



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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## Sicily Visit 2024

Thursday 24th October 2024 – Sunday 27th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

February 2024

I am delighted to be able to offer your child the exciting opportunity to see first-hand the spectacular volcanic environment in Sicily. The trip is open to all students in Year 12 and Year 10 students who are studying GCSE Geography. The places visited complement the content taught both at GCSE and A-Level and will give your child first hand experience in preparation for their 2025 summer exams.

The cost of this trip will be **£990**. The cost includes a £5 discount as a Repeat Booking Discount offered by Select School Tours. The cost will cover return flights from London Luton airport, coach travel to and from Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School and the airport, health insurance for the whole period of the trip, 3 nights' accommodation in a 3 star hotel, all meals including dinner on the return flight on Sunday 27th October 2024. The cost does not include breakfast on Thursday 24th October 2024 if your child chooses to purchase food at the airport before flying to Sicily.

### 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.*

**"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"**



Accommodation details: Students are usually provided with multi-bedded rooms at the three star Hotel Delle Palme (or similar hotel) in Giardini Naxos.

If you are interested in booking a place on the Sicily visit, please pay a deposit of **£200 via WisePay** by **Friday 1st March 2024**. If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium or the Sixth Form Bursary and you are experiencing financial difficulties, please email Mrs Jackson at [mjackson@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mjackson@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk) as financial support may be available on a case by case basis.

I will send a further letter in early March with more information and a schedule for payments once I know how many students wish to attend the visit. A minimum of 40 students are required for the trip to go ahead. **In the event of insufficient students booking a place on the visit, the full amount of £200 will be refunded.**

Yours,

J. Ruffhead

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