

Discover Sicily: Heart of the Mediterranean

LAND TOUR PALERMO • AGRIGENTO • SIRACUSA • TAORMINA • ROME

15 days—Land Tour only—from **\$2895**

16 days—including international airfare
from Washington Dulles—from **\$4195**

Additional departure cities are available

Improve your value with these optional extensions:

Amalfi Coast, Italy: 5 nights pre-trip **\$995**

Malta: 6 nights post-trip **\$995**



IT'S INCLUDED

- Choose to purchase **Grand Circle's airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- **Accommodations** for 14 nights in comfortable rooms with private baths
- **25 meals:** 14 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 7 dinners
- **7 included tours**
- **Exclusive Discovery Series events:** *Italian With & Without Words* discussion • *Corleone's Past & Present* discussion with lunch • *Agriturismo* farmhouse lunch • World War II lecture • *Italian Volcanoes* discussion • Home-Hosted Lunch
- **Personal headset** on all included and optional tours
- Exclusive services of a resident Grand Circle Program Director (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- **5% Frequent Traveler Credit** toward your next Grand Circle trip—an average of **\$225**
- Private motorcoach land travel
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips

Now included for 2015

Gratuities on your main trip are now included for local guides and motor-coach drivers

ITINERARY

May 9, 2015

PRE-TRIP OPTION: 5 NIGHTS IN AMALFI COAST, ITALY

DAY	DESTINATION/HOTEL
1	Fly U.S. • Palermo, Sicily
2-4	Palermo Grand Hotel Wagner (Superior First Class) or similar

INCLUDED TOUR: Monreale & Palermo

OPTIONAL TOUR: Cefalu

5-6	Agrigento Dioscuri Bay Palace or similar
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INCLUDED TOUR: Valley of the Temples

7-9	Siracusa Grand Hotel Ortigia (First Class) or similar
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INCLUDED TOUR: Siracusa

OPTIONAL TOUR: Baroque Heritage of Sicily

10-13	Taormina Mazzaro Sea Palace or similar
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INCLUDED TOURS: Catania, Taormina, Mount Etna

OPTIONAL TOUR: Reggio

14-15	Rome Hotel Albani or similar
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INCLUDED TOUR: Rome

16	Rome • Return to U.S.
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POST-TRIP OPTION: 6 NIGHTS IN MALTA

Please mention this code when booking:

GG5-2386

Travel on this exciting Mediterranean vacation and discover the rich heritage that makes Sicily distinct from mainland Italy. Our tour explores some of Sicily's most enticing regions. In Palermo, you'll uncover a rich tapestry of Mediterranean cultures. You'll also enjoy two nights in Agrigento, where you'll witness the Valley of the Temples on an included tour. Next, the ancient city of Siracusa, known for its rich history of ancient civilizations. You'll marvel at sweeping ocean and mountain views in the cliffside resort town of Taormina. Your vacation concludes with two nights in Rome, including a tour of the city's highlights.

YOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive Palermo, Sicily. Arrival times in Palermo vary throughout the day, depending on your city of departure. You'll be met at the airport and assisted to your hotel, where you'll be joined by fellow travelers who took our optional pre-trip extension, *Amalfi Coast, Italy*. Later, join

your Program Director for a Welcome Drink and orientation walk before a Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant. D—Grand Hotel Wagner or similar

Day 3 Palermo • Monreale & Palermo tour. After breakfast you'll travel to Monreale, where you'll witness the Arab-Norman splendor of the Monreale Cathedral. You'll then return to Palermo, getting acquainted with Sicily's capital on a stroll through the Capo Market—a lively Arab-style open market offering the colorful sights and smells of local cuisine, produce, and spices. This afternoon, enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant, and continue your discoveries of Palermo on a panoramic driving tour.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOVERY SERIES EVENT

Enjoy a language lesson with your Program Director—*Italian With & Without Words*. In the evening, dinner will be on your own.

B,L—Grand Hotel Wagner or similar

Day 4 Palermo • Optional Cefalu tour.

You might join our optional tour to Cefalu today, a medieval seaside town, where you will visit its Norman cathedral, see regional art in the Mandralisca Museum, and have free time in its fisherman's quarter. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before returning to Palermo. Or spend the day exploring on your own.

B—Grand Hotel Wagner or similar

Day 5 Palermo • Agrigento. You'll set out this morning for hilltop Corleone, a historic town made famous by *The Godfather* novel and films.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOVERY SERIES EVENT

Learn about *Corleone's Past & Present* during an informative discussion headed by some of the region's younger residents. Then enjoy a lecture on mafia history at the local anti-mafia center, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Later, you'll transfer to Agrigento to check into your hotel where you will enjoy dinner.


