0800 446 232
info@albatrosstours.com.au



17 Superb Days **Rome to Palermo**
Italy, the Deep South & Sicily

Explore ancient villages, towns & glorious Sicily!

Embark on a captivating exploration of Puglia, Matera and Sicily

Explore the time-honored villages and towns nestled in Puglia and Matera , before venturing to the magnificent island of Sicily. Sleep in the ancient sassi of Matera and the delightful Trulli cottages of Alberobello. Visit beautiful Ortigia Island, the historical heart of ancient Syracuse. Stand on the highest active volcano in Europe, feast in mafia country and cruise along the Zingaro Marine Nature Reserve ... 'va bene'!

Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach

A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners
29 meals including breakfast daily (B), 3 typically 'Italian style' lunches in an orchard garden in Puglia, in 'Godfather Country' and Vittorio's at Porto Palo, light lunch & olive oil tasting at Mandranova Olive Oil farm (L), plus 9 evening meals (D)
Welcome drink on Day 1

Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)
16 nights specially selected hotel accommodation
Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)

Personal audio system whilst on tour (where available)
ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides
Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
Local guides as described in the itinerary

Hand Selected Albatross Inclusions : unique stays in Trulli "Bee-Hive" Houses in Alberobello and the Sassi caves in Matera, guided visit of Lecce, visit the Crypt of the Original Sin and the Valley of the Temples, enjoy a pasta demonstration and lunch in a local orchard garden, a typically Sicilian seafood lunch in a beachfront restaurant, cable car and 4WD bus to Mount Etna, cruise along the Zingaro marine reserve and wine tasting in a Sicilian Baglio
ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described


1 Rome
Italy
Adriatic Sea
Polignano a Mare
Monopoli
Puglia
3 Alberobello
Ostuni
Matera 2
Lecce
Gulf of Taranto
Mediterranean Sea
Calabria
Ionian Sea
Castellammare del Golfo
1 Palermo
Erice
Marsala 3
Segesta
4 Taormina
Mount Etna
Porto Palo
Sciacca
2
Piazza Armerina
Agrigento
Sicily
Syracuse & Ortigia Island
Tour commences
3 Nights
Included excursions

Rome welcome

Day 1 | **Best Western Premier Hotel Royal Santina, Rome** | **D**

Your tour commences this evening in the eternal city of Rome. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner at a local restaurant. This is an ideal chance to meet, and get to know, your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

To Alberobello in the Puglia region

Day 2 | **Trulli Cottages, Alberobello** | **B,D**

Driving across the spine of Italy – the Apennine Mountains – we continue deep into the Puglia region to the remarkable city of Alberobello where we stay three nights. This is one of the most unusual towns you will ever see. The whole city centre is a mass of whitewashed 'bee hive' type houses called 'Trulli' which date back hundreds of years. Puglia is known as Italy's bread basket and is also justifiably famous for its olive oils, wine and local produce. Dinner tonight is included in a local restaurant.

Alberobello sightseeing, Pasta demonstration, Lunch and 'My Time'

Day 3 | **Trulli Cottages, Alberobello** | **B,L**

This morning we are joined by a local guide who will take us on a walking tour of this remarkable 'bee hive' town.
Afterwards, we visit a local orchard, where we learn how to make pasta in a charming setting amongst the fruit trees, followed by a delightful lunch made using the freshest of ingredients grown in the orchard, and accompanied by local wines.
The rest of your afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Ancient Lecce and the white city of Ostuni

Day 4 | **Trulli Cottages, Alberobello** | **B**

Driving down into the Salentine Peninsula – the 'heel of Italy' – we spend the morning exploring the city of Lecce on a walking tour with our local guide. Dating back to the early Greek empire, the city boasts numerous baroque monuments and also has a Roman amphitheatre on the central square. Later we visit 'La Città Bianca' (the 'white city') of Ostuni. Perched on a hill, with views down over the coast, we enjoy time at leisure amongst the winding streets and white washed alleys.

Polignano a Mare and ancient Matera

Day 5 | **Le Grotte della Civita, Matera** | **B,D**

Passing hamlets and typical Pugliese 'masserie' (fortified large estate-farms), we reach the port of Monopoli. Later we continue to the nearby coastal town of Polignano a Mare. Built directly on the cliffs over the sea, Polignano is famous for its gelato and ice cream parlours and makes a perfect lunch stop. Crossing to the 'ankle' of Italy we reach the extraordinary city of Matera - reputed to be the oldest inhabited settlement in Italy, the town encompasses rock churches and numerous Sassi (including the cave complex hotel we will be staying in) with the more 'modern' baroque town on top of the hill. We also visit the Crypt of the Original Sin, located inside one of the many natural caves, adorned with thousand-year-old Biblical frescoes and nicknamed ' The Sistine Chapel of Rupestrian Art'. Your next two nights will be memorable! This evening we dine al fresco style on the terrace of our cave hotel.

