



Highlights of Southern Italy!

A Hub and Spoke Program featuring Sorrento and Rome

Including Positano, Amalfi, Capri, Pompeii and Naples

10 days and 8 nights

Of all the countries in the world, there is none more magical than Italy. Truly a tourist's paradise, Italy is a dream destination. Your tour starts in Southern Italy home to Pizza and Sophia Loren! One of the world's most spectacular drives will take you to Sorrento, seemingly wedged on a ledge between the mountains and the Mediterranean. With the fragrance of lemon and olive groves wafting through the air, this gateway to the Amalfi Coast has an unspoiled old quarter, a lively main shopping area and a spectacular cliffside setting! After six nights here, you'll spend the next three nights in historic Rome visiting the Vatican Museums, St. Peter's and the ancient Catacombs. From the Coliseum to the stunning Sistine Chapel you'll see the best there is to see in this fascinating city. So join TRIPS and experience the wonder and beauty of Southern Italy and the Eternal City of Rome!

Day 1 - Your Journey Begins!

You board your overnight flight for Italy. Dinner is served en route and a continental breakfast is served prior to landing.

Day 2- Rome to Sorrento!

You arrive this morning in **Roma** and meet your English speaking guide. Board your deluxe motor coach and head south to **Sorrento**, located on the southern shore of the Bay of Naples. This stunning locale will be your home for the next six nights! With no packing and unpacking, this is a relaxed way to experience this beautiful region of Italy. After check-in you'll have time to relax before enjoying your first Italian meal in the hotel dining room.

Overnight: Sorrento

(D)

Day 3 - The Stunning Amalfi Coast and Positano!

After breakfast, you'll tour **Positano**, specializing in scenery and sand! This delightful fisherman's village gently slopes down to a black pebble beach. You'll have time here to walk on the beach or browse in the small shops specializing in hand made crafts. You'll then continue along the breathtaking coastal road to **Amalfi**, once a powerful independent Republic. The cathedral here is a rare example of the perfect merger between Arab and Western architecture.

Overnight: Sorrento

(B/D)

Day 4 - Historic Pompeii and Naples!

A departure to **Pompeii** is planned after breakfast. A local licensed guide will lead you around the ruins of this historic site. Pompeii, stopped in its tracks by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79, offers the best look anywhere at what life in Rome must have been like 2,000 years ago. This entire city of well-preserved ruins is yours to explore. Buried under 30 feet of hot mud and volcanic ash, the excavation of Pompeii began in the 19th century and continues today. Afterwards, you'll continue to **Naples** for a tour of this regional capitol. You'll have time on your own to enjoy a slice of pizza in a street side café or browse in the local shops prior to your return to Sorrento for dinner and overnight.

Overnight: Sorrento

(B/D)

Day 5 - Sorrento and Mozzarella!

Enjoy a guided tour of **Sorrento** this morning after breakfast. As you travel amongst hillsides bursting with wild roses and camellias, you will visit **La Sorgente**, a picturesque farm that belongs to the Marciano family. Here you will see mozzarella being made the old-fashioned way, completely by hand! This is a natural area with orange and lemon trees, old olive trees and vines, worked with equipment and methods dating back to the end of the last century. You'll sip home made wine and snack on tender Italian bread with fresh tomato and a drizzle of olive oil. Then sample the best **homemade mozzarella** one could imagine. The balance of the day is yours to shop and explore Sorrento on your own. Here you'll find wonderful shops specializing in inlaid wood products, a specialty here in Southern Italy! Or, pick up the perfect cameo for yourself or friends back home as Southern Italy was the center for the production of cameos during the Victorian period - a craft that continues today!!

Overnight: Sorrento

(B/D)

Day 6 - Beautiful Capri

This morning, enjoy a boat ride to the **Isle of Capri**. With its clear waters, beautiful small beaches and spectacular views, it is the queen of the islands in the Bay of Naples. A funicular will take you to the village at the top of the island, where you can enjoy the scenery and maybe

sip a Limoncello, the famous local lemon drink. You'll have a guided tour of this lovely locale and then plenty of time on your own. If sea conditions permit, you may wish to visit the famous **Blue Grotto**. This optional activity takes you by small boat into the grottos and caves of the island where the brilliant blue reflectant light shines brightly against the grotto walls. A wonderful day spent in this most exotic Italian atmosphere!

Overnight: Sorrento

(B/D)

Day 7 - Temples and More!

You'll spend your last morning in Sorrento exploring the **Correale Museum**. With three floors and 24 rooms of 17th and 18th Century art and furnishings, your visit provides a unique picture of Italian life. In the afternoon, you'll travel south to **Paestum** with one of the best collections of Greek temples anywhere - and certainly the most accessible! Founded by the Greeks in the 6th century B.C., this was a key stop on an important trade route. Rediscovered in the 18th century, Paestum today offers the only well-preserved Greek ruins north of Sicily. You'll return to Sorrento to freshen up before enjoying dinner this evening.

Overnight Sorrento

(B/D)

Day 8 - On to Rome!

After breakfast, depart Sorrento by private motor coach for the Eternal City of **Rome**! Upon arrival, you will enjoy a panoramic tour of Ancient Rome led by a licensed guide. Your tour features admission to the **Colosseum** and you'll also see the Roman Forum, the Palatine and Capitoline Hills, and other highlights from the Roman Empire. You check into your hotel located in central Rome with the remainder of the afternoon and evening at your leisure to enjoy this stunning city.

Overnight: Rome

(B)

Day 9 - The Wonders of Rome!

Following breakfast this morning, you will enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of the **Vatican Museums** and **St. Peter's Basilica** with a licensed, local guide. The highlight of your visit today is sure to be the **Sistine Chapel**, the masterpiece of Michelangelo. When first commissioned by Pope Julius II in 1508, the vault was covered by golden stars on a blue sky. Michelangelo chose the Creation, the birth of Adam and Eve, the expulsion from Paradise and other scenes from Genesis as the theme of his work. Finished in 1512, this was the very height of the Renaissance era. You'll also visit the Roman Catacombs, ancient underground burial places located just outside the city. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to continue your Roman experience or finish up some last minute shopping. Tonight, you will enjoy a very **special farewell dinner at a local trattoria**.

Overnight: Rome

(B/D)

Day 10 - Farewell!

Breakfast is served prior to your departure for the airport and your international flight back to the USA. **Memories of your Highlights of Southern Italy Tour filled with breathtaking scenery, romantic villages and famous archeological sites, will last a lifetime!**

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Inclusions

- Round-trip International Airfare to Rome, Italy (checked baggage fees are not included)
- Private motor coach throughout the itinerary with an English speaking tour escort
- 8 nights accommodations based on double occupancy with private bath at 4 star hotel properties
- 8 "fortified" continental breakfasts
- 6 dinners in Sorrento at your hotel including wine, water and coffee
- Farewell dinner in Rome at a local trattoria
- All admissions as indicated in the detailed itinerary
- Excursions to Capri, Positano, Naples, Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast and Paestum
- Private mozzarella cheese making demonstration, followed by a tasting with wine
- Panoramic city tour of Ancient Rome including admission to the Colosseum

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