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Sicily and the Aeolian Islands

28 SEP – 12 OCT 2017 *Code: 21737*

Tour Leaders Em. Prof. Frank Sear, Kate Rowe

Physical Ratings

Explore the rich and varied history of Sicily & the Aeolian Islands, discovering their wealth of archaeological treasures, magnificent medieval mosaics & the grandeur of the Baroque.

Overview

Tour Highlights

- Lectures and site visits by Professor Frank Sear, a world expert on Roman architecture, and lecturer on Classical Archaeology.
- By special appointment visit the Palazzo Federico in Palermo. As guests of Contessa Alwine and Conte Federico we explore the fine medieval, Renaissance and Baroque rooms and enjoy a light aperitivo.
- By special appointment visit the Palazzo Gangi in Palermo, especially noted for its Sicilian Baroque ballroom decorated with Murano chandeliers, gold fittings and glittering mirrors, where in 1963 Visconti filmed the magnificent ball scene of *The Leopard.*
- Visit Greek and Roman cities, villas, theatres and religious sites, and major museums with antique collections, including Syracuse, Agrigento, Selinunte, Taormina and one of the world's greatest corpuses of Roman mosaics in the newly restored Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina.
- Explore the distinctive Arabo-Norman monuments of Sicily, especially the glorious Monreale Cathedral and Palermo's Cappella Palatina and La Martorana.
- Trace the development of Baroque architecture and decoration in Syracuse, Palermo and the ideal city of Noto.
- Attend a traditional Sicilian puppet show in Palermo.
- View masterpieces by Caravaggio: *The Burial of St Lucy* in Syracuse, *The Nativity* and *The Raising of Lazarus* in Messina.
- Encounter the beautifully delicate and soulful work of the Baroque sculptor Serpotta in the oratories of Palermo.
- Take a boat tour of the Aeolian islands Panarea and Stromboli, and explore Lipari with a local expert.

15-day cultural tour of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands

Overnight Syracuse (3 nights) • Agrigento (2 nights) • Palermo (4 nights) • Lipari (3 nights) • Taormina (2 nights).

Overview

Explore the fascinating multi-layered history, art and architecture of Sicily, the largest and most beautiful Mediterranean island, and its unforgettable companions, the atmospheric Aeolian Islands. Sicily and the Aeolians encapsulate 3,000 years of Mediterranean history. We visit Greek temples and theatres in Syracuse, Agrigento, Selinunte and Segesta, and the Roman villa of Casale near Piazza Armerina, one of the world's greatest corpora of Roman mosaics. In Norman Palermo's exotic monuments, its pleasure palaces, courtly chapels, grand cathedrals and ethereal tabernacles, you will find an inimitable mix of Arab stone inlay, fretted windows and intricate ceilings, Byzantine mosaics and Frankish sculpture. Sicily reached its zenith in this period. Its subsequent economic decline nevertheless produced Italy's greatest corpus of literature, and lovely cityscapes inflected by exquisite Baroque churches and opulent palaces. The current owners of two of these palaces – one of them the Palazzo Gangi, made famous in the chapter 'A Ball' of *The Leopard* – will host exclusive visits by the group. After enjoying the medieval pleasure resort of Cefalù, with its ethereal cathedral, we cross to the Aeolian Islands. We cruise around the volcanic island of Stromboli, whose striking lava flows pour slowly down from its smoking summit, and pass the pretty little island of Panarea. We then explore Lipari, a Neolithic exporter of obsidian, Greek colony, victim of Arab and Turkish raids and Norman outpost that was later fortified by the Emperor Charles V. Lipari's quaint fishing villages bask in the sun above the azure sea. We make a stop in Messina to see two masterpieces by Caravaggio,

then make an excursion to Reggio Calabria to see the Riace Bronzes, arguably the greatest surviving Greek bronzes. We end in Taormina, the lovely hilltop town looking across to Mt Etna, and view the spectacular Graeco-Roman theatre.

Leaders

Em. Prof. Frank Sear

A world-renowned architectural historian who directed the Australian Pompeii Project & Australian Roman Theatres Project (Italy, France & Jordan). Frank has lectured for ASA in Rome, Southern Italy, Sicily, Malta, Greece & Croatia since 2011.

