

Italy: Volcanoes and Vino

Itinerary for Cal State Northridge Geology Tour January 2003

The location where we will spend each night is shown in red (for those looking at color!) in bold font at the end of the entry for each day.

Day 1 – Thursday, January 2 – Depart USA

Meals: airline food!!

The group flight will be Lufthansa flight #457 departing LAX at 2:55 PM. It will arrive in Frankfurt at 10:40 AM on 3 January. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. Sleep as much as you can. Hope for good movies!!

Airplane

Note: The Lufthansa flight leaves from the Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX. Check-in at least 2 hours prior to flight time. Don't forget your passport and ticket!

Day 2 – Friday, January 3 – Arrival Rome and travel to Gubbio

Meals: B

The connecting Lufthansa flight #3868 from Frankfurt to Rome departs at 12:45 pm and arrives in Rome at 3:55 pm. After clearing customs and collecting our luggage we will be met by the Contiki Tour Manager and driver. Transfer to Gubbio, where we will spend two nights. We will have dinner en route (passengers expense) and arrive at the hotel fairly late (probably between 9-10 pm).

Note: All passengers not on the group flights should meet at the Lufthansa welcome area at the Rome airport no later than 4:00pm when the group flight arrives. Gubbio

Day 3 – Saturday, January 4 – Geology around Gubbio

Meals: B,D

We will meet Dr. Alessandro Montanari who will be our geology guide for the next day and a half. We will examine the K/T boundary and visit spectacular quarry exposures of the Cretaceous-Tertiary pelagic carbonate sequence.

Dinner will be in the hotel this evening. Gubbio

Day 4 – Sunday, January 5 – Frasassi Caves and travel to Rome

Meals: B, D

After breakfast, we will check out of the hotel and visit the famous caves of Frasassi at 11am. After lunch, we will travel to Rome and check into our hotel, where we will spend the next two nights. Dinner will be at our hotel.

Roma

Day 5 – Monday, January 6 – Free day in Rome

Meals: B

*When in Rome.....be a tourist. Our Contiki Tour Manager will offer a walking tour of Rome of Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain, and the Pantheon. Some other "must-do" suggested sights are: the Coliseum, the Sistine chapel and Vatican Museum, and the Cathedral of St. Peter in Vatican City. Climb the spiraling stone stairs to the roof and then onward up the dome (or you can take the elevator)—the view is well worth it! **Roma***

Day 6 – Tuesday, January 7, 03 – Excursion to Tivoli and travel to Naples area

Meals: B,D

*After breakfast, check out of the hotel. Enjoy a short drive east along Via Tiburtina, we will reach the Bagni di Tivoli, a well-known spa town, famous since ancient times for its soothing sulfurous spring. We visit the quarry where the travertine for the new Getty Museum was cut. Time permitting, we will also visit: 1) Villa Adriana, the ruins of which can only hint at the grandeur and beauty of this villa which the emperor Hadrian had built as a souvenir of the monuments and sites he had admired during his travels in the East, and 2) Villa D'Este, one of the most beautiful residences of the Renaissance. Next we will travel to Pompeii arriving in the early evening at our hotel. *Dinner at the hotel is included this evening.* **Pompeii***

Day 7 – Wednesday, January 8 – Herculaneum and Pompeii

Meals: B,D

*After breakfast, travel to Herculaneum, where we will have a private guide for our tour. This coastal city was buried by a lahar generated during the 24 August 79 AD eruption of Vesuvius. The large mudflow extended the coastline to its present position several miles to the west. Many of the inhabitants of Herculaneum were able to escape before the lahar reached the city. Herculaneum has been called the "Monte Carlo of Ancient Rome" because it was a popular destination for wealthy Romans. Where most Pompeian buildings were cut off above the first floor, some villas in Herculaneum rise three stories above the streets. One of these was the model for the Getty Museum in Malibu. In the late morning, we will travel to Pompeii, where we will also have a privately guided tour. Pompeii is considered the world's finest example of an ancient Roman town. Wander through the huge forum, great temples, homes, shops, and necropolis that were buried by a nuee ardente produced by the 79 AD eruption. The inhabitants of Pompeii were killed by this catastrophic event. We will stay until we are kicked out, then back to modern Pompeii where we will eat, drink, and hopefully escape the fate of ye olde Pompeians. *Dinner is included in our hotel.* **Pompeii***

Day 8 – Thursday, January 9 – Mt. Vesuvius and Oplantis**Meals: B**

After breakfast, we will travel to Mt. Vesuvius, where we will meet with an Italian volcanologist who will be our guide for the day to the history of volcanism of this composite volcano. In the late afternoon, time permitting, we might visit Oplantis (note: it is unlikely that we will have time). This is one of the best preserved villas in the world, thanks to its burial by the 79 AD eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Pompeii

Day 9 – Friday, January 10 – Naples Museum and travel to Lipari**Meals: B**

Check out of the hotel and travel to Naples to visit the National Archeological Museum, which has an impressive collection of Egyptian, Greek and Roman sculptures, mosaics, gems and paintings. Catch the overnight ferry at 9 pm for Lipari, where we arrive in the morning, about 9.35 am Saturday. Cabins on board overnight ferry

Day 10 – Saturday, January 11 – Lipari**Meals: B,D**

After enjoying breakfast on board the ferry, the day in Lipari is at leisure. *Enjoy some time at the local geological museum, explore the castle or if you're not 'ferried out' take an excursion to the island of Stomboli for the afternoon. Dinner is included in the hotel this evening.* Lipari

