



Sophia's Travel
Presents
Travel Agent Study Trip to
Italy
Naples and Sicily
October 15- 29, 2015

Naples, Italy

7 nights, October 15-22

A bit about Naples:

Many of you probably were passing Naples on the way to Amalfi Coast stay or cruise excursion. Just to arrive Naples, pass to fabulous Capri and Amalfi Coast. Yes Naples is not like romantic Venice or Renaissance Florence, monumental Rome or fashionable Milan. But here is where it's appeal. It is Italy's third largest city, one of its oldest, most artistic, delicious and intriguing. This is real Italy, an authentic slice of southern Italian life, complete with washing linen strung out between buildings and honking old cars driving through narrow streets.

We invite you to discover it with great guides and our local friends. That's what I've done myself and was completely fascinated. I promised I will be back. So, I invite my friends travel agents on my repeat journey to Naples. Its historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, museums boast some of Europe's best archeology. The city's history remains a fundamental component of present society and it is revealed in many archaeological ruins, monuments and buildings.

The people are friendly and Neapolitan cuisine is honest, authentic and most delicious. Proud birthplace of Pizza which is midway between refined cuisine and traditional working-class meal, Neapolitan pizza became one of the main dishes and a symbol of Neapolitan cuisine since the 18th Century. It boasts also best pasta and coffee, delicious seafood dishes, street snacks and sweet treats.

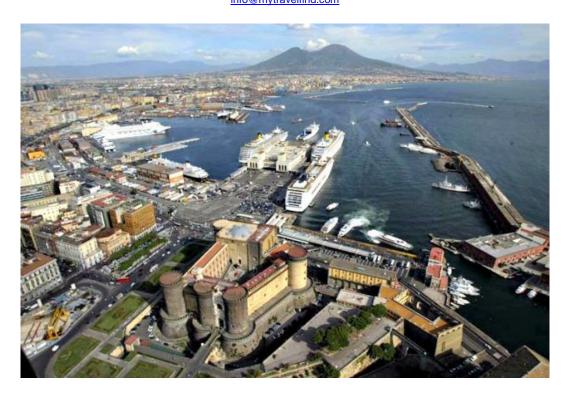
So, look beyond the grim and graffiti and you will discover amazing frescoes, sculptures, great people watching, beatiful panoramas of Vesuvio, great conversations, legends and humanity.

Welcome to Naples, the most unlikely Italy's masterpiece!

This trip you will stay in one hotel in Naples and taking day trips.







Hotel: 4* hotel Grand Santa Lucia http://www.santalucia.it/en or similar.

Elegance, a sense of privacy and an ineffable style are the calling cards of the Grand Hotel Santa Lucia in Naples, located in the city centre. A hotel with an Art Nouveau flavour, built in 1900 by the celebrated architect Giovan Battista Comencini, it faces the marina by the same name. It's hard to resist its fascination, the insistent pull of a spectacle that spans half the horizon. A panorama that from the balconies and terraces of the *Grand Hotel Santa Lucia* affords views of Vesuvius and the entire Bay of Naples, of Capri and Ischia, with in the foreground the majestic Castel dell'Ovo. A refuge beloved by musicians, writers, personages of every period, who in the intimacy of its rooms have found the inspiration for unforgettable works. It is also an ideal location for a romantic weekend, spent in luxury in the magical setting of a Naples that seems to hover between sea and sky.

October 15, Friday, Naples arrivals

Individual arrivals Naples, airport assitance and transfer to hotel.

Welcome dinner – featuring famous Neapolitan Pizza.

Overnight Naples, Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar.

Meals: D

October 16, Friday, Naples walking tour

Breakfast at hotel.





Our walk begins in the morning we will walk towards to the famous shopping street of Via Toledo where we will see the typical streets of the Naples Spanish Quarter: the alleys, the heart of the True Naples, among narrow streets and hanging clothes.

We will have a sweet little break to try the real Neapolitan coffee with the famous "sfogliatella ", in one of the oldest bakery of Naples.

We continue to Piazza Dante where we will enter in the ancient heart of Naples, through one of the 4 gates of the city: **Port'Alba**.



