



ITINERARY

DAY ONE: DEPART U.S.

Depart Harrisburg for JFK Airport via deluxe motor coach. Board your flight departing 5:30 pm on your overnight flight. Your flight includes meals, drinks, and in-flight entertainment.

DAY TWO: ARRIVE IN BARI – TRANSFER TO LECCE

Arrive at 11:10 am in Bari (from JFK via connecting flight in Munich). Be met by your Tour Manager and drive to Lecce, fondly referred to as “Florence of the South.” Relax upon arrival at your hotel. This evening you will enjoy a Welcome Drink and Orientation regarding the amazing journey that awaits. Then you will enjoy a Welcome Dinner. (D)

DAY THREE: LECCE SIGHTSEEING – SALENTO & OTRANTO

In Lecce, stroll along 300-year-old cobblestone streets past exquisite Baroque architecture. You'll understand why Lecce is fondly named the "Florence of the South". After viewing Piazza del Duomo and the Roman amphitheater dating back to the 2nd century, admire the masterpiece of Southern Baroque in the Basilica of Santa Croce. Then a picturesque drive will take you all the way to Santa Maria di Leuca, the end of the tip of the Italian heel, where the Adriatic Sea meets the Ionian Sea. Rocky coastline, beaches, fishing villages, and watchtowers are waiting to be experienced in the most remote area of the Puglia region. As you stop on the way to the beautiful coastline, indulge in the Mediterranean atmosphere of these beautiful shores and waters. You will have a few hours to enjoy the beautiful beach and have time for lunch on your own before continuing on the coast to reach Otranto, the easternmost Italian town. Walk the historical center surrounded by its ancient walls at your own pace, take your time to check the tiny small shops, and why not savor a gelato while sitting in an outdoor café

before returning to Lecce for leisure time. This evening you have time to wander on your own and perhaps dine at one of the quaint trattorias in the city center. (B)

DAY FOUR: MARRERIA – BARI SIGHTSEEING

Today you will board your coach and leisurely drive to Bari. You will stop to visit a beautiful local farmhouse Masseria to enjoy lunch with regional specialties including local wine. Then you will continue to Bari, where the exploration of Bari starts in the revitalized narrow streets of the Old City (Bari Vecchia). View Bari Cathedral and the stunning Romanesque Basilica of San Nicola, housing the relics of St. Nicholas, known as Father Christmas. Next, your historical walking tour reveals 12th century Castello Normanno-Svevo built by the Normans. Perhaps stroll the harbor's bustling open-air fish market where locals buy their fish right out of the sea. Eating raw fish here is a regional tradition! Linger on your own, explore Bari's pretty squares, admire the architecture, or just sip an espresso at an outdoor café and "people-watch". Tonight, dinner is on your own, explore one of the piazzas buzzing with trendy restaurants and cafes and try traditional Pugliese food. (B, L)

DAY FIVE: CASTEL DEL MONTE – SEASIDE TRANI

Today, travel to gorgeous Castel del Monte, an extraordinary medieval fortress celebrated for its unique octagonal design. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this 13th-century castle, built by Frederick II, is considered one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Southern Italy, used as a site of the famous movie "The Name of the Rose" with Sean Connery. A tour of this fortress highlights the ingenious architecture, magnificent structure, and its massive public halls. On to the historic seaside town of Trani on the Adriatic coast with its picturesque harbor and 12th-century Cathedral di San Nicola Pellegrino, spectacularly positioned at the water's edge. Time to walk through the charming and quaint town. Return to Bari for an evening at leisure. (B)

DAY SIX: FLIGHT TO PALERMO

This morning you will have some free time at leisure and then depart for the airport to board your flight departing at 5:25 pm to Palermo and the island of Sicily, rich in history, culture and tradition. Transfer to your hotel. You will



enjoy a late dinner this evening at your hotel in Palermo. (Boxed Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY SEVEN: TOUR OF PALERMO OLD CITY – MONREALE TOUR

After breakfast begin a tour of the ancient Old City with its incredible mix of architectural styles, including its magnificent Cathedral. Then travel to the hill top town of Monreale to visit the Normal Cathedral, an architectural masterpiece, with its interior of glittering 12th century Byzantine mosaics. Lunch at a local restaurant today. After lunch, return to Palermo for free time to explore Palermo on your own. (B, L)

DAY EIGHT: FARM LUNCH, ARRIVE IN AGRIGENTO

Today you take a morning drive through western Sicily where you will view the famous Doric Temple of Segesta rising high on a hill. The temple is one of the greatest examples of this style of architecture, constructed in the 5th century B.C. Savor the island’s landmark windmills and salt mines on your way to a local farm for lunch. Your lunch features some of the area’s local delicacies, including wines. Enjoy dinner this evening at your hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY NINE: VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES, PIAZZA ARMERINA, ARRIVE IN GIARDINI NAXOS

This morning discover Agrigento's impressive Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This splendid archaeological park is the largest in the world with the best-preserved temple ruins outside of mainland Greece. Continue to Piazza Armerina to view the intricate examples of Roman mosaics at the famous Roman Villa del Casale, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These extraordinarily vivid mosaics, deal with numerous subjects, ranging from Homeric escapades and mythological scenes to portrayals of daily life. The Villa itself was rediscovered in the 19th century after being almost completely covered by a landslide. Then, on to Giardini Naxos, a stunning beach resort where you will spend three nights. You will enjoy dinner at your hotel this evening. (B, D)

DAY TEN: FREE DAY AT BEACH – OPTIONAL SIRACUSA TOUR

Today is a free day to relax and enjoy the beach. Or you may take the optional tour and step back in time to the glorious days of Greek Sicily as you explore the birthplace of Archimedes. Get a glimpse of Siracusa as it was in ancient times with a visit to the archaeological park, with its Greek theatre, the remains of Roman Amphitheater, and the "Ear of Dionysius," an awe-inspiring artificial limestone cave

renowned for its outstanding acoustics. Then, admire its old quarter, also known as "Città Vecchia" or "Old City", a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located on the island of Ortygia. Following your visit you will return to your resort hotel.

DAY ELEVEN: TAORMINA TOUR, MT ETNA, CATANIA CITY TOUR

Begin the day visiting Taormina, the old-world resort also known as the “Jewel of the Ionian Sea”. The tour is highlighted by the city's most famous archaeological monument, the Greek Theater; it is remarkably well-preserved and offers fantastic panoramic views of Taormina and the gorgeous coastline below. We then continue to the magnificent Mt. Etna, the tallest active volcano in Europe, dominating the landscape. Explore the foothills around the base station and ascend to reach the two impressive Silvestri Craters; walk along the varied layers of lava which have solidified over the centuries. Weather permitting, see breathtaking views of the Parco dell' Etna and the Ionian Sea. Continue to the lively town of Catania, a wonderful combination of ancient and modern, under the shadow of Mt. Etna. After the town was destroyed, the entire old part of the city was rebuilt in baroque style with large open squares. Stroll the piazzas, streets and visit its colorful open-air market. Then you will return to your resort hotel. Tonight, Farewell dinner at your hotel. (B, D)

DAY TWELVE: DEPART FOR U.S.

Arrivederci! Transfer to the airport for your flight departing at 11:55 am arriving 2:05 pm in Munich. Connect to a flight departing 4:00 pm arriving at 6:55 pm in JFK. Complete Immigrations and Customs and then board your waiting coach to Harrisburg. (B)

PLEASE NOTE: All flight times are subject to change
KEY: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