Matera sightseeing and 'My Time'

Day 6 | **Le Grotte della Civita, Matera** | **B**

This morning we are joined by a local guide who will show us around this extraordinary town from the ancient rock hewn churches to the baroque city above. We have included entrance to La Casa Grotta – a typically furnished cave dwelling, to gain an insight in to how families lived in their 'Sassi' houses. Your afternoon and evening are free to relax and explore.

Cross the Straits of Messina to Sicily

Day 7 | **Excelsior Palace Hotel, Taormina** | **B,D**

Driving across Calabria and down the toe of Italy we reach the Mediterranean, where we catch the ferry across the Straits of Messina to Sicily. Following the coast we arrive at the stunning town of Taormina where we stay the next four wonderful nights.

'My Time' in Taormina

Day 8 | **Excelsior Palace Hotel, Taormina** | **B**

A totally free day to relax and explore the boutiques, handicraft shops and restaurants which make Taormina so famous. Make sure you visit the Greek Amphitheatre with its striking views and also wander through Villa Comunale, one of the most beautiful little gardens in all of Sicily.

Ancient ruins of Syracuse and Ortigia Island

Day 9 | **Excelsior Palace Hotel, Taormina** | **B**

Driving past Catania we reach the city of Syracuse, where we are joined by a local guide. First stop will be at the temples and massive amphitheatre in the 2500 year old Greek and Roman ruins. We will also visit the overgrown quarries and test the amazing acoustics in the famous 'Ear of Dionysus' cavern. Later we cross onto Ortigia Island, the heart of ancient Syracuse, to wander through the delightful backstreets to the breathtaking architecture of the main square, Piazza del Duomo. Enjoy time to find a quiet café or trattoria for a leisurely lunch.

Mt Etna adventure followed by a leisurely lunch

Day 10 | **Excelsior Palace Hotel, Taormina** | **B,L**

What an adventure today! First we drive up the slopes of Mount Etna to Sapienza Refuge, lying at the south of the crater at an elevation of 1910 metres. Here we board a cable car up to a restaurant and museum at 2500 metres where we meet our local guide who will drive us in a large 4WD bus up to the (usually snow covered) viewing crater area at 2920 metres. You will now be standing on the highest active volcano in Europe with views across to the steaming caldera on one side and the Sicilian coastline far below. All around you will see craters, caldera and petrified lava flow. Following this magnificent experience we descend to the village of Forza d'Agro, just north of Taormina. This area was the setting for some scenes from the film 'The Godfather', and is the perfect location for another leisurely, typically 'Italian style' lunch. The rest of the day and evening is free back in beautiful Taormina.

Piazza Armerina and Agrigento

Day 11 | **The Colleverde Park Hotel, Agrigento** | **B,D**

Cutting through the heart of Sicily we reach Piazza Armerina where a local guide will take us through the opulent Villa Romana del Casale. UNESCO Heritage Listed and one of the great sites of Sicily, this massive 1700 year old Villa was covered by a mud slide in the 12th century which beautifully preserved its breathtaking mosaics. Later we arrive in Agrigento on the south coast, where we stay two nights.

Valley of the Temples and lunch at Mandranova

Day 12 | **The Colleverde Park Hotel, Agrigento** | **B,L**

This morning we are joined by a local guide who will take us through the famous UNESCO Heritage Listed Valley of the Temples. Originally the ancient city of Akragas, and built out of sandstone tufa, the golden amber hue of the giant complex of ruins and temples blend perfectly with the natural surroundings. This afternoon we will drive east to the farm of Mandranova, to enjoy an olive oil tasting and light lunch.

Sciacca and lunch at the famous Vittorio's restaurant

Day 13 | **Baglio Oneto Wine Resort, Marsala** | **B,L,D**

First stop this morning will be in the fishing port of Sciacca. Encircled by 16th century walls, the fascinating old town is where Arab, Norman and Greek cultures co-existed. We then follow the coast to the beach at Porto Palo where we enjoy a delicious seafood lunch at Vittorio's restaurant (specially mentioned in the acclaimed BBC2 series 'Sicily Unpacked'). Later we continue to our hotel inland from Marsala where we stay the next three nights.

Temple ruins at Segesta and Erice

Day 14 | **Baglio Oneto Wine Resort, Marsala** | **B,D**

This morning we visit the Temple ruins at Segesta. Later we visit the city of Erice. Standing on top of Mount Erice, 750 metres above sea level and overlooking the port of Trapani, the views out to San Vito Lo Capo and the Aegadian Islands are fantastic. Here you will still find the remains of the ancient Phoenician fortifications and in the old city there are still two castles. Pepoli Castle which dates from Saracen times and the Venus Castle built by the Normans. Time to relax and wander through the quaint old alleys and cobblestoned streets of the old town, and find a trattoria in a peaceful courtyard to enjoy lunch. This evening before dinner we will enjoy a wine tasting.