In the old town we will meet our guide **Ludovica**. She will tell us about old stories and legends of love and unfortunate "little skull" venerated by Neapolitan people and linked to the Neapolitan tradition. We will pass among the old shops of craftsmen: the luthiers, the artisans making cribs, the booksellers, the potters, The Hospital of dolls.

We will see themost beautiful places and monuments of the historic center, passing through the famous

"Spaccanapoli" and the particular ViaSan GregorioArmeno famous for "Christmas shopping". It will be a unique opportunityto learn about the odd habits of thepeople of Naples!

The itinerary includes Lunch in a local restaurant. Free evening

Overnight Naples, Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar.

Meals: B, L

October 17, Saturday, Pompeii and Vesuvio Breakfast at hotel.





Transfer to Pompeii.

Meet your guide at the entrance of the old village of Pompei, one of those places that can't fail to amaze everyone who visits. Pompei is the city that was frozen in time, stopped in action and covered in ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79AD. Since it was discovered, it's been in the world's spotlight and earned a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The remains of temples, villas and streets have been uncovered here and look just as they did 2,000 years ago. All the major highlights here are covered off the amphitheatre, gladiators barracks, thermal baths, gymnasium and the market piazzas. Even if you're no



history fan, Pompeii can't fail to take your breath away.

After Pompei we will continue our tour to the hill of Vesuvio where the tragedy began. We will see the big crater and enjoy panoramic views over the Bay of Naples. A local guide will explain all the story of destruction and death.

Tour includes lunch in a restaurant of Vesuvio.

Free evening

Overnight Naples, Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar.

Meals: B, L

October 18, Sunday, Amalfi Coast

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to Amalfi Coast for a day tour







South of Sorrento lies one of the most enchanting shorelines imaginable – the Amalfi Coast. Its beauty inspired the likes of *E M Forster* and *D H Lawrence* to put pen to paper. And it's easy to see why. Twisting coastal roads snake along dramatic rock-faces.

Pastel-washed towns spill down cliffs towards the sea. And trailing bougainvillea and zesty lemon groves add the perfect finishing touches.

Meet Lucia, our local guide in

Sorrento. She will bring us for a walking to pretty Positano, showers down the cliff-side, with its near-vertical alleys crammed with cafés and boutiques. A little further along the coast, Amalfi's big highlight is its mosaic-clad cathedral reached by an imposing flight of sixty or so steps. Ravello completes the trio. A town famous for its terraced gardens and sumptuous buildings like Villa Rufolo it has some of the best views over the Gulf of Salerno.

Lunch included.

Afternoon return to Naples, free time

Overnight Naples, Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar. Meals: B, L

October 19, Monday, Naples

Breakfast at hotel.

Free day in Naples for personal explorations or shopping.

For those who want more action, we can arrange optional tour to Capri (not included in the cost)

Optional

If you decide to go to Capri, a boat trip across the scintillating waters of the Bays of Naples leads to this stunning and legendary island, surrounded by rose-tinted rocks and coves washed by translucent blue sea, giving it the look of a precious marine gem.

Over the years, Capri has attracted its fair share of superstars. Cesar Augustus had a particular love for the island and, more recently, its guest list has included Naomi Campbell and George Clooney. Who will choose to visit enchanting Capri, will meet Paola, our local guide, at the port. You'll start this trip by taking the zigzag road up to the hillside village of Anacapri, which has been travelled by countless celebrities in the past. The houses here are whitewashed, the streets are cobbled, and the views over the Amalfi coast are jaw-dropping. One of the highlights of this place is the Phoenician Steps. This steep flight of stairs leads all the way down to Capri port, and it was





once the village's only connection to the outside world. In the afternoon, you'll head back down to Capri, where you can join the jet-setters in the bars, cafes and label-laden boutiques. There's plenty of sightseeing to be done here, too. One of the highlights is the Church of San Michele, which was once part of an ancient monastery.

Not possible to miss the enchanting Blue Grotto. Take the trip around the island to witness the wonders of Capri, including the Blue Grotto! The visit inside the sea cave by row boat is not included in the price of the tour, and must be purchased separately at the entrance to the Blue Grotto. From Marina Grande you'll sail to the most beautiful side of the island, the east side, to see the subject of one of the most famous postcards of Capri, Monte Solaro, the Bay of Marina Piccola, and the Faraglioni

Price per person for Capri day trip approximately \$150 (depending on number of people sharing) Includes transfers to port, ferry tickets, visit to Blue Grotto and tour of the island. Lunch is extra.

