



Italy & Sicily 2017

Oxford Section and MCi Overseas Trip to Italy & Sicily

Trip Leaders

Rev. Derek Spears, Geoff Clough, Rob Allin and Steve Moxey

Following the very successful Oxford Section Classical Greece Trip in 2014 we are pleased to announce a new trip to Italy & Sicily for 2017, in partnership with MCi Tours. The Italy & Sicily trip will continue the 'Classical' theme covering Greek and Roman remains in southern Italy and Sicily, benefiting from the expertise of Derek Spears our resident classics expert. The roads and scenery of Italy and Sicily are renowned and many of you will have seen the popular Inspector Montalbano BBC series which will give you an idea of what to expect! By working with MCi we aim to have excellent accommodation at reasonable prices. The trip should offer a relaxing break, good riding, history, food and culture, with options for members to choose the type of holiday they want. The purpose of this flyer is to explain the ideas and to help gauge interest in the Italy & Sicily Trip 2017.

Derek has suggested that we spend 6 days in Sicily (key sights: Palermo, Tempio Greco di Segesta, Citta Greca di Selinunte, Agrigento, Villa Casale (mosaics), Syracuse, Taormina and Mount Etna) and 3 days in the area near (key sights: Pompeii, Herculaneum, Amalfi Coast and Campania). En route we can also visit Paestum and the leaning Tower of Pisa. More details will be provided in due course. We expect the total trip to take 13 days starting in Genoa and finishing in Pisa.

The maximum size of this trip will be 16 people and associated motorcycles. Places will be available on a first come first served basis. Members should **register their interest** as soon as possible by emailing Geoff Clough (geclough@gmail.com) who will also act as the treasurer for the trip. Initial deposits will then be payable in November 2016 to secure places on the Italy & Sicily trip in 2017.



Reaching Sicily via Genoa

The trip will start in Genoa and we will use the overnight ferry sailing to Palermo in Sicily (20 hours), which will be booked for the group. The distance from the UK to Genoa is 750 miles and can be done with an overnight stop in Dijon or more stops as required. There is an option to use the SNCF AutoTrain service from Paris to Nice to reduce the mileage considerably.

The group will leave Sicily by taking the short ferry from Messina to Reggio di Calabria (30 minutes) then riding up the coast to stay near Sorrento. This allows 3 days to visit Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Amalfi coast. The last stop on the tour will be Pisa to visit the famous leaning tower. The return trip to Oxford from Pisa is about 1,000 miles and routes are available through France or over the Alps, with two overnight stops.

The accommodation in Italy and Sicily will be high quality, typically 4 or 5 star hotels, and will be booked for the group. Members will be responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Genoa/Pisa including the ferry/tunnel to/from France.

Whilst riding on the tour MCI will produce riding sheets with destinations and descriptive information to assist participants. It is then envisaged that small groups will travel the route. The whole group will meet for breakfast, dinner and at major attractions for Derek to explain the history and archaeology.



Italy & Sicily Trip DRAFT Itinerary

#	Day	Overnight Stop	Notes
1	Sunday	Genoa (on Ferry)	Tour starts at Genoa, night on boat
2	Monday	Ferry Genoa to Palermo	Arrive 18:00, stay in Palermo
3	Tuesday	Palermo	Explore Palermo on foot
4	Wednesday	Agrigento	Visit Segesta, Selinunte
5	Thursday	Agrigento	Visit Agrigento, Villa Casale
6	Friday	Ragusa	Visit the island of Ortygia
7	Saturday	Taormina	Visit Taormina
8	Sunday	Taormina	Visit Mount Etna
9	Monday	Maratea	Ferry, coastal drive and Paestum
10	Tuesday	Castellammare di Stabia	Visit Pompeii
11	Wednesday	Castellammare di Stabia	Visit Herculaneum
12	Thursday	Castellammare di Stabia	Visit Amalfi Coast, Sorrento
13	Friday	Pisa	Leaning Tower, tour ends at Pisa

DRAFT dates are Sunday August 27th 2017 - Friday September 8th 2017.
The total mileage for the Italy & Sicily Trip will be approximately 3,000 miles.

We look forward to seeing you in Italy & Sicily in 2017!