Emeritus Professor Frank Sear is a graduate of Cambridge University, where he did both his undergraduate and postgraduate work. As a Scholar at the British School at Rome he did research on Roman Wall and Vault Mosaics and as a Cotton Fellow, he excavated in Benghazi and Leptis Magna, Libya. In 1975 he took up a lecturing position at the University of Adelaide where he taught Classical Archaeology as well as Latin and Greek. He has since been a visiting scholar at the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and Hugh Last Fellow at the British School at Rome. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. In 1991 he took up the position of Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Melbourne. He was co-Director of the Australian Pompeii Project from 1978 to 1988, and since 1990 has directed the Australian Roman Theatres project, which involved surveying the theatres at Gubbio, Taormina, Benevento and Pompeii in Italy, Jerash in Jordan, and Orange in France. He has written numerous articles on his archaeological work and published a number of books including *Roman Wall and Vault Mosaics*, *Roman Architecture*, and *Roman Theatres*. He has led numerous archaeological tours in Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, Egypt, North Africa, Spain and France.

Kate Rowe

A Monash graduate with a background in Italian Studies, History and Archaeology. Kate joined ASA as a Tour Coordinator and Tour Manager in 2014.

Kate completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne in 2000, with major studies in Classics & Archaeology and Psychology. She subsequently completed her Honours degree in Italian Studies at Monash University in 2005; her research explored gender issues in Renaissance literary text and letters. While at Monash she taught medieval and early modern history, as well as Italian language. She also co-led the ASA – Monash University credit course *The Renaissance in Florence* in 2007. She recently completed her Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics at Monash University.

Kate has travelled extensively and has lived in Italy and the UK. She is fluent in Italian and has worked as a research assistant in Florence, as an English teacher and translator in Naples, and even used her Italian coffee-making skills while working in a coffee bar in Chester, England.

Kate joined ASA as a Tour Cooordinator in 2014 and in 2015 she co-managed *An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik*, led by Emeritus Professor Frank Sear. She accompanied Frank to Greece in May 2016 as Tour Manager for *A Journey through Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece and the Classical World* and to Italy in September 2016 for *Sicily and the Aeolian Islands* – and will reprise this role in Sicily in September/October 2017.

Combine this tour with

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7 SEP – 25 SEP 2017

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14 OCT – 2 NOV 2017

Itinerary

The detailed itinerary provides an outline of the proposed daily program. Participants should note that the daily activities described in this itinerary may be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate changes in museum opening hours, flight schedules etc. All meals are included in the tour price and are indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal. All entrance fees and permits are included in the tour price.

Syracuse - 3 nights

Day 1: Thursday 28 September, Catania Airport – Syracuse

- Arrival transfer from Catania Airport to Syracuse for participants taking the ASA 'designated' flight
- Welcome Meeting & evening at leisure

Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight are scheduled to arrive at Catania's airport in the late afternoon. Participants not travelling on this flight should discuss the meeting arrangements with their ASA consultant. After collecting your luggage, you will travel by private coach to the Grand Hotel Ortigia in Syracuse. Following a welcome meeting, the evening is at leisure to relax after your flight. (Overnight Syracuse)

Day 2: Friday 29 September, Syracuse

- Temple of Apollo
- Cathedral (Temple of Athena)
- Museo Bellomo (optional)
- Afternoon at leisure
- Welcome Dinner

Syracuse (Siracusa) was the most prominent Greek city-state in Sicily and the heart of Sicilian-Greek

civilisation. The ancient city was constructed on the island of Ortigia, still the heart of the old city. Syracuse was ruled successively by the Romans, Arabo-Muslims, Normans and Spanish Habsburgs. These layers of civilisation can all be found in its cathedral. Under its floor have been discovered the remains of pre-Greek huts (8th century BC). Greek colonists built an archaic temple on the site in the 6th century BC. This was replaced in the 5th century BC by the Temple of Athena, which was inaugurated to celebrate the victory of Himera.

In the 7th century the Byzantine Bishop Zosimus converted the temple to a church which was dedicated to the city's patron saint, Santa Lucia (c.281-301 AD). This early martyr took on many of the attributes of her pagan predecessor, Athena. Openings were cut in the temple's *cella* to form an arcade to connect the nave to the aisles formed by filling the spaces between the columns of its *pteron*; we may still discern the massive Doric columns embedded in the medieval flanking walls of the building. Atop these are the remains of *triglyphs* and *metopes* surmounted by Norman crenellation. The temple had literally been turned inside out to become a church. Syracuse cathedral became a mosque under the Muslims. The Normans constructed a new façade that was later destroyed by an earthquake and replaced with a grandiose Baroque façade between 1728 and 1754.

