



SICILY

An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO | Alumni
Association

SEPTEMBER 4-12, 2015

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM LED BY PETER WHITE,
HERMAN C. BERNICK FAMILY PROFESSOR IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND THE COLLEGE**



A

As a cultural crossroads of the ancient world, Sicily — strategically situated between Europe and Africa — abounds with enchanting natural beauty, impressive manmade creations seemingly untouched by time, fascinating culture and a vast history spanning 3,000 years. Today, travelers are struck by the awe-inspiring artifacts and structures left behind by legendary civilizations and the sun-dappled beauty of one of the world's most captivating islands.

Above: Duomo, Syracuse | Below: Mosaic, Imperial Roman Villa del Casale



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore temples and mosaics in ancient **Agrianto**, “the most beautiful city built by mortal men.”
- Meet local residents during a **cooking demonstration** at a family-owned restaurant and a visit to a **lemon farm**.
- Visit the renowned ruins of **Syracuse**.
- Enjoy a breathtaking experience to **Mount Etna**.

Alumni Campus Abroad® Advantages

The unique, value-added features of Alumni Campus Abroad® programs deliver an outstanding educational travel experience.

- **A carefully selected hotel** with comfortable accommodations is the perfect base for exploring the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyle.
- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Meet the People** opportunities allow you to interact with local residents and gain personal insight into their everyday lives.
- **Knowledgeable guides** lead your excursions and **local experts** present insightful educational lectures.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive service for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.

Warrior of Riace





Dear Chicago Alumni and Friends:

Discover time-honored Sicily, one of the most beautiful and unique regions in Italy. Explore the medieval town of Taormina, the Roman and Greek influences in Agrigento, the majesty of Mount Etna and the ancient magnificence of Syracuse.

Your itinerary has been meticulously planned by travel experts to include incomparable cultural experiences, behind-the-scenes excursions and preferred access to popular attractions. Our Alumni Campus Abroad® program takes your adventure a step further with a lecture series featuring expert local speakers and exclusive opportunities to Meet the People.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. You will enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with friends old and new and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries!

Space on this exclusive journey is limited to 36 travelers, so make your reservations today!

Sincerely,

Kate Heilman
Associate Director, Travel and Education
Alumni Association
The University of Chicago

Questions? For information about the program, contact University of Chicago Alumni Travel at 773/702-2160 or 800/955-0065, alumnitravel@uchicago.edu. For information about logistics or registration, call AHI International at **800-323-7373**.



Peter White (Ph.D. Harvard University, 1972) is the Herman C. Bernick Family Professor in the Department of Classics and the College. He has written *Promised Verse: Poets in the Society of Augustan Rome*, for which he won the APA's Goodwin Award in 1995, *Cicero in Letters: Epistolary Relations of the Late Republic*, and articles and reviews on Horace, Statius, Martial, the *Historia Augusta*, and the place of poets in Roman society. His teaching is focused on Roman comedy and satire, Greek and Roman historiography, and the Confessions of Saint Augustine. He received the Quantrell Teaching Award for 1990.

SICILY

ISLAND IN A SEA OF LIGHT

Spend seven nights in Taormina, celebrated for its stunning views and ancient Greek theater, and explore this melting pot of Mediterranean civilizations. Visit Piazza Armerina and marvel at the well-preserved mosaics in the Imperial Roman Villa del Casale. Enjoy an exhilarating visit to Mount Etna and see the crater of the active volcano. Visit a working lemon farm. Marvel at the ancient ruins in Syracuse, and spend a day on the “toe” of Italy.

DAY ONE

Depart for Catania, Sicily, Italy.[†]

[†] Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

DAY TWO

D

TAORMINA, SICILY, ITALY

Upon arrival, transfer[†] to Taormina and check in to the Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea Palace.

Independent Exploration: Explore Taormina at your leisure this afternoon.

