

HIGHLIGHTS OF SORRENTO & AMALFI COAST

The resort of Sorrento is an enchanting coastal town built upon a cliffside in the Bay of Naples. Its height makes for impressive ocean views and the near-constant sight of Mount Vesuvius, whose dark shadow dominates the horizon at twilight. It offers the perfect location for exploring the Amalfi Coast, the Isle of Capri and the untouched rolling countryside all around.

You will enjoy stunning drives along some of the most beautiful stretches of coastal highway in Europe, catching awe-inspiring panoramic vistas of the deep blue ocean below and the small towns whose sun-bleached houses sit high up on the hillsides. Visit the ancient city of Naples, the preserved treasures of Pompeii and the island of Capri, playground of the modern-day rich and famous. A guided tour of each is included. Also experience some of the many traditional crafts that are still widely practised in the region, including a tour of a buffalo mozzarella ranch and of course, no visit to Sorrento is complete without sampling a limoncello or two, we include a guided tour of a local producer with a tasting session.

PROGRAM

DAY 1 - Travel to Sorrento

Morning: On arrival in Naples, pick up your car rental and drive to your hotel. Relax, use the hotel's facilities or enjoy a short orientation walk of Sorrento taking in Piazza Tasso, a café-lined square and the historic pedestrianised centre.

Afternoon: check in to your hotel and time to relax or use the hotel's facilities.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 2 - Capri

Morning: board the fast boat across to Capri, Italy's most famous island. It is indeed spectacular, with postcard-worthy soaring cliffs, surrounded by a deep-blue sea. Your guided tour of the island will be by minibus visiting Anacapri, situated on a higher elevation on the island. Anacapri is quieter with an authentic feel. Its whitewashed buildings with narrow lanes are mixed with small humble vegetable gardens and surrounded by lush tropical plants and lemon groves. Tiny Neapolitan tailor shops, artisan shoemakers and ladies sitting outside working on their knitting and lace in the shade are a common sight.

Afternoon: Capri town is home to many luxury designer boutiques, chic hotels and more artisan workshops than Anacapri. You may spot the odd celebrity as they holiday amongst the world's élite here. Stop off in the main square to enjoy the incredible views, visit the Gardens of Augustus (at own expense) which contain the main species of flowers and plants indigenous to the island.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 3 - Buffalo mozzarella and Paestum

Morning: a guided tour of Tenuta Vannulo buffalo mozzarella farm, home to 600 buffalo. Visit the milking area which the buffaloes enter voluntarily, complete with classical music, backrubs and tropical rain showers! Witness the mozzarella being made by hand, the leather workshop and small museum, and finish off with a tasting. You will see how the buffaloes are wonderfully cared for and you will have an opportunity to pet them if you wish. Afterwards, enjoy an included freshly made lunch in the farmhouse, prepared from their very own vegetable and herb garden.

Afternoon: a short drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Paestum, once a major Greek city and famous for three of the world's best preserved ancient Greek temples in the Doric style, dating from about 600 to 450 B.C, proudly standing in the middle of the countryside. A guided tour gives you a glimpse of the grandeur and sophistication of the area's past life.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4 - Amalfi Coast

Morning: a wonderfully scenic drive along this famous coastal route south from Sorrento, said to be one of the most beautiful in Europe. You will discover incredibly stunning landscapes after each curve. A stop will be made to photograph Positano from above. This picturesque area has fascinated artists from Picasso to Steinbeck. Stop for coffee in the historic town of Amalfi with its cluster of white buildings and piazza dotted with pavement cafés and elegant shops situated in front of the striking Byzantine-style cathedral that has Moorish-influenced arches and decoration.

Afternoon: continue to Ravello, sitting high in the hills above Amalfi. This peaceful and charming town has traffic-free lanes and a quaint square with beautiful terraces. Entrance is included to Villa Rufolo, a castle-like villa which has spectacular views of the mountains and the Mediterranean. Its museum gives an insight into the villa's history and characters. The stunning terraced gardens spill colour down the hillsides. The villa's gardens stage world-class concerts during the town's classical music festival.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 5 - Day at Leisure

Today is a free day to lie in and have a leisurely breakfast, relax around the hotel and make use of the facilities or have a stroll into the centre of Sorrento, to enjoy this beautiful resort-town perched on the cliffs overlooking the Bay of Naples. Before dinner, a limoncello tasting experience, where you will learn how this famous liqueur is made.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6 - Naples

Morning: you will visit the capital city of the Campania region situated on the Bay of Naples. The city is famous for its archaeological treasures and local food; serving up the country's best pizza, pasta, coffee and sweet treats. Your guided tour of the monumental area takes in Castel Nuovo (or Maschio Angioino), a huge medieval castle at the shore, which houses the main city museum and picture gallery, Piazza del Plebiscito and the Royal Palace. A stop will be made for coffee and sfogliatella (a sweet made from flaky pastry, filled with ricotta cheese and cinnamon). A typical Neapolitan lunch is included today consisting of their famous pizza and Fiocco di neve (a mouth-watering pastry filled with cream).

Afternoon: continue through the historical centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is real-life Naples uncovered. It is full of atmosphere, character, culture and typical daily Neapolitan life. With hidden buildings and squares of historical importance interspersed. Visit Christmas Alley where you will find the famous Neapolitan nativity sets for sale; exquisitely crafted figurines of wood or terracotta and handmade manger-cribs. Entrance is included to Sansevero Chapel Museum, home to the famous Veiled Christ, renowned worldwide for the remarkable tissue-like quality of the marble.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7 - Pompeii and wine tasting

Morning: a guided tour of Italy's most famous archaeological site, believed to have been founded in the 7th or 6th century BC. Before the city was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, the city had an estimated population of 11,000 people with a complex water system, amphitheatre, a gymnasium and a port. Partly rediscovered in 1599, with more excavations 150 years later, your guided tour will reveal houses from modest to majestic. See Roman shops, baths and brothels, or apply your high-school Latin to the graffiti that is still visible on some of the walls.

Afternoon: wine tasting and lunch at a family vineyard of three generations situated in the heart of the Vesuvius National Park. Sample the true taste of Vesuvius through the food and wine offered.

Evening: Free time for dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 - Departure

After breakfast return to Naples Airport.

What's included

- ▶ 7 nights' accommodation in a double room in a 4* hotel in Sorrento
- ▶ Car rental (Economy - Class B or similar - mandatory driving license and credit card under main drivers's name) including:
 - ▶ Unlimited mileage
 - ▶ Collision Damage Waiver
 - ▶ Theft Protection
 - ▶ Third Party Liability Insurance



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- ▶ Assistance 24h/day
- ▶ Meals: a full buffet breakfast each morning, three lunches, a morning coffee in Naples and all evening meals. Two evening meals will be in local restaurants.
- ▶ Drinks: Wine and water with all included meals.
- ▶ Boat to Capri
- ▶ Mozzarella tasting
- ▶ Coffee and Sfogliatella in Naples
- ▶ Limoncello and wine tasting
- ▶ UNESCO sites: Pompeii, Naples, Paestum, Amalfi Coast
- ▶ Entrance to Paestum Temples, Villa Rufolo, Sansevero Chapel Museum, Pompeii
- ▶ Guided tours: Capri, Paestum, Amalfi Drive, Naples, Pompeii