

ENGLISH VERSION ebook pdf

# Capri & Amalfi Coast



# BUCKET LIST EXPERIENCES

From the creators of Capri.com and Positano.com

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accurate when this guide goes to print, but may subsequently change. Many services vary rates and hours seasonally. Caprionline is not responsible for any injury - physical, mental, or financial - that may result from using this guide.

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#### The 100 Bucket List Experiences on Capri, the Amalfi Coast, and Sorrento

This isn't a ranking, so choose whatever experience delights and inspires!

# The Island of Capri

#### **100 EXPERIENCES**



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Visit the beautiful Bay

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**Take a trip as far as Punta Campanella** Pag. 128



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Stock up on limoncello and souvenirs in the shops in the historic center Pag. 120



Discover the traditional Sorrento inlaid wood Pag. 120



Have an espresso and people-watch in Piazza Tasso



Mix with the tourists in an English pub



Take an evening walk along Corso Italia



Stay out until the wee hours in a night club



#### **THE DIFFERENT AREAS:**

Sorrentine Peninsula: from Vico Equense to Massa Lubrense, served by the Napoli-Sorrento rail line and highway SS145.

Amalfi Coast: from Nerano to Vietri sul Mare, along highway SS163, which also has a bus route. In the summer months, there is ferry service between the towns.

Capri: there are ferries that run from Naples and Sorrento all year round, and from April to October from Salerno, Amalfi, Positano and Ischia.

#### CAR (OR NOT?)

Having a car can be useful on the Amalfi Coast to get around on your own schedule and easily reach towns that are not well-served by public transportation. But keep in mind:

#### Parking

Space is limited on the coast, so parking is costly and hard to find. In **Positano** and **Amalfi**, parking can cost around €4 an hour. In **Sorrento**, it's easier to find parking and it costs much less (about €2 an hour).

#### Traffic

During the high-season summer months, traffic on the single coastal road **is often backed up for hours.** We suggest carefully planning any driving you want to do to avoid delays.

#### Roads

Roads along the coast are narrow and curvy, so if you are not used to this type of driving, it may be stressful!

#### MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS

Scooters and motorcycles are the most pleasant way to get around the coast, combining independence with a certain freedom from problems due to traffic and parking. You can rent a scooter in most towns along the coast, but we only recommend scooter rentals to those who have experience driving on two wheels.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The towns along the coast are served by the **Sita public buses**. Buses run rather frequently, though they



The iconic highway SS163, also known as "l'Amalfitana", runs between the towns on the Amalfi Coast and is one of the most beautiful roads in the world, with more than **50 kilometers** of sharp curves right along the coast, broken up by the pretty towns into the cliffside.

Please note: during the summer and many weekends, traffic can be blocked for hours on this road due to the number of cars and buses. headed to the Coast.

are often behind schedule due to heavy traffic. Please note: during the busiest times of day in summer, buses are very crowded and there is often standing room only.

#### FERRIES

Taking a ferry is the easiest way to travel between the towns along the coast. Most routes for both high speed and regular ferries run from the beginning of April through October.

#### **CIRCUMVESUVIANA TRAIN NAPLES - SORRENTO**

The Circumvesuviana runs between Naples and Sorrento, stopping at a number of towns in between. There are no restrooms on the train, no luggage storage, and often you have to travel standing due to

the crowds. There is no escalator at the Napoli Centrale train station to reach the **Circumvesuviana** line on the lower level, so it can be difficult with heavy bags. It takes about an hour to get from Naples to Sorrento by train.

#### **GETTING TO CAPRI**

Ferries to Capri depart all year round from Naples and Sorrento: in the summer, there are ferries from Salerno, Amalfi, and Positano. For most of the year, cars and motorcycles are not allowed on Capri. Non residents can bring vehicles on the island from the

beginning of November to Easter.

Regardless, it's easy to get around the island without a car.

#### TICKETS

There is no pass you can purchase for all the different types of public transportation, as each company has its own ticket, which must be purchased before boarding. Tickets can be purchased at the station, and in many bars, tabacco shops, and newsstands.

See also:

Getting to Capri (p. 21) Getting to the Amalfi Coast (p. 65) Getting to Sorrento (p. 112)

# WHERE TO STAY

Choosing where to book a hotel or other accommodation to use as your base is one of the most important decisions for your holiday.

#### CAPRI

If you want to really get to know **Capri**, you should plan to spend at least **two nights on the island**. The island is at its most beautiful in the evening, when the crush of daytrippers has left and the last ferry for the island has departed. This magical place is too beautiful not to be admired in the quiet of the evening.