Tonight, attend a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

DAY THREE

B I D

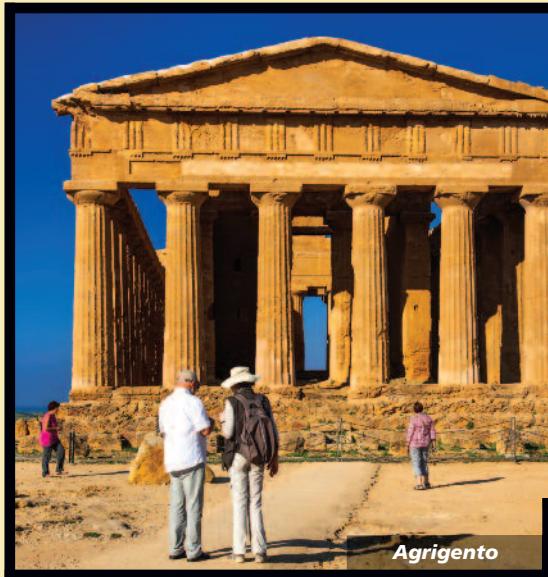
TAORMINA

Educational Focus: *History of Sicilian Art and Architecture.* Learn about the archaeological riches found in Sicily’s Grecian temples, Roman bridges and Norman castles.

Excursion: *Taormina.* Explore Taormina, situated high atop Monte Tauro, and marvel at the town’s scenic palazzi, 14th- and 15th-century palaces and striking view of the seacoast. See the ancient theater of Taormina, built into the rocky slope of the mountain by the Greeks in the seventh century B.C. and rebuilt by the Romans in the second century A.D. Remarkably preserved and still in use today, the theater features near-perfect acoustics and ancient reserved seating sections.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure in Taormina.

Local Flavor: Vine-ripened tomatoes and fresh herbs brighten Sicily’s enticing cuisine. Learn how to use these ingredients and bring



Agrigento

UNESCO

The archaeological area of Agrigento, Mount Etna and the ancient city of Syracuse are UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program.

home new culinary skills, thanks to a private pizza-making lesson with a local chef. Afterward, enjoy a delicious pizza dinner.

DAY FOUR

B I L

AGRIGENTO

Educational Focus and Excursion: *Ancient Greek Temples and Roman Mosaics.* Visit Piazza Armerina and marvel at the Roman mosaics found in the Imperial Roman Villa del Casale. Continue to Agrigento’s Valley of the Temples. Founded by the Greeks around 582 B.C., it is one of Western Europe’s most impressive classical sites. See the Temple of Hercules, the oldest; the well-preserved Doric Temple of Concord; and the unfinished Temple of Juno.

Local Flavor: Savor a delightful lunch during the excursion.

DAY FIVE

B I L

TAORMINA | MOUNT ETNA

Educational Focus: *The Geology and Volcanoes of Sicily and its Islands.*

Mount Etna is one of the world’s major active volcanoes and is the largest and highest in Europe, rising 10,958 feet above sea level. Etna was born from undersea eruptions, many



Taormina



Crater, Mount Etna



Syracuse



of them occurring in ancient times. Examine the geology and volatility of Sicily's volcanoes.

Excursion: Mount Etna. Enjoy an exhilarating, panoramic drive along the winding road to Mount Etna's crater.

Educational Focus and Local

Flavor: Meet the People. Sample a slice of Sicilian life at a local lemon farm where lunch is served. Meet the owners and learn the workings of a farm that grows the key ingredient in limoncello, Sicily's famous liqueur.

DAY SIX

B I D

SYRACUSE

Educational Focus: Syracuse, Queen of All Towns. Syracuse, whose history dates from 734 B.C, once was the most powerful of Greece's overseas colonies and rivaled Athens

in splendor and power. For more than 1,000 years, it remained one of the world's most vital cities.

Excursion: Syracuse. Travel to historic Syracuse on the island of Ortygia and explore its Old Town, a showcase of baroque and medieval architecture. Stroll the elegant Piazza del Duomo and enter the Duomo, built on the site of the Temple of Athena. Continue to the Archaeological Park, home of the city's great ancient ruins, including the Teatro Greco. At 455 feet in diameter,



Piazza Armerina

the theater is one of the largest and best-preserved theaters in Sicily, and it is still in use today.

DAY SEVEN

B | L

REGGIO DI CALABRIA

Excursion: Mainland Italy's Reggio di Calabria. Bid farewell to Sicily for the day as you board a ferry and sail across the Strait of Messina to Reggio di Calabria, the "toe" of Italy. Visit the National Museum of Magna Graecia, which houses an impressive collection of artifacts and paintings from the ancient city-state. Among the collection are the Warriors of Riace, a pair of 2,500-year-old Greek sculptures that survived the lost Hellenic civilization.

