ND ~ SIRACUSA:

After breakfast, we will have a full-day tour of the Siracusa Archaeological area Zone where we will visit the Greek Theater, the Roman Amphitheater, the Altar of Ieron the Cave of Cordari, and the Ear of Dionysius. Continuing on to the Medieval City, we will see the beautiful architecture of the Baroque Period, constructed at a time of much wealth and prosperity. We will also stop and visit The Cathedral. Return to Taormina for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

Day 8: Tuesday, Oct. 23rd ~ TAORMINA~CATANIA~INTERMEDIATE CITY~BOSTON

After breakfast and hotel check-out, paying any incidentals you may owe, we will transfer to the Catania Airport to board our return flight to Boston (*via intermediate city*). Meal and beverage service is available while in flight. (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE