JOIN THE TRAVEL CLUB ON THIS EXCLUSIVE WEEK-LONG EXPLORATION of some legendary and colorful seaside resorts—and temps should be in the 70s. We’ll start in Tropea, Calabria—a maze of pretty lanes, piazzas and palazzi—on the stretch of coastline called the “Coast of the Gods.” Dramatic cliffs and soft, sandy beaches complement an array of small artisan shops and cafés. On the island of Lipari we’ll stay in Lipari Town—a busy little port with a pretty, pastel-colored seafront. A get-acquainted tour concludes with lunch, with wine, at a local seafood restaurant. Be sure to head to Via Vittorio Emanuele—a lively thoroughfare lined with cafés, bars and restaurants—for your after-dinner stroll. We’ll end our vacation in Taormina, a breathtaking paradise where history meets “la dolce vita.” This ancient town is Sicily’s jewel with quaint streets packed with color and charm, boutiques and cafés. Enjoy a guided walking tour including the ancient Greco-Roman theatre and a full-day excursion to the spectacular archaeological site at Siracusa and Ortigia Island. This unique vacation is all about fun, relaxation and discovery.

**Includes**
- Round-trip regularly scheduled Alitalia Airlines flights from Boston to Lamezia Terme and Catania to Boston, via Rome
- Transfer from Tropea to Reggio Calaria and Lipari by coach/hydrofoil/ferry (weather dependent) and ferry service from Lipari to Milazzo
- Eight nights’ three- and four-star accommodations
- Fourteen meals: eight breakfasts, one lunch, five dinners with wine
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

**Features:**
Half-day guided walking tour of Tropea.
Half-day guided tour of Lipari Island and lunch with wine. Half-day guided walking tour of Taormina, full-day guided excursion to Siracusa and Ortigia Island. OPTIONALS: Lipari—Excursion to Vulcano Island; Excursion to Panarea & Stromboli.

**Trip Planner**
**DAY 1** Overnight flight from Boston
**DAYS 2–3** Hotel Tropis, Tropea
**DAYS 4–6** Hotel Arciduca, Lipari
**DAYS 7–9** Hotel Continental, Taormina
**DAY 10** Return flight to Boston or similar hotel accommodations

**Rates**
$3,299 per person double occupancy
**Single supplement is $375. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just $300. Call to reserve.** Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is $300.

**Day 1: Overnight Flight**
Depart Boston on an evening Alitalia Airlines flight to Rome. Dinner will be served on board. Relax and enjoy the in-flight entertainment.
Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Lamezia, Calabria – transfer to Tropea
Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Clear immigration and passport control and proceed to the connecting/domestic flight to Lamezia. Upon arrival, we retrieve our luggage and clear customs. In the arrivals hall we’ll meet our local representative who will assist with the transfer to the Hotel Tropis in Tropea for a two-night stay. Check in and receive room assignments. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (D)

Of all the holiday destinations in Calabria, Tropea is perhaps the most famous. The town sits on top of an imposing cliff rising up immediately behind the turquoise sea and golden sand. Houses seem to cling precariously to its side and your first view of Tropea will never be forgotten. The town itself is quite small and one of the prettiest towns in Calabria. The cobbled streets are lined with old buildings made from
golden stone and at various points you find yourself looking down alarmingly at the sea below. The sea is accessed via windy roads or some 200 steps. On a clear day you can easily see the volcanic island of Stromboli from the waterfront promenade.

Another striking aspect of Tropea is the 'Isola di Tropea', a distinctive rocky outcrop which rises up from the beach a few hundred metres from the town. At the top is the monastery, Santa Maria dell’Isola, creating a wonderful image with the clear blue sea stretching behind it. Other buildings worth visiting are the beautiful Norman Cathedral and the churches of San Francesco and Santa Maria della Neve.

Tropea is also one of the best preserved and most beautiful historical centers to be found in this southern region of Italy. So, here you have a stunning, historical town with endless little cobbled streets and beautiful old buildings. It is built onto and in a high, craggy rocky hill which looks down over dramatic views of azure blue sea and white sand beaches. Added to this, the town is surrounded by green, undulated hills planted with vines, olives and citrus trees and everywhere there are large, colourful flowers and trees. Spectacular!

Tropea is full of bars, cafes, pizzarias and small and affordable restaurants serving traditional local meals. The local speciality is red onions and the 'Tropea Red Onions are well known all over Italy and much sought after. All the locals restaurants will have incorporated them into mouth watering local dishes.

Last, but far from least are the beaches which must be the best in southern Italy. The azure sea is crystal clear and the smooth, white sand beaches shelve quite quickly into the inviting water. The climate is good and it is possible to swim here most years from May until November.

