

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands 2023

13 OCT - 27 OCT 2023

Code: 22342

Tour Leaders

Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert

Physical Ratings

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



Overview

Travel with Emeritus Professor Bernard Hoffert, an art historian and artist. Bernard is the former World President of the International Association of Art-UNESCO, and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at Monash University.

- By special appointment, visit Palazzo Conte 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 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 and Taormina.
- In Noto tour the renovated Palazzo di Lorenzo Castelluccio; its sumptuous rooms contain original frescoes and tiles, faithfully reproduced wallpaper and an exquisite collection of *objets d'art*.
- Discover one of the world's greatest corpora of Roman mosaics in the newly restored UNESCO World Heritage-listed 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 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 delicate, soulful work of the Baroque sculptor Serpotta in the oratories of Palermo.
- Take a boat tour of the Aeolian islands Panarea and Stromboli; explore Lipari with a local expert.

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

About the Tour

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 3000 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 graceful 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 ballroom scene of Visconti's film The Leopard – will host exclusive visits. 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 make a stop on the pretty little island of Panarea. We explore Lipari itself, 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 visit Messina to see two masterpieces by Caravaggio, and 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 ancient theatre.

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Testimonials

The trip to Sicily with ASA was a long-intended visit originally fuelled by John Julius Norwich's history of the Norman kingdom of Sicily. The tour proved to be 'just right' in its mix of ancient sites, more recent historical eras, and modern culture, in its mix of organised activities and free time, and in the overall pace of the action. All hotels were excellent. ASA are to be commended for a balanced and well-organised tour. Greg & Penny, VIC.

An excellent introduction to Sicily and its history, well organised, with very beautiful and interesting places visited. Rose, QLD.

I wish I had known about ASA years ago! So different to even the best general tours. Patricia, VIC.



Leaders



Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert

Art historian and artist, former World President of the International Assoc. of Art-UNESCO and former Associate Dean, Art & Design, Monash University.

Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert was formerly Associate Dean in the Faculty of Art and Design at Monash University, with responsibility for the Faculty's Higher Degree by Research program, for which he developed one of the largest studio-based PhD programs in the world. He was also responsible for the Faculty's International activities and external profile, including the Faculty Gallery. He headed five departments while at Monash, including the art school.

Bernard was the World President of the International Association of Art-UNESCO (1992-95) and remains an Honorary President; he has been Honorary President of the Asia-Pacific Regional Council of the International Association of Art-UNESCO and has continued involvement with UNESCO through the International Society for Education through Art (InSEA). He has been a member of the Global Advisory Board of the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Network, Columbia University (2006-12).

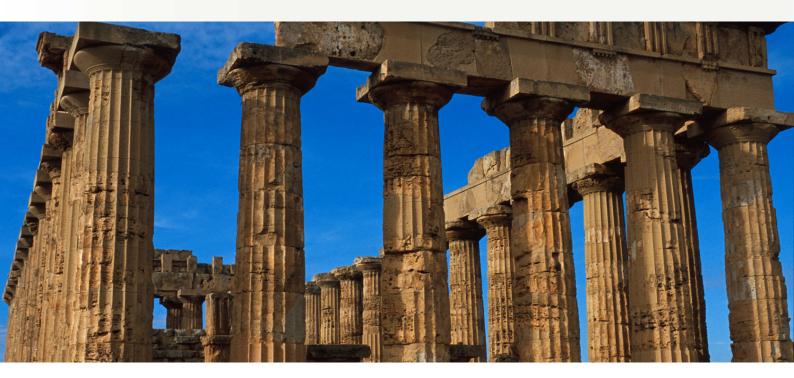
He was Vice President of the Academic Board of Monash University (2008-2010). He has been a member of the Review Boards of the Art Education Research Journal, Melbourne University (2004-12), the Art Education Australia Research Journal (2004-12), and a member of the Monash Asia Institute Publication Board (MUP) from 2001-11. He has been a member of the Executive Committees of the Australian Council of University Art and Design Schools (ACUADS) and Art Education Australia (AEA), and coordinated AEA's research development. He has also contributed to standing committees of Art Education Victoria and the National Association of the Visual Arts. Recently Bernard has worked with Griffiths and Flinders Universities using the Monash Synchrotron on a process to identify authorship in Renaissance paintings. Bernard is regularly listed in Marquis' Who's Who in the World and has been awarded the Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bernard first joined ASA in 1981, and is ASA's second longest standing group leader. He has led over 50 ASA tours, including programs to Italy, France, Spain, Eastern Europe, Tunisia, Malta, Algeria, and the United Kingdom. He has led ASA tours to most regions of Italy, including Lombardy, the Veneto, Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio (Rome) and Sicily, and has a deep knowledge of the rhythms of Italian art history and Italy's profound contribution to the Western tradition.

