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Sorrento and the Bay of Naples, with Mount Vesuvius, on a 19th-century painting (c/o Wikimedia Commons)

THE BAY OF NAPLES AND SICILY

A two-week exploration of the most beautiful, interesting, and deservedly world-famous sights in Italy's south, a usually sunny and balmy destination even in late fall/early winter. Including visits to Sorrento, Pompeii, Amalfi, Capri, Palermo, the Greek temples of Agrigento, Mount Etna, and Taormina, while enjoying first-class accommodation and great Italian food plus history talks by your tour host, historian Jacques Pauwels, and expert local guides.

Tour price from Toronto, based on double occupancy: \$4,995 (CAD)
“Land only” from/to Rome’s Fiumicino Airport, November 24 – December 7: \$3,895
Single room supplement: \$775

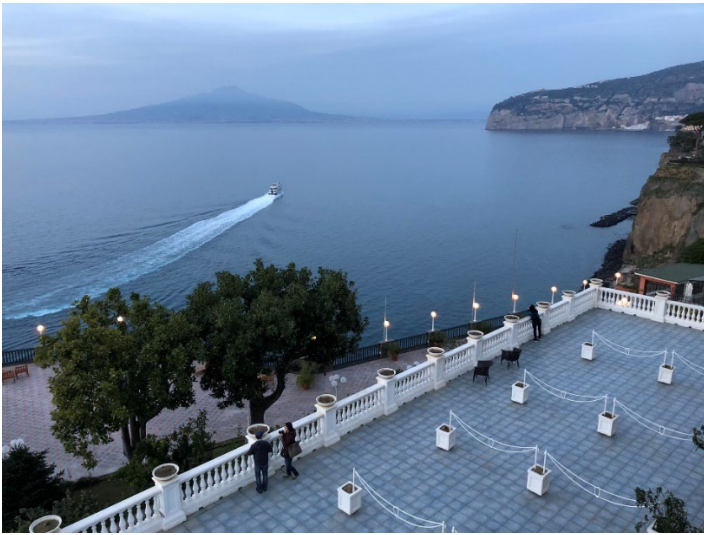
TOUR ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Thursday, November 23: At 7:30PM, departure from Toronto for Rome with Air Canada

Day 2 - Friday, November 24: Arrival in Rome at 10:20AM local time. Transfer by private coach to Sorrento, the beautiful and world-famous resort overlooking the bay of Naples. Dinner and overnight (in rooms with sea view) in the traditional first-class/four-star [Grand Hotel Europa Palace](#). The hotel enjoys a very privileged location, on top of a cliff overlooking the magnificent Bay of Naples and the famous volcano, Mount Vesuvius, within easy walking distance of the town's centre.

Day 3 - Saturday, November 25: Morning sightseeing tour of beautiful Sorrento, including lively Tasso Square, the Cathedral, the Basilica of Saint Antonino, and the picturesque shopping area. Also visit to the exquisite Correale di Terranova Museum with plenty of furniture and art objects from the 17th and 18th centuries. Lunch in the hotel, and rest of the day free to shop and/or explore Sorrento on your own. This evening you may want to try one of the town's many excellent restaurants, such as O Parrucchiano, and will perhaps be possible to attend an optional folklore show, featuring traditional regional music and dance!

Sorrento is one of the most beautiful resorts in all of Italy, and indeed of Europe. It is spectacularly situated in a verdant setting of orange, lemon, and olive groves, on a high ridge overlooking the blue waters of the magnificent Bay of Naples and, in the distance, the mighty hulk of Mount Vesuvius... In the 1800s Sorrento became an obligatory stop on the European "Grand Tour" and welcomed famous visitors such as Byron, Keats, Scott, Dickens, Goethe, Wagner, and Nietzsche. The great Italian poet Torquato Tasso was born here in 1544. With a population of around 18,000, Sorrento is also an important centre for arts and crafts, specializing in lace and inlaid wood.



< View of Mt Vesuvius from a room at the Hotel Europa Palace
(all photos c/o J. Pauwels 2022 except when stated otherwise)

Day 4 - Sunday, November 26: Excursion to Pompeii, the world-famous Roman city buried under volcanic ashes during an eruption of nearby Mount Vesuvius in 79AD, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards we enjoy driving along a stretch of the Amalfi Coast, one of the most beautiful coastal drives in the world and also a UNESCO site, as we head for the picturesque little town of Amalfi, situated on the Bay of Salerno, to enjoy lunch there as well as some free time to visit the impressive

Byzantine Cathedral, featuring a tomb said to contain the remains of the Apostle Saint Andrew, brought here from Constantinople in 1206, during the Fourth Crusade, when Amalfi was a prosperous and powerful maritime republic. Return to Sorrento in time for dinner in the hotel.



