



GRAND ITALY: VENICE TO SICILY JOURNEYS (TOUR CODE: 17030)

STARTS AND ENDS

Venice to
Taormina

TRAVEL PERIODS

17 Mar 27 - 22 Sep 27

EXPERIENCE

Group Journeys
Cultural

TRAVEL STYLE

Escorted Group Tour

Journey from Venice to Sicily, exploring Italy's iconic cities, historic landmarks and beautiful countryside. Discover Renaissance Florence, ancient Rome and Sicily's Baroque treasures, complemented by authentic cuisine, local wines, fascinating cultural experiences and unforgettable Mediterranean scenery.

Highlights

- **Guaranteed Departures**
- Group of maximum **25 People**
- **NEW: Flight ticket included** Rome - Palermo
- Explore **St. Mark's Square** and savour **traditional cicchetti with spritz**
- Discover Florence's magnificent **Duomo** and enjoy **authentic Tuscan cuisine**
- Visit **Vatican City**, the **Sistine Chapel**, **Trevi Fountain** and **Pantheon**
- Taste **Marsala wines** and explore **Palermo, Monreale** and **Agrigento**
- Discover **Ragusa, Noto, Syracuse, Taormina** and magnificent **Mount Etna**

Entire Bonus

This holiday package is carefully designed by our team to give you complete Peace of Mind, with access to trusted local partners and expert support at your destination.

Experience the best of Italy on an unforgettable journey from the canals of Venice to the sun-soaked shores of Sicily. Explore Renaissance Florence, medieval San Gimignano and the timeless streets of Rome, with iconic landmarks, authentic cuisine and memorable cultural experiences along the way. Continue south to Sicily, discovering Palermo, Monreale, Marsala, Agrigento, Ragusa, Noto and Syracuse. From wine

tasting and traditional dining to ancient ruins, Baroque treasures and the dramatic landscapes of Mount Etna, this grand Italian adventure offers an exceptional blend of history, culture, cuisine and breathtaking scenery.



GUARANTEED
DEPARTURES



VARIED GROUP
SIZES



SUSTAINABLE
TRAVEL



ENGLISH-ONLY
EXPERT GUIDES



HANDPICKED
CENTRAL HOTELS



AUTHENTIC
EXPERIENCES



✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period

✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind

✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support

✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices

✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited

✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

INCLUSIONS

- 14-night accommodation in 4-star hotels
- Transportation by deluxe coach
- Daily breakfast
- Meals and drinks as per itinerary
- Spritz & “Cicchetti” Experience in Venice
- Guided tour in Florence and Venice
- Guided tour of Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter’s Square
- Visit Bologna and San Gimignano
- Visit of the Cathedral of Monreale
- Skip-the-Line Access, and Entrance tickets to the Valley of Temples
- English-Speaking Only Tour Director throughout the journey

ITINERARY

Day **1**

Venice

Welcome to Venice! Meet your driver at the airport and enjoy your included transfer to the hotel.

In the afternoon, meet your tour guide at the hotel, who will introduce you to your journey and give you the chance to meet the other members of your group, with whom you’ll spend these wonderful days exploring Italy.

After the meeting, enjoy a glass of spritz or prosecco with cicchetti, traditional Venetian snacks. Relax and soak in the atmosphere. Rest of the evening at your own pace. Feel free to wander through the charming alleys, visit the iconic squares, or relax at a local café. Return to the hotel on your own for an overnight stay.

Overnight stay in Venice at **Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal** or similar.



Day 2

Venice

After breakfast, together with your tour leader, set off on a pleasant walk to discover the authentic soul of Venice.

Strolling through picturesque calli, charming bridges, and lively Venetian squares, you will make your way to the monumental heart of the city while experiencing the unique atmosphere of La Serenissima. Along the route, admire glimpses of the Grand Canal, elegant historic palaces, traditional artisan shops, and the vibrant daily life of Venice.