Combine this tour with

Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic 2023 28 SEP – 12 OCT 2023





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. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. Meals included in the tour price are indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B =breakfast, L=lunch, and D=dinner.

Syracuse - 3 nights

Day 1: Friday 13 October, Catania Airport - Syracuse

- Arrival transfer from Catania Airport to Syracuse for participants taking the ASA 'designated' flight
- Evening at leisure

Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight are scheduled to arrive at Catania's airport in the evening. 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. The evening is at leisure to relax after your flight. (Overnight Syracuse)

Day 2: Saturday 14 October, Syracuse

- Welcome Meeting
- Temple of Apollo
- Cathedral (Temple of Athena)
- Caravaggio's late masterpiece, The Burial of Saint Lucy
- Museo Bellomo museum of medieval art (optional)
- Afternoon at leisure
- Welcome Dinner



After a Welcome Meeting, we explore the old town of Syracuse (Siracusa), where we will visit the solid Doric colonnades that survive of the Temple of Apollo and then the Cathedral.

Syracuse 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 centre 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.

We shall arrive at the extraordinary Arethusa Fountain, a natural freshwater spring that wells up just a metre or so from the saltwater of the harbour. After this, we return to the Piazza del Duomo, to 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 a medieval sculpture collection. Its greatest treasure is Antonello da Messina's *Annunciation*, a recently restored triptych that is a masterpiece of the Renaissance, executed 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: Sunday 15 October, Syracuse - Noto - Syracuse

- Greek Theatre, Syracuse
- Quarries prisons, Syracuse
- 'Ideal City' of Noto: A spectacular 'Baroque stage set'
- Palazzo di Lorenzo Castelluccio, Noto

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

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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.

Before returning to Syracuse we enjoy a private tour of the Palazzo di Lorenzo Castelluccio. Built for the Marquis of Castellucio in 1782, the palazzo was abandoned for decades following the death of the last marquis. In 2011 it was purchased by French journalist and documentary filmmaker Jean-Louis Remilleux who spent four years restoring it. A tour of this palazzo provides a wonderful insight into how Noto's nobility once lived. Its sumptuous rooms contain original frescoes and tiles, faithfully reproduced wallpaper, an exquisite collection of *objets d'art*, furniture and period paintings. We also view the majolica-adorned stables. The palazzo served as Roxanne's apartment in the 2021 romantic film, *Cyrano*. (Overnight Syracuse) B

Agrigento - 2 nights

Day 4: Monday 16 October, Syracuse – Piazza Armerina – Agrigento

• UNESCO World Heritage-listed 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 drive to Agrigento, where we are based for two nights. (Overnight Agrigento) BD

Day 5: Tuesday 17 October, Agrigento

- Archaeological Museum, Agrigento
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- UNESCO World Heritage-listed Valley of the Temples

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 local restaurant we visit the Valley of the Temples, spectacularly located above the Mediterranean. We shall view the temples of Zeus, Hercules, Concord, and Hera. The Temple of Concord is the best-preserved Greek temple after the Theseion in Athens. (Overnight Agrigento) BLD



Palermo - 4 nights

Day 6: Wednesday 18 October, Agrigento – Selinunte – Segesta – Palermo

- Temples and City site, 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: Thursday 19 October, Palermo

- Church of St Francis of Assisi
- San Lorenzo Oratory
- The Palermo of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's novel, *The Leopard*: Private tour of the Palazzo Gangi, by special appointment
- S. Cita Oratory
- Museo Archeologico Regionale 'Antonino Salinas'

Our morning's program commences with a visit to the Church of St Francis of Assisi, which contains works by the Baroque master, Serpotta, 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. It was in the ballroom of Palazzo Gangi that Luchino Visconti filmed the famous ball scene for his cinematic adaptation of Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's melancholic, ironic novel, *The Leopard*. You will be shown around this private palace, which is almost exactly as it was in the age when the novel was set.

We then walk to one of Serpotta's last commissions, the Santa Cita oratory. 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 encountered earlier 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.