Our morning will be an exploration of the old town of Syracuse where we will visit the Cathedral, the solid Doric colonnades that survive of the Temple of Apollo and the extraordinary Arethusa Fountain, a natural freshwater spring that wells up just a metre or so from the saltwater of the harbour. In the Piazza del Duomo close to the cathedral we shall visit a small shrine in which we shall see Caravaggio's late masterpiece *The Burial of Saint Lucy*. This poignant image has recently been returned to its original location, and is one of the great artist's most powerful late works.

There will also be the option of visiting the Museo Bellomo, a small museum in a medieval palace with medieval sculpture collection. Its greatest treasure is Antonello da Messina's *Annunciation*, a recently restored triptych that is a masterpiece of the Renaissance by Italy's first painter to use oils. The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure to enjoy the historic heart of this beautiful city before we meet again in the evening to partake in a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Syracuse) BD

Day 3: Saturday 30 September, Syracuse – Noto – Syracuse

- Greek Theatre, Syracuse
- Quarries – prisons, Syracuse
- 'Ideal City' of Noto: A spectacular 'Baroque stage set'
- Afternoon at leisure

Syracuse was probably the richest city in the Hellenic world. Although it did not control the whole of Sicily, which was made up of independent city-states, it was the major Greek city in the Western Mediterranean and in many ways outshone the Greek and Ionian cities which had originally colonised the island. This morning we will delve into Syracuse's past by visiting the archaeological complex of the great theatre. We will also visit the quarries where the stone used to build Syracuse was dug, and where the prisoners from the unsuccessful Athenian attack on the city during the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC) were incarcerated.

In 1693 the east of Sicily was devastated by a terrible earthquake which destroyed many of its towns. One of these was the old town of Noto (Noto Antico), which had been built by Muslims high on a crag above the great Val di Noto, which dominates the south-western third of the island.

In the 18th century most of these towns were rebuilt, including Noto, which was moved away from its defensible but inaccessible medieval site down to a broad shelf near the Mediterranean. This relocation

enabled a regular plan to be adopted with broad, straight avenues that could be used by aristocratic carriages. These avenues, lined with the impressive façades of palaces and monasteries, provided a setting for aristocratic life that would have been impossible in the cramped old hilltop town. The relocation, however, involved difficulties. The peasant population did not want to move because they would have to walk much further each day to their fields. Also, the broad escarpment where the new city was positioned was exposed to pirates that regularly raided Sicily's shores. Moreover, the plans for the new city were grandiose and could never be funded completely. The project, nevertheless, proceeded, but because the ordinary people would not move and because of lack of funds, many of the projected buildings behind the façades flanking the avenues were not constructed, giving Noto the fascinating aura of an 18th-century stage set. We shall explore this 'ideal city', which is arguably the prettiest of all the 18th-century ideal towns built after the earthquake. We then return to Syracuse, where the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. (Overnight Syracuse) B

Agrigento - 2 nights

Day 4: Sunday 1 October, Syracuse – Piazza Armerina – Agrigento

- Roman Villa of Casale, Piazza Armerina

This morning we drive inland from Syracuse, through the region that the 19th-century writer, Giovanni Verga, made famous in his novels about the horrors of peasant life in Sicily. One of his short works became the libretto of *Cavalleria Rusticana.*

Outside Piazza Armerina we will visit the Roman villa of Casale, located at the centre of an imperial *latifundium*, or agricultural estate. The villa is decorated with an important series of floor mosaics depicting hunts, chariot races and the capture of animals for the Colosseum in Rome. These mosaics, one of the most extensive mosaic series extant, reflect the influence of Roman Africa upon Sicily. Their vivid style and depiction of exotic animals clearly connect them to the mosaic styles of Libya, Tunisia and East Algeria. In the afternoon we shall drive to Agrigento, where we shall be based for two nights. (Overnight Agrigento) BD

Day 5: Monday 2 October, Agrigento

- Archaeological Museum, Agrigento
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- Temples of Zeus, Hercules, Concord, and Hera, Agrigento
- Dinner at a local restaurant

Greek Akragas (Roman Agrigentum) on the south coast of the island was founded by the Sicilian city of Gela in 581 BC. It was ruled by tyrants in the 6th century BC, was sacked by Carthage (406 BC) and conquered by Timoleon (340 BC). It was taken by the Romans (261 and 210 BC) and then became a Muslim city in 827 AD. It was conquered by Count Roger of Normandy in 1087.

