



ITALIAN PENINSULA AND SICILY ESCORTED TOUR

From Rome to Taormina (16 Days/15 Nights)

Starting at \$ 3,464 per Person (*)

Discover the best of Italy: from Rome to Venice, from Florence to Capri Island, from Tuscany to Sicily! In the comfort of this escorted tour you will experience how Italy is rich of art, culture, traditions and breathtaking landscapes.

Guaranteed Departures all year long!
1st Cat. and 2nd Cat. Hotels accommodation

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Bologna, Padua, Venice, Chianti region, Val d'Orcia, Montepulciano, Naples, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, Palermo, Monreale, Erice, Marsala, Mazara del Vallo, Agrigento, Noto, Siracusa, Taormina, Giardini di Naxos, Mount Etna

TRAVEL ITINERARY:

DAY 1 (Monday): ROME, ASSISI, SIENA, FLORENCE



You'll be picked up at the assigned meeting point in the historical center of Rome at 7:15 am, by motor coach, to start your sightseeing tour. The first stop will be in charming **Assisi**, where you'll have free time to wander the streets. We suggest you to visit the **Basilica of St. Francis**, home of the famous saint. After you enjoy lunch (not included) the tour will continue to **Siena**. Known for its rich medieval history and the **Palio horse race**, you'll want to take plenty of pictures here. When you have completed the stop, the bus will continue to **Florence**, where you'll have dinner and get a good night's rest.

DAY 2 (Tuesday): FLORENCE

The day starts with breakfast, to prepare you for a pleasant day, and continues with a tour of **Florence**. Called the Cradle of the Renaissance, you will marvel at Florence's art, architecture and churches created by the Masters. You'll stop at **the Florence Cathedral** called *Duomo*, with its **Brunelleschi's Dome**, **Giotto's Bell Tower** and the **Baptistry**, with doors so beautiful that Michelangelo called them **the Gates of Paradise**. The **Piazza Della Signoria**, **Palazzo Vecchio** and the Santa Croce Basilica are also on the tour. The afternoon will be at your leisure, where you can choose to shop or visit the **Accademia Gallery** with the famous **Michelangelo's David** or the **Uffizi Gallery** (not included.) You may decide you'd rather go on an optional tour **of Pisa**, and see **its famous leaning tower** and adjoining cathedral. In the evening you'll enjoy dinner and a final night in Florence.



For booking and further assistance don't hesitate to contact your travel agent:

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**DAY 3 (Wednesday): FLORENCE, BOLOGNA, PADUA, VENICE**

You'll enjoy breakfast, before boarding the motor coach to Bologna. **Bologna** is a mostly pedestrian city, so you will be able to take magnificent pictures of the Podesta Palace, Piazza del Nettuno and the **Basilica of San Petronio**. After lunch (not included), you'll continue on to **Padua**, home to many beautiful churches and the one of the oldest university with its famous botanical garden and its ancient anatomical theatre. You'll stop at the **Basilica of St Anthony**, with its many lovely frescoes. The motor coach will then continue on to **Venice**, known for its beauty, art and gondolas. You'll have dinner and spend the night in Venice.

DAY 4 (Thursday): VENICE

After breakfast, you'll board a vaporetto to visit **St. Mark's Square** and the **Doge palace** (external). You'll tour the outside of the palace, and take in the majesty of this residence of the duke, with its carved marble and bronze accents. The **Bridge of Sighs** is also nearby, which connects to the prison where Casanova was held for 5 years. Afterwards, there will be a stop at one of the **Murano glass** workshops, where you can watch the artisans at work. The afternoon is free, giving you time to shop, enjoy a cappuccino or take a **gondola ride** (not included.) Dinner will be with the group and you'll spend the night in Venice.

DAY 5 (Friday): VENICE, TUSCANY, MONTEPULCIANO, ROME

Breakfast will be enjoyed at the hotel, and, afterwards, you'll board the motor coach to reach back **Tuscany**. Make sure the batteries in your camera are charged, as you will want to take many, many pictures! You'll see the rolling landscapes, charming farm houses and churches and magnificent castles. Driving through the **Chianti region and Val D'Orcia**, the group will stop in **Montepulciano**, a town rich in art and history, where you'll participate in a wine tasting and have free time to explore the town. The motor coach will continue back to Rome, where the tour, and our services, ends.

**DAY 6 (Saturday): ROME**

After breakfast, you'll depart on a **walking tour of Rome**, touring its historical beauties. You'll admire by **St. Peter's Square, Navona Square, Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps** and a visit inside **the Pantheon**. The afternoon will be free, and you have the chance to shop, enjoy a gelato or visit the **Vatican Museums with the Sistine Chapel** (not included.) You'll spend the night in Rome.

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**DAY 7 (Sunday): ROME**

You'll enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and a free day in **Rome** to discover the hidden treasures of the **Eternal City** on your own pace and preference. Perhaps you can also participate at **the Papal Mass and Blessing in Saint Peter Square** or enjoy your Sunday in Rome among the locals walking in the **Villa Borghese gardens** and tasting a new **gelato** flavor sitting on **the Spanish Steps**. Overnight at your hotel in Rome.

