

## Italy: Pompeii, Capri & the Amalfi Coast

### Tour-Only Itinerary

Steep terraced hillsides line the blue-green Gulf of Salerno, and a heady sweetness fills the air. Who knew that any walk could rival yesterday's tour of Pompeii? Yet here you are, immersed in a sea of Sfusato Amalfitano lemons—a rare local variety with a sweet floral scent. Delightful coolness settles in as you enter the Valle delle Ferriere, a gorge lush with waterfalls, ancient ferns, and moss-clad limestone walls. Continue past abandoned ironworks and paper mills to a trailside farm, where a local family welcomes you for lunch. Under the pergola on their terrace, enjoy delicately battered zucchini blossoms, linguine with pesto, and glasses of homemade *limoncello*—the perfect inspiration for plotting your next move. Your walking tour takes you on to Amalfi, Capri, and the rest of this beguilingly beautiful coast.



### Highlights

- Behold the stunning gardens immortalized by Wagner in his opera *Parsifal* at the Villa Rufolo.
- Explore the ruins of Pompeii, learning about daily life in this ancient city before Mount Vesuvius buried it under a blanket of volcanic ash.
- Immerse yourself in the lush green landscape of the Valley of the Mills.
- Stop by the Museo della Carta and discover the delicate art of papermaking.
- Design and craft your own ceramic tile, under the supervision of an expert, local artisan in Minori.
- Uncover the “Path of the Gods” and its striking panoramic views worthy of its namesake.
- Admire sweeping views of the Sorrento countryside during a lunch at a 5th-generation, family-

owned farm, savoring their organic vegetables and homemade preserves.

[Show all Highlights](#)

## On all Fully-Guided Adventures you can count on ...



Expert local guides to introduce you to the best of your destination.



Gracious accommodations that are a clean, comfortable home away from home.



Off-the-beaten-path places you'd never find on your own.



Experts to handle all the details.



A maximum of 18 fun-loving fellow travelers to share the journey.



Flight + Tour Combos include plane tickets, airport car service, and pre- and post-tour accommodations.



Delicious, authentic multi-course meals—virtually all are included.

## Activity Level

This tour is one of our Guided Walking Adventures, rated moderate with challenging sections, with an average of 4-8 miles of walking per day. This tour features a combination of paved roads and easy terrain, mixed with moderate hills, uneven footpaths on downhill slopes, several steps and hiking trails. On rainy

days, the footpaths can be muddy, and steps can be slippery. Both morning and afternoon walking options are available most days. On two afternoons, walking is optional and on your own, with route directions provided by the guides, and lots of suggestions for self-guided discovery.

## DAY 1

### Join your Italy: Pompeii, Capri & the Amalfi Coast tour

Pompeii walk; 2 miles, easy. Ravello walk; 1 mile easy

Your guide(s) meet you at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Grand Hotel Santa Lucia. Your guide(s) will be wearing a Country Walkers shirt. Please be dressed for walking. Your guides will hold a Safety Talk in the hotel meeting room before getting on a private motorcoach to Pompeii.

Explore the ruins of Pompeii, an ancient city buried in the ash of Mount Vesuvius, on a guided tour with a local expert. This afternoon, stroll Ravello's peaceful streets admiring the impressive Duomo di Ravello and the famous Villa Rufolo.

After an orientation and safety briefing led by your guides, you'll board a private motorcoach and transfer to Pompeii. Upon arrival, meet a local expert for a guided tour of the site. At dawn on August 25, 79 AD, the violent eruption of Mount Vesuvius caused the total destruction of Pompeii. In just a few moments, all the residents of the city perished, doing whatever they could to survive. Tremendous amounts of ash and cinder covered and preserved the scene precisely as it was at that instant. That's why, today, we know how Romans lived 2,000 years ago. Your guide will reveal, for example, that posters were used for advertising elections and supporting party candidates, and that the word "candidate" comes from candid, the name of a special tunic worn by those running for office to prove they had no criminal record. Lunch is on your own in Pompeii.

Early in the afternoon, shuttle to your hotel in Ravello and settle in. Later in the afternoon, there is still time to roam the terraces of Ravello with your guides, beginning in the peaceful, pedestrian-only center. Admire the white-faced Duomo in Piazza Vescovado and the Arabic-Norman towers of Villa Rufolo, where German composer Richard Wagner was inspired to create music for the scene in Klingsor's magic garden in his opera, *Parsifal*.