We shall first visit the Archaeological Museum, which has a large collection and some excellent models of the temples to be seen in the Greek archaeological site. After lunch at a charming local restaurant we visit the temples of Zeus, Hercules, Concord, and Hera. The Temple of Concord is the best-preserved Greek temple after the Theseion in Athens. Tonight we dine at a local restaurant. (Overnight Agrigento) BLD

Palermo - 4 nights

Day 6: Tuesday 3 October, Agrigento – Selinunte – Segesta – Palermo

- Temples and City, Selinunte
- Temple and Theatre, Segesta
- Dinner at a local restaurant

The Greek city of Selinus (Selinunte) is of great significance because, like Agrigento and Segesta, it preserves monuments from the Greek Archaic period; few temples of such antiquity remain in Greece. Unlike many other sites from antiquity, Selinus was never over-built in later eras and therefore affords a clearer understanding of the layout of Greek cities than many of its counterparts. Its isolation on the lonely shores of Southern Sicily gives it a particularly evocative quality.

We will visit the acropolis, the fortified citadel of the Greek polis, and also several temples, reconstructed during the 19th and 20th centuries. In the afternoon we visit the Greek site of Segesta. This city, whose well-preserved temple and theatre have few parallels, was founded by the Elymni. Its temple, which remained unfinished, gives a fascinating insight into how Greek temples were built. Its present state probably resulted from Segesta's defeat by Selinus in 416 BC. High above the sacred area of the city stands a 3rd century theatre, looking out over a vast panorama, a vivid indication of the importance of siting and orientation to Greek cities and shrines.

In the early evening we will arrive in the Sicilian capital, Palermo, where we will be based for four nights. Tonight's dinner will be at a local trattoria. (Overnight Palermo) BD

Day 7: Wednesday 4 October, Palermo – Monreale – Palermo

- Castello della Zisa
- Cathedral and Cloister, Monreale
- Chiesa della Martorana
- San Cataldo

Palermo, founded by the Phoenicians, eclipsed Greek Syracuse under the Muslims, who made it capital of Sicily. The Normans also made it their royal capital and many of the most beautiful monuments of the city and its surroundings come from this period. Outside Palermo's city walls, in the Conca d'Oro, the Normans laid out a royal park in the Islamic style, with palaces and hunting lodges. The Zisa Palace was built here by William II (1166-1189). This cuboid structure takes the form of an Islamic hall with a central cruciform reception chamber flanked by smaller rooms. The roof has *muqarnas* or stalactite decoration, corbels, and walls decorated with blind arcades. Water runs in a narrow channel through the palace. The building evokes the poetry of Islamic palatial life.

The Normans built a number of cathedrals in Sicily; the counterparts of their great shrines in Normandy, England and southern Italy. The most interesting of these are Monreale and Cefalù, in which naves of western inspiration are appended to apses that echo those of centrally planned Byzantine churches like Hosios Lukas in Greece. Between each apse and nave is a strange gabled crossing which provides a fluid spatial transition between these two heterogeneous spaces. This gable replaces the central dome in a Byzantine shrine which invariably possesses an image of 'Christ Pantocrator'. The absence of such a dome at Monreale and Cefalù necessitated that the 'Christ Pantocrator' image inhabit the conch of the apse.

We ascend the hills which surround the Conca d'Oro to Monreale, where we visit the cathedral and its cloister. Whereas Cefalù's apsidal area resembles those of tall, narrow, centrally planned Byzantine churches, Monreale's is wide and airy. Its nave resembles those of Early Christian basilicas in Rome. The apsidal 'Christ Pantocrator' is less ethereal at Monreale than at Cefalù, and the wall mosaics which celebrate the lives of Christ, the Virgin and Saints Peter and Paul, are more lively than those in the Martorana or

Cappella Palatina. This reflects the influence of the western narrative tradition upon Monreale, the last of the Sicilian churches to be constructed.

The exterior walls of the cathedral's apse are enlivened by splendid blind arcades. These are articulated by sophisticated geometrical patterns of coloured stone inlay. Their forms are thought to derive from Arab sacred geometry and astrology. To the south of the cathedral is its cloister – a masterful fusion of Islamic form and Norman decoration. The arches of the cloister, like Monreale's apse, are patterned with inlay. In one corner, a fountain shaped like a palm tree is surrounded by a small arcade; an architectural representation of an oasis. The columns of the cloister, in contrast, are topped with storiated capitals like those of Cluniac monasteries and churches on the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela.

