

Grand Tour of Sicily

**2014 Dates: February 16, \$3099 – March 28, \$3199 –
April 18, \$3299 - May 23, \$3299 – September 12, \$3299**

From New York, JFK

Includes current taxes & fuel surcharge as of September 2013 [subject to change]

For Information and Reservations, Contact:

Marianna Pisano, Unitours – 10 Midland Avenue – Port Chester, NY 10573

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Day 1 – DEPART - Today we depart New York on our overnight flight to Palermo [via Rome] aboard a wide bodied jet. We will be served complimentary beverages, in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast while aloft.

Day 2 – PALERMO - Today we arrive at Palermo airport where we will be met by our Tour Manager and transferred to our hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at our hotel.

Day 3 –

PALERMO/MONREALE/CEFALU -

This morning we visit Palermo, the capital of Sicily. Our walking tour will include the historical center: the Norman Cathedral, the four corners, Pretoria fountain, the church of Martorana, the Politeama theatre and the Teatro Massimo. Our visit continues with Monreale, the famous Cathedral and Benedictine's cloister built by the Normans over an ancient Mosque. This afternoon we visit Cefalù, a beautiful medieval town built in the 12th century with narrow streets lined with buildings featuring elaborate architectural decorations. Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at our hotel.

Day 4 – ERICE – This morning we drive to the 13th century city of Erice with its medieval Norman Castle and mother churches. Free time lunch. Return to Palermo, rest of day at our leisure. Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at our hotel.

Day 5 – PALERMO/AGRIGENTO/CATANIA - This morning we depart for Catania, with a stop in Agrigento. We visit the Valley of the Temples including the Temple of Juno, Concord, Heracles, Zeus, Castor & Pollux. Agrigento's Greek Ruins are considered by many better than any others, even in Greece itself. Free time for lunch. This afternoon we continue to Catania. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Catania

Day 6 – CATANIA - This morning we take a walking tour of Catania, which was built in 729 BC with the name "Katane," meaning "grater" in Sicilian. It was conquered by the Romans in 263 BC. The Roman influence can still be felt, as some architectural ruins of the Augustan period still remain. After the Byzantine domination there was the Arabic and then the Norman supremacy, bringing many changes and innovations to the town, the building of the Cathedral, and the many monasteries. With the Aragonese, (1282-1492) Catania had a period of economic recovery and cultural revolution; in fact, it was during this period that the first university of the island was born. The Spanish domination and the earthquake in 1693 plunged the land into a serious economic crisis followed by an important rebuilding campaign which continued throughout the unification of Italy. The XIX century saw a flourishing period of cultural splendor for Catania, involving expansion and growth in worldly, literary, musical, and theatrical expressions. We visit Catania's most significant monuments: the Elephant Fountain, the Cathedral (XI century), and the beautiful

baroque city centre. Rest of day at our leisure. Dinner at local restaurant and overnight at hotel.

Day 7 – SIRACUSA/NOTO - This morning we visit Siracusa. This town became the most important city in Magna Grecia and for a time competed with Athens as the most important city in the Greek world.

Siracusa expresses all the variety and cultural complexity of Sicily, spanning from the ancient times to today. The visit includes: the Archaeological Park with the Greek Theatre, the Ara of Ierone; the Roman Amphitheater, where the gladiator competitions occurred; the Latomie of the Paradise, ancient hollow stones known for their different shapes, the most famous being the "Orecchio of Dionisio". Time for lunch on your own. This afternoon we continue to Noto. This brand new city of the 18th century shows its beauty through the stairways of its impressive cathedral. The churches of San Domenico, Santa Chiara, San Salvatore, San Carlo and the beautiful palazzi of the local aristocracy.



UNESCO declared this town world heritage in 2001. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 – TAORMINA/ETNA - This morning our first stop will be Mt. Etna. Sicily's tallest peak and one of Europe's most famous active volcanoes. The most violent eruption to take place in the XX century was in 1910, which formed twenty-three additional craters. Today our lunch will be at a local agriturismo near Mt Etna. We then continue to Taormina, known in the ancient times as Tauromenion. The town lies in an elevated position of amazing, almost unique beauty, affording magnificent views of the sea and clear sky with miles of a curving coastline and picturesque mountain scenery, while the majestic pyramid of Mt. Etna on the other side constitutes a scene of indescribable beauty. Upon arrival, we visit the most impressive monument of the city: the Greco-Roman Theatre. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 9 - USA - This morning we transfer to the Catania airport to board our flight to JFK [via Rome] where we arrive with memories of a lifetime.



Reservation Form – Grand Tour of Sicily

Mail to: **Marianna Pisano, Unitours – 10 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573**

Please reserve _____ seats on this tour for departure date:

February 16 _____ March 28 _____ April 18 _____ May 23 _____ September 12 _____

Enclosed please find deposit of \$300 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT

Name(s) as appears on passport

Email address:

Address:

My Roommate:

City, State & Zip

Telephone:

____ I prefer a single room - \$400 supplement and limited in number.

____ Travel Insurance starting at \$189

Day _____ Evening _____

Charge my deposit to _____ Visa _____ Mastercard _____ Amex

Card #

Exp. Date

Signature

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect September 18, 2013. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. No refunds for any accommodations, services or events that are not used. If fewer than 25 passengers participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas or immunization for the country or countries being visited. Citizens of countries other than U.S.- MUST contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: International flight reservations are being held on Alitalia. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued, carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON REFUNDABLE. Additional non-recoverable airline penalties of up to \$200 may be assessed for cancellations received within 90 days of departure

DOMESTIC AIRFARE: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, we strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$400 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

MEALS: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes, hotel portage of one suitcase per person if hotel provides such service. One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip. **International departure taxes \$125 plus current fuel surcharges of \$516 are included. Tips to tour manager, drivers and dining rooms staff are not included.**

NOT INCLUDED: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, liquors, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS: A deposit of \$300 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received by Unitours within 45

days prior to departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment.

Amex, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure -- \$100 processing charge plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 8 days of departure --\$150 processing charge plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 7 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

BANK FEES: A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

DEVIATIONS: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. **Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control.** No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries, or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

ERRORS: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