#### POSITANO

Along with Capri, this town is one of the most exclusive on the coast. Here you can enjoy the quintessential Amalfi Coast atmosphere, with gorgeous views, a picturesque village center, and pretty beaches. A warning, however: Positano is very steep and full of flights of stairs that are not recommended for those travelling with young children and those with limited mobility.

#### AMALFI COAST

If you'd like to stay on the Amalfi Coast but are looking for a less expensive and crowded option

than **Positano** or **Amalfi**, consider **Praiano**, **Furore**, **Minori**, and the other smaller villages located between **Positano** and **Vietri sul Mare**.

#### SORRENTO

This is the most popular base for those visiting the area, as it is well-connected to **Capri**, **Positano**, **Amalfi**, and **Pompeii**, in addition to having great views and a festive atmosphere. **Sorrento** has a wide variety of hotels, apartments, and B&Bs for all budgets.

#### **CAUTION: STAIRS**

Before booking an accommodation on Capri or the Amalfi Coast, be sure to check its location not only in reference to the beach or center of town, **but also in reference to its altitude**.

Some accommodation looks well-located on paper, but they can only be reached by **climbing long and steep flights of stairs**.

Where to book a hotel (p. 14)

Capri.com Choose and book your hotel on Capri www.capri.com Positano.com Choose and book your hotel on the Amalfi Coast www.positano.com

## **HOW MANY NIGHTS**

Some ideas to plan your holiday based on how long you'll be staying.

#### A LONG WEEKEND OR SHORT BREAK

If you only have a few days to spend on the coast, try to avoid burning through a checklist. Much of the charm of the **Amalfi Coast** is its slow pace and dedication to relaxing. For short visits, we always recommend choosing **Capri** or **Positano** as a base, which are the two most beautiful and iconic spots. Also, try to spend at least half a day at sea to admire the coastline from the water.

From the beginning of **November** to the end of **March**, **Sorrento** is the best choice since **Capri** and **Positano** close for the season and most hotels and restaurants are shuttered until spring.

See also: Three Days on Capri (p. 26) Three Days on the Amalfi Coast (p. 68)

#### A WEEK

If you have a week to spend on holiday, you'll have more time to visit the towns and spend some time relaxing. With seven nights to plan and a flexible budget, you can **divide your stay between Capri and Positano**. Three or four days will give you enough time to really savor the **island of Capri**, with another three nights in **Positano** to relax on the beach, take a boat tour, and visit **Amalfi** and **Ravello**.

If hotel prices on **Capri** and **Positano** are too expensive for your travel budget, you can opt for **Sorrento** and **organize day trips to other destinations** from there. This is one of the most popular options for visitors, combining the convenience of **Sorrento's** well-connected location with the ample selection of hotels and B&Bs for every style and budget.

**Sorrento** is always a great choice, with its numerous restaurants and cafés in the center where you can spend a pleasant evening.

#### AN ITINERARY FOR A WEEK-LONG STAY

- 1 day in Sorrento (p. 116)
- 1 day in *Capri (p. 25)*
- 1 day in *Positano (p. 82)* and *Amalfi (p. 92)*
- 1 day relaxing on the beach in *Nerano (p. 100)*
- 1 day at Pompeii (p. 132) and Vesuvius (p. 135)
- 1 day shopping and relaxing in *Sorrento (p. 111)*

#### THE RUINS OF POMPEII (PAG. 132)

If you are planning on visiting the archaeological park in Pompeii while vacationing on the coast, one of the most convenient options to make the most of your time is to book a transfer from Naples or Rome and schedule a stop for a few hours in Pompeii to visit the ruins before continuing on to your hotel.

www.visitpompeiivesuvius.com



Sorrentoinsider.com Choose and book your hotel in Sorrento www.sorrentoinsider.com Visit Pompeii Vesuvius A guide to visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum www.visitpompeiivesuvius.com

# WHERE TO BOOK A HOTEL

No location is the perfect base for everyone, so here is a quick recap of the pros and cons to each.