On our way back to Palermo we visit 'La Martorana' (Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio) which is a centrally-planned Byzantine church decorated with, arguably, the finest mosaics in Sicily (1140). It was built by Roger I's admiral, George of Antioch, and in 1433 was presented to a monastery founded by Eloisa Martorana, after whom it was later named. In 1588 it gained a Baroque façade. From 'La Martorana' we walk the short distance to the oratory of San Cataldo. This cuboid building was never completed because, when the patron died, work on it ceased. Although San Cataldo never gained its mosaics, there is the hidden benefit of being able to clearly discern the structure of an Arabo-Norman church. (Overnight Palermo) B

Day 8: Thursday 5 October, Palermo

- Palazzo dei Normanni, Cappella Palatina
- San Giovanni degli Eremiti
- Palermo Cathedral
- Private tour of Palazzo Conte Federico
- Afternoon at leisure
- 'Teatro dei Pupi' – traditional Sicilian puppet show

We spend today in Palermo, exploring the town with its combination of Byzantine, Arabo-Muslim and Norman styles. We begin our study with visits to the Palazzo dei Normanni (Palazzo Reale) and the Cappella Palatina (Palatine Chapel), which show this fusion of elements. The Palatine Chapel takes the form of a western basilica but its nave has one of the finest Muslim wooden ceilings extant. Below this are Byzantine mosaics and Muslim inlaid stone dados. We continue to the church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti; a composite building with pink Byzantine domes, a Norman nave and an Arabo-Muslim arcade. Fragmentary remains of a mosque abut this church. We end the morning with a visit to Palermo Cathedral, the east end of which was constructed upon the foundations of the Friday mosque.

At midday we visit Palazzo Conte Federico, the private home of Count Federico, whose line can be traced back directly to the Emperor Friedrich II. Palazzo Conte Federico is, in fact, the oldest continuously inhabited palace in Palermo. It was built into the Punic-Roman city walls which originally surrounded ancient Panormus. One of its rooms is part of a tower of Arabo-Norman origin and is one of the few standing sections of the old city wall. Above its double-arched Norman windows can be seen the coat of arms of the imperial Hohenstaufen family of the kingdom of Aragon and the city of Palermo. The palace also has medieval, Renaissance and Baroque rooms and, therefore, encapsulates the history of the city in its layout, decoration and furniture. High painted ceilings from the 14th century, Baroque ceiling frescoes by Vito D'Anna and Gaspare Serenario, various sculptures, Marabitti's lion fountain (17th century) and the grand stairway with the interior walls by Marvuglia, are features of Conte Federico's fine home. Our private tour of the palace will include a light aperitivo.

In the evening we attend a special puppet show performance, enacting the wars of Charlemagne and his

knights against the Arabs at one of Palermo's few remaining traditional puppet theatres. This lively performance, in which there is much fighting and spilling of puppet entrails (in the form of streamers), draws upon theatre traditions of the 19th century which romanticised Sicily's past; it was at this time that literature began to emphasise the island's 'exotic' heritage. The epic cycles told in the puppet shows, however, draw upon more ancient sources. When the art of puppetry was introduced to Sicily in the early 19th century, it fused with the craft of the Sicilian storyteller who entertained people in the streets of the cities, towns and villages. This form of entertainment is thought by some to have its roots in the Norman period. (Overnight Palermo) B

Day 9: Friday 6 October, Palermo

- Chiesa di San Francesco D'Assisi
- San Lorenzo Oratory
- The Palermo of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's novel, *The Leopard*: Private visit to the Palazzo Gangi
- S. Cita Oratory
- Regional Archeological Museum Antonio Salinas

Our morning's program commences with a visit to the Chiesa di San Francesco D'Assisi, followed by a visit to San Lorenzo, a neighbouring oratory decorated with the cycles of the life of St Laurence and the Passion of Christ. Also by Serpotta, each scene in the narrative is presented in a small stage-like box that enclosed the space and allowed the master sculptor to convey an illusionary sense of depth, with the main figures in each scene dramatically interacting. The viewer is given the impression that he or she is looking through a window into the lives of Christ and St Laurence.

The highlight of today, and perhaps of your whole tour, is a visit to the exquisite, untouched 18th-century Gangi palace which was the setting for the chapter of Lampedusa's melancholic, ironic novel, *The Leopard*, entitled 'A Ball'. You will be conducted through this private palace (not open to the public) which is almost exactly as it was when Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa wrote his enchanting description.

We then visit Santa Cita Oratory, which contains works by the Baroque master, Serpotta. Here in the elaborate High Baroque style, we find scenes representing the twelve feasts from the life of Christ, presented in the same stage-like boxes that we will encounter later at San Lorenzo. A highlight of the decorative scheme is the representation of the important Battle of Lepanto that covers the rear wall of the room.