B,L,D—Dioscuri Bay Palace or similar

Day 6 Agrigento • Valley of the Temples.

After breakfast, you'll visit the extraordinary Valley of the Temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on an included tour. These are among the greatest Greek ruins in the world, rivaling those in Athens. You'll see the dramatic Temple of Juno, with its excellent views of the entire valley, and the beautifully preserved Temple of Concordia. Savor dinner that evening in a local restaurant.

B,D—Dioscuri Bay Palace or similar

Day 7 Agrigento • Siracusa. This morning, you'll enjoy a very special experience—the chance to meet Sicilian schoolchildren at the Istituto Comprensivo M.L. King in Caltanissetta, part of

 Grand Circle Foundation's *World Classroom* project.



Reservations & Information: Call Toll-Free: 1-800-597-2452 • Press 2

EXCLUSIVE DISCOVERY SERIES EVENT

En route to Siracusa, you'll enjoy a homemade lunch at a Sicilian *agriturismo* farmhouse in the countryside near Caltanissetta. Arrive at your hotel in Siracusa in the late afternoon. You'll have time to relax and reflect on your day's discoveries before an orientation walk, and dinner on your own.

B,L—Grand Hotel Ortigia or similar

Day 8 Siracusa • City tour. This morning you'll enjoy a guided tour of Ortygia, the historical gem of Siracusa. We will admire the architectural splendor of ancient medieval streets, Baroque structures, and the cathedral—which was fashioned out of an ancient Greek temple. After lunch on your own, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure to make your own discoveries. Dinner is at a local restaurant this evening.

B,D—Grand Hotel Ortigia or similar

Day 9 Siracusa • Optional Baroque Heritage of Sicily tour. Enjoy the day exploring Siracusa on your own. At one time, its wealth and size were unmatched by any other city in the ancient world, and today it is one of the richest historical sites in Europe. Or discover the *Baroque Heritage of Sicily* on a full-day optional excursion.

B—Grand Hotel Ortigia or similar

Day 10 Siracusa • Savoca • Taormina.

After breakfast, travel to Savoca, where many scenes of *The Godfather* were shot. Enjoy lunch on your own and some free time here before you travel to Taormina, where you'll check into your hotel, and then enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

B,D—Mazzaro Sea Palace or similar

Day 11 Taormina • City tour. This morning, you'll explore Taormina more in depth during an included walking tour. You'll visit the city's greatest landmark, the Greco-Roman amphitheater, built in the third century BC and expanded by the Romans in the second century AD. Enjoy an afternoon to explore on your own.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOVERY SERIES EVENT

Early this evening, hear a lecture about the World War II Allied landing in Sicily during the 1943 "Husky" mission. You'll learn about what it meant to the people of Sicily, as well as how the local mafia became involved. Tonight, dinner is at a local restaurant.

B,D—Mazzaro Sea Palace or similar

Day 12 Taormina • Optional Reggio tour.

You have a day on your own.

Or, you can join our optional excursion to Reggio. We will visit the Palazzo della Regione, home to a renowned pair of ancient Greek bronze statues, and then enjoy an included lunch at a traditional restaurant in Scilla, an old fishing village.

This afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOVERY SERIES EVENT

Early this evening, enjoy a fascinating discussion about *Italian Volcanoes*, including stories about famed Mount Etna. Dinner is on your own tonight.

B—Mazzaro Sea Palace or similar

Day 13 Taormina • Mount Etna • Home-Hosted Lunch. After breakfast, visit magnificent Mount Etna, Europe's largest active volcano. Arriving at about 6,000 feet of elevation, you'll see Silvestri Crater.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOVERY SERIES EVENT

In Mitogio, you'll be welcomed by a Sicilian family for a traditional Home-Hosted Lunch. Tonight, dinner is on your own.

B,L—Mazzaro Sea Palace or similar

Day 14 Taormina • Catania • Rome.

After breakfast, you'll travel to Rome, stopping in the town of Catania. You'll visit a history museum depicting the landing of Allied troops on the southern coast of Sicily in July of 1943. Then, experience a slice of local life when you visit a fish market before lunch on your own. Arriving in Rome in the late afternoon, enjoy an orientation walk of your neighborhood and dinner on your own.

B—Hotel Albani or similar

Day 15 Rome • City tour. After breakfast, enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome. You'll see and view the landmarks and monuments that are the signature attractions of this beautiful city.

Following lunch on your own, enjoy the afternoon at leisure. This evening, join your fellow travelers this evening for a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

B,D—Hotel Albani or similar

Day 16 Rome • Return to U.S. Fly home or extend your discoveries in *Malta*.

