



Southern Italy & Sicily With Apulia & the Amalfi Coast

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.

Itinerary

Created on Feb 18, 2026

Southern Italy & Sicily

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Catania, Sicily

DAY 2: Arrive Catania/Taormina

We arrive today in Catania on Italy's autonomous island of Sicily and then transfer by motorcoach to Taormina and our boutique hotel overlooking the Ionian Sea. Tonight, we gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner

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 the 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 with its 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 cultures, Sicilian food incorporates Italian, Arabic, and African influences into a singular and delicious cuisine.

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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. At midday, we enjoy a small group highlight: lunch at a family-run working farm amidst acres of lemon trees and kiwi vines. After returning to our hotel in the mid-afternoon, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6: Taormina/Matera

We leave Sicily today for the mainland region of Basilicata via a day-long transfer which 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 check in to our hotel, a renovated cave dwelling in the city's historic district.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Matera

Today, we explore this city of art and folklore, 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8: Matera/Alberobello/Lecce

Departing Matera this morning, we stop in Alberobello, whose 400 or so *trulli* – whitewashed conical houses with graystone roofs – rank as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We take a walking tour along the pristine cobblestone alleys and step 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9: Lecce

On this morning's tour, we discover the "Florence of the South," so named for the unique decorative style for which Lecce is known: *barocco leccese*, the ornate and intricate sandstone carvings of cherubs, monsters, fruits, and flowers adorning 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 the town as we wish; tonight we enjoy dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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, and then return to Lecce in the mid-afternoon. Dinner tonight is on our own.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11: Lecce/Sorrento

This morning we depart by coach for Sorrento, located by 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12: Sorrento/Pompeii

Today, we visit the excavated ruins at the evocative UNESCO site of Pompeii for a guided tour of 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 cooking lesson, followed by dinner to savor the fruits of our labors.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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, and then enjoy free time for lunch and to explore on our own before we return to Sorrento early this 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.

Meals: Breakfast

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 and 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 15: Depart for U.S.

This morning we transfer to the Naples airport where we connect with our return flight to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast

This tour itinerary was generated for Southern Italy & Sicily on Feb 18, 2026. Please visit the Southern Italy & Sicily page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/europe/southern-italy-sicily/> for the latest and most accurate information.