Zingaro Marine Nature Reserve cruise & 'My Time'

Day 15 | **Baglio Oneto Wine Resort, Marsala** | **B,D**

After enjoying free time for your morning coffee at the authentic fishing port of Castellammare del Golfo, we board a boat to enjoy a scenic cruise along the Zingaro Marine Nature Reserve, past Scopello and the Faraglioni' rocks. Returning to Castellamarre del Golfo you will have 'My Time' for lunch. Arriving back at Baglio Oneto your afternoon is at leisure.

Palermo sightseeing and 'Farewell to Sicily' dinner

Day 16 | **Hotel Principe di Villafranca, Palermo** | **B,D**

On arrival in Palermo we are joined by a local guide for a panoramic tour to explore the palaces and squares of this most Sicilian of cities! Entrance is included to visit the Palatine Chapel, in the Palace of the Normans, which is adorned in extraordinary 12th century mosaics. You will also have time to shop, or sit and enjoy a leisurely lunch. Tonight we will enjoy our 'Farewell to Sicily' dinner in a local trattoria, a short stroll from our hotel.

Palermo

Day 17 | **Hotel Principe di Villafranca, Palermo** | **B**

Your tour ends today after breakfast.

Hand Selected Inclusions

These are just a few of the very special hand selected inclusions that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



Alberobello
Trulli "Bee-Hive" Houses



Matera
Stay in an extraordinary Cave Hotel



Mount Etna
Adventure by Cable Car and 4WD Bus



Syracuse & Ortigia
Ancient Ruins & a Historical Centre



Agrigento
Valley of the Temples



Mandranova Estate
Olive Oil Tasting & Light Lunch



Vittorio's restaurant
Delicious Seafood Lunch



Baglio Oneto
Wine Tasting



Zingaro Nature Reserve
Coastal Boat Cruise

Dates and Prices

Correct as of 00:24 on 27th November 2026

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	Guaranteed to Depart	
12 May 2027	28 May 2027	NZD$17,484	NZD$21,609	✓	Space Available
09 Jun 2027	25 Jun 2027	NZD$17,484	NZD$21,609		Space Available
01 Sep 2027	17 Sep 2027	NZD$17,484	NZD$21,609	✓	Space Available
15 Sep 2027	01 Oct 2027	NZD$17,484	NZD$21,609	✓	Space Available

29 Sep 2027	15 Oct 2027	NZD$17,484	NZD$21,609	✓	Space Available
10 May 2028	26 May 2028	TBC	TBC		Pre-Register
07 Jun 2028	23 Jun 2028	TBC	TBC		Pre-Register
30 Aug 2028	15 Sep 2028	TBC	TBC		Pre-Register
13 Sep 2028	29 Sep 2028	TBC	TBC		Pre-Register
27 Sep 2028	13 Oct 2028	TBC	TBC		Pre-Register

* The itinerary, inclusions and hotels featured are based on 2027 tour departures and may be subject to change. Any questions, please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

Tour Suitability

- In mid-summer, the heat may be energy sapping.
- In Alberobello and Matera or unique style of accommodation is incredible. In Alberobello we stay in Trulli which are scattered, self-contained 'beehive' houses. Whilst spread around a relatively small area of town, you will need to make your own way to and from the coach meeting points and breakfast centre.
- In Matera our Sassi or 'Caves' are the genuinely authentic. They are all quite easily accessible, in a small area close to the office, but accessed via stone steps and uneven ground.
- Matera is set on a hill and access to the upper levels is by foot up winding, stone streets.
- Mount Etna is exactly that - a mountain! The first part of this excursion is easy. Coach to the first level, close to smaller extinct craters. The next section is also relatively easy being small bubble cable cars up to the restaurant and museum. The altitude here is 2,500 metres so should not be a problem to anyone. The last section can be a little more difficult as you are travelling by 4WD up to 2,900 metres. From here we enjoy a walk around a (quiet!) volcanic crater which takes us up over a ridge. It is not that it is far, it is that you are suddenly at moderate altitude (which is why the views are amazing!) and your breath comes with more effort. The gravelly dust has less immediate grip but is not slippery. You can choose to stay and enjoy the views from the 4WD drop off point or join the 500 metre guided walk. The guide makes a number of stops, each about a hundred metres apart. There is plenty of time, and it is not a race. From experience, with patience and taking it easy, anyone with moderate fitness can do it if they pace themselves. The experience at the top is exhilarating but, above all, you will have the choice as to how far up you want to go.
- Please ensure you have the correct footwear - comfortable enclosed walking shoes are required for your visits in Matera and up Mount Etna.

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

Terms & Conditions

- Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATIA Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707