If you are a keen photographer there could not be a better place than Tropea to spend your holiday. The views are equally spectacular from above or below and the beaches, old town, buildings, people and surrounding countryside offer you more photographic opportunities than you can dream of.
Day 3: Tropea
After breakfast we’ll enjoy a half-day guided walking tour of the highlights of Tropea. Our afternoon and evening are free for us to explore on our own. *(B)*

Day 4: Transfer to Lipari
After breakfast we depart for our transfer to Lipari. Ferry/hydrofoil service from Tropea to Lipari may or may not be available, weather and schedules dependent. If not available we will transfer by coach to Reggio Calabria, hydrofoil to Messina and then ferry to Lipari. We will have more information on this closer to departure. Once on Lipari we make our way to the Hotel Arciduca for a three-night stay. Dinner with wine at the hotel. *(B, D)*
Lipari is the biggest and most populous of the Aeolian Islands. Historically, it has been the most important island over the centuries, since Neolithic times. Apart from a few very beautiful walks (maps of the island with suggested itineraries are on sale at the newsagents and a few other shops), the ‘must’ of the island is the ‘Museo Eoliano’, an impressive archaeological museum, housed in the buildings around the Duomo, in the upper town of Lipari, still surrounded by old city walls. Also quite impressive are the white shiny pumice quarries directly overlooking the sea, giving the water an amazing turquoise colour.

Lipari Town

There are two main roads across the town, Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Via Garibaldi, which are connected by Via Umberto, Via Maurolico and Via XXIV Maggio. To the south of the rock, Via Garibaldi reaches Marina Corta, a traditional gathering-place for local inhabitants. This is where you can find the restaurants, outdoor cafés and ice cream parlours where you can sit a table in the shade of a large parasol. From here live also all boat trips to the beaches and the other islands. These places are very busy on summer mornings, when the traditional Sicilian breakfast is served – "granita caffè con panna e brioché" crushed ice flavoured coffee with cream served with fresh brioches. Marina Corta has a host of restaurants and places where friends can meet. Thus, Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Via Garibaldi become peaceful streets where you can go for a nice stroll or sit in an open-air café or restaurant without having to cope with the noise and smell of cars and mopeds. Best places are along Corso Vittorio Emanuele: Bar La Precchia, Eden Bar, here you can sit outdoors and taste some of the delicious local cakes and ice creams.

Among the many typical home-made Aeolian products are delicious biscuits covered with sesame seeds that can be dipped in Malvasia wine, a desert wine made in Lipari or Salina. Other interesting grocery products are wines from the Eolias, excellent superior-quality extra virgin olive oil, capers, which grow in abundance on the island and are exported to the mainland and abroad. All sorts of fish delicacies can be found on the local menus. Special attention must be given to the swordfish, a typical fish of these waters, which is caught according to a very ancient and extremely picturesque "rite". Other specialties are: "maccaruni", aubergine rolls, sweet and sour rabbit, smoked ricotta cheese and the aromatic capers (their flowers are called the 'orchids of the Aeolian Islands'). There is also a selection of excellent, strong and spiced local wines - Malvasia - produced and bottled in the Aeolian islands. Aeolian sweet specialities are the local pastries “Nacatuli” and “Spicchitedda”, ice creams and Cannolo alla siciliana (filled with sweet cream and ricotta cheese).
**Day 5: Tour of Lipari**
After breakfast we’ll set off on a motorcoach tour of the island with our local guide. The tour starts from the south of the island and will make stops at the Belvedere of Quattrocchi, with views of Vulcano Island and the Belvedere of Quattropani, with views of Salina Island. You see the island’s landscape and the islands of Panarea and Stromboli. We’ll pass the caves of the pumice mines and see the beaches of Canneto. Along the way we’ll have lunch at a local restaurant specializing in seafood. *(B, L)*

![Belvedere of Quattrocchi](image)

**Day 6: Day at leisure in Lipari**
Today we have free time to explore Lipari on our own. Public optional tours will also be available. We can choose excursions to Vulcano or Panarea & Stromboli islands. Tonight we’ll have dinner with wine at the hotel. *(B, D)*

**Vulcano Excursion**
Departure is from Marina Corta. Coasting along Lipari we arrive at the Baia di Vinci where we stop for our first swim. We will continue to visit the Grotta degli Angeli, the Faraglioni, the Grotta del Cavallo, the piscina
di Venere and the testa del Leone where we will make another swim. We will continue towards Gelso to swim in the picturesque beach of Sabbia Nera. The tour makes a stop at the port of Vulcano to visit the country, the fanghi and warm waters.

**Panarea-Stromboli Excursion.**
Departure is from Marina Corta. We will make the first stop in the bay of "Calajunco" Continuing along to "Drauto" for a long and unforgettable swim. From the sea you can admire the prehistoric landscape of "Capo Milazzo" as we proceed to the islet of "Dattilo" for another swim, then we will stop in the port of "Panarea" about 2 hours to visit the small town and admire the typical structures of the white houses in Aeolian style. Continue on to the islets of "Lisca Bianca", "Lisca Nera" and "Basiluzzo" where we will stop for a swim. You can swim in the "beach Sabbia nera". At about 20:00 after dinner we will leave the port of Stromboli and passing the islet of "Strombolicchio" to reach the "Sciara del Fuoco" to admire the spectacular eruptions of Stromboli. Return at 22.00.

