This tour is provided by Odysseys Unlimited, six-time honoree of Travel & Leisure’s World’s Best Tour Operators award.

SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY
With Apulia & the Amalfi Coast
May 6-20, 2018

15 days for $5,374 total price from Houston
($4,895 air & land inclusive plus $479 airline taxes and fees)

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University
Howdy, Ags!

Join the Traveling Aggies on an exclusive 15-day journey to discover enchanting southern Italy and the magnificent landscapes on the island of Sicily. Beginning with the cross-cultural heritage and ruins of Sicily, this unique tour then traverses the “boot” of Italy, combining the traditional and unspoiled region of Apulia with the breathtaking Amalfi Coast.

Begin your tour in Taormina, on the island of Sicily, where you visit the “Valley of the Temples” and the well-preserved Temple of Concordia. Venture to Europe’s largest active volcano, Mt. Etna, before traveling to the Apulia region to visit the cave dwellings of Matera and Alberobello’s medieval white-washed buildings. Discover Lecce’s Baroque-era churches and maze of narrow streets on a walking tour, then continue on to Otranto, overlooking the Adriatic. In Sorrento, tour the UNESCO site of Pompeii, enjoy a day trip to the storied Isle of Capri, and experience a breathtaking drive along the Amalfi Coast.

With room for only 24 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig ‘em,

Jennifer Bohac ’87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM — SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY

Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Southern Italy & Sicily departing May 6, 2018. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA, or personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and send, with completed reservation form, to: The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918. Or you may call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514, or fax your reservation form to 979-845-9263. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765, or fax your reservation to 617-454-9199.

Full Passport Name ___________________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ___
Badge Name _____________________________________________________ Class Year _________________________

Address __________________________________________ E-mail __________________________________________
City __________________________________________ State ________________ ZIP _______________________

Home Phone (______)_______________________________ Cell Phone (______)_______________________________

Please book my/our air from _________________________ I/We request an air upgrade to _____________________

I will share a room with _____________________________ I request a single room (limited availability)  

Post-Tour “Rome – On Your Own” Extension: Please sign me/us up  

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Southern Italy & Sicily, May 6-20, 2018, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) ________________________________________________________________ Date__________________
Method of Payment  ❑ Check  ❑ American Express  ❑ Discover  ❑ MasterCard  ❑ VISA
Account # __________________________________________ Security Code _________ Exp. Date _______________
Name of Cardholder ____________________________________________________________________________
Signature ______________________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.
Southern Italy & Sicily
With Apulia & the Amalfi Coast
15 days for $5,374 total price from Houston
($4,895 air & land inclusive plus $479 airline taxes and fees)

Delight in a special exploration of Italy’s southern climes, from striking Sicily and the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to unheralded Apulia, the alluring “boot heel” where a vivid history, unique architecture, and bountiful plains join the sun and sea in creating a prized (and crowd-free) region. Add Italian hospitality, outstanding cuisine, and notable lodgings for la dolce vita, small-group style.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Taormina (Catania), Sicily

Day 2: Arrive Taormina We arrive today in Catania on Italy’s autonomous island of Sicily then transfer by motorcoach to Taormina and our boutique hotel overlooking the Ionian Sea. Tonight we gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 3: Taormina Highlights of our morning walking tour of this delightful medieval town include the spectacular ancient Greek theater dating to the 3rd century BCE, the popular 13th-century cathedral, and grand Piazza Vittorio Emanuele. This afternoon is at leisure: perhaps to relax by the hotel pool, visit a lovely Taormina beach; or stroll along Corso Umberto, lined with shops and restaurants. With lunch and dinner on our own today, perhaps a culinary adventure is in order … and thanks to Sicily’s strategic Mediterranean location that lured many invaders, Sicilian food incorporates Italian, Arabic, and African influences into a singular, and delicious, cuisine.

Day 4: Taormina/Agrigento On today’s excursion we visit the “Valley of the Temples,” the architectural zone of Agrigento, whose Doric temples and sanctuaries date to Greek rule in the 5th century BCE. Known in its heyday as the “most beautiful city of mortals,” Agrigento’s highlight is the stunning, well-preserved Temple of Concordia (c. 430 BCE). A visit to the museum here lends context to our explorations. Late this afternoon we return to our hotel, where we dine tonight.

Day 5: Taormina/Mount Etna This morning’s tour ventures to Europe’s largest active volcano. The ancients believed Mt. Etna to be the forge of Vulcan, god of fire; today, modern-day Sicilians have a very personal relationship with the volcano, which frequently erupts but is seldom destructive. Centuries of lava flows have resulted in a rich, fertile landscape where citrus groves and vineyards thrive. Mid-day we enjoy a small group highlight: lunch at a family-run working farm amidst acres of lemon and kiwi. After returning to our hotel mid-afternoon, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Small Group Tour Highlights
Sicily’s intriguing cultural and historic heritage • “Valley of the Temples,” Agrigento • Mt. Etna excursion • Lunch at a working Sicilian farmhouse • Two Apulia UNESCO sites: Cave dwellings of Matera and Alberobello’s medieval white-washed buildings • Neapolitan cooking demonstration and dinner • Lecce, the “Florence of the South” • Fascinating, uncrowded Apulia region • Stunning Amalfi Coast • Tour of ancient ruins at Pompeii (UNESCO site) • Day trip to Isle of Capri • Unique, well-located small-group style hotels • Pleasing mix of touring and time at leisure