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WHAT TO EXPECT

Pacing

- 5 locations in 15 days

Physical Requirements

- Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the trip
- You must be able to walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 3-5 hours of physical activities each day, including stairs

Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 50-92°F during touring season
- Temperatures on excursion to Mount Etna (altitude: 11,000 feet) range from 32-85°F
- June-August are the warmest months
- March and December weather can be unpredictable and change quickly within a short period of time

Terrain

- Travel over uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and cobblestone

Transportation

- Travel by 45-seat coach

Cuisine

- Meals will be based on the local cuisine

Tailor your vacation with our optional tours

Cefalu (Day 4, \$95 per person)

Baroque Heritage of Sicily
(Day 9, \$105 per person)

Reggio (Day 12, \$110 per person)

Optional tour prices listed are U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Make the most of your international airfare:
Stay longer and discover more

Amalfi Coast, Italy

5 nights pre-trip **\$995**

Your optional extension includes:

- **Air transportation** from Naples to Palermo
- **Accommodations** for 5 nights in Sorrento at the Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto or similar
- **6 meals:** 5 breakfasts, and 1 dinner
- **Included tours:** Sorrento walking tour • Amalfi Coast tour
- Exclusive services of a Grand Circle Hospitality Desk representative
- All transfers

Plus, consider these optional tours:

Capri (\$135 per person)

Tarantella Folk Show (\$70 per person)

Pompeii (\$95 per person)

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive Naples, Italy • Sorrento.

Upon arrival, you'll be transferred by motorcoach to your hotel in Sorrento. Gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Briefing and an orientation walk before dinner on your own.

Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto or similar

Day 3 Sorrento • Walking tour. Discover Sorrento during an included walking tour. Gather for dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

B,D—Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto or similar

Day 4 Sorrento • Optional Capri

tour. Perhaps you'll take our full-day optional tour of the Isle of Capri, a scenic island with no cars on its main section. Or spend today exploring on your own.

B—Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto or similar

Day 5 Sorrento • Amalfi Coast tour

• **Optional Tarantella folk show.** Join us for an included full-day tour of the Amalfi Coast. You will visit the towns of Ravello and Amalfi, both beautiful examples of this famous coastline.

This evening, you may choose to join an optional tarantella folk show with a Neapolitan-style dinner at a local theater.

B—Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto or similar

Day 6 Sorrento • Optional Pompeii

tour. Today, join our optional half-day tour to Pompeii, the most famous site that was buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Or make your own discoveries today.

B—Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto or similar

Day 7 Sorrento • Naples • Fly to

Palermo. After breakfast, you'll be assisted to the airport in Naples for your flight to Palermo to begin your *Discover Sicily: Heart of the Mediterranean Land Tour*.

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FEATURED HOTEL



Grand Hotel Cesare Augusto Sorrento, Italy

Your hotel is centrally located near the main square of Sorrento's Piazza Tasso and shopping area, and five minutes away from public transportation. There are many restaurants within walking distance, in addition to the on-site restaurant. The hotel also includes a lounge, roof garden with outdoor swimming pool (open from June to September), and solarium. Your room features a private balcony and includes air-conditioning, telephone, TV, and safe, plus private bath with shower and hair dryer.

Please note: Select departures feature similar accommodations.



Single Supplement: FREE

►SIP2015

If you make your own international air arrangements, your extension price will increase due to internal air transportation. This extension may not be available on all departures. Additional taxes and fees apply. Ask your Travel Counselor for details.

Reservations & Information: Call Toll-Free: 1-800-597-2452 • Press 2

Make the most of your international airfare: Stay longer and discover more

Malta

6 nights post-trip **\$995**

Your optional extension includes:

- **Air transportation** from Rome to Malta and Malta to Rome
- **Accommodations** for 5 nights in Malta at the Superior First-Class Victoria Hotel or similar and 1 night in Rome, Italy, at the Hotel Albani or similar
- **7 meals:** 6 breakfasts, and 1 dinner
- **Included tour:** Valletta
- Exclusive services of a Grand Circle Hospitality Desk representative
- All transfers

Plus, consider these optional tours:

Temples & Marsaxlokk
(\$120 per person)

Mdina: The Silent City (\$75 per person)

Gozo Island (\$145 per person)

Day 1 Fly Rome • St. Julian's, Malta.

Depart Rome today on your flight to Malta. You'll be met at Malta's airport by a local representative and assisted to your hotel, where you'll enjoy a Welcome Drink.

Victoria Hotel or similar

Day 2 Sliema • Valletta. After a Welcome Briefing, set off on an included tour of Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then enjoy *The Malta Experience*, a presentation about the island's history.