#### CAPRI (pag. 16)

- To really get to know Capri, you should spend the night (it seems obvious, but most visitors take day trips from Sorrento)
- $\bigcirc$  Perfect for those who love the glamorous VIP life
- 🔅 High prices in July and August



#### ANACAPRI (pag. 44)

- $\bigcirc$  Perfect to discover the beautiful countryside on Capri
- $\bigcirc$  For lovers of long walks, quiet nights, and excellent food
- A bit complicated to organize day trips off the island



#### SORRENTO (pag. 108)

- Excellent base for area day trips
- A festive and friendly atmosphere
- S Very touristy and crowded



#### POSITANO (pag. 80)

- The most iconic town on the Amalfi Coast
- Perfect for honeymoons and romantic get-aways
- C The steep streets and stairs make it difficult to get around for children and those with limited mobility, very crowded in the day



#### AMALFI AND ATRANI (pag. 90-93)

- At the center of the Amalfi Coast
- ② Rich in history and important architecture
- $\bigcirc$  Crowded and heavy traffic in high season



#### PRAIANO AND CONCA DEI MARINI (pag. 83-85)

- Sun all day and lovely sunsets
- Easy access to the Path of the Gods trailhead
- 🙁 No ferry service to other locations on the coast



#### SANT'AGATA AND NERANO (pag. 98)

- C Large beaches with beach clubs and crystalline water
- Excellent restaurants
- 🔅 Quite distant from the other towns on the Amalfi Coast



#### RAVELLO (pag. 87)

- $\bigcirc$  The best views on the coast
- An excellent schedule of summer concerts
- 🔅 Far from the seaside



#### MINORI AND MAIORI (pag. 94)

- Accessible beaches with no stairs, so perfect for families traveling with children
- Cess expensive than other spots along the Amalfi Coast
- 🔅 Less glamorous atmosphere



#### CETARA AND VIETRI SUL MARE (pag. 96)

- Wonderful restaurants
- ONOT many tourists
- S Far from other locations along the coast













## THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO VISIT

If you can, choose to visit Capri between April and June, when spring is in full bloom!

In **April** and **May**, there are days that are warm enough to take a dip in the sea before the hordes of summer tourists arrive and temperatures soar. **September** and the beginning of **October** are also excellent times to come, because the water is still warm enough to swim in.

#### SPRING

Spring is by far the best season on Capri, when the island awakens from its winter hibernation, bars and restaurants reopen, and the streets and squares are sweet with the scent of orange blossoms in the evening.

The tourist season on Capri begins at **Easter** and finishes at the **end of October**.

In **May** and June, prices are generally less expensive than in **July** and **August**.

**May** is by far the best month to visit, with warm days and colorful countryside.

#### JULY AND AUGUST

July and August are the most crowded months on the island, as most Italians take their holiday during this period and the international jet set arrives with their luxury yachts to take over the most glamorous restaurants and nightclubs on the water's edge. These are also the months in which there are the most concerts and events scheduled.

Because of the oppressive summer heat, visits to **Pompeii** and **Naples** are not particularly pleasant in the summer, and even a day on **Capri** is not recommended, unless by boat.

You can, however, find a bit of peace and quiet by hiring a boat to explore the more hidden beaches and coves along the coast of **Capri** and the **Amalfi Coast**.

#### SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

The fall months are also ideal for enjoying mild yet warm days with thinner crowds of tourists

in the restaurants and sights. Usually, the autumn cold and rain begins at the end of October.

#### WINTER

If you are a hopeless romantic and love **the seaside in winter** with dramatically high waves that almost wet the balconies along the coast, and towns that seem to have emptied overnight, you may enjoy Capri in the winter months. Remember that most bars and restaurants will be closed for business (especially in January and February), and you can have days of rain. If you would like to holiday in the area in winter, the best choice is to stay in **Sorrento**, where businesses stay open and there are concerts and events scheduled, especially during the Christmas season.

#### WHEN IS IT WARM ENOUGH TO SWIM?

You can usually swim in the sea **from mid-May to the beginning of October**, though there are some hearty enough to swim all year round. In **October** and **November**, the temperature of the water is often still warm enough to swim as it retains the summer heat.

Even in winter, you can relax on the beach on sunny days surrounded by island locals who know how to take advantage of these rare, beautiful winter days.



# The island of **Capri**

Ten square kilometers of land and two towns: Capri and Anacapri.

#### **CAPRI TOWN AND ENVIRONS**

Includes **Marina Grande** (where the port is located) and the center of town around the **Piazzetta**. To the east is the Tiberio neighborhood, and to the south **Marina Piccola**.