Day Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Taormina (Catania)
2-5 Taormina Villa Angela Sup. First Class
6-7 Matera Locanda di San Martino First Class
8-10 Lecce Patria Palace Hotel Sup. First Class
11-14 Sorrento Hotel Antiche Mura First Class
15 Depart Naples for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover photo: Mt. Etna creates a scenic backdrop for Taormina’s ancient Greek theatre.
Day 6: Taormina/Matera We leave Sicily today for the mainland region of Basilicata, a day-long transfer that includes a ferry ride from Sicily to Calabria. Late this afternoon we reach Matera, whose historic troglo- dyte churches and dwellings (Sassi) have been designated a UNESCO site and where our hotel is a renovated cave dwelling in the city’s historic district. B,D

Day 7: Matera Today we explore this city of art and folklore, with its unique ancient urban structure still intact. Home to more than 100 rock churches, Matera resembles ancient Jerusalem and has been used by international film directors as a stand-in for the holy city. Following a guided walking tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore independently before dinner tonight at a local restaurant. B,D

Day 8: Matera/Alberobello/Lecce Departing Matera this morning, we stop in Alberobello, whose 400 or so trulli – whitewashed conical houses with grey-stone roofs – rank as a UNESCO World Heritage site. We take a walking tour along the pristine cobblestone alleys, stepping inside an artisan’s workshop or trullo tipico, a recreation of an inhabited home. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue on to Lecce, capital of Apulia’s southern Lecce province (in Italy’s “boot heel”) in time for dinner together at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 9: Lecce We discover the “Florence of the South” on this morning’s tour, so named for the unique decorative style for which Lecce is known: barocco leccese, the ornate and intricate sandstone carvings of cherubs and monsters, fruits and flowers that adorn local buildings from top to bottom. We see Palazzo Vescovile (c. 1632), the exuberantly decorated church of Santa Croce, and the Duomo with its lovely piazza. This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy dinner together. B,D

Day 10: Lecce/Otranto Today’s excursion takes us to the beautiful walled town of Otranto, overlooking the Adriatic. On a walking tour here we see the imposing 15th-century Aragonese castle with its traditional moat, and the Romanesque cathedral whose impressive wall-to-wall mosaic floor was created in 1166. We continue on to a local winery for a tasting and lunch then return to Lecce mid-afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own. B,L

Day 11: Lecce/Sorrento This morning we depart by coach for Sorrento, overlooking the Bay of Naples. En route we stop for a traditional trattoria lunch in the small town of Polignano a Mare. Dinner tonight is on our own in lively seaside Sorrento. B,L

Post-Tour Extension

My 20-23, 2018 Rome – On Your Own 4 days/3 nights for $695 total price Single Supplement: $295

Explore the Eternal City at your leisure.

Your Tour Price Includes
• Air transportation Naples/Rome, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
• 3 nights’ accommodations at Empire Palace Hotel (Superior First Class)
• 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
• Transfers to/from airport
Day 12: Sorrento/Pompeii Today we visit the evocative UNESCO site of Pompeii for a guided tour of the city frozen in time by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 CE (the city was accidentally rediscovered in 1749). Late this afternoon we gather for a hands-on Neapolitan cuisine cooking lesson, followed by dinner to savor the fruits of our labors. B,D

Day 13: Sorrento/Capri Today we travel by hydrofoil to the storied Isle of Capri, a popular resort since Roman times. We explore cozy Capri town; visit the terraced Gardens of Augustus with stunning views of the azure sea; then enjoy free time for lunch and to explore on our own before we return to Sorrento early afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy this city with views of Mt. Vesuvius as we wish. Dinner tonight is on our own in Sorrento. B

Day 14: Sorrento/Amalfi Coast We embark this morning on a breathtaking drive along the winding, cliff-top Amalfi Coast road between Sorrento and Amalfi above the glistening Tyrrhenian Sea – with stops for photos along the way. This afternoon is at leisure; tonight we bid “arrivederci” to Italy and our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner. B,D

Day 15: Depart for U.S. This morning we transfer to Naples airport, where we connect with our return flight to the U.S. B

Tour Depart: May 6, 2018 Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

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<th>City</th>
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<td>Land Only (transfers not included)</td>
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Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $479, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add $1,295. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight:
Business Class – $3,895 per person; Premium Economy – $895 per person, in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking uphill and on uneven or cobblestone streets, and at sites of ancient ruins. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514, or toll-free at 800-633-7514. Or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765 Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time
Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, we regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accommodated. Since international airfare when purchasing a land only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communication charges, gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes
If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.’s receipt of your written notification.

Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: cancel 95 days or more before departure: $200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a $100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Responsibility
The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues
We request that you be in good health to participate in this tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or email us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE TRAVELING AGGIES TOUR TO SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY!

Guaranteed Small Group: Limited to 24 Guests