



CST# 2001110-40

**San Francisco Los Angeles New York Chicago Houston Vancouver Beijing**

## 11-Day Deep South Italy and Sicily Tour

Tour Code: UNP11

**Naples, Capri Island, Sorrento, Amalfi, Sicily, Taormina, Siracusa, Agrigento, Palermo**

Departure Dates: (2023) 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, 5/29, 6/26, 7/24, 8/28, 9/25, 10/30, 11/27

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore mysterious Sicily, the heart of Mediterranean Sea and hidden gem of Italy presenting perfect blend of nature, history and tradition, and true reflection of the German poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe's famous quote: "To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is to not have seen Italy at all, for Sicily is the clue to everything."
- Thoughtful planning on the tour route with start from Italy's largest coastal city Naples then heading south and end at the dreary but picturesque old city Palermo.
- Experience the unique architecture and romantic vibes of some small towns, where are also setting locations of many popular movies, such as "Malèna", "Cinema Paradiso", "The Godfather", etc.
- Indulge in the original natural beauty of Capri Island, the legendary resort paradise since Roman Empire and feel the mystery of the renowned Blue Grotto and many exceptional coastal landscapes.
- Conquer the highest active volcano in Europe - Mount Etna, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Cheese is always the main ingredient of authentic Italian cuisine, regardless of appetizers, mains or desserts, so the Mozzarella cheese workshop will definitely bring you an extra highlight to your vacation.
- Taste authentic favours of Sicilian and Southern Italian cuisine, Naples-style pizzas, seafood dinner, etc.
- Accommodation at 4-star upscale hotels offering better experience during the tour.
- Experienced and professional bilingual tour leader offering inviting services and discovering the charm of Italy with you.

### ADMISSIONS INCLUDED:

- ❖ Napoli Sotterranea
- ❖ Parco Archeologici
- ❖ Valley of the Temples
- ❖ The Regional Archeological Museum
- ❖ Duomo di Monreale
- ❖ Massimo Theater

## ITINERARIES:

### 1 Hometown Naples, Italy

### 2 Naples (D: Local Western)

Hotel: Holiday Inn Naples or similar

### 3 Naples - Napoli Sotterranea (admission incl.) - Capri Island (optional) - Blue Grotto (optional) - Sorrento - Old Town (B/L: Naples Pizza)

Hotel: Hotel Central Sorrento or similar

**Napoli Sotterranea:** At 40 meters below the characteristic and lively streets of the historic center of Naples, Napoli Sotterranea is a well-preserved underground archaeological site, taking you an exceptional journey through 2,400 years of history, from the ancient Greeks to the modern times! The remains of the Roman theatre, the Greek-Roman aqueduct, the air raid shelter from WWII, etc. affirm its highly significant value in archaeology, history, anthropology and geology.

**Capri Island:** The famous English writer Charles Dickens once noted about this island, "There is no spot in the world with such delightful possibilities of repose as this little isle." Even after a century, this renowned resort island has still been attracting many visitors to admire its lush countryside beauties and explore iconic coastal landscapes.

### 4 Sorrento Positano Amalfi - Vietri Sul Mare - Salerno (B/D: Southern Italian Cuisine)

Hotel: Grand Hotel Salerno or similar

**Positano:** Named after God of the Sea, Positano is a picturesque village community on the Amalfi Coast in Campania, mainly in an enclave in the hills leading down to the coast. The writer John Steinbeck wrote about Positano, "It is a dream place that isn't quite real when you are there and becomes beckoningly real after you have gone."

**Amalfi:** Italy's most scenic stretch of rugged coastline with classic Mediterranean landscape and unique south Italian vibes. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997 and one of the "50 Places of a Lifetime" features in the National Geography magazine.

### 5 Salerno - Paestum - Mozzarella Cheese Demonstration - Villa San Giovanni Messina, Sicily - Taormina (B/L: Local Western)

Hotel: Hotel Caparena Taormina or similar

**Messina:** The third largest city in Sicily near the northeast corner of the island and the principle access point between Sicily and the major ports of Italy Peninsula. The city was once almost entirely destroyed by an earthquake and associated tsunami in 1908, killing about 100,000 people and destroying most of the ancient architecture. The city was largely rebuilt in the following year and only a 12<sup>th</sup>-century church and an ancient astronomical clock tower still remained.

### 6 Taormina - Old Town - Monte Etna (optional) (B/L: Sicilian Cuisine)

Hotel: Hotel Caparena Taormina or similar

**Taormina:** One of the most original ancient towns in the Mediterranean with winding medieval streets and characteristic brightly colored structures along the coastline. This legendary resort town offers the best views of the volcanic Mount Etna and the Ionian Sea.