#### ANACAPRI TOWN AND ENVIRONS

Located at a higher elevation than Capri town on the slopes of Mount **Solaro**. To get to **Anacapri** from **Capri**, it takes 10 minutes by bus. The historic center includes the **Boffe** quarter and **Via Giuseppe Orlandi**, and the surrounding areas include **Migliara**, the lighthouse, and the **Blue Grotto**. Location: Tyrrhenian Sea, Campanian Archipelago Area: 10.5 km<sup>2</sup> Inhabitants: 14,200

#### CAPRI

Altitude: 142 m Area: 3,97 km<sup>2</sup> Inhabitants: 7,400 about Density 1,814 inhab/km<sup>2</sup>

#### ANACAPRI

Altitude: 275 m Area: 6,47 km<sup>2</sup> Inhabitants: 6,700 about Density 1,035 inhab/km<sup>2</sup>



## WHERE TO STAY

#### CAPRI

The hotels located around the **Piazzetta** are perfect for those who love a bit of nightlife and plan on getting back to their hotel rooms in the early morning hours. If you would like a location close to the center but a bit quieter, book a hotel near **Via Tragara** and **Via Occhio Marino**. When you check the distance between your hotel and the **Piazzetta** on the map, be sure to check elevations: the **Tiberio** neighborhood seems close by, but **Via Sopramonte** and **Via Croce** are all uphill!

#### ANACAPRI

This is perfect location for those who love peace and quiet and want to discover the more authentic side of the island. If you would like to explore the entire island, book a hotel near a bus stop on the Capri - Anacapri line. In the evening, it's a pleasure to wander the lanes in the center of Anacapri, lined with small restaurants, cafés, gelato shops, and wine bars... all in a small town, with yesteryear atmosphere. If you book in one of the B&Bs in the area near the Blue Grotto or the Faro (lighthouse), consider renting a scooter to be able to move around the island freely. Many of the hotels in Anacapri offer a convenient shuttle service between the port and the hotel. There are no sandy beaches in Anacapri, but only beach clubs on the rocky cliffs.

#### MARINA GRANDE

This area is quite busy during the day with the arrival and departures of ferries, but in the evening is a quiet hamlet. It's the perfect place to stay for those who are only on the island for a short time, one or two nights, as you are close to the ferry docks. It's also a good place to stay for families, as the nearby **beaches are kid-friendly**. With the funicular, you can reach the **Piazzetta** in just 5 minutes.

#### MARINA PICCOLA

On this stretch of coast, you'll find the island's most beautiful beaches and a view of the **Fara-glioni**, but there isn't much to do and night. We recommend checking if your hotel has a shuttle service to the center of **Capri**.







ANACAPRI





MARINA PICCOLA



## **GETTING TO CAPRI**

Ferries run daily from Naples and Sorrento all year round, and also from Positano, Amalfi, Salerno, and Ischia in the summer. Cars and motorcycles are banned for most of the year except for residents; non-residents can bring vehicles on the island from November to Easter.

Ferry schedules and prices change often, so check online a few days before traveling. When seas are choppy, high speed ferries stop running; when they are rough, all ferry routes are cancelled (generally only in the winter months).

#### FROM NAPLES

There are two ports in Naples where ferries depart for Capri: **Molo Beverello** and **Calata di Massa**. Molo Beverello is opposite the Maschio Angioino castle in **Piazza Municipio**; Calata di Massa is to the east (or to the left, if facing the sea). **High speed ferries depart from Molo Beverello; regular and slow ferries depart from Calata di Massa**.

From the Naples Capodichino airport, take the Alibus shuttle that runs from the airport to the city center, stopping at Molo Beverello and Calata di Massa.

#### From the Napoli Centrale

Station (Piazza Garibaldi train station), take the metro underground Linea 1 to the Piazza Municipio stop opposite Molo Beverello.

#### FROM SORRENTO

Ferries to **Capri** also depart from the **Marina Piccola** port in **Sorrento**. The trip lasts a bit less than 30 minutes and during the summer there are frequent routes.

There are a number of buses from the center of Sorrento to the port, or you can easily walk down the flight of stairs from **Piazza Tasso to the port**.

#### FROM POSITANO AND AMALFI

From April through October, ferries to Capri also depart from the Amalfi Coast. High speed ferries depart from Positano, Amalfi, and Salerno; during June, July, and August, ferries also depart from Maiori.

Schedules are published at the beginning of the tourist season (around **the end of March**), but usually there are two or three routes each morning from the **Amalfi Coast to Capri**, and return ferries in the afternoon. In **June**, **July**, and **August**, there are also ferries that depart from Capri each morning, with return routes in the afternoon.



#### WHY BOOK A PRIVATE TRANSFER TO CAPRI

Private transfers are particularly recommended when traveling with a group or if you want to avoid the hassle of the busy Naples and Capri ports.