Overnight Naples Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar

Meals: B

October 20, Tuesday, Naples

Breakfast at hotel.

Meet your guide Roberto for further exploration of Naples.



Explore Undeground Naples:

Naples is built layer over layer out of the compacted volcanic ash and rock that Italians call tufo. Porous and easily manipulated, it was used by the Greeks, starting around 470 B.C., as they built their Neapolis; the name means "New City" and emerged over time as Napoli — or, in English, Naples. Later the Romans used the tufo quarries for an extensive system of underground aqueducts. Early Christians dug caves to worship and bury their dead. Neapolitans of various centuries used the

cavities as dumping grounds. Only the cholera epidemic of the mid-1880s shut down this underground city, but in World War II it was in use again, as shelter from the heavy bombing that decimated the city.

Most of Naples has a honeycombed underground, and slipping into it — and back through time — is as easy as descending a flight of stairs or turning a corner. This layered, partially exposed history lends Naples a haunting, mysterious quality.





Wandering on, through the interconnected passageways below the bustling Neapolitan streets, we will see aqueducts that had been used for 23 centuries and then descended 121 steps deeper to the air-raid shelters. In 1941, almost 250 miles of tunnels and waterways under Naples were cleared of water and refuse, most wells were sealed, and stairways were built and electricity installed. The Neapolitans who waited in the shelters as bombs pounded overhead left markers of their tense days and weeks there: drawings on walls of bombs and planes, the word "aiuto" (help).

For more information, see www.napolisoterranea.org

Please note: There are 121 steps to get down to the end. The itinerary also includes a very narrow part for for those who have difficulaty walking or claustrophobic, there are other parts where you can sit and wait.

Visit Naples Synagogue (subject to confirmation of appointment) and hear the story of Jewish community.

Instead of lunch, we will sample delicious Naples street food with Roberto.

Return to hotel late afternoon.

In the evening we will attend Show and dinner in a very typical Neapolitan restaurant with singers singing and dancing old Neapolitan songs and music among tables. Transfer included.

Overnight Naples Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar

Meals: B, D

October 21, Wednesday, Paestum

Breakfast at hotel.









Today we will go to Paestum. It is an ancient Greco-Roman city, which dates back to the 7th century. The ruins of this civilization spread out for 120 hectares and are surrounded by defensive walls, but the focal points are three temples that circle the centre of the site. These religious houses were once dedicated to Athena, goddess of wisdom, and Hera, goddess of marriage. In fact, the ancient Greeks and Romans used to make sacrifices to these gods on the altars here. Other must-sees at the site include the painted tombs, which are the graves and headstones of Paestum's past citizens. The Tomb of the Diver is particularly special – its covering slab is painted with a picture of a lone man diving into a stream.

After Paestum we will go visiting a factory of "Mozzarella di Bufala". We will see how mozzarella is made and we will taste this particular cheese you can find only in our region. The mozzarella you buy everywhere in the world has not the same taste.

In the early afternoon we continue our visit to Campagna where we will go to see the Dominican Convent of San Bartolomeo. The town was the site of one of the concentration camps for Jews set up by Fascist Italy in WWII. The camp operated from 16 June 1940 to 8 September, 1943, the date on which Fascist Italy surrendered to the Allies.

Key figures in this story are Giovanni Palatucci, police chief of the northern Italian district of Fiume and his uncle Giuseppe Maria Palatucci, bishop of Campagna. Giovanni sent as many as he could to Campagna and in Fiume was so "sloppy" at his record-keeping that thousands of Jews in that northern center would have been sent to certain death had he not arranged for them to slip though the cracks. Various sources say that he saved about 5,000. He refused promotion and transfer as well as a safe-conduct pass to Switzerland when he was about to be found out. He paid with his life. He was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to Dachau where he perished at the age of 33. He is on the Yad Vashem list of Righteous Gentiles.

The day will finish at Pertosa Grottos. Inside these grottos we will see Jewish drawings as evidence of Jewish passage from Apulia to Campania and Vice versa during the II World War.