Amalfi from the sea (c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 5 - Monday, November 27: Full-day excursion by boat to Capri, arguably the most beautiful island in the Mediterranean and home of the international jet-set. Arriving in the port of Marina Grande, we motor by minibus to the picturesque hilltop community of Anacapri, offering amazing views of the island and the surrounding sea! After a visit to the Villa San Michele, the wonderful home and garden of Swedish doctor and writer Axel Munthe,

with stupendous views of the island, the Sorrento Peninsula, Mount Vesuvius, and the entire Bay of Naples! Some free time to shop or enjoy an optional breathtaking chairlift ride up to Monte Solaro, nearly 600m above sea level, where the panorama also includes the Bay of Salerno and the Amalfi Coast. On to the town of Capri for a leisurely walking tour, including the Gardens of Augustus. After the lunch break, free time to explore the town on your own or, if weather conditions permit, enjoy an optional boat tour, either to the famous Blue Grotto or around the island. Return to Sorrento in late afternoon. Dinner in the hotel. (Please note that the Capri excursion is subject to favourable weather conditions.)



The view from the Villa San Michele in Anacapri, with Capri below; in the distance, the Sorrento Peninsula, and to the left Mt Vesuvius (Photo J. Pauwels)

Day 6 - Tuesday, November 28: Transfer to Naples for a tour of the historical city centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the former Royal Palace, the famous San Carlo Theatre, and of course the superb National Archaeological Museum, one of the best of its kind in the entire world, if only because it features all or most of the artifacts found during the excavations in Pompeii! Evening departure on the overnight ferry to Palermo, Sicily. Accommodation in cabins with private facilities. Dinner in Naples before departure OR dinner on board.



Naples and Mt Vesuvius on a wall in a Naples pizzeria (Photo J. Pauwels)

Day 7 - Wednesday, November 29: Morning arrival in Palermo and panoramic tour of Sicily's capital, including the famous Byzantine-Arab-Norman churches with their fabulous mosaics, yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afternoon free. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located first-class [Hotel Mercure Centro](#).

Day 8 - Thursday, November 30: Morning visit to Palermo's fine Archaeological Museum, famous for its Phoenician and Greek antiquities. On to the nearby seaside resort of Mondello, which we reach via the scenic road up to Monte Pellegrino, with superb views of the city and the coast and a visit to the impressive sanctuary of Palermo's patron saint, Santa Rosalia. After a lunch break in Mondello, return to Palermo and free time for shopping or exploring the city on your own. No group dinner this evening, but there will be an opportunity to enjoy an optional gourmet dinner in one of the city's finest restaurants.



The beach in Mondello (Photo J. Pauwels)

< *Mosaics inside Palermo's Palatine Chapel (Photo J. Pauwels)*

Day 9 - Friday, December 1: Departure from Palermo after breakfast. We motor to the well-preserved and very impressive Greek temple of Segesta, then continue to the picturesque hilltop town of Erice overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Here we will sample delicious Sicilian pastries produced in the shop established by the quasi-legendary Maria Grammatico. In the afternoon we reach the seaport of Trapani, situated on a long and narrow strip of land jutting out into the sea, where we will stay in the [Residence La Gancia](#), a highly rated four-star boutique hotel located on the waterfront. Dinner of regional specialties, such as Couscous, in a typical ristorante.



Segesta's Greek temple (photo c/o Wikimedia Commons)

