

# Beauty of the South

## Amalfi Coast – Sicily – Reggio Calabria

**16 days/15 nights**

**Price includes:**

- Domestic air fare Palermo to Rome
- Selected 4 star hotels
- Breakfast and dinners as per itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach
- Excursions as per itinerary

**Price excludes:**

- Air fare and taxes
- Passport and visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Meals (if not specified)
- Optional tours
- Entrance fees to museums
- Single supplement

### Highlights

#### Amalfi Coast

Little remains in Amalfi of its illustrious past, most historians will tell you it lies buried beneath the sea. Powerful storms in 1013 and 1343 destroyed most buildings along the seafloor.

#### Island of Sicily

There are few places in the Mediterranean that can equal Sicily's striking landscape and colourful history. Every village and town is unique and it is not unusual to see Greek, Arab, Norman and Baroque influences on the same site, sometimes in the same buildings.

#### Reggio Calabria

The "toe" of the Italian boot, is surrounded by rich groves of olives, vines, orange and lemon trees and fields of flowers used for making perfume. Among its treasures are the Greek bronzes that are larger-than-life statues of warriors.

#### Day 1 – Rome

Independent arrival at your hotel in Rome. Overnight stay.

#### Day 2 – Rome – Sorrento

Early morning departure for Sorrento along the Autostrada del Sole with a short visit to Montecassino. Visit the Abbey of Montecassino, mother church of the Benedictine Order which was founded in 529 by St. Benedict. In the 8th century it was an important centre of learning and by the 11th century it had become one of the richest monasteries in Europe. Continue to Sorrento for dinner and overnight stay. (B & D)

#### Day 3 – Sorrento – Capri – Sorrento

After breakfast transfer to the Port of Sorrento for a ferry crossing to Capri. This legendary island is surrounded by rose-tinted rocks and beautiful caves of translucent blues and greens. Weather permitting, you can join an optional excursion to the Blue Grotto in a small

rowing boat. Return to your hotel for an overnight stay. (B)

#### Day 4 – Sorrento – Positano – Amalfi Coast – Sorrento

After breakfast depart for Positano, one of the most popular resorts on the Amalfi Coast. From here continue to Amalfi, the coast's largest town. Visit the Cathedral of St. Andrew, the town's greatest architectural treasure, which was first built in the 9th century, reconstructed in 1203 and again in 1701. It partially collapsed in 1861, and was restored in 1875-94. Return to Sorrento for an overnight stay. (B)

#### Day 5 – Sorrento – Pompeii – Sorrento

Full day excursion to Pompeii, the opulent town which was buried in AD79 in one of the most disastrous volcanic eruptions in history. In the space of two days Pompeii was buried under a layer of cinders 6-7 metres deep. Excavations began in the 18th century under the reign of Charles of Bourbon. Return to Sorrento for an overnight stay. (B)



## Day 6 – Sorrento – La Sila – Soverato

After breakfast depart for a most enjoyable drive through the green heart of Calabria to the famous National Park “La Sila”. The emerald green of the valley shows how the landscape is always different with the beautiful change of seasons. Dinner and overnight stay in Soverato. (B & D)

## Day 7 – Soverato – Squillace – Isola Di Capo Rizzuto

After breakfast depart for the interesting Roccelletta di Borgia, an archaeological park containing the superb vestiges of the ancient forum porticoes, a theatre, thermal baths and amphitheatre. Visit the huge basilica built by the Normans between the 11th and 12th centuries. Continue to the little town of Squillace overlooking the Ionian Gulf. Then on to Isola Di Capo Rizzuto and the Aragonese Castle, standing on a small peninsula linked to the coast. Dinner and overnight stay in Soverato. (B & D)

## Day 8 – Soverato – Tropea – Pizzo – Soverato

After breakfast depart for Tropea, one of the most picturesque towns on the Tyrrhenian Coast. The old town of Tropea hangs onto a cliff-side facing a large rock which was formerly an island. The rock is topped by Santa Maria dell’Isola, a former medieval Benedictine sanctuary. In the afternoon visit the town of Pizzo, the seaside town to the north of Tropea.

Return to Soverato for an overnight stay. (B & D)

## Day 9 – Soverato – Reggio Calabria – Taormina

After breakfast depart for Reggio Calabria and stop for lunch. Then continue onto the panoramic city of Taormina which is famous for its unsurpassed beauty and Sicilian charm. Overnight stay in Taormina. (B)

## Day 10 – Taormina – Vulcano – Lipari – Taormina

After breakfast take a stroll through the beautiful streets of Taormina or an optional trip to the islands of Vulcano and Lipari. The optional trip departs from Milazzo by hydrofoil to reach Vulcano, one of the Aeolian Islands and then continues on to Lipari for a visit to the village and the Archaeological Museum. Return to Taormina for an overnight stay. (B)

## Day 11 – Taormina – Syracuse – Ragusa

After breakfast depart for Ragusa with a brief stop in Syracuse, the birthplace of the mathematician Archimedes. Syracuse attracted visitors such as the philosopher Plato, and later the Apostle, Paul, converted its citizens to Christianity. Visit the sparkling white Greek Theatre that seated up to 16,000 people, the Garden of Paradise and the Roman Amphitheatre. Dinner and overnight stay in Ragusa. (B & D)

## Day 12 – Ragusa

A day at your leisure to explore Ragusa. This ancient city is divided into two communities: new Baroque Ragusa which was built on the plateau after the 1693 earthquake and Ragusa Ibla, which is linked to the modern town by a rocky crest. Visit the church “Santa Maria delle Scale” (stairs) which stands at the top of a flight of 340 steps connecting Ibla and Ragusa. In Ibla visit the Duomo (San Giorgio), San Giuseppe and Giardino Ibleo and the 19th century public garden. Dinner and overnight stay in Ragusa. (B & D)

## Day 13 – Ragusa – Ragusa Ibla – Modica – Agrigento

After breakfast depart for Agrigento, Visit the town of Modica, one of the most important towns in medieval and Renaissance Sicily. The upper town, Modica Alta, features the magnificent 18th century façade of the Church of San Giorgio. Continue on to Agrigento, a unique town hosting the most beautiful Valley of the Temples. Dinner and overnight stay. (B & D)

## Day 14 – Agrigento

A day at your leisure to explore this historical city. You can visit the Valley of the Temples, ranked among the most impressive complexes of ancient Greek buildings outside of Greece. Its Doric temples, dating from the 5th century BC, were destroyed in part by the Carthaginians in 406BC and in part by Christians in the 6th century who believed the temples to be Pagan. Overnight stay in Agrigento. (B & D)

## Day 15 – Agrigento – Selinunte – Erice – Palermo

After breakfast depart for Palermo with a stop in Selinunte, one of the great cities of Magna Grecia. This part of Italy was colonized by ancient Greeks and its toppled ruins are among Sicily’s most important historic sites. Continue onto the medieval town of Erice, poised on a crag overlooking Trapani. Continue onto Palermo for an overnight stay. (B)

## Day 16 – Palermo

After breakfast depart from Palermo for our flight to Rome.

*End of Tour*

