

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS — OF — SICILY

5-15 September 2018

Led by the Rt Rev Mike Hill and the Ven Christine Froude



11 days in Sicily based in Siracusa, Palermo
& Taormina, departing from Gatwick.



McCabe
PILGRIMAGES

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS OF SICILY

with the Rt Rev Mike Hill and the Ven Christine Froude

5-15 September 2018



Sicily has been conquered and settled by different peoples over thousands of years: Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Normans have all settled or invaded the island, driven there by its fertile land and its strategic location, giving Sicily an unrivalled cultural identity.

Our tour will take in its layers of history, its wealth of architecture, ancient Greek sculpture, churches, palaces and mosaics and we will experience its vibrant markets and medieval cobbled streets, dramatic waterfronts and countryside with its semi-deserted Doric temples. Add to this its spectacular seafood and wonderfully fresh local produce (lemon, orange and olive groves abound) and we are sure to have the experience of a lifetime.

Bishop Mike writes:

If you want a holiday with a difference, this really is for you. We are very warmly inviting you to join us on a pilgrimage. This is an opportunity to spend some time together in this beautiful part of God's world. Eating together, praying, enjoying each other's company, time for reflection and worshipping together combine to weave the rich pattern that pilgrims have established over the centuries.

Each day will begin with a short 'thought for the day' and a prayer on the coach. During the time there will be a couple of opportunities to share in Holy Communion and each day will conclude with some Bible teaching followed by a short service of Night Prayer. Most of this is entirely optional and to some extent local facilities dictate what is possible.

The leaders of the pilgrimage will do all they can to make sure you have an enriching and enjoyable pilgrimage.

TOUR INFORMATION

The cost of this tour is £2,295 per person sharing a twin-bedded room.

We stay at locally graded four star hotels. Three nights are in Siracusa, four nights in Palermo and three nights in Taormina. All rooms have private en suite bathrooms.

All hotels are well located: in Siracusa we stay at the historic Grand Hotel Villa Politi; in Palermo we stay at the modern Hotel Ibis and in Taormina at the resort Hotel Lido Caparene on the coast.

The tour is on a half board basis with continental breakfast and evening meal included daily as well as one lunch. Evening meals are at hotels as well as at local restaurants. All touring is by air-conditioned private coach with entrance fees included as well as an Italian tour manager and local guides where required by Italian law.

Bishop Mike will lead a regular thought for the day during our travels and there will be opportunities for prayer and to join together in Holy Communion.

Return flights are with easyJet from London Gatwick to Catania. British air passenger duty and all other airport taxes are included in the cost of the tour as well as 20kg of checked-in hold baggage.

Not included:

The travel insurance premium is £49 up to age 75 and £74 if 75 or older (no medical screening is required). Travel insurance is essential but you may have annual or another suitable insurance.

A limited number of single rooms are available at a cost of £295. (Please read our note on the back 'Travelling Alone').

€60 per person for tips to hotels, guide & driver will be collected by the tour leader at the beginning of the

tour and disbursed locally on your behalf.

Any special requests should be printed on the booking form. A deposit is payable now to secure your booking with the balance due eight weeks prior to departure.

Final documents will be sent two weeks before you travel.



TO MAKE A RESERVATION

To reserve your place on this tour please complete the enclosed Booking Form and send it with a deposit of £200 plus the insurance premium of £49 / £74, to the tour leader.

Canon David C Froude
1 Orchard Close
Winterbourne
Bristol
BS36 1BF

Tel: 07768 958704
email: davidcfroude@gmail.com

ANCIENT TEMPLES & BAROQUE TOWNS



Wednesday 5 September | TO CATANIA

We fly from London Gatwick to Sicily. easyJet flight EZY8565 departs at 11:55 and arrives in Catania at 15:55. **Transfer to our hotel in Siracusa for three nights.**

Thursday | SIRACUSA

Our sightseeing in Siracusa today includes the archaeological area with its Greek theatre; the Ear of Dionysius Grotto; the Grotto of Cordari; the Latomie and the small island of Ortigia with its narrow, winding medieval streets, baroque palaces and churches. Afternoon visit to the Madonna delle Lacrime Sanctuary. Dinner at a local Sicilian restaurant.

Friday | RAGUSA, MODICA & NOTO

Full day excursion to Ragusa, Modica and Noto, three beautiful and interesting towns with churches and Baroque palaces. Cheese, wine and sweet biscuit tasting in Ragusa is fun, whilst chocolate making and tasting in Modica will fascinate you (and tempt your taste buds). Dinner at our hotel.

Saturday | PIAZZA ARMERINA

Departure after breakfast to Piazza Armerina (2 hours). Visit this small, picturesque hill town with its cathedral on top of the hill. Piazza Armerina was known as 'the town of 100 churches' - many of its churches are now deconsecrated. We then visit the Roman Villa del Casale (floor mosaics). After a late lunch stop at a local restaurant, we

continue to **Palermo for a four night stay**. Dinner at our hotel.