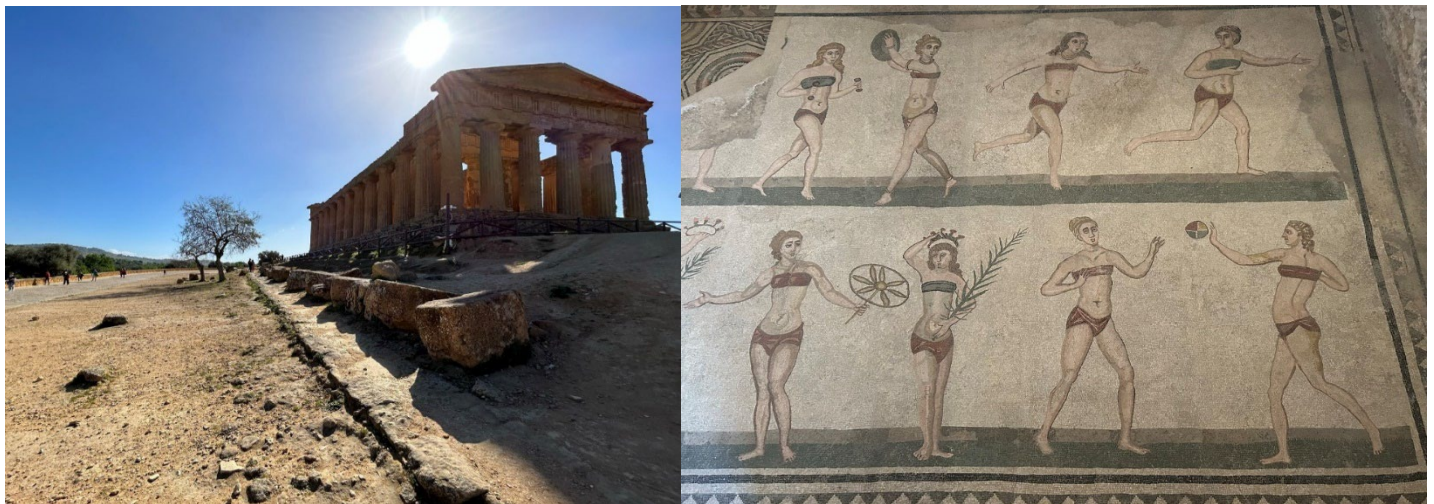
Day 10 - Saturday, December 2: Leaving Trapani, we explore the picturesque salt flats, dotted with windmills, that characterize Sicily's west coast. Visit to Marsala, a historically important town, founded by the Phoenicians, and the site where Garibaldi and his army of 1,000 "redshirts" landed in 1860 to launch the liberation of Sicily and complete the unification of Italy. Visit to a winery such as Florio to taste the most famous local specialty, a high-quality fortified blended wine similar to Port. After lunch, we continue along Sicily's southern coast, only a few hundred kilometers away from North Africa, to Agrigento, a town famous for its fabulous collection of Greek

temples and of course also ranked as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dinner and overnight in the first-class [Hotel Delle Valle](#).



Trapani, the Egadi Islands, and (to the left) the salt flats, as seen from Erice (Photo J. Pauwels)

Day 11 - Sunday, December 3: After breakfast, guided tour of Agrigento's spectacular collection of Greek temples. Then we motor inland to visit the Roman Villa del Casale, famous for its mosaics, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as you would expect. Continue in the afternoon to the west coast of Sicily and the seaside resort of Giardini Naxos, also historically important because it was the first Greek colony in Sicily. Dinner and overnight in the [Hotel Hellenia](#) Yachting, featuring very comfortable 4-star accommodations and great views of the Ionian Sea and the nearby hilltop town of Taormina.



One of the Greek temples of Agrigento - Mosaics in the Roman Via del Casale (Photos J. Pauwels)

Day 12 - Monday, December 4: After a look at Giardini Naxos with its memories of the Ancient Greeks' presence in Sicily, we motor a short distance to wonderful Taormina, arguably the most picturesque and romantic old town in all of Sicily! Our walking tour will first focus on the major historical monument, the superb hilltop Greco-Roman theatre, with spectacular views of Mt Etna and the coast. Then we explore the rest of picturesque old town, featuring remains of Roman and Byzantine monuments, such as the Naumachia, a Roman cistern, the medieval Duomo (Cathedral), other old churches, historic palaces, and the fine shops and lively cafés along Corso

Umberto, the vibrant pedestrian main street. Also, plenty of free time for shopping and individual exploring before we return to our hotel in Giardini Naxos in late afternoon. No group dinner today.



Taormina's Greco-Roman Theatre and Mt Etna in the background (Photo J. Pauwels)

Day 13 - Tuesday, December 5: After breakfast, short visit to the old town of Catania, birthplace of composer Vincenzo Bellini, with its colourful fish market, fine Cathedral, and elegant main street, Via Etna, named after nearby Mount Etna. Then we explore the slopes of that massive, 3,330-meter-high volcano – Europe's highest! – that dominates the entire island of Sicily; this is yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site. The mountain features desolate lunar landscapes of molten lava sprinkled with ruins of homes abandoned during recent eruptions, but also prosperous villages whose inhabitants rely on the rich volcanic soil to produce wonderful products such as wine, honey, cheese, and fruit. We also pause at the Sapienza Research Station, situated at an altitude of almost 2,000 meters, to inspect the Monti Silvestri, cones formed by eruptions during the 1980s. Our final group meal will be a traditional lunch of delicious Sicilian specialties in a winery on the slopes of Mount Etna, with great views (weather permitting) of the coast and the Ionian Sea below! Return to the hotel in late afternoon.