After lunch we explore the Regional Archeological Museum Antonio Salinas. It possesses one of the richest collections of Punic and Ancient Greek art in Italy, as well as many items related to the history of Sicily.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Palermo) B

Lipari - 3 nights

Day 10: Saturday 7 October, Palermo – Cefalù – Milazzo – Lipari (Aeolian Islands)

- Cefalù Cathedral
- Ferry from Milazzo to the Aeolian island of Lipari

This morning we check out of our hotel and drive to Cefalù, where Roger II built an Arabo-Norman pleasure-palace and his cathedral. The west end of Cefalù Cathedral is a particularly noteworthy fusion of Arab and

Norman architectural elements. Whilst its general massing could be called Norman, the twin bell towers which dominate it may be based upon North African minarets. Cefalù's *Christ Pantocrator* is more ethereal than those of the Cappella Palatina and Monreale. Cefalù's mystical image is probably of purely Byzantine provenance, whereas the more vivacious and worldly Monreale *Christ Pantocrator* was made by Byzantine-trained, Sicilian craftsmen.

From Cefalù we drive east along the north coast of Sicily to Milazzo. From here we take a ferry to the Aeolian island of Lipari. (Overnight Lipari) BD

Day 11: Sunday 8 October, The Aeolian Islands

- Morning at leisure
- Cruise to the islands of Panarea and Stromboli

We spend this afternoon and evening on a wonderful cruise to the islands of Stromboli and Panarea, some 20 kilometres away. We shall visit Panarea, then continue on to Stromboli. After time to stroll about this charming island we return to our boat to enjoy the sunset spectacle of the regular spurts of lava and sparks that errupt from the summit to illuminate the night sky. We shall return to Lipari for a light, late dinner at the hotel. (Overnight Lipari) BLD

Day 12: Monday 9 October, The Aeolian Islands

- Lipari Archaeological Museum
- Lipari Island Tour

Lipari has known human habitation since at least the 6th millennium BC. With Sardinia, it was one of the earliest (Neolithic) exporters of obsidian, which found its way all across Europe. It was colonised by the Greeks, then raided by the Arabs from Sicily, who depopulated the island and then used it as a base to attack the coasts of the Tyrrhenian Sea (Italy, Sardinia, Corsica and the South of France). The Normans eventually drove them from the island and the Pisans forced them from the Tyrrhenian. The Turks later raided Lipari and enslaved its population. The Emperor Charles V repopulated Lipari, and caused massive defensive fortifications to be built.

This morning we shall visit Lipari's major archaeological museum, and then, after lunchtime at leisure to explore the quaint old town, we will board our coach for an afternoon tour of the island. Lipari's landscape is very beautiful, and its coasts afford spectacular views of its fellow islands. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (Overnight Lipari) BD

Taormina - 2 nights

Day 13: Tuesday 10 October, Lipari – Milazzo – Messina – Reggio Calabria –Taormina

- Ferry from Lipari to Milazzo
- Caravaggio's last works at the Messina Regional Art Museum
- 'Riace Bronzes', Reggio di Calabria

Early this morning we take a ferry back from Lipari to Milazzo then drive by coach to Messina, where we will visit the city's art museum to view Caravaggio's last works, the *Nativity* and the *Raising of Lazarus*. These masterpieces of his final period will be compared to the Syracuse Caravaggio. The Messina *Raising of Lazarus* is of particular interest for the large areas of undifferentiated background in front of which the figure

group of the painting hangs like a vision.

We shall also view works saved from churches after the disastrous tidal wave of 1908. Among these is a beautiful painting by Antonello da Messina, who is often credited as the first (Renaissance) Italian to work in oils. There are also Byzantine mosaics and a fine small medieval sculpture collection.

After lunchtime at leisure we cross the Strait of Messina by ferry to Reggio Calabria on the Italian mainland to view the famous 'Riace Bronzes', the monumental Greek bronze figures found in the sea off Riace in 1972. These are some of the most significant works of Greek antiquity to be seen anywhere. We shall then continue south to Taormina, where the evening will be at leisure. (Overnight Taormina) B

Day 14: Wednesday 11 October, Taormina

- Graeco-Roman Theatre, Taormina
- Afternoon at leisure
- Farewell Dinner

Mount Etna dominates Taormina's southern horizon, acting as a backdrop to its ancient theatre. When the Romans incorporated Greek and Carthaginian Sicily into their empire they transformed Taormina and its theatre. The theatre, which was once a simple conch carved out of the mountainside looking out at Etna, gained a monumental backdrop like Roman theatres elsewhere. Taormina was fortified during the Middle Ages and small palaces were built by its major families.

