# SICILY & Southern Italy

See available departure dates at approachtours.com

#### DAYS 1 & 2 GOODBYE CANADA, CIAO SICILIA!

Enjoy a private car ride to the airport. Fly to Palermo where you'll meet your Group Guru and fellow travellers. Upon arrival, our luxury coach brings you to your hotel. Embark on a short orientation walk around the area before your welcome cocktail and dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Palermo. (D)

#### **DAY 3 - PALERMO & MONREALE**

Learn about the history of Monreale on a guided tour including Santa Maria Nuova cathedral and its cloister. Return to Palermo for a guided stroll through the colourful local markets. A Sicilian dining experience awaits after our visit in the quaint fishing village of Sferracavallo. Overnight in Palermo. (B,L,D)

# DAY 4 \* SALT PANS & MARSALA WINE (296 KM)

Take a scenic drive through the Via del Sale to admire traditional salt pans in the charming coastal town of Marsala, birthplace of the famous fortified wine. Savour the local flavours with a wine tasting and lunch at a local cellar before exploring the elegant streets during an afternoon walking tour. Overnight in Agrigento. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 5 TRACES OF ANCIENT GREECE (246 KM)

Discover Sicily's most riveting archeological site, the Valley of the Temples, dominated by colossal Greek temples dating back to the 5th century BC. Artistic stop in Piazza Armerina to visit Villa Romana del Casale and its well-preserved Roman mosaics. Overnight in Syracuse. (B,L,D)

# DAY 6 - NOTO'S BAROQUE WONDERS (75 KM)

Gorgeous Noto awaits! The picturesque Baroque town is home to the best gelato in the world. Our day trip showcases the Cattedrale di Noto and a stroll along the storied Vittorio Emanuele avenue. Free afternoon and overnight in Syracuse. (B,L,D)

# DAY 7 · SYRACUSE & FORZA D'AGRÒ (135 KM)

Explore the Neapolis Archeological Park before a trip to the hillside village of Forza d'Agrò, featured in the movie *The God Father*, and known for its dramatic panoramic views. Enjoy a scenic drive to Gardini Naxos where you'll spend the night. (B,L,D)

# DAY 8 - MOUNT ETNA & TAORMINA (110 KM)

Wake up to the towering presence of Mount Etna, Europe's tallest volcano, and enjoy a drive through lunar landscapes to appreciate its striking beauty. Perched on a cliff nearby, the resort town of Taormina hosts us for lunch and a guided tour of its epic Greek amphitheater. Overnight in Gardini Naxos. (B,L,D)

# DAY 9 • AEOLIAN ISLAND ADVENTURE (150 KM)

From Milazzo, set sail on the Tyrrhenian sea to the sunny landscapes of our first postcard-worthy Aeolian island, Lipari. Following lunch, enjoy a walking tour of the island. Overnight in Lipari. (B,L,D)



#### DAY 10 PANAREA & STROMBOLI

Leisurely start before our boat ride to charming Panarea and striking Stromboli. Our slow pace will only be interrupted by the dramatic image of Stromboli's volcano. Enjoy lunch with a view of the mountain's smoking silhouette. Overnight in Lipari. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 11 'SCILLA & TROPEA (200 KM)

Marvel at the turquoise waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea as you set sail to Milazzo before transferring to picturesque Scilla for a walking tour and lunch. Soak in its maritime charm before heading to the beautiful town of Tropea for the night. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 12 - PIZZO CALABRO & TROPEA

Discover the seaside town of Pizzo Calabro, where local must-sees include the Aragonese castle, the Baroque St. George Church as well as the intricate Piedigrotta Church. Overnight in Tropea. (B,L,D)

# DAY 13 · FAMOUS SASSI DI MATERA (307 KM)

Drive along the Ionian coast to beautiful Matera and down into the district of "Sassi" (or stones), where 1,500 cave dwellings spectacularly dot the flanks of a steep ravine. Here you'll visit Chiesa di Piedigrotta, a seaside church built inside a cave, and Casa Grotta e Chiesa Grotta, a historical cave dwelling. Overnight in Alberobello area. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 14 'WHITEWASHED OSTUNI & ALBEROBELLO

Travel to Ostuni, where centennial olive trees contrast whitewashed buildings. Embark on a walking tour through its winding streets and observe the Byzantine, Norman, and Aragonese influences. Enjoy free time and lunch before travelling to Alberobello, where you'll immerse yourself in the enchanting atmosphere of its unique trulli houses. Enjoy a tour of the city, then free time. Conclude your day with a delightful farewell dinner. Overnight in Alberobello area. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 15 CASTELLANA CAVES (375 KM)

Start your day with an adventure! Visit to Castellana Caves, one of the most famous cave systems in Italy, known for its impressive underground chambers and tunnels. After lunch, make your way to Naples for your final night in Italy. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 16 ' HOME SWEET HOME

Starry-eyed, say goodbye to your fellow travellers who opted out of our included group flights and make your way to the airport to embark on your return flight(s) from Naples to Canada. Your driver will meet you at the airport to help you with your luggage and drive you home. What a truly amazing experience! (B)



# THIS TOUR INCLUDES



# **TOUR ESSENTIALS**

- International flights with Air Canada / Air Dolomiti
- 14 nights in first class hotels
- Dedicated English-speaking tour guide and local guides
- Carefully selected visits, with entrance fees
- Luxury coach bus transfers and luggage porterage throughout



# **FOOD & DRINK**

- All 41 meals, including: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners
- Pugliese farewell lunch (included in meal count)
- Welcome cocktail
- 2 local product tastings
- Bottled water daily (2 x 500ml)



# **UNIQUE MOMENTS**

- Marvel at the splendor of Mount Etna
- Change centuries at every corner in incredible Palermo
- Wander through smurf-like trulli houses as you stroll the streets of Alberobello
- Travel through ancient Greece while touring the ruins of Taormina

# I WANT TO BOOK NOW!