Day 14 - Wednesday, December 6: Departure from the hotel after breakfast. We head for the magnificent historical seaport of Syracuse, the final UNESCO World Heritage Site on the tour. The city was founded by the ancient Greeks, who turned it into their metropolis on Sicily, rivalling even Athens. Visits to the wonderful Archaeological Zone, featuring a Greek theatre, a Roman amphitheatre, and the "Ear of Dionysios," a cave set in a lush garden known as the Latomia of Paradise, and to Ortygia, the original Greek settlement, with as highlights the ruins of the Temple of Apollo, the romantic Fountain of Arethusa, featuring papyrus reeds, and the Cathedral, a fascinating former temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. In the afternoon, transfer to Catania Airport in time for the departure of a short domestic flight to Rome's Fiumicino Airport. Upon arrival, short transfer to the Hotel Mercure or a similar airport hotel and free evening.



Catania and Mount Etna (c/o Wikimedia Commons)

Day 15 - Thursday, December 7: After breakfast, short transfer to Fiumicino Airport in time for the 12:55PM departure of our direct return flight to Toronto with Air Canada.

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Single room supplement: \$775

Included in the tour price are:

- Direct flight from Toronto to and from Rome with Air Canada
- Accommodation based on double occupancy, in 4-star/first-class hotels; the supplement for a single room (usually a “double room for single use”) is \$775;
- Breakfast daily and *ten* dinners (or full lunches);
- Overland transportation by private coach;
- Ferry boat crossing from Naples to Palermo, with accommodation in cabins with private facilities;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned in the itinerary;
- Escort and guide services by Jacques Pauwels and local guides in Pompeii and similar sites.

Not included are:

- All items of a personal nature;
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- A gratuity for the drivers, for a total of 30 Euros (approximately \$45);
- Travel Insurance, available upon request.



SUGGESTED READINGS AVAILABLE AT AMAZON, CHAPTERS-INDIGO, ETC.:

*Books about the culture, history, food, etc. of Sicily:

Durrell, Lawrence. *Sicilian Carousel*.

Mackay, Jamie. *The Invention of Sicily: A Mediterranean History*.

Mazza, Samuele, Riccardo Cotarella, et al. *Sicily: Wines and Wine Routes*.

Norwich, John-Julius. *Sicily: A Short History from the Ancient Greeks to Cosa Nostra*.

Robb, Peter. *Midnight in Sicily: On Art, Food, History, Travel and la Cosa Nostra*,

Sammartino, Peter, and William Roberts. *Sicily: An Informal History*.

*A famous classic story, set in 19th-century Sicily:

The Leopard, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Leopard)

It was made into a blockbuster movie in 1963 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Leopard_\(1963_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Leopard_(1963_film)))

*Good travel guides are available from Rick Steves, Lonely Planet, and Fodor's.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "The Bay of Naples and Sicily" November 23 – Dec 7, 2023

I wish to book on **group flights** _____ OR **land only** _____.

(If booking land only please send the office a copy of your flight details).

Please be prepared to pay a deposit of **\$1000 per person and insurance premium** (if taken) at time of registration. Balance is invoiced no later than 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S):

Please indicate the appropriate title: (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Please indicate the appropriate title: (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth")

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

If traveling alone, is a *single room required*? YES NO

If sharing, please indicate your bed preference: twin (2 beds) double (1 bed)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc., here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

INSURANCE: Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check-off plan & provide quoted rate) or Decline Insurance _____

All-Inclusive _____ Non-Medical _____ Other _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel, e-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com, or credit card

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment."

Date _____ (Signature) (s) _____

Date _____ (Signature) (s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

15 Egerton Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 4L4

Tel: 519-753-2695/1-800-380-3974 – Fax: 519753-6376 - Email: tours@pauwelstravel.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$1000.00 is required at the time of registration. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form. Please note to avoid excessive merchant fees, we have made the decision to process deposits only once we have guaranteed a tour. Once the departure is guaranteed, we will contact you to confirm and process deposits.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service, or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply: 90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost 60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following: 1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. 2. I know that tour programs include walking and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potentially hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity. 3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control,

including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour. 4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both. 5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director. 6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group. 7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved; I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting. 8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered. 9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases, it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, we are not able to offer advanced seat selection. It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking, so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff. If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!