



# Italian Islands

September 30 - October 13, 2006

Designed for Judy Pike and Friends

**I**n many ways, the Italian islands are a world apart. Life is lived more intensely against a backdrop of brilliant blue seas, sharp contrasts of light and dark, and brilliant colors. From the feasts and passions of Sicily, where food is tinged with the spices of North Africa; to the Aeolian Islands of Vulcano and Lipari, with its beautiful port and castle; to the gorgeous retreat island of artists and musicians—Ischia—this is a journey that takes you from one island jewel to another.



*Streets of Taormina*

Southern Italy dances to a different beat than its northern counterpart, and the color and warmth, antiquity and architecture, flair and flamboyance, beat out a rhythm that is uniquely its own. This fall, travel to the

southern Italian islands with Judy Pike and friends and experience the alluring richness of life in the islands off the lower boot! Along the way, we'll experience the Calabrian coastal town of Maratea and the remains of Paestum, site of some of the most beautiful Greek ruins in the world.



*A view from Ischia*

Our time on Sicily showcases the island's very best, from awe-inspiring Mount Etna to gracious Taormina, a lovely seaside town on the east coast. On Vulcano, you'll have a choice of activities, while a visit to the beautiful gardens at La Mortella balances spa time on Ischia. Throughout, you'll experience both guided and leisure time as you discover winding medieval streets, glittering beaches, and incomparable mountain, sea, and sky views. Here, ancient and modern worlds meet to create a rich island travel experience!

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land Only:	<b>\$3810</b>
Single supplement:	<b>\$750</b>

*Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities.  
Please call for details.*

The following services are included:

<b>Hotels:</b>	11 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
<b>Coaching:</b>	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
<b>Meals:</b>	Continental buffet breakfast daily. Dinner on arrival day.
<b>Guides:</b>	Discover Europe tour director throughout; local guides in Taormina, Mt. Etna, Paestum.
<b>Expenses:</b>	Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
<b>Entrances:</b>	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
<b>Insurance:</b>	Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.
<b>Ferries:</b>	Roundtrip hydrofoil to Vulcano; ferry from Sicily to Italy; roundtrip ferry from Naples to Ischia.



*Ruins at Paestum*

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**Saturday, September 30.** Evening departure from U.S. for your overnight flight to Italy.

**Sunday, October 1.** Morning arrival at Catania Airport in Sicily. Here we are met by our representative and escorted by private motor coach to Taormina, a picturesque village magnificently situated on a high terrace overlooking the Ionian Sea on the east coast of Sicily. After time to settle in, unpack, and relax, we enjoy dinner this evening at our hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Taormina**

**Monday, October 2.** Does Taormina have the most beautiful location in Sicily? We have an entire day to decide. In the morning we'll go on a half-day guided tour, soaking up Taormina's peaceful atmosphere, beautiful monuments, and gardens. The outstanding Greek amphitheater with majestic Mount Etna towering in the background dates from the third century BC. In the afternoon you're free to continue exploring on your own. **(B) Overnight: Taormina**

**Tuesday, October 3.** A half-day guided excursion to Mount Etna, the highest volcano in Europe, introduces us to the ominous eruptive craters, lunar landscapes, and botanical beauty that make Etna a rare and dazzling ecosystem. Appreciated by Plato and Homer, it's also the site of a fine vineyard and citrus orchard. Afterwards, you'll have a chance to enjoy lunch and Sicilian music at a nearby restaurant before returning to the hotel for a free afternoon. In the evening you are free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Taormina**

**Wednesday, October 4.** This morning we drive via Francavilla and Novara di Sicilia to Milazzo, where we board the hydrofoil to the Aeolian island of Vulcano. The journey takes about an hour, and when we arrive we will transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to begin exploring. **(B) Overnight: Vulcano**



*Mount Etna from the amphitheater*

**Thursday, October 5.** A choice of activities today. You may decide to take a tour around the island by fishing boat, enjoy an excursion by foot to the crater of the volcano from which the island gets its name, or simply swim and relax. **(B) Overnight: Vulcano**

**Friday, October 6.** A full-day excursion to the nearby island of Lipari. The largest and most fertile of the Aeolian Islands, Lipari's main town (also called Lipari) is a beautiful little port with a castle (containing its own cathedral and three churches), lovely shops, and a fine archeological museum. We'll return to our hotel on Vulcano for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Vulcano**



*Lipari harbor*

**Saturday, October 7.** This morning we return by hydrofoil to Sicily, where we meet up with our coach for the journey by ferry over to the mainland and on up the Calabrian coast to Maratea. Free evening in Maratea. **(B) Overnight: Maratea**

**Sunday, October 8.** This morning we drive up to the Basilica of San Biagio and the great white figure of the Statue of the Redeemer. The views out over the Golfo di Policastro are truly spectacular. We return to the hotel for a free afternoon and evening in town. **(B) Overnight: Maratea**

**Monday, October 9.** Continuing north, our first stop today is at Paestum, where we visit the fabulous remains of the ancient city originally founded by Greek settlers around 600 B.C. We'll tour the temples of Neptune and Hera and see the original city walls unearthed by accident in the 18th century. After a lunch stop we continue to Naples where we board

the ferry for a short crossing to the beautiful island of Ischia, the "jewel set in the Bay of Naples." After checking into our hotel, the remainder of the day is free. **(B) Overnight: Ischia**

**Tuesday, October 10.** Ischia has long been a haven for artists, musicians, and filmmakers. Almost 50 years ago the composer Sir William Walton set up home on the island, and this afternoon we will visit the beautiful gardens at his house, La Mortella, designed by Russell Page and lovingly tended by his wife, Lady Walton, for the past 40 years. The evening is free. **(B) Overnight: Ischia**



*La Mortella gardens*

**Wednesday, October 11.** The hotels of Ischia are famous for their spa facilities and today there is absolutely nothing planned, so you can relax and pamper yourself for as long as you like! **(B) Overnight: Ischia**

**Thursday, October 12.** This morning we head back across to the mainland and around the Bay of Naples to Sorrento. After a stop for lunch we will continue around the beautiful Amalfi Coast, stopping at various places along the way as time permits. We end in Naples for a final free evening. **(B) Overnight: Naples**

**Friday, October 13.** Morning transfer to Naples Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals:  
B - breakfast, D - dinner