



Itinerary

Southern Italy & Sicily featuring Taormina, Matera and the Amalfi Coast

Aug 19, 2022 - Aug 30, 2022

Pre Night: NH Palermo

Begin your trip with a 3-night sojourn in the Eternal City of Rome. This Hosted Extension includes a welcome dinner and a locally guided city tour with admission to the Colosseum. Enjoy ample free time to explore Rome's dynamic mix of history and modernity or join an optional tour to the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica.

Day 1: Overnight Flight



The hidden treasures of Southern Italy and Sicily are yours to explore, for it's here you'll find breathtaking scenery, historic cities, centuries-old hilltop villages, and iconic cuisine.

Day 2: Palermo, Sicily - Tour Begins



Your Italian sojourn opens in Palermo, the capital of Sicily. Discover the city's vibrant culture as you take in its picturesque harbors, cobblestone piazzas, and captivating energy. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner featuring authentic Sicilian cuisine.

Hotel

Nh Palermo
Palermo

Culinary

Dinner

Weather

High 83°
Low 74°
Rain 6"

Day 3: Palermo



Get to know "Palermo in a Nutshell" and discover the city's Moorish, Norman, and Spanish architecture on a walking tour. Explore the Kalsa district - home to Mafia legends and lush gardens - before tasting local snacks at a 19th-century eatery. Decide how you spend your afternoon because it's your choice! Embark on a walking tour of the historic city center and visit La Martorana church, Fontana Pretoria, and more -OR- tour the Teatro Massimo Opera House, the third largest in Europe and seen in The Godfather Part III.

Hotel

Nh Palermo
Palermo

Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

Weather

High 83°
Low 74°
Rain 6"

Day 4: Palermo - Optional Excursion



The entire day is yours! Take time to peruse the open-air markets, visit one of Palermo's art galleries, or relax in an outdoor café; the decision is yours. Perhaps you will join an optional excursion to medieval Cefalù (UNESCO) with a local guide before visiting a nearby farm for a ricotta cheese demonstration* and farm-to-table meal, made with family recipes.

Hotel

Nh Palermo
Palermo

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 83°
Low 74°
Rain 6"

Day 5: Palermo - Monreale - Agrigento - Valley of the Temples



Visit the nearby town of Monreale (UNESCO) and wander along the paintings, mosaics, and cloisters of its 12th-century cathedral. Travel over rolling hills and peaceful farmland to the town of Agrigento. As the sun begins to set, explore the stunning Valley of the Temples (UNESCO), one of the world's most esteemed archaeological sites, and get an up-close view of the temples of Juno, Concordia, and Hercules.

Hotel

Baia Di Ulisse
Agrigento

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 84°
Low 75°
Rain 6"

Day 6: Agrigento - Taormina - Giardini Naxos



Set out for beautiful Taormina, home to ancient relics, rocky hills, and charming gardens. With an expert local guide, you'll see Corso Umberto, the verdant public gardens, and the city's well-preserved Greek theatre. Later this afternoon, continue on to Giardini Naxos – the "Garden of Sicily" – for your 2-night stay.

Hotel

Una Hotel Naxos Beach Sicilia
Giardini-Naxos

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 88°
Low 68°

Day 7: Giardini Naxos - Mt. Etna - Giardini Naxos



Journey east to Sicily's Ionian Coast. En route, discover the impressive Mt. Etna (UNESCO) Volcano National Park where a local expert introduces you to the park's spectacular landscapes sculpted by nature. Enjoy free time to relax or independently explore on your own. Return to Giardini Naxos for the evening.

Hotel

Una Hotel Naxos Beach Sicilia
Giardini-Naxos

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 88°
Low 68°

Day 8: Giardini Naxos - Matera



Take a short ferry ride to Villa San Giovanni, located on Italy's mainland. Pass through the unspoiled region of Calabria to the Basilicata region. Wander through the twisting vines of a local winery before joining an expert for a tour of the cellar with a tasting. Linger over regional cuisine at dinner in the winery's restaurant.

Hotel

Mh Matera Hotel
Matera

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 85°
Low 68°

Day 9: Matera



Explore the Sassi di Matera (UNESCO), an ancient settlement of carved cave dwellings. A local guide shares the history and explains why film producers are seeking out this unique landscape. Visit a local shop and get a taste of regional specialties. This afternoon decide how you explore because it's your choice! Discover more of Matera with a guided tour of an underground cistern followed by free time to browse the city's stores and cave churches -OR- head to Alberobello (UNESCO) and marvel at the town's whimsical trulli homes, known for their distinct, cone-shaped roofs.

Hotel

Mh Matera Hotel
Matera

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 85°
Low 68°

Day 10: Matera - Pompeii - Sorrento



After a stop in Vietri sul Mare, famous for its precious majolica pottery, experience the excavated ruins of Pompeii (UNESCO). A local guide gives you an in-depth look into this 2,000-year-old Roman town, nestled in the foothills of Mount Vesuvius. Step into another time as you explore its preserved buildings and imagine life in the 1st century. End your day in Sorrento, and settle in for a 2-night stay. Discover this charming seaside resort town and learn about the local tradition of wood marquetry.

Hotel

Hotel Michelangelo
Sorrento

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 87°
Low 68°

Day 11: Sorrento - Amalfi Coast Drive - Sorrento



This morning take in the sights and colors of the Mediterranean Sea as you wind your way along the breathtaking Amalfi Coast (UNESCO). Gaze out over the deep blue hues of the sea paired with the bright citrus fruits lining the hillsides. Pause to sample regional specialties at a family-owned limoncello factory, before returning to Sorrento for an afternoon at leisure. This evening, celebrate the end of your journey with a delightful farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Hotel

Hotel Michelangelo
Sorrento

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 87°
Low 68°

Day 12: Sorrento - Tour Ends



Say arriververci to Italy as your tour comes to a close today.