Day 11 – Sunday, January 12 – Vulcano to Taormina**Meals: B**

Check out of hotel and catch the SNAV hydrofoil at 09:15 am, arriving at Vulcano at 09:35 am. If the ferry doesn't show, we make the swim. We will hike to the caldera and then (weather and time permitting) enjoy a mud bath in the warm springs. In the late afternoon, we will catch the SNAV hydrofoil at approximately 3.55 pm to Milazzo, arriving at 4:40 pm. The coach will meet us and transfer us to Taormina, where we will spend three nights. Dinner, vino, conversation, sleep. Taormina

Day 12 – Monday, January 13 – Taormina**Meals: B**

Free day in Taormina. Catch up on laundry and explore this charming coastal town in the shadow of Mt. Etna. Suggested sites are the Duomo, Palazzo Corvaia, and the 3rd Century Greek Theater from where there are stunning views of the coast. Also, take note: Taormina is recommended in guides and websites for shopping—the quality of the goods is high and the prices supposedly slightly cheaper than many other places. There are numerous shops with fine examples of Sicilian pottery. Taormina

Day 13 – Tuesday, January 14 – Taormina to Mount Etna**Meals: B,D**

After breakfast, we will travel to Nicoluso and meet with an Italian geologist who will be our guide for the next two days to the geology of Mt. Etna. One of the things that we will examine is the construction made by workers in 1983 to divert a lava flow around the Rifugio Sapienza, located halfway up the slopes of Mount Etna. The effort was successful, and the level of the lava is marked on the wall of the hotel—great photo op!! Mt. Etna is the highest mountain in Sicily and at approximately 3350 meters, it is Europe's highest active volcano. We will get to see lots of fresh cinder cones and flows. Unfortunately, after review of the participant list, we regret that we must cancel the planned sacrifice of a virgin to the volcano. Taormina

Day 14 – Wednesday, January 15 – Travel back to Rome**Meals: B,D**

We will leave the hotel after breakfast to catch Air One flight #2845 departing at 11:20 am from Catania to Rome. We arrive in Rome at 12:30 pm and transfer to the hotel. After checking into the hotel, there are a final few free hours to make last minute purchases and to pack for departure. Tonight we depart the hotel for a 6pm reservation to enjoy a Farewell dinner and Birthday Bash at a local restaurant for your group leaders, Vicki and Peter (hint: both are celebrating landmark birthdays that end in zero and are still only two digits)!!! Rome

Day 15 – Thursday, January 16 – Departure to Los Angeles**Meals: B**

Arrivederci, Italia! Departing passengers have to get an early start (i.e. leave hotel no later than 4 am!!) in order to arrive at Rome airport by 5:00 am to catch the flight to Frankfurt. *The hotel will make us a box breakfast for a meal-on-the-run.* The Contiki coach will provide transportation to the airport.

Depart on Lufthansa flight #3831 to Frankfurt at 6:50am. Connect to Lufthansa flight #456 at 10:00am non-stop to LAX arriving at 12:45pm the same day.

All passenger staying on or making other arrangements may have breakfast at a more civilized time before continuing on your way.



CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE UNIVERSITY
"Volcanoes & Vino"
January 2-16, 03
Hotel List

January 3-5, 2003

HOTEL BENJAMINO UBALDI - GUBBIO
Via Perugia 74
06024 Gubbio
Tel: 00 39 075 92 77 773
Fax: 00 39 075 92 76 604
http://www.rosatihotels.com/ubaldi_eng.htm

January 5-7, 2003

HOTEL PORTA MAGGIORE - ROME
Piazza Porta Maggiore 25
00185 Rome
Tel: 00 39 06 402 7927
Fax: 00 39 06 702 7025
www.venere.com/it/roma/portamaggiore/

January 7-10, 2003

HOTEL VITTORIA - POMPEII
Piazza Porta Marina
80045 Pompei
Tel: 00 39 081 536 9016
Fax: 00 39 081 536 7395
<http://www.pompeihotelvittoria.com/home.htm>

The night of 10 January will be in cabins aboard the Naples to Lipari ferry.

January 11-12, 2003

HOTEL MENDOLITA - LIPARI
Piazza Municipio
98055 Lipari
Tel: 00 39 090 9811 002
Fax: 00 39 090 981 2878
<http://www.mendolita.it/eng/mendolita.htm>

January 12-15, 2003

HOTEL VILLA DIODORO - TAORMINA
Via Bagnoli Croci 75
98039 Taormina
Tel: 00 39 0942 23312
Fax: 00 39 0942 23319
http://www.gaishotels.com/diodoro/index_uk.htm

January 15-16, 2003

HOTEL PORTA MAGGIORE - ROME
Piazza Porta Maggiore 25
00185 Rome
Tel: 00 39 06 402 7927
Fax: 00 39 06 702 7025
www.venere.com/it/roma/portamaggiore/

Travel information for Peter & Sandy

Flights

Tuesday 31 Dec. 2002 Lufthansa #457 lv Los Angeles 2:55 pm ar Frankfurt 10:40 am
Wednesday 1 Jan. 2003 Lufthansa #3868 lv Frankfurt 1:50 pm ar Rome (Fiumicino) 3:35 pm

Wednesday 15 Jan. 2003 Air One #2845 lv Catania 11:20 am ar Rome 12:30 pm
Thursday 16 Jan. 2003 Lufthansa #3831 lv Rome 6:50 am ar Frankfurt 9:00 am
Thursday 16 Jan. 2003 Lufthansa # 456 lv Frankfurt 10:00 am ar Los Angeles 12:45 pm

To leave a message

Dial access number 1-800-706-1333
Press *2
Enter account number 2001311943
And leave a message.

Send email to: peter_weigand@ekit.com