Upon arrival in St. Mark's Square, the tour will continue with a local guide who will lead you through the city's most iconic landmarks, symbols of the grandeur of the Venetian Republic. Admire the majestic Doge's Palace from the outside and listen to fascinating stories and legends surrounding the famous Bridge of Sighs. At the end of the guided visit, enjoy some free time to soak up the atmosphere of the city. We suggest relaxing in a traditional Venetian bacaro while savouring a refreshing spritz or a glass of prosecco accompanied by typical cicchetti, delicious local Venetian snacks.

The afternoon is at leisure to further explore Venice at your own pace: wander through hidden canals, artisan boutiques, and peaceful corners away from the crowds, letting yourself be enchanted by the timeless charm of the lagoon city. Return to the hotel at your leisure.

Overnight stay in Venice at **Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal** or similar.

Breakfast



BRIDGE OF SIGHs

Day **3**

Venice Bologna Florence

Travel to **Bologna**, a city rich in culture and culinary excellence. Walk from **Piazza Malpighi to Piazza Maggiore**, admiring **San Petronio Basilica** and the **Palazzo del Podestà**. Take your time to explore the medieval streets, arcades, and bustling markets of this charming city. We suggest enjoying some of Bologna's famous street food during your free time—perfect for a quick, authentic taste of the local flavours.

In the afternoon, continue your journey to Florence. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and unwind.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Grand Hotel Mediterraneo** or similar

Breakfast



SAN PETRONIO BASILICA

Day **4**

Florence

After breakfast meet your guide and explore Florence: cradle of the Renaissance. Visit the Duomo, Brunelleschi's Dome, Giotto's Bell Tower, and Baptistry. See Piazza della Signoria, Palazzo Vecchio, and Santa Croce Basilica. Enjoy free time for

lunch.

In the afternoon, choose between free time in the city or an optional visit to Pisa, with its Leaning Tower and Piazza dei Miracoli. In the evening, enjoy a traditional dinner at ristorante I Tre Pini in Impruneta, located in the heart of the Chianti region. Indulge in authentic Tuscan dishes made with fresh, local ingredients and paired with the finest regional wines. The cozy, rustic atmosphere makes this an unmissable experience to savour true Tuscan cuisine.

Overnight stay in Florence at **Grand Hotel Mediterraneo** or similar

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **5**

Florence San Gimignano Rome

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, we will depart from Florence and head towards the Eternal City, Rome. Along the way, we will make a stop in **San Gimignano**, famous for its **medieval towers** and picturesque historic center, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. You will have free time to wander through its charming streets and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

Lunch will be at leisure, giving you plenty of opportunities to explore local eateries or relax in one of the town's charming cafés.

In the afternoon, continue your journey to Rome, arriving in the late afternoon. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Hotel St. Martin** or similar.

Breakfast



SAN GIMIGNANO DUOMO

Day **6**

Rome

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, meet your guide in the lobby and set off on an exciting walking tour towards Vatican City.

Enjoy an included “Skip the Line” guided visit to the **Vatican Museums**, the **Sistine Chapel**, and **St. Peter’s Square**. Discover the stunning Galleries of Tapestries and Maps, Raphael’s Rooms, and Michelangelo’s world-famous masterpiece inside the Sistine Chapel. The tour concludes in St. Peter’s Square, where you will admire the majestic exterior of **St. Peter’s Basilica**.

The afternoon will be at leisure, giving you time to further explore the city independently or simply relax and enjoy the atmosphere of Rome.

In the evening, savour a special **dinner at a traditional Roman restaurant**, accompanied by live music, for a truly authentic and memorable experience in the Eternal City.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Hotel St. Martin** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



ST. PETER'S SQUARE

Breakfast at the hotel. Start your day with a pleasant stroll towards the **Castel Sant'Angelo**, where you will discover its fascinating history while enjoying panoramic views over the city. Continue along the Tiber River, crossing the picturesque **Ponte Sant'Angelo**.