Our final visit for the day is to the city's archaeological museum, Museo Archeologico Regionale 'Antonio Salinas'. This museum is newly reopened after a long period of renovation. The collection includes the metopes from the temples at Selinunte and treasures from other archaeological sites in Sicily. (Overnight Palermo) B

Day 8: Friday 20 October, Palermo – Monreale – Palermo

- La Zisa, 12th-century palace in the Arabo-Norman style
- Cathedral and Cloister, Monreale
- Churches of 'La Martorana' and San Cataldo

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 return to Palermo we shall 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.

The companion to the Martorana is San Cataldo, a small, fascinating church. 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. Nearby is the Bellini restaurant, where Lampedusa wrote much of his great novel, *The Leopard*.



(Overnight Palermo) B

Day 9: Saturday 21 October, Palermo

- Palazzo dei Normanni: Cappella Palatina and Royal Apartments
- Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti
- Palermo Cathedral
- Private tour of Palazzo Conte Federico, by special appointment
- Afternoon at leisure
- 'Teatro dei Pupi' traditional Sicilian puppet show

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. 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's cathedral, the east end of which was constructed upon the foundations of the Friday mosque, which was itself built upon the site of an early Christian basilica. While not as visually striking as the exterior, the interior contains an interesting feature – the Royal and Imperial Tombs, which we shall visit.

At midday we shall be guests of Contessa Alwine and Conte Federico as we visit Palazzo Conte Federico, by special appointment. This is 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 are the coats 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

Lipari - 3 nights



Day 10: Sunday 22 October, Palermo – Cefalù – Milazzo – Lipari (Aeolian Islands)

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

This morning we check out of our Palermo 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 hydrofoil to the Aeolian island of Lipari. (Overnight Lipari) BD

Day 11: Monday 23 October, Aeolian Islands: Lipari – Panarea – Stromboli – Lipari

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

Our morning is at leisure to relax and enjoy the town of Lipari. We then spend this afternoon and evening on a cruise to the islands of Stromboli and Panarea, some 20 kilometres away. We shall disembark on Panarea, where there will be time to explore the village or simply relax and enjoy the view. We 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 erupt from the summit to illuminate the night sky. (Overnight Lipari) BD

Day 12: Tuesday 24 October, Lipari

- 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: Wednesday 25 October, Lipari - Milazzo - Messina - Reggio Calabria - Taormina

- Hydrofoil from Lipari to Milazzo
- Two of Caravaggio's late works at the Messina Regional Art Museum



- Lunch at a local restaurant, Reggio Calabria
- 'Riace Bronzes', Reggio Calabria

Early this morning we take the hydrofoil back from Lipari to Milazzo. We drive to Messina, where we will visit the city's art museum to view two of 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.

Our coach takes us onto a ferry to cross the Strait of Messina to Reggio Calabria on the Italian mainland. Here, after lunching together at a local restaurant, we 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 then take the ferry back to Messina and continue south to Taormina, where the evening will be at leisure. (Overnight Taormina) BL

Day 14: Thursday 26 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 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: Friday 27 October, Depart Taormina. Tour Ends

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

Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will transfer to Catania airport in the early morning. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay in Italy. Please contact ASA if you require further assistance. B



Accommodation

A special feature of this tour is our stay in several heritage hotels. ASA has selected 4-star and 5-star hotels, many of which are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All rooms have en suite bathroom. Further information on accommodation will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- Syracuse (3 nights): 5-star Grand Hotel Ortigia 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 located in the heart of the historic centre, the hotel incorporates 3 adjacent buildings that once formed a grand monastery; it retains a number of historic features including a beautiful interior cloister. www.piazzaborsa.it
- Lipari (3 nights): 4-star Hotel Tritone located close to the town centre, set within a beautiful, lush garden. www.hoteltritonelipari.com
- Taormina (2 nights): 4-star Excelsior Palace Hotel located just outside the town walls, the hotel is bordered by the remains of a Graeco-Roman wall, and overlooks the bay of Naxos.
 www.excelsiorpalacetaormina.it

