

Faith, Views and Flavors Sicily... 2021

Roma, Catania, Mt. Etna, Taormina, Capo, Milazzo, Tindari, Cefalu, Palermo



Day 1 Welcome to Italy - Rome

Upon arrival at Rome Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. We will visit the Basilica where the great Apostle Paul is buried and celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Rome (D)

Day 2 Vatican Museums - Christian Rome

After breakfast, we will start our tour with a visit of Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel, followed by a tour of the Basilica of St Peter. Following lunch, we will visit St Mary Major, St John in Lateran and the Holy Stairs. Finally we will celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at the hotel (B, D)

Day 3 Papal Audience - free afternoon

This morning we will return to the Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. Free afternoon for shopping or to discover the other beautiful monuments of the Eternal City. Tonight dinner is at leisure. Overnight in Rome (B)

Day 4 Ostia - flight to Catania

Following breakfast and check out, we will drive to Ostia to visit the archeological site of Ostia Antica which was Rome's main seaport during the Roman Republic. Then we will transfer to the airport to take our flight to Catania, the second largest city on Sicily, located at the foot of Mount Etna, the biggest European volcano. Upon arrival in Sicily, we will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to our hotel. Dinner and overnight in Catania (B, D)

Day 5 Catania - Taormina

Today we will start with a walking tour of the city centre. We will walk along Via Etnea to Piazza Università. Then we will take the Alessi Staircase to reach Via dei Crociferi, a street known for its 16th-century churches and as a set for the filming of many movies. We will arrive in San Francesco Square to visit the church where six of the eleven "candelore" that parade during Saint Agata's feast are kept. We will have also the chance to see the small section of a Roman theatre. The tour will end in Piazza Duomo, with its stunning Cathedral of St Agata. The Baroque cathedral was constructed after a destructive earthquake in place of a Norman cathedral. It contains Bellini's tomb and Saint Agata chapel. On the square, we'll also see the quirky Elephant Fountain. We will have lunch in the famous fish market with special street food. In the afternoon we will drive to Taormina to see its cathedral, the Baroque Fountain, and the Greek Theatre. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Taormina (B, D)

Day 6 Mt Etna

After a good breakfast, we will reach Rifugio Sapienza (mt. 1923), on Mount Etna. From here we will be able to start an easy-going short tracking to see some craters. Then we will drive back and stop for a light lunch at a winery overlooking the sea. After lunch we will visit the Sanctuary of Madonna della Rocca which was built in 1640 by limestone rock that acts as a cover to the interior. Our Lady of the Rock is one of the most popular tourist

destination spots in Taormina for the perfect panorama of the surrounding city and Mount Etna. Celebrate Mass. Free afternoon in Taormina. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, L, D)

Day 7 Walking day: Capo Milazzo (2 miles)

Following breakfast and check out, we will drive to Milazzo. Upon arrival we will start our walking along one of the paths of Capo Milazzo, one of the more suggestive landscaping sites of the province of Messina. Its charm is due as from its geographic position, as to the peculiarities emerged from the interaction between the Mediterranean vegetation and the marine environment, characterized by wild cliffs. We will reach the enchanting natural pool of the Portella, commonly called "the pool of Venus" and we will see the Sanctuary of St Anthony of Padua made out of a cave used in the past as a shelter both by fishermen and the Saint himself. Celebrate Mass. In the afternoon we will continue our drive to Tindari. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

Day 8 Tindari - Cefalù - Palermo

This morning we will walk till Marinello Lake before visiting the Sanctuary of Tindari, set on the old city's ruins, on a promontory dropping sheer into the sea. It houses the much-revered statue of the Virgin and Child in citron wood known as the Black Madonna. Many miracles have been attributed to the statue over the centuries. Celebrate Mass. Then we will continue our drive to Cefalù. Enjoy free time for lunch in this beautiful fishermen village. In the afternoon, we will then set into our hotel in Palermo. Dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 9 Palermo - Monte Pellegrino

After breakfast, we will enjoy a tour of Palermo which includes its imposing Cathedral; the Baroque church of St Giuseppe dei Teatini, Quattro Canti, the arabesque churches of Martorana and San Cataldo, then finally the Palazzo dei Normanni with Cappella Palatina. After lunch, we will drive to Monte Pellegrino to visit the Shrine of St Rosalia, the saint Patron of Sicily. Here we celebrate Mass. Tonight we will have a special farewell dinner in local restaurant to taste other special Sicilian dishes. Overnight in Palermo (B, Special dinner)

Day 10 Departure

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to Palermo airport for return flights home (B)

This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: anton@travelwithus.com