Return to Naples .

Overnight Naples Hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar





Meals: B

October 22, Thursday, Irpinia trip and departure

Breakfast at hotel.

Last day in Naples we will explore another area of the region. Campania is not only the place of Riviera or of Amalfi Coast, Campania is also the place of old Castles in the mountains, the place of the most beautiful villages hidden behind the rocks, is the place for skiing or tasting good cheese and wines. Campania is the region for walking in the woods. We are talking about the Irpinia Area, to enjoy a relaxing time before leaving the region, drinking a glass of wine in the garden, admiring the view over the surrounding hills.

Few regions transmit cultural patrimony and emotions in its food and drink more than Irpinia. Only recently the British newspaper, The Telegraph, reported on the resurgence of Southern wines, and pointed specifically to an Irpinian variety, Taurasi as a benchmark. And it comes as no surprise to many in the region of Campania, and Avellino in particular that it's own regions wine is becoming more appreciated. It has always been felt in the South that whilst the wines from Veneto, Lazio and Umbria have been more commercialised, Campania, Puglia and Calabria can hold their own. It has also been seen that it is one of the regions best kept secrets. Irpinia which lies forty five kilometers east of Naples has seen it's production of foreign exported wine grow by 82% in the last three years. One producer, Mastroberardino has even achieved recognition by industry peers awarding it's Taurasi the acclaimed DOCG (Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita) label; the only red of the South to achieve such an honour.

We will have wine tasting and lunch in Irpinia.

Lunch included

In afternoon we will return to Naples to collect luggage from the hotel and reach the port where the overnight ferry to Palermo will leave at 8pm (To be confirmed).

Snav Ferry Cost TBA (approximately \$80 per person) https://www.snav.it/en/destinations/sicily.html

departs Naples 8pm arrives Palermo 7am. Overnight ferry in 2 bed sleeping cabin. Dinner is not included, pay on board.

For participants who are not going to Sicily we recommend stay one more night and leave next morning so you will not miss Irpinia tour. Please inquire re: extra night cost and next day transfer

Meals: B, L

END OF SERVICES IN NAPLES

Itinerary and hotel are subject to change





Price for Naples per person based on minimum 10 people group:

\$1,780 per person double occupancy, travel agent or companion.

Single supplement: \$750

Price includes:

- Airport Assistance and Transfer on arrival
- Accommodations at 4* hotel Grand Santa Lucia or similar, standard room, tax and breakfast included.
- Sightseeing per itinerary with private guides
- Local tour leader for the whole stay
- Transportation per itinerary
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Meals and experiences:
 - 1 pizza dinner on arrival
 - One Neapolitan dinner and show with transfers included
 - o 4 lunches
 - Wine tasting, Mozarella tasting, street food
- 24 hour assistance

Extra:

- Airfare
- o Upgrade to seaview room on request based on availability
- Other meals besides specified above.
- o Gratuities 10% will be added at the time of final payment
- o Ferry to Palermo or air ticket approximately \$80 (subject to change at time of booking)
- Optional trip to Capri





Sicily, Italy

October 23-29, 6 nights

October 23, Friday, Palermo harbor - Paceco, Trapani



7.00 am Arrive at Palermo harbor on the ferry from Naples.

Get acquainted with Palermo with a Sicilian breakfast in an old cafe, have your cappuccino and your first "cannolo" of the trip, the perfect start, food is a serious business in Sicily!

Continue this full day in Palermo with a private walking tour through the old squares and street markets of the city center that originated during the Arab period, you'll experience local specialties from street vendors and in old establishments that are frequented by locals. You will walk through the spider's web of alleys of the Mercato del Capo, located behind Teatro Massimo, Italy's largest opera house, and the casbah-style Ballarò Market (our favorite). You will sample some of the aforementioned specialties as well as street vendor favorites, such as panelle (fried chickpea rectangles) and crocché (perfectly-fried ovals of mashed potato and egg).

You will visit the refined cathedral, the renaissance fountain of Piazza Pretoria, I Quattro Canti, the church of San Cataldo and the Baroque church of Santa Caterina.