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

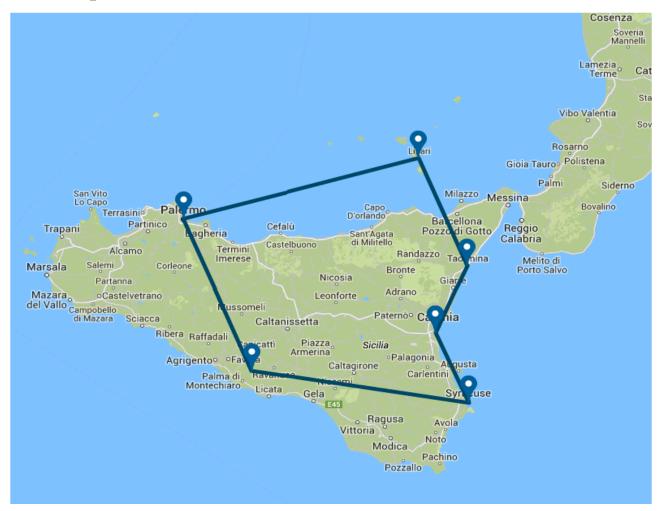
Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a single-occupancy room throughout the tour. In all hotels on the tour, this will be a double/twin room for single occupancy. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands 2023 Page 13



Tour Map





Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$9090.00 Land Content Only - Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 September 2022

AUD \$9290.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$1180.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4-star hotels (5-star in Syracuse).
- Breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=Lunch & D=dinner.
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach.
- Transportation by boat between Sicily and the Aeolian Islands; Sicily and Calabria as detailed in the itinerary.
- Excursion by public boat from Lipari to Panarea and Stromboli (please note: the itinerary may be altered in the event of bad weather or volcanic activity).
- 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 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 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance

Sicily and the Aeolian Islands 2023





Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings

The number of flags 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, seven 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 longdistance 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).
- 4-star and 5-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 Milazzo and Lipari ports and you will need to manage your own luggage on and off the boat.
- Return hydrofoil transport from Sicily to the Aeolian Islands (Day 10 & Day 13) and ferry to & from Reggio Calabria (Day 13).
- Cruise to the islands of Stromboli and Panarea (Day 11) with a late return to the hotel (approx. 9pm).

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.

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: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

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.

Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate

Commencing from November 2021 it will be a condition of travel that all group leaders and ASA travellers are fully vaccinated against Covid-19. All participants must send ASA a copy of their vaccination certificate at the time of submitting their Reservation Application Form. For information on how to obtain either a Covid-19 digital certificate or a certificate in PDF format please view the Australian Government Services Australia "What types of proof there are" web page.



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
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
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 Fish poultry red meat dairy products eggs pork nuts Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information 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:



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 ${\bf X}$ 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?	\bigcirc
2.	Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	\bigcirc
3.	Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	\circ
1.	Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	$\bigcirc \bigcirc$

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.

use	e of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised sco	oter.
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	YES NO
	If yes, how will you manage this on tour?	
ΑII	ergies and/or Food Intolerances	
tha alle	A will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit yo t you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requ ergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives stinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.	irements or
		YES NO
1.	Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? If yes, please specify	$\circ \circ$
2.	Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? If yes, please specify	00
	Do you carry an epipen?	\bigcirc
3.	Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? If yes, please specify	$\circ \circ$
Ex	isting Medical Conditions	
You me Ple and dep	u alone are responsible for managing any existing medical condication and any medical equipment that you may need when case plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary sid/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health bends on these. You should take into consideration that power me destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or	on your tour. upplements a and safety r sources at
1.	Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? If yes, please specify	00

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.

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid,

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?	\circ
	Are you insulin dependent?	\circ
1	Do you suffer from travel sickness?	\cap

Do you suffer from travel sickness?
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.



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 the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or 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 only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with 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 booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

- 1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, 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 preparing for, 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; and
 - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
- 3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

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, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

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

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. 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 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 or services 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. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to 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 requirement		
Applicant's Signature			
Print Full Name	Dated		



Payment Form

Tour / Course Name			
Name of Traveller 1 Name of Traveller 2			
I have enclo	sed a payment to the value of \$ (ii	ncluding 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)			
International Payments Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows: • via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate • via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg.Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges. Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.			
By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only) Please make cheques payable to Australians Studying Abroad		Credit Card Payment Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%	
Direct Dep	oosit or Internet Banking	Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express	
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		I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above Credit Card Number	
	ny fees levied by the banks		
	reference number last name recommended).	Expiry Date Security Code (CVC)	
	e section below, including confirmation no. en transaction completed).	Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)	
Australians Studying Abroad bank details		Cardholders Name	
Bank Branch Swift Code	ANZ 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic ANZBAU3M	Cardholders Billing Address	
BSB Account No	013-423 3472-32759	Postcode	
		State Country	
Bank confirmation No.		Phone	
Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended		Email	
Date Money Transferred		Cardholders Signature	