

Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

## DAY 1

### Meet at our Naples Hotel

Our trip officially starts today at our hotel in Naples, Italy at 4 PM. You can either fly directly into Naples or fly into Rome (always a fun city in which to spend time) and take the train from there. Vibrant Naples is steeped in history with atmospheric neighborhoods and many world-class museums. We'll gather at the hotel for introductions, to meet our guides, and review the trip itinerary. Southern Italy is known for its fabulous cuisine and tonight we'll enjoy the first of many delicious meals.

Overnight: Naples (D)

## DAY 2

### Explore Pompeii and hike a portion of Mount Vesuvius

Today, we set our sights on Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. Early in the morning, we will visit the ruins of Pompei, which offer a fantastic glimpse into Roman life as it was 2,000 years ago. Considered to be one of the world's premier archaeological sites, Pompei is one of the most significant proofs of Roman civilization. After this excursion, we'll have a wine and local product tasting in a small family run winery located in the Vesuvius area. In the afternoon, we will get to the top of Mount Vesuvius, destination of our walk. We'll climb the top of this active volcano, the Bay of Naples serving as our backdrop, while our guide shares their knowledge of the mountain's geological and natural history. After the walk, we will reach the charming Amalfi coast, where we will dine and spend the night.

Overnight: Hotel in Maiori, Amalfi Coast. Hiking: 1 hour 45 minutes. Elevation: +600 feet/-600 feet on Mount Vesuvius; +3 hours walking at Pompeii. (B, L, D)

## DAY 3

### The Path of the Gods and the Amalfi Coast

A private transfer this morning takes us to Agerola and the start of today's trail. Our trail is rightly called the "Sentiero Degli Dei", or "The Path of the Gods". This route lives up to its name with dramatic views of a rugged coastline, and distant sightings as far as the island of Capri! We will reach the shore close to Positano and spend some time in this world-famous little town that clings precariously to a high cliff. After lunch, we will take a boat to Amalfi and enjoy magnificent views of colorful houses cascading down from the steep hill into a dark blue sea. In Amalfi we'll visit some of the town's famous sites, including the Piazza Duomo and the ornate 11th century cathedral of Saint Andrew. The Amalfi Coast is known for its lemon groves and limoncello, a liqueur made from lemons, and we'll finish with a visit to a local producer before returning to Maiori for dinner and the night.

Overnight: Maiori, Amalfi Coast. Hiking: 4.5 hours. Elevation +/- 2,000 feet. (B, L, D)

## DAY 4

### Valle Mulini and explore Ravello

This morning we visit Valle Mulini (Valley of the Mills), a delightful valley that was once the center of Amalfi's important paper industry. In late morning we'll reach the enchanting town of Ravello. Ravello is called the balcony of the "Costiera" because of the amazing views we can enjoy from here. This small, somewhat sleepy village is a lovely oasis of quiet in the sometimes overly busy Amalfi coast, with lush gardens, nice little squares, and cobbled back alleys. We have some free time to explore the

lovely oasis of quiet in the sometimes overly busy Amalfi coast, with lush gardens, nice little squares, and cobbled back alleys. We have some free time to explore the town, before returning to Naples in the afternoon. It would be a shame to leave Naples without sampling its world-famous Neapolitan pizza and that is what we'll do for dinner. We then head to the port where we board the overnight ferry to Sicily, in a cabin with twin beds and private facilities.

Overnight: Ferry. Hiking: 4 hours. Elevation +/- 1,150 feet (B, L, D)

**DAY 5**

Arrive in Palermo, explore Mount Pispisa and Segesta

Once we arrive at Palermo Harbor, we'll have breakfast then take a private transfer to Segesta. We will walk in the gentle and lovely countryside of the Val d'Erice, exploring one of the most fascinating archaeological sites in Sicily: Segesta. The ancient city founded in the fourth century BC preserves the Doric Temple and the theatre which opens onto the surrounding hills. Climb up to the summit of Mount Pispisa and enjoy the view of the archaeological area. It will give us an appreciation for its size and the amazing preservation. Afterwards, we will transfer to Trapani to check-in at our hotel.

Overnight: Trapani. Hiking: 3.5 hours. Elevation +950 feet/-950 feet (B, L, D)

**DAY 6**

Hydrofoil to Levanzo smallest of the Aegadian Islands, visit cave with Paleolithic drawings

Today, we will take a hydrofoil to explore Levanzo, the smallest of the Aegadian Islands. Levanzo will show us a jewel from the ancient past: The Cave of Genovese. Dated back to between 11,000 and 12,000 years ago, we'll see remnants of history from the final phase of Paleolithic period. Here we will view primitive human messages etched into the cave, a prehistoric sanctuary where religion and culture joined together. Engravings, graffiti, and paintings depict deer, cows, horses, fish and humans in daily life, including scenes of hunting and fishing. While our trek, enjoy views of the Mediterranean countryside and soaring gulls. We'll board our hydrofoil back and head back to Trapani. We will have time for a shower at our hotel and then head out to dinner in the wonderful town of Erice, overlooking the city of Trapani.

Overnight: Trapani. Hiking: 3.5 hours. Elevation + 650 feet/- 600 feet (B, L, D)

**DAY 7**

Transfer to Marsala, Explore Phoenician Museum

This morning, we will visit the town of Marsala. We'll see some of the amazing windmills and salt pans area, one of the only still working in Italy and main income of the region for centuries. After, we'll have free time to visit the elegant historic center of the city and its Phoenician museum. In the afternoon, we will visit the world class cellars producing the famous Marsala wine taking its named after the town. We will transfer back to Trapani to rest our heads.

Overnight: Trapani. (B, L, D)

**DAY 8**

San Vito Lo Capo, hike Mount Monaco

Our private transfer will take us to San Vito Lo Capo, a lovely town located between spectacular mountains and famous for its idyllic beaches. Climb up to Mount Monaco, which owes its name to the particular shape that reminds one of a kneeling monk with hands clasped in prayer, easily seen from the antique tonnara (tuna fishing plant) of San Vito Lo Capo. At the end of our hike, we will transfer to Scopello.



Overnight: Scopello. Hiking: 2.5 hours. Elevation +1500 feet/-1,100 feet (B, L, D)

## **DAY 9**

**Visit Zingaro Nature Reserve, Swim in Coves, Celebratory Cooking Class and Dinner**

Leaving from Scopello, we will walk to Sicily's first nature reserve, Zingaro. Established in 1976, it is home to towering limestone mountains interspersed by spectacular caves. It also has a coastline dotted with coves and cliffs overlooking the sea - all very impressive and beautiful. There will be a chance to swim at one of the various coves of the Reserve. Transfer to Palermo, the Sicilian capital. We will take time to enjoy a celebratory cooking class and dinner and spend our final night in Palermo.

Overnight: Palermo. Hiking: 5 hours. Elevation +1,600 feet/ -1,600 feet. Driving: 1.5 hours (B, L, D)

## **DAY 10**

**Fly Home from the Palermo Airport**

Sadly, our trip officially ends this morning. Continue on to other explorations or, if you must, fly home from the Palermo airport. Your AGC guide will help coordinate taxis from the hotel to the airport based on similar flight times. (B)