

Tour 2019 – Southern Italy!

Including Rome, Sicily, Pompeii and Palmoli.

DATES: The tour will be 14 days (including travel days): **July 19 - August 1.**

COST: \$3850. In addition, bring 170 Euros for meals (about \$200) plus \$15 USD (for a meal at JFK airport). We also suggest an additional 170 Euros for souvenirs.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

\$500 deposit is due by October 13.

\$900 January 5

\$1200 March 6

Balance May 8. The maximum balance is \$1250. However, we use our performance revenue from the year to offset tour costs for each person. We anticipate approximately \$300 per person this year – which would make the last payment \$950. We will send an update before May 8 as to the exact amount.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

If you plan on going on tour, follow these directions:

1. Go here to fill out the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWRB2HH>
2. Within the week of filling out the survey, you will receive an invoice. After you receive the invoice, make your deposit payment online (NetSuite) or in the office. Once we receive the deposit payment, you will have a spot reserved for you on tour.

Due to airline limitations, we can only take 90 people, but we're working on pushing that to 100. There are 130 singers in the chorale and choir, so we will accept people for tour on a first-come, first-served basis.

Any singer who is interested in tour must reserve a spot now. You will not be able to sign up for tour later in the year, because the spots will fill up quickly. **If a candidate does not earn his blazer before tour, we will refund his tour payments.** Any other reason for tour cancellation will result in cancellation penalties, based on the payment schedule.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Friday, July 19

Meet at PBCC building in afternoon. Buses to JFK airport. Overnight flight on Lufthansa Airlines (stop in Frankfurt)

Saturday, July 20 – Tuesday, July 23

Sicily – Catania, Agrigento, Palermo

Mt. Etna (volcano), Taormina (resort town), ancient Greek ruins of Agrigento, Monreale
Performances in Catania and Marzo del Vallo

Overnight ferry

Wednesday, July 24 – Thursday, July 25

Naples, Pompeii, Sorrento

Tour the excavation of Pompeii, Amalfi Coast
Performance in Ravello Festival

Friday, July 26 – Sunday July 28

Palmoli, Vasto (Adriatic coast)

La Pacchianella Festival, homestays (Palmoli), Vasto city tour (arranged by the mayor)
Performance in Palmoli

Monday, July 29 – Wednesday, July 31

Rome

Fontana di Trevi, Pantheon, Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Colosseum, Roman Forum
Performance TBA and performance during Wednesday mass at St. Peter's Basilica

Thursday, August 1

Depart for JFK airport, bus back to PBCC building.

Homestays

All boys in the choir and the junior chorale will be home-stayed in Palmoli. Every boy is home-stayed with at least one other choir member. This is one of the most unique and educational cultural experiences of tour; most boys' favorite memories of tour are the times they spent with their host families.

Vaccines

No special vaccines are needed for this tour. Just make sure your routine vaccinations (including Hepatitis A and Tetanus) are up to date.

Passports

Get your passports now. All passport must be good until February 1, 2020. If your expires before then, you must renew it.

Start the application or renewal process now, because it takes some time to process and we cannot have any delays. **All passports must be turned into the choir office before March 6.** If you are traveling out of country after March 6 and need your passport, contact Jeff Smith (jsmith@phillyboyschoir.org) to let him know the situation.

No Phone Calls, etc.

As always, we have a strict policy that boys and parents are not to contact each other at all during tour. There is one basic reason for this: homesickness. Occasionally boys get homesick on tour, and we have

various ways of dealing with it – the best way is usually to just get their mind off of it...as soon as they can start focusing on things besides their parents, they're over it and having a great time. If they are permitted to call or e-mail home, it will only increase their homesickness, and sometimes that homesickness can spread to the other boys when they see how sad their roommate is! Therefore, the following is prohibited: phone calls, e-mailing, facebook, texting, faxing or any other direct communication. Cell phones are also prohibited on tour. In the past we have dismissed boys from the program due to a violation of these rules.

No Visiting

Similarly, we cannot allow any parents to visit us during tour. In the past, parents who wished to vacation in the same country we are traveling had arranged with Jeff to see one of our concerts or visited us during one of our sightseeing days. However, this created a few very serious homesickness issues. The parents were very respectful of the situation and stayed within the strict boundaries we set of when to meet us, but as soon as some of the boys saw their parents, those boys broke down and cried. For this reason, we will not be permitting any parents to visit us during tour any more. **If any parent shows up at a concert or somewhere else on tour, we will send their son home with them and he will be dismissed from choir.** We want to do everything we can to ensure a great experience for the boys; preventing homesickness is critical, and this rule will help prevent it. If you have a relative or friend who lives in the country we visit, we can arrange a time for that relative or friend to meet us – contact Jeff to work it out; the homesickness has only been a problem with a parent or sibling visiting the choir.

If you wish to visit the country with your son before or after our tour, please mention this in the tour survey, as we will need to make special arrangements for your son's flights. Again, you cannot visit us DURING the tour, but we will arrange a meeting point at the very beginning or very end of the tour.

Insurance

The tour includes a health insurance package. We will also ask you to give us your personal health insurance information. Should anything happen on tour that requires medical attention, both insurance policies will help us cover the expenses. The insurance does NOT cover cancellations. If you wish to purchase cancellation insurance, this will need to be purchased separately. You are welcome to find your own, but please know they usually need to be purchased BEFORE you make your deposit.