**MESSINA (Italy)**

MES01 - TAORMINA -55 EURO

Duration: approx. 5 hours

After leaving the port, a bus transfer will take you to Taormina, one of the jewels of Sicily. A pleasant walk takes you to the renowned ancient Greco-Roman theatre, first built by the Greeks before being re-built by the Romans. Enjoy the wonderful view before continuing to Corvaia Palace (external visit); an historic XV century building that formerly housed the Sicilian Parliament. We will also admire the small Roman theatre or “Odeon” (external visit) of Taormina and the St. Nicholas Cathedral. Free time for shopping. Please note: in case of religious celebrations, the visit to the Cathedral will be limited to the exterior of the site. Conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. On holidays, shops may be closed.

MES02 – ETNA - 55 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

Departing from the port of Messina, an approx. 1.5-hour coach ride will take you to Mount Etna, Europe’s highest volcano reaching almost 3,300 m above sea level, on a route that will also pass through Zafferana Etnea, a town situated on the volcano’s southern flank that affords lovely views of the mountain and the sea. Once at the Rifugio Sapienza cable car station, which was buried twice in the course of eruptions over the years, at an elevation of 1,900 metres, you will then be taken to visit the famous Silvestri craters amid an otherworldly lava landscape of outstanding natural beauty. Breathtaking views of the city of Catania below also present themselves to visitors, a perfect vista for a snapshot. Your adventurous volcano tour ends with your return to the port and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. In case of bad weather conditions, have the program of the tour with an alternative routing reconfirmed onboard. It is advisable to wear a windcheater and comfortable shoes.

MES03 - TINDARI & THE SANCTUARY OF BLACK MADONNA - 52 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

An enjoyable 1-hour coach transfer from Messina begins this tour to Tindari, a small coastal town of Greek origin that is rich in art and history. It is particularly known for the Sanctuary of the Black Madonna, a site you will visit to view the statue of the Madonna. A romantic local legend has it that Tindari’s lagoon was created after a woman accidentally dropped her baby into the ocean upon being startled by the black colour of the statue, whereupon the Madonna is said to have made the land rise to save the child. A visit to a Greek archaeological site is next, with a chance to step back in time and get a unique insight into early Grecian life. There will be time for you do some shopping in Tindari before you return to Messina and your ship. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. On holidays, shops may be closed.

MES05 – CITY TOUR - 45 EURO

Duration: approx. 3.5 hours

The Greek, Zancle, founded Messina in 730 B.C.; earthquakes systematically destroyed the city, in particular by the eruptions of 1783 and 1908. Our tour departs by bus from the port to reach Ganzirri, a small fishing village situated near the Pantano Grande and Pantano Piccolo lakes, which are rich in marine nutrients. You will continue to Capo Peloro, the nearest point to the coast of Calabria. Enjoy a panoramic tour of Messina, admiring Piazza Cairoli, the Court House, the University and the Cristo Re Church, which dominates Messina’s harbour and the strait. We will stop for photos before continuing our tour past the San Francesco Church, the Government Hall, the Fountain of Neptune and the main street, “Viale della Libertá”. Visit the Cathedral and the Cathedral Treasure to admire the famous Golden Mantle (Manta d’Oro), a special cloth that covers the picture of the Madonna and Child and which is studded with precious stones. Please note: conservative attire recommended for visiting sites of religious importance. In case of religious celebrations, the visit to the Cathedral will be limited to the exterior of the site. Guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions’ Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.