**Monte Etna:** An active volcano on the east coast of Sicily with a height of 3,326m and a basal diameter of 40km. It is the highest volcano in Europe and one of the most active in the world. Evidence shows its first eruption happened over several hundred thousand years ago and its unusual planet related geological features made it listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2013. The fertile volcanic soils support extensive agriculture, with vineyards and orchards spreading across the lower slopes of the mountain and the broad Plain of Catania to the south.

**7 Taormina - Catania - Old Town - Siracusa - Parco Archeologici (admission incl.) - Island of Ortigia (B/D: Seafood)**

Hotel: Antico Hotel Roma 1880 or similar

**Catania:** The second largest city in Sicily, after Palermo, located on the east coast at the base of the active volcano, Mount Etna and overlooking the sparkling Ionian Sea. It was almost destroyed by a major eruption and lava flow from Mount Etna after an earthquake in 1169 and redeveloped with Athens architectures and wider roads.

**Siracusa:** This 2700-year-old city located on the south-eastern coast of Sicily is notable for its rich Greek and Roman history, culture, amphitheatres, architecture, and as the birthplace of the pre-eminent mathematician and engineer Archimedes. It became even more popular after the shooting of the award-winning film “Malena”.

**8 Siracusa - Agrigento - Valley of the Temples (admission incl.) - The Regional Archeological Museum (admission incl.) (B/D: Local Western)**

Hotel: Colleverde Park Hotel or similar

**Agrigento:** This atmospheric historic city on the southern coast of Sicily possessed remarkable significance during the golden age of Ancient Greece and still well preserved with many Greek ruins and its original vibe.

**Valley of the Temples:** This enchanted valley is an archaeological site in Agrigento consists of remains of seven ancient Doric-style temples with the earliest history dating back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The site was first discovered in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when European travelers explored Sicily. Fantastically overlooking the entire city of Agrigento, it offers unique atmospheric blend of cultural monuments and natural landscape. Included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997.

**The Regional Archeological Museum:** With display over 5688 ancient artifacts presenting in chronological and topographical order in 18 gallery halls, this archeological museum is definitely the only and best place to learn about the local history and culture. Its collection includes pre-historical architectures, sculptures, arts, tools, household items, etc.

**9 Agrigento - Scala dei Turchi - Monreale - Duomo di Monreale (admission incl.) - Palermo (B/L: Local Western)**

Hotel: Hotel Garibaldi or similar

**Scala dei Turchi:** A stunning rocky cliff or stairways stretching along the coast of southern Sicily formed by layers of sedimentary rock of characteristic sparkling white color, presenting extraordinary beauty of the nature. Get yourself indulge in the soft sea breeze while taking an unforgettable stroll on the terraces.

**Duomo di Monreale:** This grand Roman Catholic Church is a national monument of Italy and one of the most important attractions of Sicily. Its construction began in 1172 and took almost hundred years to complete. It is an exemplary masterpiece of Norman architecture with glittering gold mosaics throughout the inside, characteristic cloisters in the garden and exquisitely carved stigmas.

**10 Palermo - Catacombe dei Cappuccini (optional) - Massimo Theater (admission incl.) - Norman Palace - Palermo Cathedral - Ballaro Market - Piazza Pretoria - Quattro Canti (B/D: Seafood)**

Hotel: Hotel Garibaldi or similar

**Catacombe dei Cappuccini:** The rare underground cemetery with a prominent exhibition of about 8,000 corpses and 1,252 mummies along its corridors, presenting the world's largest and most extraordinary collection of mummies and unveils the extraordinary customs and traditions of local society during the 17th to 19th centuries. Now it attracts and fascinates many curious people from all over the world.

**Massimo Theater:** Located on the Piazza Verdi in Palermo, this opera house is the largest in Italy and the third largest in Europe is world famous for its perfect acoustics.

**Norman Palace:** This magnificent palace in Palermo integrating Byzantine, Muslim and Norman architectural styles serves both residential and administration functions to the kings and subsequent rulers of Sicily. It is the oldest royal residence in Europe and stands the highest point of the ancient city centre.

**Ballaro Market:** The oldest street market in Palermo, serving local residents with fresh produce and seafood and offering tourists exceptional experience of local life and taste of traditional Sicilian foods.

**Quattro Cantia:** Meaning "Four Corners" in Italian, Quattro Cantia is a traditional Baroque square at the intersection of two main streets in the heart of Palermo's old historic district. At the four sides of the Square are four almost identical Baroque buildings consist of fountains with statues representing the four seasons, four kings and four patronesses of Palermo.

**11 Palermo ➤ Hometown (B)**

After breakfast, transfer to airport for return flight to hometown.

*< Itineraries may be subject to change. >*