



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Sicily Visit 2020

Friday 23rd October 2020 – Monday 26th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

24th October 2019

I am delighted to be able to offer your daughter the exciting opportunity to see first-hand the spectacular volcanic environment in Sicily. The trip is open to all current Year 10 students. It will be of particular interest to those students studying GCSE Geography as the places visited complement the content taught both at GCSE and A-Level and will give your daughter a big advantage in her 2021 summer exams.

The cost of this trip will be between **£740 and £790**, depending on the number of students signing up for the visit. The cost includes a £25 discount as an Early Booking Discount offered by Select School Tours. We anticipate that it will be a popular visit and so the final cost should be close to the lower price quoted.

The cost will cover return flights, coach travel to and from Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School and the airport, 3 nights' accommodation in a hotel, all meals including breakfast at the airport on 23rd October and dinner on the return flight on Monday 26th October and health insurance for the whole period of the trip.

Proposed Itinerary:

Day 1	Fly early morning from the UK (Luton Airport) to Sicily. Transfer to accommodation via Alcantara Gorges. Half Day Guided Alcantara Gorges: formed by the volcanic activity of the famous Mount Etna, the stunning basalt formation known as the Alcantara Gorges lies on the Alcantara River about a 20 minute drive south west of Taormina. Etna's geological influence on the surrounding countryside has created a beautifully scenic site. Several thousand years ago the river's path was blocked by a large lava flow from the slopes of Mount Etna. The cool water of the river helped to quickly cool the lava, which resulted in the lava crystallizing and forming the unique ballast rock columns that are visible today. Evening meal in accommodation.
Day 2	Full Day Guided Tour of Lipari & Vulcano: Breakfast in accommodation. Transfer to Milazzo Harbour and board the mini-cruise. There is the opportunity to look at the geography of both islands while on land and also during the mini-cruise around them. Tour of the island and time at the black sand beach on Vulcano. Return to Milazzo Harbour and transfer back to accommodation. Evening meal in accommodation.
Day 3	Full Day Guided Tour of Mount Etna: Breakfast in accommodation. By coach, travel to 1900m above sea level, then take a cable car followed by a 4x4 jeep ride to reach 2500m; after this the alpine guide will take us on foot until we reach 2900m above sea level. Evening meal in accommodation.
Day 4	Breakfast in accommodation. Half Day Taormina Tour: Proceed to Taormina for a walk inside the old city, to enjoy Taormina's culture, architecture and natural and political history, the Sicilian people and their traditions. Conquered by the Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Byzantines and Normans, Taormina boasts a rich and fascinating history and a robust mix of styles. Transfer to airport for flight back in the evening to the UK (Gatwick airport). Arrive at BHGS approx midnight.

This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change dependent on flight times/drivers' hours.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Accommodation details: Students are usually provided with multi-bedded rooms at the three star Baia degli Dei Hotel, Giardini Naxos.

If you are interested in booking a place on the Sicily visit, please return the slip below with a deposit of **£200** by **Wednesday 27th November 2019** to the Finance Office. Please pay by Wisepay. Up to 50% of the cost of the trip may be available and will be confirmed for pupils in receipt of free school meals. **In the event of insufficient students booking a place on the visit, the full amount of £200 will be refunded.**

I will send a further letter in December with the final costings and schedule for payments once I know how many students wish to attend the visit.

Yours,

Mrs J. Ruffhead
Head of Humanities
Bishop's Hatfield Girls'

REPLY SLIP: Sicily Visit 23rd – 26th October 2020
Please return to the Finance Office by WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2019

Pupil's full name (as on passport): _____

Date of Birth: _____

Form: _____

Please tick the appropriate box and complete:

I give permission for my daughter to attend the Geography visit to Sicily on Friday 23rd October 2020 – Monday 26th October 2020. (NB – payment on Wisepay is taken as also giving permission for your daughter to attend).

*I have paid the deposit of £200 using Wisepay / I enclose a remittance of £.....
I understand that this money is non-refundable in the event of my daughter being unable to attend for any circumstances not covered by the school's travel insurance policy. **Please contact school if you have any queries regarding this point.**
(* please delete as applicable) The full amount will be refunded in the event of insufficient pupils booking a place.

I agree to pay the balance as advised.

Signed Parent/Carer _____ Date: _____