DAY EIGHT

B | D

TAORMINA

Independent Exploration: Spend your last full day in Sicily at leisure. Explore Taormina or relax at the hotel.

Tonight, attend a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony, followed by a Farewell Dinner at the hotel.

DAY NINE

B

Transfer⁺ to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.

Note: *Itinerary subject to change. Some events on this program involve an element of walking.*

Included meals indicated each day as B | L | D = Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Seven nights** in Taormina, Italy, at the deluxe **Grand Hotel Mazarò Sea Palace.**

Meals

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, featuring seven breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Sample authentic regional specialties at local restaurants.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner.

Transportation

- All deluxe motor coach transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert English-speaking guides.
- **All excursions:**
 - Explore Taormina and its famous Greek theater.
 - Discover Agrigento's glorious temples.
 - Admire the sights along the way to Mount Etna.
 - Visit the ruins of Syracuse.
 - Journey to mainland Italy and spend a day in Reggio di Calabria.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director.**
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

ACCOMMODATIONS



GRAND HOTEL MAZZARÒ SEA PALACE

TAORMINA

Set on the edge of Basia di Mazzarò, the beautiful Grand Hotel Mazzarò Sea

Palace offers impeccable views of the coast. The bay, one of the most treasured areas of Taormina, is the perfect place to enjoy water sports. However, you also may choose to relax on the hotel's private beach. Other amenities include a fitness center, a spa, a sea water pool, a restaurant and a piano bar. Each guest room boasts sophisticated finishes and modern conveniences.



SICILY AND ITS MANY CULTURES

The rugged island of Sicily was once considered the jewel of the Western world. Three indigenous groups were living

on the island when the Greeks arrived in the eighth century B.C.

The Greeks ushered in an era of prosperity and intellectual progress, building great temples, crafting fine coins and perfecting the art of public speaking. Five centuries later, Syracuse was the most populous of all Greek cities. The Roman Republic later acquired the island. The Romans built roads and sprawling noble estates. An Arab invasion brought advanced agricultural practices, citrus fruits and other new crops as well as beautiful mosques and gardens. In 1061, the Normans conquered Sicily. Embracing many aspects of Arab life, they sought Arab craftsmen to construct eclectic Arab-Norman palaces.

Eventually the kingdom passed to other masters, including the Germans, French and Spanish. In 1860, Giuseppe Garibaldi freed Sicily from Spanish rule, paving the way for unification with Italy.



Reserve your trip to Sicily today!

Trip #:10-21731W

Send to: Sicily
The University of Chicago Alumni Association
c/o AHI Travel
International Tower-Suite 600
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631

Please contact AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Univ. of Chicago Affiliation: _____

(2) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Univ. of Chicago Affiliation: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) Cell: (_____)

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately.)

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round trip AHI FlexAir to and from Catania, Sicily, to depart from:

Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.
- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$495 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by June 21, 2015 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____

Expires _____/_____/_____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

LAND PROGRAM

September 5-12, 2015

Full Price

\$3,345

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price*

\$3,095*

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT and Port Tax supplement is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$495 (limited availability).

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price: plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel, the University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago Alumni Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned therefrom. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is cancelled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. (Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.) Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.



Hand-painted cart

AHI FLEXAIR

September 4-12, 2015

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. Specially negotiated air rates are often available. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans.



Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel

Clockwise from top:

Lemon farm
Agrigento
Taormina

Letter page (left):

Corso Umberto, Taormina

Cover photo:

Spectacular view of Mount
Etna from amphitheater,
Taormina



A word about your Tour Operator

AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of more than 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Experienced Travel Directors** who attend to every detail of your journey.
- **Expertise of local guides** who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into local culture.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



Like us at facebook.com/ahitravel



Follow us on Twitter @ahitravel



View our webinars at youtube.com/ahitravel

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Alumni Association

Alumni Travel
5235 South Harper Court
Chicago, IL 60615

TTAS/CY15 151

**Please call or refer to our
website for the most current
program information,
discounts and pricing.**