Tonight, enjoy a welcome cocktail on the panoramic terrace of your hotel before moving to the dining room for dinner.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Villa Fraulo, Ravello

**Included Meals:** Dinner

## DAY 2

### Ravello, Valley of the Mills and Amalfi

Ravello to Scala and Pontone; 3 miles, easy to moderate. Pontone to Amalfi; 3.5 miles, easy

Follow a mossy trail past terraces of lemon trees and scattered stone ruins. Savor a delectable lunch with a glass of limoncello at an organic farm and arrive in charming Amalfi where you'll learn about the city's papermaking history.

After breakfast, enjoy the morning to explore Ravello or join your guide for a walk in the Dragon Valley to Scala and Pontone. Whichever option you choose, regroup before lunch to begin your walk, which starts in Pontone and traces lemon-laden terraces to the Valley of the Ferriere, a magnificent nature reserve in the Valley of the Mills. As you proceed along a trail covered in moss and ferns, your guides will show you *calcara*, large pits where lime was made by burning huge blocks of limestone for days. You'll also see the *spandituri*, or paper-hangers, buildings now in ruins but once used to dry paper.

Before reaching Amalfi, you'll stop for lunch in a small family-run agriturismo, which you can only reach on foot. For decades the family of Mom Mena and her daughter Silvia have grown lemons of the Sfusato Amalfitano IGP. You will have the chance to meet the family and taste their Limoncello liquor after a delicious "from farm to table" meal with organic products from the farm.

As you reach Amalfi, you'll stop at the Museo della Carta, a unique museum housed in an ancient paper mill, where you'll learn how paper was made from rags. During the 15th century, Amalfi's paper was so prized that many foreign authors demanded to be published in Naples just so they could use the coveted material. You can buy some of this exquisite handmade paper in the museum's gift shop.

In Amalfi, enjoy leisure time to visit the beautiful Duomo and stroll along the city's charming side streets. Sit down at a sidewalk café and maybe try a delizia al limone—a confection made from Limoncello-soaked

sponge cake and lemon custard—or a slice of pastiera, a cake made with ricotta cheese and ground wheat that's been soaked for several days in running water.

Later in the afternoon, shuttle to your hotel in Ravello and relax by its scenic swimming pool. Regroup tonight to dine together at a local restaurant with a wonderful sea view.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Villa Fraulo, Ravello

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3

### Minori, Ceramic workshop. Independent exploration of Ravello

Ravello to Minori; 3.5 miles, easy, 1,200-ft. elevation loss. Optional independent walk Minori to Ravello; 1 mile, moderate, 1,200-ft. elevation gain

Admire sweeping views of the Dragon Valley as you make your way along a trail through rural areas and woodlands, past former paper mills. After lunch in Minori, meet with a local artisan to craft your own ceramic tile.

Walk out of Ravello, passing by remarkable monuments and churches. And then, the dramatic green shades of the Dragon Valley come into view with the sea in the distance. Ravello is famous for its churches, and you'll pass many on today's ramble. The 11th-century San Giovanni del Toro church is one fine example. The route is initially paved following the Valley of Rheghina Minor, downhill. Your route then meanders on a well-beaten pathway through a rural landscape of woodlands, passing former paper mills and a few scattered houses. You may occasionally pass pack horses and mules, a transportation method used for ages on the Amalfi coast to carry heavy loads up and down the mountains. You'll arrive in Minori before lunch with time to enjoy the beach and perhaps take a dip in the sea. Feel free to explore the Roman villa (no charge) en route. Founded by the Etruscans in the 7th century BC, Minori was a favorite Roman summer residence. In Minori, experience the local art of ceramics in an included hands-on class where you craft your own tile under the supervision of a local artisan. Choose from the many cafés for lunch. One highlight is the Sal De Riso pastry shop for its decadent cakes.

Early this afternoon, shuttle or walk back to Ravello. The 1,000-step climb through the peaceful hamlet of Torello is worth it for the views.

Back in Ravello, continue your exploration of the city on foot (an activity our guests highly recommend). During your free afternoon and evening, embark on one or two of the suggested activities.

Tonight, keep your eyes open for a restaurant for dinner on your own.

Ravello is a much-beloved little town by our guests, who recommend leaving enough time to explore and take in some local activities.