MES08 – JEEP ADVENTURE - 95 EURO

Duration: approx. 4 hours

Thanks to its strategic coastal location near Mount Peloritani, the Sicilian city and region of Messina boasts a rich heritage of 19th-century forts and old military roads that were once used to defend Sicily and the Strait of Messina. This tour gives you a chance to explore the beautiful landscape, folk traditions, historical roads and strongholds in the comfort of a modern off-road vehicle. The first stop is at San Rizzo wooded hill where your off-road adventures will start. A little further along the road lies Forte Campone, a 19th-century fort where you will stop to taste typical pastries and fortified wine. Next on the list is the Dinnamare vantage point, offering lovely views the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas. Before returning to the port, you will stop at the Museum of Popular Music of Mount Peloritani, in the village of Gesso, to admire the musical instruments of the Sicilian tradition. Please note: participants must be at least 8 years of age, provided that they can be properly seated and wearing a seatbelt. The safari leader will provide information only in English during the trip. Comfortable shoes and casual clothing recommended. This tour is not suitable for pregnant women, for guests with walking difficulties or with back or neck problems.

MES11 – MOUNT ETNA AND TAORMINA - 69 EURO

Duration: approx. 8 hours lunch not included

The Italian island of Sicily is presided over by Mount Etna, Europe’s tallest and most active volcano. Taking you to see this natural phenomenon and the nearby town of Taormina, this all-day tour begins with a 1.5-hour coach trip, passing through the town of Zafferana Etnea to catch superb views of the mountain and the sea. A little over half way up Mount Etna lies the cable car station of Rifugio Sapienza – twice buried by lava over the years – from where you’ll then walk to the two inactive Silvestri Craters, which were formed during the eruption of 1892. The stark landscape and amazing views of the town of Catania make great photo subjects, so do keep your camera at hand throughout. Leaving Mount Etna behind, you will then spend about 1 hour on the coach to reach the lovely little town of Taormina. Free time will then be yours to have lunch (at extra cost), after which a guided walk will take you past the ancient Greco-Roman theatre, the 15th-century Corvaja Palace, the small Roman “Odeon” theatre and the 13th-century Minor Basilica of St. Nicholas. There will also be more free time for you to spend in town on your own before the coach returns you to Messina and your ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. In case of bad weather conditions, the program of the tour will have an alternative routing that will be reconfirmed onboard. It is advisable to wear a windcheater and comfortable shoes. All visits to the sites are external. This tour is available only for MSC Meraviglia calls.

MES14 - TAORMINA & BEACH TOUR - 69 EURO

Duration : approx. 7 hours, lunch not included

Spend a day off the ship, first indulging in some retail therapy in the beautiful old city of Taormina, then relaxing on a private beach in Giardini Naxos – perfect for the entire family. Your outing begins with 50 minutes on a coach to reach Taormina, where you’ll then head for its main thoroughfare: Corso Umberto. Free time will be yours here to do some shopping in the many stores that line the historical street. Moving on again, you’ll then make your way to the nearby coastal resort of Giardini Naxos and the private “Sayonara” beach. You’ll have about 3 hours to do whatever you please here – swim, relax on the sand, play with the kids or go for a stroll. The coach will be waiting at the appointed time to return you to the ship. Please note: this tour is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair. This tour is available only for MSC Meraviglia calls and available from June to September.

MES55 – TRANSFER TO TAORMINA

Duration: approx. 5 hours

If you like the idea of doing your own thing and seeing only the sights you really want to see, join this tour and let yourself be taken to the lovely Taormina by coach. Relax during the 50-minute journey and set your itinerary, then explore the town for about 3 hours. Notable spots include the 13th-century Cathedral of San Nicola, the Roman Odeon, the Greco-Roman theatre and the 10th-century Palazzo Corvaja, to mention but a few. Wherever your personal tour of discovery may take you, just be sure to return to the meeting point in good time to board the coach for the trip back to the ship. Please note: this tour only includes transfers to and from Taormina. Guests using a wheelchair are advised that they must be accompanied by a paying helper to provide assistance with getting on and off the coach and that wheelchairs must be collapsible/foldable since the coach has neither a ramp nor a lift. Guests using a wheelchair who would like to participate in this tour are requested to contact the Shore Excursions’ Desk promptly once they are on board so that arrangements can be made.