The tour continues to **Piazza Navona**, with its stunning Fountain of the Four Rivers, before heading to the magnificent **Pantheon**, an ancient temple and symbol of Rome. You can't miss the **Trevi Fountain**, where you can throw a coin to ensure your return to the Eternal City.

Finally, the tour will conclude in **Piazza di Spagna**, with the famous Spanish Steps and the **Fountain of Barcaccia**, where you'll have free time to explore or relax at one of the local cafés. The afternoon will be at leisure. Alternatively, you may enhance your stay with an optional guided tour, such as a visit to the Colosseum.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Hotel St. Martin** or similar.

Breakfast



After breakfast, the entire day is yours to enjoy as you wish. Take the opportunity to experience more of the Eternal City, wandering through Rome's charming streets and discovering the unique atmosphere of neighborhoods such as Trastevere or Monti.

Make your day even more special by choosing from our selection of optional experiences, available at an additional cost and upon reservation: join a cooking class or a street food tour, or venture beyond Rome on a full-day excursion to Pompeii, Capri or Florence. You can even take the opportunity to discover Venice with one of our day tours. Whether you prefer to slow down and enjoy Rome like a local or add another unforgettable Italian destination to your journey, today is entirely yours.

Overnight stay in Rome at **Hotel St. Martin** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **9**

Rome Palermo

After breakfast, at the scheduled time, meet your driver for the transfer to Rome Fiumicino Airport and board your included flight to **Palermo**. Upon arrival in Sicily, transfer to your hotel and check in. In the late afternoon, meet your Tour Leader for a welcome briefing and an introduction to the journey ahead. In the evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel and relax before beginning your Sicilian adventure.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Hotel Mercure Palermo Centro** or similar.

Breakfast



Day **10**

Palermo

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, and then head out on a morning excursion to **Monreale**, recently included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, an ancient royal town famous for its almonds, olive oil and citrus fruits, as well as for its fine Norman architecture.

Visit the elaborate **Cathedral of Monreale** and then enjoy some shopping of local delicatessen and souvenirs. Back to Palermo and continue with a walking tour of the city. Wander the streets of the Old Town, hearing tales of Palermo's 3,000-year history and discovering attractions like Palermo Cathedral. Walk inside the impressive-looking place of worship and marvel at its arches, columns and mosaics - with an incredible mix of influences coming from several dominations on the island.

Enjoy free time in the late afternoon and return to your hotel for dinner.

Overnight stay in Palermo at **Hotel Mercure Palermo Centro** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



MONREALE CATHEDRAL

Day 11 Palermo Erice Marsala Agrigento

Early breakfast and departure to Erice, a medieval village stacked into the side of Monte San Giuliano. Many say that little has changed in the village since the sixth century, and its labyrinth-like twist of lanes is perfect for a cool and pleasant morning amble.

Afterwards, set off to **Marsala**, whose lands are known for its Marsala wine. Take part in a sensorial experience, visit a traditional tavern and taste regional wine and products during a light but unforgettable lunch.

Return to your coach and travel to Agrigento, the final destination of the day. Visit Ancient Greek monuments and ruins at the Valley of Temples (entrance included) - a UNESCO World Heritage site - and learn about archaeological relics like the Classical Temple of Concord the Temple of Hercules; the Temple of Jupiter, one of the largest Doric-style buildings.

Check in to your hotel in the evening and enjoy dinner.

Overnight stay in Agrigento at **Hotel Della Valle** or similar.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



MARSALA VINEYARDS

Day 12 Agrigento Ragusa Ibla Ragusa

Breakfast at the hotel and travel to Ragusa and visit of the enchanting historical centre “Ibla”, with its stunning baroque palaces and churches; together with other seven cities in the Val di Noto, Ragusa is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Visit the old gate of San Giorgio, the Giardini Iblei and then walk to Piazza Pola, and visit the church of San Giuseppe: a little gem. Be enchanted by the elegant Cathedral of San Giorgio, the Church of the Souls in Purgatory and the magnificent Cosentini palace, one of the most interesting Late Baroque palaces in Sicily!

