

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Inclusions, Tipping & Finances

What exactly is included in the tour price?

We handle all major logistical details so you can focus entirely on enjoying your vacation. Your tour price includes: a small group of about 14 to 20 fellow travelers, full-time services of a professional native Italian tour manager, all tours and admissions described on the tour brochure, all group transportation (including private air-conditioned motor coaches, ferries, private motorboats), impeccable four-star hotels, all breakfasts, all dinners, select special lunches, and portage service for one large suitcase. See your tour brochure for precise details.

What is your policy on tipping and gratuities?

Each passenger is responsible for a set tip amount collected in Euro currency while in the country. This mandatory pool directly covers your private bus driver, hotel front desk and concierge staff, housekeeping, porters, and waitstaff for daily breakfast and dinner services. Gratuity to local guides and your tour director **are not included** and should be paid directly to them after service is rendered.

Logistics, Flights & Protection

Are flights and airport transfers included?

International transatlantic airfare is **not included**. However, for multi-region itineraries like our Sorrento & Sicily tour, **your internal domestic flights are fully included**. Additionally, we provide exclusive private driver transfer services to and from the hotel and airport on official tour start/end dates. Since we use private drivers, we can accommodate almost all arrival and departure times.

Is travel insurance required?

The Italian Cultural Society STRONGLY URGES all travelers to purchase comprehensive travel insurance, with coverage including trip cancellation, baggage loss, health and medical coverage, accident and repatriation. Ships and Trips Travel offers insurance coverage through multiple carriers but cannot compare policies or companies currently in the marketplace. The traveler is solely responsible to research and find the coverage that best fits the traveler's needs.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF TRAVEL LINK

Physical Demands & Activity Levels Guide

At the Italian Center, we want your journey through Italy to be comfortable, safe, and deeply rewarding. Exploring the country's ancient cities, historic hilltop hamlets, and majestic coastal landscapes requires a certain level of physical activity. Because walking is an essential part of daily sightseeing, we have outlined the core physical prerequisites below to help you prepare.



What to Expect on Our Daily Itineraries

Walking is a crucial and rewarding part of our tour experience every single day. To fully participate and enjoy the curated VIP excursions, guests must be comfortably able to:

- **Walk Approximately 2-3 Miles Daily:** Walk at a steady group pace across various terrains throughout the day.
 - **Navigate Historic Terrain:** Securely walk over uneven surfaces, traditional cobblestone streets, and natural inclines.
 - **Climb Stairs Independently:** Comfortably ascend and descend **40 to 65 steps** at historic sites, monuments, and transport hubs.
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Essential Footwear & Prep

To ensure your comfort during our walking tours and city excursions, **comfortable, supportive walking shoes are essential**. We highly recommend breaking in your walking shoes well before your departure date to prevent discomfort on the tour.



Accessibility & Mobility Accommodations

Many of Italy's ancient cities, protected historical sites, and vintage boutique hotels do not feature modern infrastructure or accommodations for individuals with mobility challenges. **All our hotels do have elevators.**

Because walking and climbing stairs are essential prerequisites for this specific style of travel, **we are unfortunately unable to accept guests using walkers or wheelchairs, or those with significant mobility issues.**

Furthermore, to maintain seamless group logistics and VIP pacing for all guests, our tour staff is strictly unable to provide physical assistance to travelers with disabilities or mobility limitations.



Questions About Your Fitness Level?

We want you to feel completely confident before submitting your application and deposit. If you have any questions or personal concerns regarding the physical demands of any of our upcoming itineraries, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly.

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