

Southern Italian Odyssey Celtic Tours and EuroFly - FREE AIR- \$1099 pp

Based upon a minimum of 30 passengers.

* Fuel surcharges are additional at \$345 pp plus departure taxes are additional at \$75 pp.

REF : SOUTHERN ITALIAN ODYSSEY 2008/2009 - Itinerary 6nights / 7 days – package #697

"Riviera di Ulisse: Between Rome and Naples. This special itinerary is named after the legendary journey and adventures of Ulisse, who landed in Gaeta with his companions and was placed under the magical spell of the sorceress Circe. Our itinerary does not include any magical spells but great memories of an enjoyable vacation!

Day 01: U.S. to Rome. Departure JFK for Overnight flight to Rome via Eurofly.

Day 02: Rome - Riviera Ulysses. Morning arrival at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport where we are met by our assistant. She will greet us and accompany us to the bus and our driver. After clearing customs, we transfer to the Riviera Ulysses and check into our hotel for the next six nights. Time allowed too freshen up and unpack before meeting our Celtic Tours representative and enjoying a welcome drink! This evening we will take pleasure in a welcome dinner (drinks included), tasting Latium dishes. Overnight at our hotel.

Day 03: Riviera Ulysses – Gaeta. After breakfast, a morning guided tour of Sperlonga is included. This ancient and picturesque old town with its narrow and terraced streets was originally a fortress protecting the local population against invaders from many lands. The houses you see are literally built into a massive rock which sits on a spur of land jutting out into the Tyrrhenian Sea. We visit the wonderful National Museum and the site of the villa of the emperor Tiberius. Before returning to the hotel, we stop at a Mozzarella Cheese Factory for a tasting.

After lunch on our own, we depart for a half day guided tour of the picturesque town of Gaeta. The city of Gaeta is situated at the centre of Coast of Ulisse. It's a famous bathing centre for its wonderful beaches, with important naturalistic beauties and views, it preserve many historical, religious and monumental testimonies. This old military fortress is today a lovely fishing harbor with a thriving local fishing industry. We will see the baroque church of Santissima Annunziata dating from 1320, the cathedral of St. Erasmo with its Romanesque style dating from 1180, and visit the Sanctuary of Montagna Spaccata. The legend wants that the Crashed Mountain, the rocky crack more knew in Italy thanks to his spectacular dimensions, was born with the tremor after die of Jesus.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 04: Riviera Ulysses – Sorrento – Amalfi Coast. Basket breakfast furnished by the hotel at 7:00 am - with a morning departure for a Full day Excursion to Sorrento and Amalfi Coast with our tour escort. An excursion to the Amalfi Coast is one of Europe's most stunningly beautiful drives. Down the "Motorway to the Sun" and along the Sorrentine Peninsula, take in the wild, rocky coastline, caves and sea shore grottos towards Mt. Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples. Our journey continues to Sorrento for a visit, after which the journey continues with breathtaking views of the Isle of Capri, Positano with its luxury villas of the rich and famous. Arrive in beautiful Amalfi, a splendid town in an incomparable setting. See its sights and visit its crafts as part of this unforgettable excursion. It goes without saying you must have your camera, and lots of film!

Lunch on your own - Return to the hotel about 7.30 pm. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 05: Riviera Ulysses – Optional tour of Capri (\$220 pp). After breakfast at the hotel, the day is free to explore this wonderful city on your own.

OPTIONAL: Enjoy Capri!

For those that have elected this option, after breakfast at the hotel, we are off on a full day excursion with a local guide to Capri Isle. Depart by bus to Naples pier and take the hydrofoil to Capri, arriving in Marina Grande. Enjoy a sightseeing tour by minibus and funicular. Discover the wonderful natural and artistic Isle of Capri, famous for the color of the sea surrounding it. The wonderfully pure and uncontaminated air laced with the scent of island flowers, the delicate colors, the ancient past, the dramatically beautiful scenery and the sensation of undisturbed tranquillity. This is a mere taste of the magic of an island which has become a living legend. Lunch on your own. In the afternoon, free time for shopping in the famous "Piazzetta". Return by hydrofoil to Naples. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 06: Naples – Pompeii – Optional: Pizza tasting (\$30 pp). After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a full day guided visit to Naples and Pompeii with a visit to the archaeological excavations. Driving south, the road to Naples is lined with local specialties like Buffalo Mozzarella, which is served with sliced fresh tomatoes and olive oil (as it is too watery to cook) and Real Neapolitan Pizza. The road leads to the city of Pompeii, sitting in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius.