**Day 7: Ferry to Milazzo and transfer to Taormina**
After breakfast at the hotel we’ll transfer to the port and make the one-hour ferry crossing to Milazzo, Sicily and the transfer to Taormina. After check-in at the Hotel Continental, we’ll set off on our guided walking tour of Taormina. We'll see the historic medieval center, the **Greco-Roman theatre**, superlative scenery, Baroque architecture, quaint streets and romantic gardens. Dinner with wine at a local restaurant is included tonight. *(B, D)*
Day 8: Siracusa & Ortigia Island
Enjoy a full-day excursion to Siracusa with a walking tour of the Archaeological Park, including the well-preserved Roman Amphitheatre. This excursion also includes a walk through the historical center of Ortigia Island to admire the Cathedral and Aretusa Fountain. (B)
**Day 9: Day at leisure in Taormina**
Today we'll have a full-day to explore Taormina on our own, look into an optional excursion to Mount Etna, do some shopping or simply relax. Tonight enjoy a Farewell dinner with wine at a local restaurant. *(B, D)*

**Day 10: Return to Boston**
Enjoy breakfast and depart the hotel for the transfer to Catania airport and our return flight to Boston, via Rome. *(B)*
**Proof of Citizenship** is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.

**PREPARING FOR YOUR TOUR**

**Identification**

U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity beyond the date of your return to the U.S. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

Make several copies of your passport. Carry one copy with you and leave one with someone at home. If your passport is lost or stolen, having a photocopy will make replacement easier.

**Money Matters**

Verify that your credit/ATM cards are valid for the duration of your tour and that they can be used internationally. We suggest that you bring a few days worth of foreign currency with you in case you are unable to get dollars changed or have access to an ATM upon arrival. Notify your bank/credit card companies that you will be traveling abroad so that your overseas purchases are not confused with fraudulent charges.

**Tipping**

Tips to tour managers, drivers, guides and waitstaff are not included in the price of your trip. Tipping should always be at the travelers’ discretion and should be a reflection of your satisfaction with the service provided. Following are some guidelines for your convenience.

**TOUR MANAGERS:** 5£ per person per day  
**BUS DRIVERS:** 5£ per person per day  
**LOCAL GUIDES:** 2£ per person  
**WAITSTAFF:** 10£ per person per week  
**TRANSFERS ASSISTANTS (if different from Tour Manager):** 5£ each way

**Medications**

Be sure you have a sufficient supply of prescription medications. Obtain written prescriptions for any medication you will be taking on the trip, and for eyeglasses, should replacements be necessary.

**Packing**

Enclosed is a packing “cheat-sheet” to help you get started. Be sure to tape your name and address inside your luggage in case your baggage tag is lost.

Layers are essential when sightseeing on tour as the weather can change significantly during the day and over the course of the trip. Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes.

**Accommodations**

While The Travel Club makes every effort to ensure special room requests, special requests are at the discretion of the hotel and cannot be guaranteed.

**On tour**

Generally, longer programs can be filled with long travel days on a coach (rest stops included), and a lot of walking and standing (possibly on uneven surfaces), and some destinations may have altitude or other environmental concerns. Please remember that many historic areas, especially in Europe, cannot accommodate large coaches on their streets and walking...
tours are the only way to see the area. Whenever possible, we specify such information in your pre-departure itinerary. It is also important to be aware that many sites, especially in Europe, are not designed to accommodate wheelchairs or mobility aids.

**Flights**

The Travel Club assumes no responsibility for applying frequent flyer miles. Please be aware that some Frequent Flyer Miles may not be applied toward certain classes of service under which tickets have been issued. However, you may contact the airline directly to attempt this on your own. Information on your tickets cannot be obtained prior to departure, so please remember to retain your boarding passes, as you may need to submit that information to the airline to redeem your miles.

Because we reserve GROUP air space, some airlines will not allow you to check on your reservation or make requests directly with the carrier prior to departure. In some cases passengers cannot make seat assignments prior to check-in at the airport. While we make every effort to ensure your requests, we cannot guarantee them. It is at the discretion of the air carrier to fulfill any special requests. In addition, many carriers do not allow seating to be assigned until check-in at the airport.

**Travel Insurance**

Protecting yourself against unexpected medical emergencies before traveling (your own, a family member's, or a travel companion's) is a smart investment – so we strongly urge you to consider purchasing traveler's insurance. Show of the Month Travel Club recommends CSA Travel Protection for your travel insurance needs. (A brochure was forwarded to you when you reserved this trip.) PLEASE NOTE: You must contact the insurance company directly to purchase a policy and with customer service issues and questions regarding potential or existing claims. They will provide you with the most comprehensive information and assist you with processing.