Enjoy a family-style lunch with "chez Anna" who will host you in her beautiful home in the historic centre.

In the afternoon departure towards Trapani and accommodation in agriturismo.



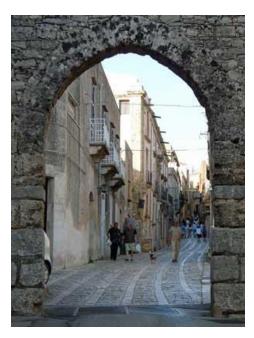


Enjoy a traditional "peasant" dinner.

Overnight Agroturismo Fontanasalsa http://www.fontanasalsa.it

Meals: B, L, D

October 24, Saturday. Erice - Salt Route - Mozia



Our first stop today will be in Erice, a wonderfully preserved Mediaeval town offering the most breathtaking views and a palpable sense of history. Walking through its narrow streets admire its 60 churches! And the ruins of the Pepoli Castle. Gourmet stop to taste the excellent pastry at Maria Grammatico's shop and lab.

Later we head to the sea to follow the historic salt route: it is a unique scenery with shelter for migration birds, windmills and the so called salt houses (mountains of salt-covered with tiles). The salt pans and windmills still function as they have for centuries.

Stop for lunch in our favorite "trattoria" overlooking the salt pans.

Take a boat excursion (only 15 minutes) to the Phoenician isle of Mozia to see the collection of Joseph Whitaker, archaeologist and ornithologist, whose family made a fortune producing Marsala wine.

So let's taste Marsala wines in the oldest winery of the area, Florio winery.

Light dinner at the Agriturismo

Overnight Agroturismo Fontanasalsa http://www.fontanasalsa.it

Meals: B, L, D

October 25, Sunday, Valle dei Templi, Agrigento

After breakfast leave towards Agrigento, meet your local guide and visit the Valley of the Temples.







The temples erected in the fifth century BC, following the ancient principle (Greek as well as Roman), face the East so that the rising sun would first illuminate the statue of the Divinity, as a

font and principle of life.



The archaeological area known as the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, Sicily, is one of the most important archeological sites in the world and a UNESCO world heritage site since 1998. Along a long rocky scarp, chosen as the southern limit of the town, are still sited the great temples of ancient Akragas: the Temple of Hera (Juno) Lacinia, Concordia, Heracles (Hercules), Olympian Zeus (Jupiter), Castor and Pollux (Dioscuri) and Hephaistos (Vulcan). Further down, on the bank

of the Akragas river, near a medical spring, stood the Temple dedicated to Asklepius (Eusculapius), the god of medicine. At the mouth of the river there was the harbour and emporion (trading-post) of the ancient city.

Overnight Baglio della Luna, Agrigento http://www.bagliodellaluna.com/ or similar

Meals: B, D

October 26, Sunday: Piazza Armerina, Caltagirone, Siracusa

Breakfast at hotel.

Today you will take an inland route, which passes by two very notable sights that will be the focus of your touring today.

Upon arrival in the Sicilian mountain town of Piazza Armerina, visit the renowned Villa Romana del Casale, one of the grand attractions of Sicily, boasting the largest and well preserved collection of Roman Mosaics in the world.

Continue 45 min to Caltagirone, famous for its pottery production where the main sights include an Aragonese Castle built at the end of the fourteenth century and an imposing, eighteenth-century Duomo. The architectural highlight is undoubtedly the 142 steps of the Scalinata di Santa Maria del Monte that connect the lower town with

the older upper town. The upright of each step is decorated with ceramic tiles. We will visit a pottery fabric and learn the secrets of this old art.

Continue towards Siracusa and accommodation in your hotel in the historic centre, Ortigia.





Accommodation in hotel Gutkowsky, Siracusa http://www.guthotel.it/ or similar

Meals: B, L

October 27, Monday, Siracusa, Noto

Breakfast at hotel.

Meet your local guide in Ortigia and have an amazing walking tour of Ortigia, admire the Cathedral built on the ruins of the Temple of Athena, Palazzo Beneventano, the Temple of Apollo, one legend after another.

Gourmet stop in the beautiful square in front of the Cathedral to taste Siracusa's best "granita". Our visit will include the Archaeological Park, the Greek Theatre and the Dionysus Ear, as well as the vibrant food and fish market where you can even taste sea urchins.

