SICILY AND MALTA:
GEMS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

October 7-20, 2018  14 Days

Hosted by Ruth Caldwell and Uwe Rudolf
You are invited to join us in exploration of two sister islands.

Sicily, or “Persephone's Island” to the Greeks, and Malta, thought to be the “navel of the sea” in Homer's Odyssey. Their position in the center of the Mediterranean brought invasions by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Germans and Spanish (Sicily) and English (Malta), who affected architecture, cuisine and languages in different ways.

We will cross Sicily from Palermo to Catania, observing Norman and Arabic influences, Roman mosaics and Greek temples, situated in a stunning landscape skirted by the sea. In Malta, smaller but equally powerful, we will discover an amazing sweep of history, from Neolithic temples (older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids) to the extensive fortifications and building of the Knights of Malta and after the British. During World War II, Malta was the most heavily bombed place on earth, narrowly escaping occupation by the Axis. It was from Malta, that Eisenhower launched the American invasion of Sicily. Through visits and discussions we will discover the importance of these islands and reflect on their similarities and differences.

Luther has a strong connection with Malta, due to Dr. Warren Berg, who as a Luther professor of Economics, Accounting and Management, taught at the Royal University of Malta as a Fullbright scholar, which resulted in a flow of Maltese students to Luther. A reception with Maltese Luther alumni is being planned during our stay in Valletta.

Your Tour Hosts
Ruth Caldwell and Uwe Rudolf are emeriti Luther professors who have traveled extensively throughout Sicily and Malta. Ruth, Professor Emerita of French and Italian, directed Luther's Malta program in 2003, and has led students and others on trips to Sicily. Uwe taught accounting and international management and is currently updating the Historical Dictionary of Malta, which he co-authored with Warren Berg, the founder of Luther’s special connection to Malta.

FRI 12 OCT  Sicily/Malta (Valletta)
Enjoy a relaxed start to the day. After hotel check-out, travel to Siracusa, south along the coast from Catania. Visit the most important archaeological center in Magna Graecia including the Greek theatre, the Roman amphitheater, the necropolis and the famous Latomia del Paradiso cave system with a room known as the “Ear of Dionysios” for its acoustics. There will be time on the island of Ortigia, the small baroque old city centre built by the Aragonians. Travel back to Catania stopping for dinner en route. Board a late evening flight south to Malta. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel for an eight-night stay. Grand Hotel Excelsior (B, D) www.excelsior-palermo.com

MON 15 OCT  Valletta
Begin the day at Casa Rocca Piccola, the 16th century palazzo of the 9th Marquis of Piro. This exquisitely furnished and maintained palace is still a privately-owned and much-loved family home. Next is St. John's Co-Cathedral. Apart from its peak among the most magnificent Baroque churches in the world, St John's Co-Cathedral is also an architectural metaphor for the Order of the Knights of St John, who built it between 1573 and 1578. The simple post-siege façade reflects the Knights' military pragmatism, while the gilded vaults, painted ceilings, polychrome marble floors and general Baroque exuberance of the lavish interior reveal the sophistication, power and wealth of the Order. Grand Hotel Excelsior (B)

THU 18 OCT  Valletta
Explore the Birgu district of Valetta. Dominating the tip of Vittoriosa, Fort St Angelo has always been of great importance because of its strategic position. Because of the role it has played throughout Maltese history, particularly during the Great Siege of 1565, the fort has great emotional significance for the Maltese people. After touring the fort explore the Malta at War Museum, which documents the great ordeal suffered by the brave people of Malta and their defenders.
FRI 19 OCT  Valletta
Guarding the entrance to both Marsamxett and Grand Harbours is Fort St. Elmo, named after the patron saint of mariners. Although now much altered, this fort was built by the Knights in 1552 in a mere four months, and bore the brunt of Turkish arms during the Great Siege of 1565. After touring the fort and the stunning National War Museum, proceed to the Grandmaster’s Palace, which is now the Office of the President of Malta. Tour the impressive State Rooms and the Palace Armoury, one of the most visible and tangible symbols of the past glories of the Sovereign Hospitaller Military Order of Malta. Lastly tour a more recent vestige of war – the Lascaris War Rooms. This secret underground complex of tunnels and chambers housed the War Headquarters from where the defense of Malta was conducted during the Second World War. Tonight gather for a festive farewell dinner at a typical Maltese restaurant. Grand Hotel Excelsior (B, D)

MEALS: Breakfast daily with one lunch and seven dinners as outlined in the itinerary.

GROUNDS TRANSPORT: Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.

SIGHTSEEING: Extensive sightseeing throughout; entrance fees included.

PORTERAGE: Luggage handling of one piece per person.

EXPERT GUIDES: Experienced English-speaking assistants for meet and greet upon arrival in Palermo and Malta, with local guides as per the itinerary.