Guided – Flex Options include:

- Visit Villa Cimbrone gardens, where walking paths lead through meticulously maintained greenery and past elegant statues to the famous Terrace of Infinity. Stroll the terrace, famous for the row of white busts along its edge, overlooking dramatic views of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Take a guided tour of Villa Rufolo, whose beautiful cascading gardens inspired composer Richard Wagner to write the second act of the opera Parsifal. Explore the courtyard, tower, and the villa's extensive gardens taking in panoramic views of the villa's grounds and the Amalfi Coast.
- Take a break for gelato at Il Baffone, easy to spot on via Roma alleyway just a few minutes' walk from the main piazza. Famous for its rich, tasty gelato, this local gem boasts flavors like pistachio, strawberry, and dark chocolate, as well as more creative offerings such as chocolate peanut butter and cheesecake.
- Check the concert schedule in advance and don't miss the extraordinary opportunity to take part in the Ravello Festival. Symphonic, chamber, or organ concerts are held in spectacular sites throughout the season, typically in the evening. Purchase your ticket online at [ravellofestival.com](http://ravellofestival.com), [vivaticket.it](http://vivaticket.it), or at the ticket office on the main square ([boxoffice@ravellofestival.com](mailto:boxoffice@ravellofestival.com)).

**Accommodation:** Hotel Villa Fraulo, Ravello

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 4

### Agerola and the "Path of the Gods"

Agerola to Nocelle; 4 miles, moderate

Today, shuttle to Agerola, Italy's dairy capital, where you'll gradually descend on foot along a scenic stretch between Biscotto Caves and Nocelle known as the "Path of the Gods" for its heavenly views. The path is well-marked and offers views of Capri and the islets of Li Galli, or Sirenuse, where the mythical

Sirens attracted seafarers with their melodious songs. Near Colle Serra, where you cross the pass, stop to enjoy an included picnic lunch prepared by a local farmer and your guides. Expect a simple and authentic meal with fragrant vegetables picked in a local garden, barbecue sausages, and fresh mozzarella. Enjoy amazing views of the sea and cliffs as you eat.

You then continue down to Nocelle, where the Path of the Gods ends, and walk a relaxing paved road to your pick-up point.

With your guides, transfer to Sant'Agnesello di Sorrento. Settle in at your deluxe historical hotel, a former Jesuite monastery and the oldest hotel on the peninsula. Stroll the manicured gardens or the terrace overlooking the bay, enjoy the swimming pool, or maybe take advantage of the private beach for a dip in the blue waters.

Tonight, dine at your hotel's fine restaurant.

**Accommodation:** Grand Hotel Cocumella, Sant'Agnesello di Sorrento

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5

### Ferry to Capri

Capri walk; 4 miles, easy to moderate. Optional walk to Augustus Garden; 2 miles, easy to moderate

This morning, board a hydrofoil to ferry across the Sorrento Peninsula to the celebrated island of Capri.

Arriving at the famous *piazzetta*, the hub of the island, you'll set out along an easy walking path leading to Villa Jovis. As you stroll, inhale the enchanting aroma of jasmine and take in views of manicured gardens full of flowers. You'll explore Villa Jovis, built by Emperor Tiberius in the first century AD, as a strategic point where he could dominate and control the opposite coast. Enjoy incredible views from here including the Jump of Tiberius—a sheer cliff soaring more than 1,100 feet—the infamous site from which Tiberius had his enemies thrown into the sea.

Continue walking through a thick Mediterranean park where strawberry trees, myrtle, clematis, honeysuckle, laurel, wild asparagus, and cyclamen thrive. After passing by Villa Lysis, built by an

eccentric French count in 1905, you can choose to explore Capri's inviting shops and cafés or continue to Arco Naturale and Grotta di Matermania. These two rock formations are located in a natural cove used to honor Cybele, the Magna Mater, or Great Mother, of the gods. Find the cove down a long flight of stairs leading through a thick forest. Be sure to take time to stop for lunch on your own in one of the island's cozy restaurants or to picnic in the shade of a garden overlooking the azure sea.

Your small group will gather after lunch and walk to the eastern rim of Capri. Here, you'll see the amazing, and famous, Faraglioni cliffs, three rocky colossi protruding from the sea. Then, venture to the Augustus Gardens for gorgeous views of the cliffs and the curled Via Krupp. The trail ends at Capri's shopping district. From here, loop back to the piazzetta, where you began your walk.