Meet our driver and depart for a 30 minutes drive to Noto. You will discover the beauty of the Sicilian Baroque as you explore Noto, one of the seven villages that comprise this Baroque region that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, seven towns rebuilt after the earthquake of 1693.

Accommodation in hotel Gutkowsky, Siracusa http://www.guthotel.it/ or similar

Meals: B, L

October 28, Tuesday: ETNA North experience with the wine tasting

Breakfast at hotel.

Pick up from Syracuse at 08.

Difficulty: Easy - Maximum altitude reached: 1900 mt

Recommended equipment: hiking shoes or sneakers, clothing appropriate to the season and

weather conditions



This tour through the northern side of the volcano between forest trails and fun off-road paths of ancient lava flows inside the "Etna Park". The discovery of Etna will begin with a walk on the edge of ancient extinct craters to better understand the structure of the volcano. We continue with the exciting discovery of a lava flow cave equipped with ropes, flashlights and helmets like real cavers. Finally, we make the ascent by jeep off road on ancient lava flow to reach Mount Belvedere from which you can admire the whole "Valle del Bove" that collects recent lava flows from the last





eruptions. Then we reach the territory of Linguaglossa where are the vineyards of Etna DOC. We visit a Sicilian cave from all stages of the supply chain from harvesting to bottling to finish with a tasting of 3 wine labels and typical Sicilian products.

Dropoff at Taormina Hotel at 5:30pm

Overnight: Hotel Isabella, Taormina http://www.hotel-isabella.it/ or similar

Meals Included: B; wine tasting

October 29, Wednesday, Taormina - departure

Departure to airport or extend your stay

Meals Included: B

END OF SERVICES IN SICILY

Itinerary and hotel are subject to change

Price for Sicily per person based on minimum 10 people group:

\$1,299 per person double occupancy, travel agent or companion.

Single supplement: \$750

Price includes:

- Assistance and Transfer on arrival
- Accommodations at boutique hotels and agorturismo per itinerary, standard room, tax and breakfast included.
- Sightseeing per itinerary with private guides
- Local tour leader for the whole stay
- Transportation per itinerary
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Meals and experiences:
 - Breakfast on arrival to Palermo
 - 4 lunches
 - o 3 dinners
 - Wine tasting, street food
- 24 hour assistance

Extra:

- Airfare
- o Other meals besides specified above.
- o Gratuities 10% will be added at the time of final payment





Pleae note – minimum 10 people required for each week trip (Naples and Sicily). Companions are welcome at the same price.

Study Trip Reimbursement Incentive

Travel Agents who participate in this trip can earn reimbursement from Sophia's Travel up to maximum of the total study trip cost:

Each new booking will earn 20% of the cost of the study tour in bonus commission. Valid for bookings with minimum value \$2000 and period from November 1 until December 2016

Payment:

Non-refundable deposit required \$250 per person to register.

Please specify, if you wish Naples, Sicily or both.

Once minimum 10 people number will be reached, the tour will be guaranteed. After that, we advice participants to book airfare. Please do not buy airfare until we will have tour confirmed with minimum number of people. If no minimum reached, the tour will be cancelled and deposit returned.

Once tour confirmed, 90 days prior, by July 15, final payment is required.

Credit cards: please fill in credit card form

http://www.emcoinc.com/travel/html/EMletterof.htm and fax it to us.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUND POLICY (All cancellations must be received in writing)

- After booking deposit \$250 per person
- 90-0 days before departure, 100%

Since it is a small study group and price depends on minimum number of people, deposit and full payment are non-refundable. Travel insurance is strongly recommended.

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http://www.cdc.gov/travel/ - Center for decease control and prevention

http://www.who.int/en/ - World Health Organization

http://www.state.gov/travel/ - Department of State Travel (USA)

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Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute an acceptance of and consent to the above terms and conditions and an agreement on your part to convey the contents hereto to your travel companions or group members.

If the client is dissatisfied with any part of the package, the ultimate supplier (hotel, tour company, etc.) is solely in the position and the only one with any authority to make any adjustments.

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Thank you for your business,

Sophia Kulich, CTC