GRATUITIES: Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, $70 per person has been included).

TAXES: Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently $569 per person).

ALL THE INFO YOU NEED: Comprehensive documentation including travel accessory, bag tags, name badges, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

SAT 20 OCT  Return flights to U.S.
Transfer to the airport for the return flights. Arrive home this same day enriched with your many discoveries of history and culture in the Mediterranean. (B, meals in-flight)

Cost: $4900 From Minneapolis/St. Paul
Tour Gratuities ($70) Included
Airport/Departures Taxes ($569) Included

*Costs per person based on double occupancy in USD

Optional Individual Supplement

Single Room* $899

*In addition to base tour cost. Limited availability.

Items Not Included
• European tour manager.
• Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
• Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
• Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
• Items of a personal nature.
• Optional travel protection: trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatriation. Please refer to the Travel Protection section.
• Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
• No entry visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens may require an entry visa.

Items of a personal nature.

Please note: Special offers may require an entry visa.

Iowa Seller of Travel 1076
**TOUR CONDITIONS**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of $400 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. A second payment of $1,700 is due June 4, 2018. Final payment is due August 3, 2018. For credit card payment Group Travel Directors accepts Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance of departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to June 3, 2018 - $100 per person administrative fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; June 4 – September 22, 2018 – Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; September 23, 2018 or after – No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than June 4, 2018. A non-refundable fee of $175 per person will apply for changes to group flights in addition to a possible airfare increase.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a $50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

**GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION**

Travel protection is optional, but we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan. GTD offers an extensive and competitively priced plan from Travel Insured International. Travel protection can help provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, emergency accident and sickness medical expense, and emergency evacuation/repatatriation. If you decline coverage at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later, but the Pre-existing Conditions Waiver is available only if the plan is purchased within 14 days of the initial trip deposit. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: 800-243-3174. Review your Plan Document for Schedule of Benefits and Plan Details.

**GTD TRAVEL PROTECTION INCLUSIONS**

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<th>Coverage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trip Cancellation</td>
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<td>Trip Interruption</td>
<td>up to 150% of Tour Cost**</td>
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* a maximum of $5000 per person
** a maximum of $7500 per person

Cost of this optional GTD Travel Protection is $273 per person. Additional coverage provided as needed for the tour must be covered. Travel protection is non-refundable fourteen days after you purchase a plan.

This document contains highlights of the plan. The Plan contains insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. Faiirmont Specialty and Crum & Forster are registered trademarks of United States Fire Insurance Company. The Crum & Forster group of companies is rated A (Excellent) by AM Best Company 2015. The Plan also contains non insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization, OnCall International, and not by United States Fire Insurance Company or Travel Insured International. Review the Plan Document for complete terms, including benefits, conditions, limitations and exclusions that apply. The Plan Document will be provided to you upon purchase of the plan. Coverages may vary and not all coverage is available in all jurisdictions.

**EXCLUSIONS & LIMITATIONS**

Insurance benefits are not payable for any loss due to, arising or resulting from: suicide, attempted suicide or any intentionally self-inflicted injury of You, a Traveling Companion, Family Member or Business Partner booked to travel with You, while sane or insane; an act of declared or undeclared war; participating in maneuvers or training exercises of an armed service, except while participating in weekend or summer training for the reserve forces of the United States, including the National Guard; riding or driving in races, or speed or endurance competitions or events; mountaineering (engaging in the sport of scaling mountains generally requiring the use of picks, ropes, or other special equipment); participating as a member of a team in an organized sporting competition or participating as a professional in a stunt, athletic or sporting event or competition; participating in bodily contact sports, skydiving or parachuting, hang gliding, or bungee cord jumping; piloting or learning to pilot or acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft; being intoxicated as defined herein, or under the influence of any controlled substance unless as administered or prescribed by a Legally Qualified Physician, the commission of or attempt to commit a felony or being engaged in an illegal occupation; normal childbirth or pregnancy (except Complications of Pregnancy) or voluntarily induced abortion; dental treatment (except as coverage is otherwise specifically provided herein); amounts which exceed the Maximum Benefit Amount for each coverage as shown in the Schedule of Benefits; due to a Pre-Existing Condition, as defined in the Certificate. The Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply to the Emergency Medical Evacuation or Return of Remains coverage; medical treatment during or arising from a Trip undertaken for the purpose or intent of securing medical treatment due to loss or damage (including death or injury) and any associated cost or expense resulting directly from the discharge, explosion or use of any device, weapon or material employing or involving chemical, biological, radiological or similar agents, whether in time of peace or war, and regardless of who commits the act and regardless of any other sequence thereto.

**CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user’s fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also covers the group leader(s) and their respective organizations.

**NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS:**

Be assured that GTD continually monitors travel industry developments (strikes, etc.) as well as world events. If any such matters affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html

For more information, contact:

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