You'll have time to discover the fascinating area around the *piazzetta* before returning via hydrofoil or ferry to the mainland and Sorrento. En route, take in the panoramic vistas of the Amalfi Coast from the sea. Walk back or shuttle to your hotel and save some time to enjoy the hotel amenities, including a large manicured garden with a swimming pool and private beach.

Dinner is on your own tonight. Perhaps you'll try *Gnocchi alla Sorrentina*, made with a tomato sauce and *fiordilatte* (local mozzarella).

**Accommodation:** Grand Hotel Cocumella, Sant'Agnello di Sorrento

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 6

### Sorrento Peninsula. Independent exploration of Sorrento

Torca to Lunch Farm: 2.5 miles, moderate. Optional Farm to Sant'Agata walk; 1.5 miles, easy. Optional independent Sant'Agata to Sorrento walk; 3.5 miles, easy

Today, you'll drive to Sant'Agata dei Due Golfi to the Sorrento Peninsula, where you'll follow the red-and-white markings of the Alta via dei Monti Lattari trail. This path winds upwards into a beautiful chestnut forest. As the woods open up, masses of multicolored, aromatic flowers come into view. Right before the promontory of Malacoccola, the view of the entire Gulf of Salerno opens before you. Your lunch stop is an organic farm that has been owned by five generations of the De Gregorio family. You'll visit their impressive vegetable garden and step into the rooms where olives, tomatoes, broccoli, eggplants, hot



peppers, and much more are made into delicious preserves and liquors. Later, choose to return to Sorrento on foot or by shuttle, taking in more views of the gulf from above. In Sorrento, enjoy free time to shop, explore the town, or relax at your hotel's swimming pool and private pier.

Tonight, you'll gather with your travel mates to feast on gourmet specialties during a festive farewell dinner at a nearby restaurant, overlooking the cliffs of Sorrento.

A beautiful and lively sea town, Sorrento is a joy to stroll. Enjoy views of the Bay of Naples, as you explore streets visited by Byron, Goethe, and Tolstoy, admiring the palatial architecture and historical buildings.

Guided – Flex Options include:

- Visit Museo Correale ([museocorreale.it/](http://museocorreale.it/) and [sorrentotourism.com/en/museo-correale-di-terranova.php](http://sorrentotourism.com/en/museo-correale-di-terranova.php)), located between your hotel and Sorrento center, home to a fine collection of paintings, porcelain, and furniture. Called the “most beautiful provincial museum in Italy,” the museum is housed in the summer residence of the Correale family, and its exhibits span 24 rooms on four floors.
- Explore Villa Fiorentino, a lovely, restored residence with a gorgeous garden. Art exhibits, musical events, and more are held here year-round. Check the website to find out about events during your visit ([fondazione-sorrento.com/en/villa-fiorentino-.php](http://fondazione-sorrento.com/en/villa-fiorentino-.php)).
- Enjoy the opera concert of the Three Tenors inspired by Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, and José Carreras. The show is held at Museo Correale di Terranova ([opera-lirica.com/the-three-tenors-opera-arias-naples-and-songs-april-july-sorrento-2020.html](http://opera-lirica.com/the-three-tenors-opera-arias-naples-and-songs-april-july-sorrento-2020.html)) and features famous Italian opera arias from Tosca, La Traviata, and L'Elisir d'amore. It is sure to win you over even if you are not an opera-lover.
- Taste the flavor of the day at Gelateria Da David (named for the owner, Davide). This family-owned shop makes traditional gelato flavors as well as specialties based on the exhibition schedule in town (during a Harley Davidson event, Davide created a Jack Daniel's flavor!).

**Accommodation:** Grand Hotel Cocumella, Sant'Agello di Sorrento

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 7

### Your Italy: Pompeii, Capri & the Amalfi Coast tour concludes

After breakfast today, you'll bid your guides farewell as your Amalfi Coast walking tour comes to an end. Return to Naples on your own for onward travel or continue exploring the Amalfi Coast.

This morning, enjoy breakfast and bid your guides farewell. Your tour ends here. Public transportation is available near your hotel to take you back to Naples or elsewhere on the Amalfi Coast to continue exploring.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## What's Included

### Tour Only

13 on-tour meals: 6 B, 3 L, 4 D	✓
Local guides with you throughout tour	✓
Entrance fees and special events as noted in the itinerary	✓
Travel assistance available 24/7 provided by Allianz	✓