

Southern Italy & Sicily

with Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

September 4-18, 2024

15 days for \$6,674 total price from Fort Myers

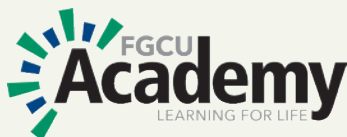
(\$6,095 air & land inclusive plus \$579 airline taxes and fees)



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 FGCU Academy



Dear Friends,

Travel with us 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 the medieval white-washed buildings of Alberobello. 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.

Space on this exciting program is limited and will fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

John Guerra
Director, FGCU Academy

FGCU RESERVATION FORM: SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY

To reserve your place on tour, **please call FGCU Academy at 239-434-4838**, or **e-mail jguerra@fgcu.edu**. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an FGCU Academy representative.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to FGCU Academy’s office. 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. 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. If paying by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure..

Send to: **FGCU Academy**
Attn: John Guerra
704 Goodlette-Frank Rd North
Suite 330
Naples, FL 34102

SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY • SEPTEMBER 4-18, 2024

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 ☐

Southern Italy & Sicily

with Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

15 days for \$6,674 total price from Fort Myers
(\$6,095 air & land inclusive plus \$579 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/ 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*

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. *B,L*

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 Chiostro dei Domenicani	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.



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 the city frozen in time by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

Post-Tour Extension

September 18-21, 2024

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

- Private transportation Sorrento/Rome
- 3 nights' accommodations at Monti Palace Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 3 meals: 3 breakfasts
- Transfers to/from airport



WINE IS SUNLIGHT,
HELD TOGETHER BY WATER.”

– GALILEO GALILEI

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*



The Amalfi Coast has drawn visitors for centuries.

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*



We spend two nights in ancient Matera.

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

Tour Departs: September 4, 2024

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

New York	\$6,374
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Boston, Philadelphia	\$6,574
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Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Fort Myers, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Washington, DC	\$6,674
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Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$6,774
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Land Only (transfers not included)	\$5,595
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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 \$579, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,695. 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 information, and reservations, please contact John Guerra at FGCU Academy at (239)-434-4838 or e-mail jguerra@fgcu.edu

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; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; 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 Odyssey 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: \$200 charge; 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.**

Responsibility: Tour Participation Contract – IMPORTANT: FGCU Academy does not provide travel services or act as the agent of any provider of travel services. The liability of Florida Gulf Coast University, as a sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as a tour operator, is strictly limited. FGCU Academy is not responsible or liable for any of the services provided for by Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., or any other travel agency, or for any of the services of hotels, motorcoaches, trains, vessels, aircraft, or other forms of transportation that may be used in connection with the tour. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. All arrangements for transport, accommodations, and services are made upon the express condition that FGCU Academy, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and their affiliates shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity of any kind occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond their control, including, without limitation, any act of negligence or breach of contract of any third party such as an airline, cruise line, train, hotel, restaurant, tour operator/supplier, ground handler, etc., including their employees, agents, servants, or representatives, who is to or does supply any goods or services to the tour. Without limiting the foregoing, FGCU Academy, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and their affiliates are not responsible for any losses or expenses due to delay or changes in schedule, overlooking of accommodations, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, acts of terrorism, war, quarantine, criminal activity, the defect of any vehicle, or for any other cause beyond their control. FGCU Academy reserves the right to change the itinerary of the tour, or to substitute similar quality hotels or airlines without prior notice. If the tour is cancelled by FGCU Academy for any reason, FGCU Academy, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and their affiliates shall have no liability beyond the refund of all tour participant deposits received by them, net of any and all expenses due to suppliers and the airline refund policies. FGCU Academy, in its sole discretion, may increase the tour price in the event costs increase. FGCU Academy may decline to accept or retain any tour participant as a participant on the tour at any time. Airline tickets may be sold in conjunction with the services of any airline. The passenger tickets in use by the carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the passenger. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, FGCU Academy and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation or changes to this tour. The parties agree that Ft. Myers (Lee County) in the State of Florida shall be the venue for any disputes arising out of this tour. **A signed FGCU General Release and Waiver Agreement is required from each participant prior to departure.**

Medical Conditions: If you or a member of your party suffer from any physical challenge or medical condition, you must check with your doctor about the advisability of traveling abroad and make this known to us before you book. We will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants, but are not responsible for denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, and other independent suppliers. **Smoking:** Smoking is **NOT** permitted in the hotels, on motorcoaches, or on other modes of transport used by the group.

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 2152 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 tour 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.**

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Chiestro del Domenicani

www.chiestrodeldomenicani.it/en

The 18-room Chiestro del Domenicani is set within a 15th-century Dominican convent. The cultural and historical Italian charm remains today, with original Lecce stone structures, Doric-style columns, and detailed frescoes throughout. Along with spacious common areas and large, comfortable rooms, the hotel offers a seasonal outdoor swimming pool, garden, terrace, restaurant, wine bar, and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. Air-conditioned guest rooms preserve the characteristic structure of the former convent with tasteful yet simple décor, and include private bath with hair dryer, minibar, tea- and coffee-making facilities, in-room safe, TV, and phone.

Hotel Antiche Mura

www.borinichiemura.com

This historic hotel sits in the heart of Sorrento on Piazza Tasso, the main square, close to shops and restaurants. Amenities of the intimate 46-room Hotel Antiche Mura include an outdoor swimming pool, solarium, lovely gardens with a citrus grove (which supplies all of the oranges and lemons used by the hotel), lobby bar, outdoor snack bar, breakfast room, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, and laundry and dry-cleaning services (for a fee). Art nouveau-style guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, in-room safe, minibar, TV, and phone. Air conditioning is available from May through October; heat from November through April.

Eurostars Monte Tauro

www.eurostarhotel.com.uk/eurostars-monte-tauro.html

The Eurostars Monte Tauro enjoys an incredible location in Taormina. The hotel cascades down a hillside at the edge of the town's center, offering an easy walk to many shops and restaurants and also an unspoiled view across the sparkling Ionian Sea. Amenities of this 98-room hotel include a restaurant and bar overlooking the water; outdoor swimming pool with water views, hydro-massage jets, and a lounge area; spa services; laundry and dry-cleaning services (for a fee); and complimentary Wi-Fi internet access. Each air-conditioned guest room has a private deck overlooking the water and features private bath with hair dryer, minibar, in-room safe, TV, and phone.

Locanda di San Martino

www.locandadimartino.it

The 32-room Locanda di San Martino offers guests the rare opportunity to stay in cave dwellings created thousands of years ago – but updated with contemporary comforts and modern amenities. Passageways cut into the rock, external staircases, and elevators connect all four levels of the hotel. The focus of our stay is the unique experience the hotel can offer in an area famous for this type of dwelling. While your room is clean and comfortable, it will not be as luxurious as hotels on other parts of your tour. Fresh local food is brought to the hotel for each meal because the hotel does not have a kitchen. Locanda di San Martino is in the heart of Marek's "Sassi" Historical District, very close to the city center. The hotel has a bar and breakfast room; air-conditioned guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, and TV. Please note that because of the historical nature of the hotel, room sizes and views vary, and you must pay attention to the stairs around the hotel and within your room.



JOIN FGCU ACADEMY ON
AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR TO
SOUTHERN ITALY & SICILY!

*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*