Pompeii was built in 7 B.C. and lasted until the early light of a late August morning in 79 A.D. Overcome by Vesuvius' eruption of rock and ash, the city disappeared from maps for nearly 1,700 years. Re-discovered in the 18th century, it was realized that the ash preserved a good deal of the lost city, fruit eerily sitting untouched in jars, and a bakery with loaves of bread sat, waiting to be eaten. The houses boast statues in the front atrium once greeting visitors on marble floors, with multiple bedrooms and studies and large gardens out back. Art dots the walls that were once the city's marketplace, the painted walls depicting what the ancient vendors sold there. There is a public square where thousands gathered on white limestone grounds to listen and watch political speeches and an amphitheatre with a capacity of 20,000 where residents were entertained by gladiators who fought to the death. Some of the bodies were preserved as well, and there are plaster casts of the dead, who ran from the erupting volcano clutching their jewelry and their coins, and have remained, nearly 2,000 years later, frozen in prayer, or clutching at their throats, captured in their final moments of life. Today more than 3 million reside in the surrounding towns in the shadow of the mountain which threatens to explode again, at any time.

OPTIONAL: Treat yourself to the wonderful REAL NEAPOLITAN PIZZA with Buffalo Mozzarella and fresh tomatoes (\$30 pp).

After a break for lunch, we travel to Naples for a panoramic drive through the city (Tour escort only – no additional guide). From high above you will see the magnificent sweep of the Bay of Naples, and in the distance, Capri. Return to the hotel – Dinner and Overnight

Day 07: Riviera Ulysses – Option: Montecassino Abbey (\$49 pp). After breakfast, morning is free to relax around the hotel, or explore your holiday base. Perhaps visit a local market selling a colorful variety of local products and clothing at exceptional prices, or the resorts' main shopping area with a wide variety of interesting shops of every kind. It's here that the locals shop, so the prices are great. Lunch on your own and afternoon at your disposal.

OPTIONAL: 2.15pm – This afternoon we enjoy a half-day visit to Montecassino, for a guided visit of Montecassino Monastery. It was founded by St. Benedict about 529 of the Christian Era, becoming famous for the prodigious life and the Sepulchre of its Founder. Through the ages, the abbey was looked upon as a place of holiness, culture and art for which it became renowned on worldwide level. In 1944, during World War II, Montecassino happened to be on the firing line between two armies: this place of prayer and study which had become in these circumstances a shelter for hundreds of civilians, in only three hours was reduced to a heap of debris under which many of the refugees met their death. Now has been rebuilt saving all the memories of the past. Tonight we enjoy an authentic Farewell Dinner at our hotel.

Day 08: Rome – U.S. After breakfast, transfer to Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for our return flight home. We will take with us the memories of the best of Italy...."Arrivederci", a nostalgic goodbye with a promise to return.

Package Includes:

- Round trip air between NYC and Rome on Eurofly airlines
- 06 Nights accommodation at 3 star hotel
- Italian buffet breakfast daily, except for day of arrival
- 1 welcome dinner + 1 farewell dinner including wine and water
- 4 dinners at the hotel (no drinks)
- 1 welcome drink at your arrival at the hotel (1st day)
- 1 mozzarella tasting
- Ground transportation by deluxe motorcoach, including transfers, as per itinerary
- English speaking tour escort for the whole period
- Half-day guided tours in Gaeta - Pompei
- Sightseeing tours: Amalfi Coast + Naples
- Entrance fees: Excavations in Pompei + National Museum in Sperlonga
- Admissions and parking for bus

Not included:

- Local guides not mentioned
- Meals and drinks not specified
- Tips to tour escort, driver and local guides.
- Any item not specified as included
- Optional tours (see optional items)

ALL OPTIONS MUST BE PRE-BOOKED.

Oct 31-Nov 7, Nov 7-14, Nov 14-21, Nov 21-28, Dec 5-12, Feb 15-22, March 6-13, March 13-20, March 20-27