



Sorrento Coast...the place to be

MARINA GRANDE: Marina Grande is right out of one of those gorgeous photos of Italy that enticed you here in the first place. A traditional fishing village that appears virtually untouched by the modern world, it's possibly the best spot in Sorrento to exhaust your camera's memory card. Pastel houses, festooned with the day's laundry, march along a deep azur sea with gently bobbing wooden boats of blue and white. The docks and shore bustle with heavy-muscled fishermen hauling nets and crating up catch. Women with children at their heels make their way home with bags of Crayola-colored red, green and yellow produce from the market. Tourists and locals alike lounge on bathing decks sprouting cheerful umbrellas against the heat of the midday sun. It's a long, steep walk down - and a longer way back up - from Piazza Tasso but this is not to be missed. I can't quite remember what streets/stairways we took but it was probably from Via Marina Grande. Whatever, just ask - as it's one of Sorrento's star attractions so you won't have trouble finding it! If you have bad knees, I suggest taking a bus down the hill and back. Line D of the bright orange buses that serve Sorrento proper leave from Piazza Tasso to the marina and back about every 20 minutes.

BASILICA DI ST ANTONINO: San Antonino is the patron saint of Sorrento, and an oratory dedicated to him was already in place by the 9th century. The present Basilica, however, dates from around the 11th century although much rebuilt over the centuries. The columns inside are most probably Roman in origin, taken from some of the many seaside villas along this coast. The crypt of the basilica contains the saint's tomb and an entirely fascinating collection of votive objects. Reminding me very much of the ancient Roman practice of casting an offering to the gods in the shape of whatever body part ails you, there are silver legs, eyes, noses, lungs, torsos....all sorts of body bits....as well as effigies of people and babies. There are also several paintings of shipwrecks, presumably donated by those who were saved. Well worth half-an-hour or so of pondering.

THE CLOISTER OF ST FRANCESCO: The monastery dates from the 8th century, but the cloisters from the 1300s. They are tiny really, in comparison with some other monastery sites, but a calm and soothing place to spend a while. The corner columns are re-used Roman ones, supposedly taken from a 'pagan temple' but equally possibly from any of the many seaside villas built by rich romans for their summer holidays.

MUSEO DELLA TARSIA LINGNEA: An absolutely stunning collection of historic Sorrento ware, beautifully laid out. There is everything from tiny thimbles to entire suites of bedroom furniture. There is also one floor devoted to the history of Sorrento, which is fascinating. The curator speaks excellent English and is proud of his museum (as he should be) and is only too pleased to be able to expound and expand on the exhibits and on the history of Sorrento. Open Monday to Saturday, and on Sundays for prebooked groups only. Entrance cost is Euro 8, with Euro 5 for retired people over the age of 65. Open from 10.00 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00, with slightly longer hours in summer. The collection is housed in an old house - don't forget to look at the ceilings!

MUSEO CORREALE DI TERRANOVA: This is an excellent museum in the house of the Counts of Terranova. It is a lifetime collection of two brothers who bequeathed the collection to the town of Sorrento. It is an eclectic mix of furniture, porcelain, paintings and so on. Labelling is in English and Italian. The house in itself is interesting, with well-proportioned rooms. The exhibits are well shown. You have wonderful views out over the sea, and on a clear day you will have a wonderful and unobstructed view of Vesuvius from all the windows but especially from the top floor. This view alone makes the price of entrance well-worthwhile. Entrance costs Euro 6. Opening hours are from 09.00 - 13.30. In July, August and September it is also open from 20.15 - 22.45 on Saturday evening. Closed on tuesdays and Bank Holidays. The garden is large and peaceful and if you follow the main path you will arrive at a Belvedere overlooking the sea, with wonderful views along the cliffs.

SEDIL DOMINOVA: This dates from the 15th century, and is the only extant example in Campagna of such 'sedile' or 'seats'. Apparently they were used for meetings of the Medieval aristocracy. This one has four sides, arches created from piperno (a lava stone) and a somewhat garish yellow and green majolica-tiled domed roof (17th century). Inside there are frescoes dating from the 18th century.



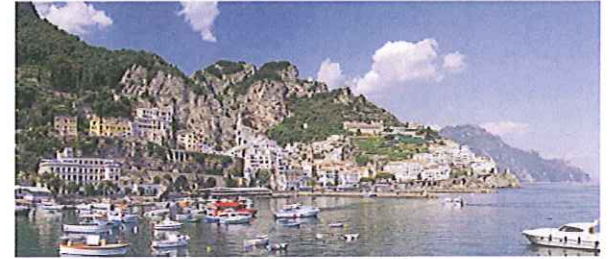
Capri & Positano By Hotel Yacht

No holiday here in Sorrento would be complete without a trip to the evocative Island of Capri on board of our Princess "Valeri" Yacht. Sail across the bay of Sorrento for the start of an unforgettable day. For so small an island, about 4 miles long and 2 miles wide. With 30 minutes Cruise to Capri, trip around the island and bath in some of the most charming points as, The Light House, Faraglioni Rocks and Ventroso Bay. Chance to enjoy a light lunch on board or in a restaurant on the beach. We will cruise along the coast passing by Campanella's Peak, Nerano beach up to Recomone Bay. Relaxing stop with welcome drink at the Famous "Li Galli" island once a property of Rudolf Nureiev. Cruise to Positano with the chance of disembark and shopping. Return to Sorrento cruising along the coast with a stop at Queen Giovanna Bath.