DAY 8 (Monday): ROME, NAPLES, POMPEII, SORRENTO

You'll enjoy breakfast at the hotel and the motor coach will depart to **Naples**, traveling along the scenic Sun Route motorway, through the regions of Lazio and Campania. There will be a **panoramic city tour of Naples**, showing the **Mergillina, Castel dell'Ovo, Plebescito Square, the Royal Palace, Maschio Angioino** and the port. You'll enjoy lunch on the way to **Pompeii**, where you'll visit the excavations of this historic location, destroyed by the **Vesuvius** eruption in AD 79. Afterwards, we'll drive along the **Sorrentine coast** and arrive in **Sorrento** for dinner and the night.

**DAY 9 (Tuesday): SORRENTO, CAPRI,**

After breakfast, we'll board the ferry to the **Isle of Capri** (sea conditions permitting,) and take small rowing boats to the **Blue Grotto** (sea conditions permitting). You'll have free time to enjoy this charming island, and lunch with the group. In the afternoon, we'll return to **Sorrento** for dinner and spend the night at our Hotel.

DAY 10 (Wednesday): SORRENTO, PALERMO, Overnight on boat

You'll enjoy breakfast and free time this morning, to go shopping, enjoy lunch or to write your postcards. In the afternoon, we'll leave for the **Port of Naples, to take the ferry to Palermo**. Dinner will be on your own. Overnight boat transfer from Naples to Palermo.

Find here below more details.

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DAY 11 (Thursday): PALERMO



Breakfast will be on your own, before the boat docks. You'll arrive in **Palermo** in the morning and transfer to the hotel. Afterwards, you'll have the day to yourself, to rest, explore and indulge in this **colorful capital of Sicily**. Dinner will be had with the group and you'll spend the night in the hotel.

DAY 12 (Friday): PALERMO, MONREALE

After a nice breakfast, you'll visit the ancient town of **Monreale**, including its beautiful cathedral and abbey. You'll then return to **Palermo**, where you'll be taken on a guided tour of the city. The afternoon will be free to do as you please, and you'll return to the hotel for dinner with the group and a good night's sleep.

DAY 13 (Saturday): PALERMO, ERICE, MARSALA, AGRIGENTO

After breakfast, you'll depart for **Erice**, situated on 700 mt above sea level **with breathtaking panoramas** and proceed to tour the **historical remains** of the Phoenicians and the Normans. The tour continues to **Marsala**, where you will have free time to visit this seaside resort known for its wines growth. We will then pass by the fishing port of **Mazara del Vallo** and the tour will stop for the day in **Agrigento**, home to **the Valley of the Temples** You'll wander the temples of Juno, Concorde, Hercules and Jupiter and marvel at the majesty of the ruins. (admission included. If the weather doesn't permit, we will enjoy a visit of the Valley of Temples the day after). You'll have dinner and spend the night in Agrigento.



DAY 14 (Sunday): AGRIGENTO, NOTO, SIRACUSA, TAORMINA (GIARDINI NAXOS)



After breakfast, the tour will leave for **Noto**, an exquisite town full of **beautiful churches** and **baroque buildings**. You will have plenty of free time to walk the streets and take pictures. Next, the tour will stop in **Siracusa**, where you'll visit **the Greek Amphitheater, Dionysus Ear and the Roman Theater** (admission included.) You'll also visit **the Island of Ortigia**, the historical and cultural heart of the town. In the afternoon will arrive in **Taormina**, where you will eat dinner and spend the night.

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DAY 15 (Monday): TAORMINA (GIARDINI NAXOS)



Breakfast will be had with the group and, afterwards, you'll go on an **excursion to Mount Etna**. The largest active volcano in Europe will excite you as you climb up to 1800 meters on its summit (Weather permitting). You'll return to **Taormina** for dinner and a well earned night's sleep.

DAY 16 (Tuesday): TAORMINA (GIARDINI NAXOS)

After breakfast, the tour, and our services, will end.

Find here below more details.

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Tour code:

2009/2010 TRAVEL DATES:

April 2010	05	19			
May 2010	03	17	31		
June 2010	14				
July 2010	05	19	29		
August 2010	09	23			
September 2010	06	20	27		
October 2010	11				

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PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Transportation by Deluxe motor coach as per itinerary;
- Accommodation in 1st Category or 2nd Category Hotels in double/twin rooms with private facilities;
- Buffet breakfast daily;
- 11 Dinners and 2 Lunches as per itinerary;
- Multilingual Tour-Escort;
- Panoramic Visits as per itinerary;
- Overnight Boat Transfer from Naples to Palermo;
- Porterage Service: Just 1 piece of luggage per person ONLY in Florence and Venice (No porterage in the other cities);
- Local Taxes and service Charges.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

- All Land & Air prices: Additional U.S. & Foreign Departure Taxes and Surcharges Fee(s) assessed by the Airlines.
- Beverages.
- Entrance Fees to Monuments or Museums Tips, Extras.
- All what is not mentioned in "PACKAGE INCLUDES".

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Multi language escorted group tour.
All departure are Guaranteed.

(*) Rate based on two adult persons sharing a double or twin bedded room with private bathroom. Single rooms are available at an additional supplement. Children's, triple room rates and alternative accommodation arrangements are available upon request. (Additional and different charges may apply).

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