



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Calabria & Taormina, Sicily

Friday, October 23 – Saturday, October 31, 2009

This new holiday explores both the newly-popular province of **Calabria** and a long-time favorite—**Taormina, Sicily**. Over 1,000 years of invasion is at the heart of Calabria's history, yet the "toe" of the Italian boot is largely undiscovered by American visitors. There's much to savor here—unspoiled beaches, seemingly out-of-time villages and rugged mountain-scapes to the unique Calabrian cuisine, among the most flavorful and spicy food Italy has to offer. Seaside **Tropea** easily wins the contest for prettiest town on the Calabria coast and you'll enjoy the charming delights of its local markets, pottery shops and cafes. Add in the ancient ruins of the Grecian city **Locri Epizaphiri** and the huge Norman cathedral in the medieval hill town of **Gerace** and you've begun to unlock Calabria's secrets. A quick ferry over the Straits of Messina brings you to Taormina, Sicily—the "pearl of the Mediterranean." Taormina's magical atmosphere has enchanted visitors for centuries and also became the resort destination for countless celebrities: D.H. Lawrence, Truman Capote, Greta Garbo, Cary Grant and Gregory Peck. Taormina's charms will be quickly evident with a leisurely walking tour highlighting the Greco-Roman Amphitheatre and a visit to **Mount Etna**, followed by lunch with wine. You'll return home feeling like the explorers that discovered the new world.

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled **Alitalia** flights from Boston to Reggio Calabria and Catania to Boston via Rome
- Ferry service from Calabria to Messina
- Seven nights' three star accommodations
- Fourteen meals: 7 buffet breakfast 7 dinners
- Wine tasting and light lunch at l'Oro dell Etna
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Services of a professional local tour manager

Rates

\$2,189 per person double occupancy

\$2,559 single reservation

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Add \$395 for current taxes, fees charges and surcharges. Passport required.

Trip Planner

Day 1: Overnight flight from Boston
Days 2-5: Hotel Palace, Reggio Calabria
Days 6-8: Hotel Continental, Taormina
Day 9: Return flight to Boston`

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on your Alitalia non-stop flight to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive Rome - transfer to Reggio Calabria

Arrive in Rome and board your connecting flight to Reggio Calabria. Upon arrival retrieve your luggage and clear customs. You'll be met by our representative and transferred by motor coach to Hotel Palace in Reggio Calabria www.montesano-hotels.it. In the afternoon you will have an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager. Welcome dinner at the hotel this evening. **(D)**

Day 3: Reggio Calabria

This morning enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then depart with your tour manager for a tour of the city of Reggio Calabria which lies in a splendid position on the Strait of Messina with a magnificent coastline praised by poets and writers. In the afternoon you will visit the National Museum that houses the famous Bronzes of Riace - two bronze statues dating back to the 5th Century B.C. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 4: Pizzo Tropea.

Today there will be an excursion to the charming little seaside town of Tropea: a geographical region of incomparable beauty because of its indented coast, its luxuriant culture and its magnificent panorama of the Thyrrhenian Sea. Here, you may visit the fine Norman cathedral or admire the views of the church of Santa Maria dell Isola standing proud on a small island. The town is also a delight to explore with its local markets, pottery shops and cafes. In the late afternoon return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 5: Gerace - Locri Epizephiri

Morning departure for a visit to the archeological ruins of the Greek city of Locri Epizephiri and the temple of Marasa. Locri Epizephiri was one of the more important cities of the Magna Graecia and was called by Plato as "Italian flower", due to the local peoples' characteristics. Your tour continues to the medieval hill town of Gerace which is know as one of the most picturesque and historical centers in the region. Here you will visit a famous Norman Cathedral considered to be the largest in Southern Italy, dated 11th century A.D. and the Church of St Francis with its wonderful inlaid marble altar. You will then enjoy time for sightseeing on your own through Gerace's narrow medieval streets. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

Day 6: Calabria - Messina - Taormina

Check out of your hotel and depart this morning for Taormina. You will experience crossing the straits of Messina by ferry. Once in Messina, the gateway to Sicily, you will stop at the Piazza del Duomo to visit the Cathedral and the famous mechanical bell tower and clock. Your motorcoach will drive along the east coast of Sicily to Taormina. Upon arrival in Taormina check into the Hotel Continental www.continentaltaormina.com. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Dinner this evening at the hotel **(B, D)**

Day 7: Taormina

This morning after breakfast depart on a guided tour of Taormina which includes the Greek-Roman Amphitheatre overlooking the Ionian Sea. Balance of the day is yours to relax, shop or explore on your own. This evening dinner is at your hotel. **(B, D)**

Day 8: Taormina - Etna

This morning depart by motor coach to Mount Etna, which is one of the world's most impressive and active volcanoes. The volcano dominates the landscape of NE Sicily. Etna has created a beautiful landscape and has great ecological interest. Mt Etna has the longest period of documented eruptions in the world and is noted for the wide variety of eruption styles. The volcano is at its most spectacular when both summit and flank eruptions occur simultaneously. You will view Etna from Rifugio_Sapienza where it is usually possible to see smoking and gaseous fissures and explosions from the main craters. You will later enjoy lunch and a wine tasting at the apicoltura "L'oro dell Etna". Return to Taormina for dinner and overnight. **(B, L, D)**

Day 9: Return flight to Boston

You will be transferred to the Fontana Rossa Airport in Catania this morning for your connecting Alitalia flight home through Rome. Arrivederci Italia!! **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*