



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



Southern Italy & Sicily

with Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

September 27-October 11, 2022

15 days for \$6,274 total price from Houston

(\$5,795 air & land inclusive plus \$479 airline taxes and fees)



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



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University

Howdy, Ags!

Join fellow Traveling Aggies on an exclusive 15-day journey to discover enchanting Southern Italy and the remarkable island of Sicily. Beginning with the cross-cultural heritage, ruins and magnificent landscapes 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. Traveling to Sorrento, tour the UNESCO site of Pompeii, enjoy a day trip to the storied Isle of Capri, and take a breathtaking drive along the Amalfi Coast. And experience all of this accompanied by the legendary camaraderie and passion of the Traveling Aggies!

This exclusive Traveling Aggies departure has room for only 24 guests, and the deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure, so book risk-free today before it sells out.

Gig ‘em!

Marisa Liles

Marisa Liles
 Manager of Traveling Aggies
 The Association of Former Students

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY

To reserve your place on tour, **please call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514, or fax the Reservation Form below to 979-845-9263. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.** Please have the information outlined below available to share with a Traveling Aggies representative or an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor. **If you prefer**, you may instead complete the Reservation Form below and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit.

Please note that your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

If paying your deposit by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the Reservation Form. Send to:

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY • SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 11, 2022

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is \$500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

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

Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

Southern Italy & Sicily

with Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

15 days for \$6,274 total price from Houston

(\$5,795 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. *D*

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. *B*

Day 4: 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. *B,L*

Day 5: Taormina/Agrigento On today's excursion we visit the "Valley of the Temples," the archaeological 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. *B,L,D*

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 Eurostars Monte Tauro	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: With Mt. Etna as a backdrop, Taormina's 3rd century Greek theatre still hosts performances today.



Colorful fishing boats along a Sicilian harbor

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 troglodyte 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, one of the oldest cities in Apulia, (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 to explore this town of 100 churches as we wish; 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*

Day 12: Sorrento/Pompeii Today we visit the evocative UNESCO site of Pompeii for a guided tour of

Post-Tour Extension

October 11-14, 2022

Rome – On Your Own

4 days/3 nights for \$795 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



THE NAME OF ITALY
HAS MAGIC IN ITS
VERY SYLLABLES.”

– MARY SHELLEY

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, rich with Mediterranean flora, coastal pines, and 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. This stretch of terraced



We spend two nights in ancient Matera.

coastline from Sorrento to Amalfi has inspired movies, music, and books; indeed, it is one of the most glorious drives in the world. During our leisurely excursion, we make several photo stops along this spectacular, hair-raising coastline, with the dazzling Mediterranean a sheer 500-foot drop below. This afternoon is at leisure;

tonight we bid “*arri-vederci*” 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*

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Superior First Class and First Class hotels
- 26 meals: 13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 8 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Stunning Amalfi Coast

Tour Departs: September 27, 2022

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

New York	\$5,874
Boston, Philadelphia	\$6,074
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$6,174
Dallas, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$6,274
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$5,195

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 \$1,595. Your \$500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – \$3,795 per person; Premium Economy – \$1,595 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

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a land only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a land only package; 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 notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 44-30 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, Acts of God, 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 line(s), 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 and boats 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 e-mail 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.

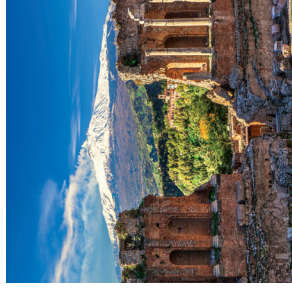
Air Transportation – Important information: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of our operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international 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.**

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided approximately 115 days prior to departure.



505 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840-2918

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

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully
refundable up to 95 days before departure