B—Victoria Hotel or similar

Day 3 Sliema • Optional Temples & Marsaxlokk tour. Join today's optional tour to visit some of Malta's fascinating prehistoric temples. Then stop at the colorful fishing village of Marsaxlokk and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Or spend the day as you wish.

B—Victoria Hotel or similar

Day 4 Sliema • Optional Mdina: The Silent City tour. Join us for an optional tour to Mdina, known as "The Silent City" because its fortified walls allow limited access to traffic. Or make

your own discoveries today. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

B,D—Victoria Hotel or similar

Day 5 Sliema • Optional Gozo Island tour. Join us on an optional tour of Gozo Island. Or make your own discoveries.

B—Victoria Hotel or similar

Day 6 Sliema • Fly to Rome. After breakfast, the morning is yours. This afternoon, you'll transfer to the airport for your flight to Rome. You'll be met at the Rome airport by a Hospitality Desk representative who will assist you to your hotel for your overnight stay.

B—Hotel Albani or similar

Day 7 Rome • Return to U.S. After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

B

Single Supplement: FREE

If you make your own international air arrangements, your extension price will increase due to internal air transportation. This extension may not be available on all departures. Additional taxes and fees apply. Ask your Travel Counselor for details.

FEATURED HOTEL



Victoria Hotel (Superior First Class) Sliema, Malta

The Superior First-Class Victoria Hotel is a small hotel with a Victorian flair. Each of its 140 air-conditioned rooms boasts a private bath, satellite/cable TV, minibar, telephone, and coffee- and tea-making facilities. The hotel's city center location makes it ideally located for discovery, while its indoor/outdoor pools and two restaurants make for a relaxing stay.

Please note: Select departures feature similar accommodations.



Reservations & Information: Call Toll-Free: 1-800-597-2452 • Press 2

DISCOVER SICILY: HEART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

2015 Land Tour Only

MAY 9, 2015

Land Tour only	\$2895
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➤ SIC2015

Air Add-On

Washington Dulles	\$1300
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Additional departure cities are available. Call for details.

Deposit: \$350 per person.

Single Supplement: FREE. Single accommodations are limited. If single rooms are full, ask about our Roommate Matching Service.

Guaranteed Travel Protection Plan: Please visit www.gct.com/tpp for details on this optional program. Standard Terms & Conditions apply when purchasing this program. Visit our website at www.gct.com/tc for details. Every effort has been made to produce this information accurately. We reserve the right to correct errors.

After you reserve your trip, toll-free Customer Service and our Air Department are available Monday–Friday 9 am to 8 pm ET, Saturday & Sunday 9 am to 7 pm ET at 1-800-321-2835.

SAVE up to 10% and lock in your price!

PAY IN FULL prior to your departure date	YOUR SAVINGS off your total trip price*
12 months or more prior to departure	10% off
11 months prior to departure	7% off
10 months prior to departure	6% off
9 months prior to departure	5% off
8 months prior to departure	4% off
7 months prior to departure	3% off
6 months prior to departure	2% off
5 months prior to departure	1.5% off
Make your final payment by check within the last 120 days	\$50 off

EXAMPLE: Based on a \$5000 trip price Paid in full by check **12 months** prior to your departure date, you **save \$500** (10% of your trip price) Paid in full by check **8 months** prior to your departure date, you **save \$200** (4% of your trip price) Paid in full by check **6 months** prior to your departure date, you **save \$100** (2% of your trip price)
*You will save a minimum of \$50 when you pay in full by check.

GOVERNMENT TAXES AND FEES The following government taxes and fees are now included in your airfare price. **Government and other authority taxes and fees:** **September 11th Security Fee** of up to \$2.50 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (maximum charge per trip—\$5.00 USD one-way, \$10.00 USD round trip). A flight segment is defined as one takeoff and one landing. **Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)** of up to \$18 per passenger. **Federal Domestic Flight Segment Fee** of up to \$3.70 USD applies per passenger, per flight segment (defined as a takeoff and a landing). **U.S. or International Departure and Arrival Charges** of up to \$200 USD may apply depending on itinerary. On select itineraries that include the purchase of a pre- and/or post-trip extension, U.S. or international departure and arrival charges of up to \$300 USD may apply. Call for details. Standard Terms & Conditions can be found on the web at www.gct.com/tc.

Reservations & Information:

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-597-2452 • Press 2

For more information feel free to call
Bob Huley at 703-534-4819

Please be ready to give
the reservations agent
the following information

Trip name/code: Discover Sicily: Heart of
the Mediterranean/SIC

Departure date: May 9, 2015

Please mention this
code when booking: **GG5-2386**