Sunday | PALERMO

Our visits in Palermo include the Cathedral, the Palatine Chapel, the Norman palace, Piazza Verdi with the Massimo Theatre and the Politeama Theatre. We visit the Saint Rosaly Sanctuary in Monte Pellegrino with its wonderful views over Palermo. After a stop for lunch we continue to Mondello beach with time to swim in the turquoise sea, relax, have an ice cream or all three. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Monday | AGRIGENTO

Full day excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Site 'Valley of Temples' (the Concorde Temple, Castor & Pollux Temples, Zeus temples and several others). Some free time to explore the town at your leisure. Dinner back at our hotel.

Tuesday | MARSALA & ERICE

Depart after breakfast for a scenic drive to Marsala with a visit to a vineyard to sample some Marsala dessert wine. We return to Palermo via the pretty, cobbled hilltop town of Erice, overlooking Trapani and the Mediterranean Sea. Enjoy traditional almond pastries at *Grammatico Pasticceria*. Dinner at our hotel.

Wednesday | MONREALE & CEFALU

We depart after breakfast for Monreale, a lovely little town

overlooking Palermo. Visit the Norman Cathedral with its stunning gold mosaics and the Benedictine cloister. Continue to the coastal town of Cefalù where we visit the magnificent cathedral. Lunch at a local fish restaurant (included). Depart for Taormina. **Three night stay at a resort hotel on the coast**. Dinner at the hotel.

Thursday | TAORMINA

Today is free for shopping or visiting sites at your leisure. There are several local excursions bookable locally including a trip up Mount Etna. Dinner at the hotel.

Friday | BY THE SEA

You may decide to walk, explore the coast, the beautiful town of Taormina or just spend some time relaxing. Dinner at the hotel.

Saturday 15 September | HOME

We leave Taormina for Catania where we visit the town and its traditional fish market. Lunch in Catania (a chance to taste the Catanese brioche served with granita or ice cream). Transfer to Catania airport. Our return flight EZY8568 departs Catania at 16:25 and arrives back at London Gatwick at 18:40.

Flight times are correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change. Some touring days are long with quite a bit of walking but we will endeavour to meet the needs of both the fittest and those that may need to take a little more time.



OUR JOURNEY

McCABE PILGRIMAGES

Our tour is being organised in association with McCabe Pilgrimages, a company well-known in church circles and recognised as Britain's foremost religious tour operator. McCabe has been responsible for organising hundreds of pilgrimages and cultural tours to the Bible Lands with churches from all over Britain for more than 30 years. The company is a member of AITO and is fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority.

TRAVELLING ALONE

Many of our passengers travel alone and object to expensive single room supplements. McCabe Pilgrimages will accept individual bookings on a 'guaranteed share' basis. We charge the basic price and accommodate you with a person of the same sex also requesting shared accommodation. If we do not find someone to share with you, you will be accommodated in a single room at only 50% of the usual single room supplement. For single travellers who do require single accommodation this should be requested when booking and, if available, the normal supplement will be payable.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after the time of this pilgrimage. If you need a new passport apply early as there can be considerable backlogs at the passport offices. Visas are not required for British or other EEC passport holders. We recommend you consult your doctor regarding any personal health requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is arranged by **Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd** for **McCabe Travel Ltd** who are an Appointed Representative of Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our status can be checked on the FCA Register by visiting www.fca.org.uk or by contacting the FCA on 0845 606 9966. This Insurance is underwritten by ERV. ERV is authorised by the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BAFIN – www.bafin.de) and the Prudential Regulation Authority and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority.

It has been specifically designed so that it covers all McCabe holidays; protecting you in full if you have to cancel and providing you with the very best and most effective protection if you are unfortunate enough to require medical attention whilst away.

A unique feature of the policy is that you will not need to call a medical help line to discuss health issues. Most Pre-existing health conditions are covered as long as your doctor agrees that you are fit to travel.

Standard exclusions apply and are listed on the summary document. Please check that you are not affected by the Main health Exclusions. You will not be covered for any ongoing tests or treatment of an undiagnosed condition, or for any terminal illness, or if you claim as a result of a condition arising within the past twelve months.

Please note: you will pay an excess of £1,000 on any claim that results directly from a pre-existing medical condition. In our experience, very few claims result from pre-existing medical conditions. With this policy you are covered with no declaration of health required.

A full policy wording will be sent to you with confirmation of your booking, or ask us and we will send you a copy now. Full details are also on our website. If you would like more information or are unsure of any details, please call Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd for further advice on 01903 235042.

This insurance is only available to persons who reside permanently in the UK.

AITO Quality Statement

McCabe Pilgrimages is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators and encourages high standards of quality and service. McCabe abides by the Association's Code of Conduct and adheres to the AITO Quality Charter which can be viewed on www.aito.co.uk. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

This pilgrimage is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The McCabe ATOL number is 2920.