We shall spend this morning exploring medieval Taormina and its ancient theatre. The remainder of the day will be at leisure before we meet up again for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Taormina) BD

Day 15: Thursday 12 October, Depart Taormina. Tour Ends

- Airport transfer from Taormina to Catania Airport for those taking the ASA 'designated' flight

Participants taking the ASA 'designated' flight will be transferred to Catania airport in the early morning. B

Accommodation

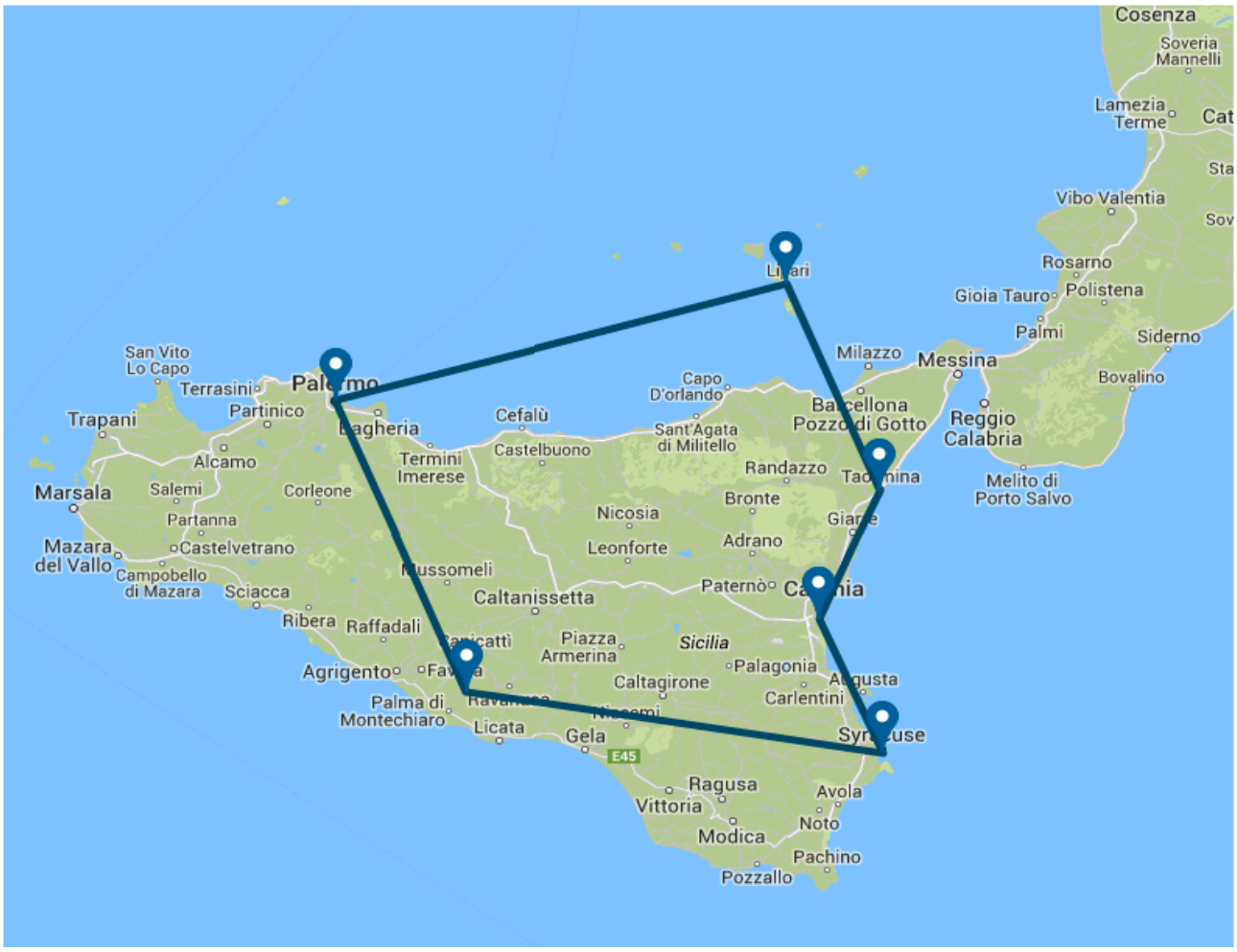
15 days in Sicily & the Aeolian Islands

A special feature of this tour is our stay in several heritage hotels. ASA has selected 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with private facilities. Double rooms (for single occupancy) may be requested and are subject to availability and payment of the single supplement. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- Syracuse (3 nights): 5-star Grand Hotel Siracusa - housed in a historic building, located on the Island of Ortigia. www.grandhotelsr.it
- Agrigento (2 nights): 4-star Colleverde Park Hotel - a modern hotel located near the Valley of the Temples www.colleverdehotel.it
- Palermo (4 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa - a hotel located in the heart of the historic centre incorporating 3 adjacent buildings that once formed a grand monastery; the hotel retains a number of historic features including a beautiful interior cloister. www.piazzaborsa.it
- Lipari (3 nights): 4-star Hotel Tritone - a charming hotel located close to the town centre, set within a beautiful, lush garden. www.hoteltritonelipari.com
- Taormina (2 nights): 4-star Excelsior Palace Hotel - a charming hotel, bordered by the remains of a Graeco-Roman wall, overlooking the bay of Naxos. www.excelsiorpalacetaormina.it

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Tour Map


Cosenza
Soveria Mannelli
Lamezia Terme
Vibo Valentia
Rosarno
Gioia Tauro
Polistena
Palmi
Siderno
Bovalino
Milazzo
Messina
Reggio Calabria
Melito di Porto Salvo
Capo D'orlando
Sant'Agata di Militello
Randazzo
Bronte
Nicosia
Leonforte
Adrano
Paternò
Cefalù
Castelbuono
Termini Imerese
Caltanissetta
Piazza Armerina
Sicilia
Palagonia
Caltagirone
Carlentini
Augusta
Licata
Gela
E45
Ragusa
Vittoria
Modica
Avola
Noto
Pachino
Pozzallo
San Vito Lo Capo
Terrasini
Partinico
Trapani
Alcamo
Marsala
Salemi
Corleone
Partanna
Castelvetrano
Mazara del Vallo
Campobello di Mazara
Sciacca
Ribera
Raffadali
Agrigento
Palma di Montechiaro

Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD $7490.00 Land Content Only - Early-Bird Special: book before 31 October 2016

AUD $7690.00 Land Content Only

AUD $1040.00 Double (as Single) Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4-star hotels.
- Breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=Lunch & D=evening meal
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports or ferry terminals)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour notes & Tour handbook
- Entrance fees to museums, monuments & puppet show
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia - Catania, Catania - Australia
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance

Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings

The number of flags (indicated in the right column) is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, six to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 15-day cultural tour of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands involves:

- Moderate walking and standing during site visits; walking tours may include steep slopes, flights of stairs, cobbled streets, visits to hill-top towns and uneven ground at archaeological sites
- Some days involve long stretches on winding coastal roads and there are several days of long-distance coach journeys
- Visiting a range of towns and villages on foot, involving walks uphill from bus parks to historic town centres and other sites
- Using stairs in museums (lifts are not always available)
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.

Other considerations:

- 4-star hotels with four hotel changes
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel porterage includes 1 piece of luggage per person. Porterage is not available at the ferry ports and you will need to manage your own luggage on and off the boat.