Check in and enjoy your dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Ragusa at **Poggio Del Sole Resort** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



RAGUSA

Day 13 Ragusa Noto Siracusa Taormina

Breakfast at the hotel and travel to **Noto**, a picturesque fishing town popular for its stately Baroque architecture. Visit **Cathedral of San Nicolò**, recently restored after a earthquake, and then have a nice walk in the town's center. Continue along the south coast to Syracuse, on Sicily's southeastern tip.

Arrived in **Syracuse**, cross one of the city's bridges for a visit to the island of Ortygia - the most ancient part of Syracuse - home to a wealth of Baroque churches and medieval palaces. In the late afternoon arrive in Taormina, check in to your hotel and enjoy dinner.

Overnight stay in Taormina at **Splendid Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day 14 Taormina Mount Etna Taormina

Breakfast at your centrally located hotel and then head off to **Mount Etna**, the largest active volcano in Europe and the highest mountain in Italy. Learn about volcanic activity and marvel at the old lava fields and black magma rock that comprises Etna's landscape. If weather permits, you have a chance to climb to the summit (1800 m). After, return to Taormina, the beautiful and romantic town located on Mount Tauro. Return to Taormina in the afternoon and spend the rest of your day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Taormina at **Splendid Hotel** or similar.

Breakfast



Day 15 Taormina

Enjoy one final breakfast before the tour comes to an end. Transfer to the airport of Catania and Arrivederci!

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal

Venice

Facing the magical Grand Canal, the Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal is the ideal destination for an unforgettable holiday in Venice. The pastel colours, Venetian plaster-work and wall-lamps in Murano glass, the Hotel Carlton on the Grand Canal will enchant you with its refined elegance. The elegant Carlton Café offers the possibility to savour excellent drinks, nibbles and snacks.



Grand Hotel Mediterraneo

Florence

Situated along the Arno River, this elegant 4-star hotel offers 327 comfortable guest rooms, making it an excellent choice for both business and leisure travellers. Guests can enjoy three on-site restaurants, a spacious lobby, and a private garage, while extensive meeting and event facilities with 15 dedicated rooms cater to conferences and special occasions. Its convenient location also provides easy access to Florence's historic centre and renowned attractions.



Hotel St. Martin

Rome

Hotel St. Martin is a contemporary 4-star hotel in Rome that has been recently renovated. Conveniently situated near the Castro Pretorio metro station and Roma Termini train station, and just a short walk from Piazza della Repubblica, its prime location makes it an excellent choice for both business travelers and tourists exploring the city.



Mercure Palermo Centro

Palermo

Immerse yourself in the vibrant soul of Palermo at Mercure Palermo Centro. Just steps from Teatro Massimo and Teatro Politeama, this modern, stylish hotel is your gateway to the city's rich history, bustling markets, and bold flavours. Enjoy 93 comfortable rooms, free Wi-Fi, meeting

spaces, and a chic Lobby Bar—all in a prime location on Via Roma. Discover authentic Palermo with expert local tips from the welcoming staff.



Hotel Della Valle

Agrigento

Hotel della Valle is a 4-star hotel with 112 comfortable rooms and suites, located a short distance from the Valley of the Temples, but also close to the historic center of the city, once called Akragas. The Valley of the Temples is the archaeological park characterized by the exceptional state of conservation of the Doric temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997.



Poggio del Sole Resort

Ragusa

Located between central Ragusa and the Mediterranean Sea, **Poggio del Sole** is an imposing **19th-century country manor**. The property features an outdoor swimming pool, a modern wellness centre and spacious, elegant and modern rooms.



Splendid Hotel Taormina

Taormina

Awaken your senses at Splendid Hotel Taormina, where refined flavours, elegant details, and enchanting scents meet stunning views and heartfelt hospitality. A truly unforgettable escape, crafted to inspire.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.),
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package

IN PARTNERSHIP