Capri has had much said, sung and written about it. You will visit the fabulous villa of Dr. Axel Munthe, a Swedish doctor whose best selling book "Story of San Michele" tells of his time on Capri. His villa was built with the remains of Roman ruins; there is a beautiful shady garden with terrace offering splendid views of the island. You then go down to Capri town which is very chic with shops, hotels and restaurants along winding streets. The main square Piazza Umberto I has a pretty white church and several open-air cafes where you can sit and watch the world drift by. Leading off the square are medieval looking alleyways and arcades full of shops selling the handicrafts of island, clothing; jewellery made from coral and gold, shoes and ceramics. Admire the colourful gardens of Augustus overlooking the famed Faraglioni Rocks and Marina Piccola where Gracie Fields once lived. There is free time for you to go off and admire the elegant boutiques, stroll along the cobbled streets or simply relax on the beach. There is so much to see and do on this tiny island paradise you will be sorry to leave.



Amalfi Coast with your Private Driver



The **Amalfi Coast** is one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. The numerable bends and the constantly changing views capture your imagination as do the fairytale villages that seem to be stuck to the side of the cliffs.

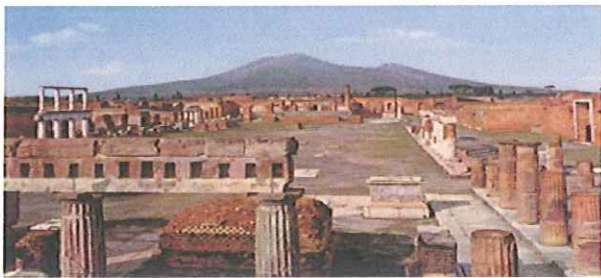
The Amalfi Coast tour gives you the opportunity to explore the following magnificent places in the best possible way:

POSITANO: The town develops vertically. The pastel colors painted houses are characterized by arched porticos that give onto the sea. You will have the opportunity to walk through the narrow streets that run downhill towards the main beach. From here there is a beautiful view of the sea, as well as of the town as it clammers up the mountainside. On the main square of Positano is the parish church of Santa Maria Assunta famous for its colored majolica cupola visible from all over the town.

AMALFI: The first Italian maritime republic keeps the magnificent cathedral of Saint Andrew (9th century). Its scenic position at the top of steep stairs gives a particular charm to the Amalfi's historic centre. In the serene blue of the sky and sea, Amalfi, guarded by its port, seems held in the palm of a hand.

RAVELLO: One of the gems of the Amalfi coast situated 350 meters above sea level. The light effects and magical architecture create a vision of rare intensity. It is famous for its tranquil and serene atmosphere and it offers architectural gems of rare elegance: the 11th century Duomo, dedicated to San Pantaleone, Villa Rufolo, immersed in a verdant park of exotic and mediterranean flora and Villa Cimbrone, bought in 1904 by Ernest William Beckett who transformed it into an exceptionally fascinating Villa.

CONCA DEI MARINI: Once an important trading centre, is nowadays a fishing village hemmed in by a marine loop that offers a stunning slice of panorama. The two extremes of this marvelous bay are Capo di Conca, dominated by the Torre di Conca (erected in the 1500's) testimony to the terrifying incursions of pirates, and the Emerald Grotto. The boat ride to a non-touristy restaurant on the beach gives you the opportunity to have a traditional and delicious lunch and also to admire the beauty of Amalfi Coast from the sea.



Pompeii, Herculaneum, Mt Vesuvius & Naples

POMPEII

The ancient Roman city of Pompeii was destroyed and buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D, preserving it forever exactly how it was when the eruption occurred. Your private local licensed Pompeii guide will take you on a fascinating tour through this once thriving empire of nearly 20,000 inhabitants that was completely covered in 30 feet of volcanic ash. Take in the baths, villas, theatres and wrestling grounds.

HERCULANEUM

Is an ancient residential town of Greek origins, a smaller town with a wealthier population at the time of the eruption. Covered by a torrent of mud rather than ash, the ruins are in some ways even better-preserved, and the site offers a variety of beautiful scenery and invaluable arts. Embark on a walking tour through the villas with portico gardens, fountains and baths, and admire the wall frescoes and floor mosaics. Excavations of Herculaneum began by accident in 1709 when some workers, digging a well, discovered a wall which was later found to be one of the stages of the ancient theatre. Later, there were many human skeletons uncovered at the ancient shoreline, suggesting that numerous inhabitants attempted to escape but perished when mountains collapsed and volcanic gases were released.

MOUNT VESUVIUS

Since then, Vesuvius has erupted about three dozen times. View the crater of Vesuvius, 1281 meters above sea level, by walking for approximately 45 minutes up the steep mount, as the road for vehicles terminates half way up this climb.

NAPLES

Your guide will show you interesting buildings and landmarks and explain how they characterize Naples' different historical periods and architectural styles.

Visit top Naples attractions such as Castel dell'Ovo, a gorgeous seaside castle perched on the Bay of Naples, and Parco Virgiliano, a lovely park atop the hill of Posillipo that boasts amazing views. You'll stop often to walk around, take photos, and learn some history about the sights.

Midway through your tour, your guide will take you to a local café for a cup of coffee and traditional Italian cake. Your afternoon continues with other Naples attractions including Complesso Monumentale di Santa Chiara, the Church of Gesù Nuovo, Chiesa di San Francesco di Paola, the Christmas alley on Via San Gregorio Armeno, Galleria Umberto and Borgo Marinari (all entrances included except for Cappella Sansevero).

You'll also explore several piazzas including Piazza Municipio, Palazzo Reale, Piazza San Gaetano, Piazza San Domenico Maggiore, Piazza Trieste e Trento and Piazza del Plebiscito.

For the above Excursion we suggest good walking shoes and comfortable dress.

For booking and further information or questions that you wish to be answered please contact the Reception Desk.