- Return ferry excursion from Sicily to the Aeolian Islands (Day 10 & Day 13) and to Reggio Calabria

(Day 13)
- Cruise to the islands of Stromboli and Panarea (Day 11)

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers see: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

Make A Reservation

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD $500.00 per person (payable to Australians Studying Abroad).

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Double (as Single) Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single use throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) ( ) _____ TEL. (BH) ( ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth / / GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

Passport

Number _____ Expiry date / / Nationality _____

☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Travel Plans

☐ I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. ☐ Business Class ☐ Economy Class

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / /

☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer Membership # _____ Name of Airline _____ Airline Seat preference _____ (please note request only)

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other _____

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) ( ) _____ TEL. (BH) ( ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Medical Information

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at **www.asatours.com.au**
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel:1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

	YES	NO
1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?	○	○
2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	○	○
3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	○	○
4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	○	○
5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?	○	○
6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?	○	○
7. Can you administer your own medication?	○	○
8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour?	○	○

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

	YES	NO
1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?	○	○

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

	YES	NO
1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?	●	○

If yes, please specify

_____

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?	○	○

If yes, please specify

_____

Do you carry an epipen?	○	○
3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?	○	○

If yes, please specify

_____

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

	YES	NO
1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?	○	○

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?	○	○

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?	○	○
Are you insulin dependent?	○	○
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.	○	○

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
   a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
   b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
   c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of $500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: $500*

75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due

45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due

14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

This amount may be **credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.*

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form

☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Payment Form

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of $ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel
- ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment
- ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance
- ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank	ANZ
Branch	420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code	ANZBAU3M
BSB	013-423
Account No	3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

_____

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: **Mastercard & Visa** **1.95%**
American Express **2.80%**

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) _____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____

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