Consider booking a transfer if arriving in Rome, as you will have to take at least 4 different means of public transport to reach Capri.

If you are arriving late in the evening, your only option is to book a private speedboat transfer as ferries do not run late at night.

#### DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRANSFERS

#### Car + ferry + hostess

A driver will pick you up from your arrival train station or airport and take you to the port in Naples. You will be provided ferry tickets for the first available ferry and the driver will help you embark. At the port on Capri, a hostess will accompany you to your hotel and take care of your bags.

#### Car + speedboat + hostess

In this case, the sea crossing between Naples (or other port) and Capri is by private speedboat, which is the fastest and most flexible way to cross.

#### Helicopter

You can also arrive on Capri by helicopter. The heliport is in Damecuta outside Anacapri. From here, you can reach a number of hotels by taxi.

Info and rates for transfers www.capri.com/transfer

# **GETTING AROUND CAPRI**

Not sure how to get from one location on the island to another? There are a number of options: bus, funicular, and... walking! Wear comfortable shoes, since you can only get around the center of Capri town on foot, and walking is often the fastest option.

#### FUNICULAR (CABLE-CAR)

This is the fastest way to get to the center of **Capri** town from the **Marina Grande port**. The funicular is a cable train that climbs the hillside through lemon groves and stops right in the Piazzetta.

Funicular Marina Grande - Capri Departures: every 15 minutes (more often on crowded days). Duration: 5 minutes. Ticket: €2

You can carry one piece of hand luggage; for larger bags, you need to purchase a supplementary ticket. Pets are allowed. The ticket office in **Marina Grande** is not at the entrance to the funicular, but at the arrival pier to the right (facing the island) near the ferry ticket office. The funicular closes from January to March, and is replaced by a shuttle bus.

#### BUS

Don't picture large urban public buses: buses on Capri are mini-buses with seating for about 10 passengers, and small enough to navigate the narrow lanes on the island. Public buses are always very crowded in the summer, and there is often a long line to board, but buses run frequently. The wait in the morning in Marina Grande to Anacapri is often very long!

**Departures:** Usually buses depart every 15-20 minutes, though they run more frequently in high season. Tickets:  $\in 2$ 

The bus terminal in Capri is in **Piazza Martiri d'Ungheria** (along Via Roma, **near the Piazzetta**). The bus terminal in **Anacapri** is in **Piazza della Pace** (also known as "Piazzale Cimitero").

#### Tips

If you are coming from Capri town and need to connect to the Blue Grotto or lighthouse, don't get off when the driver announces **"Anacapri" (Piazza Vittoria)**, but wait for the following stop.

If you are taking the bus from Anacapri to Capri town and there are long lines to board in **Piazza Vittoria**, walk back along **Viale De Tommaso** to the preceding stop. Here you will almost certainly be able to board, instead of having to wait for the next bus due to the crowds!

#### WALKING

If you are happy to walk, you can often skip the bus or funicular all together. On summer days when the lines to board the bus are particularly long, it's often worth it to simply walk from to place.

#### Marina Grande - Capri: 20 minutes

Take the road that climbs the hillside next to the "banchinella", the pier where the boats and ferries moor. The road is steep and has a number of steps, so it's not a good idea with luggage.

#### Capri - Marina Grande: 15 minutes

The road begins in the Piazzetta behind the clock tower; follow the signs for the port.

#### Anacapri - Marina Grande: 20 minutes

Take the scenic **Scala Fenicia** staircase from the gardens of Villa Axel Munthe. There are almost 1,000 steep stairs, so you need to have good knees.

Capri - Anacapri: 1 hour Please note: it's an uphill climb! Anacapri - Capri: 30 minutes Keep a lookout for the stairs that cut through the curves.

Capri - Marina Piccola: 15 minutes It's not worth it to take the bus! Simply take the Via Mulo stairs down that begin from Due Golfi.

#### TAXI

Island taxis are open-top, 6-seaters, so they are a fun way to experience the island. Bring a glamorous scarf and sun glasses to feel like a Hollywood star!

Fares are calculated with a meter, but there are fixed fares for the most common routes. For a taxi ride around the island, you can negotiate an all-inclusive fare based on the itinerary, season, and duration of the ride.

#### Estimated fares (1-4 passengers):

- Marina Grande Capri 17€
- Marina Grande Anacapri 25€
- Marina Grande Grotta Azz. 40€
- Marina Grande Faro 38€
- Capri Anacapri 18€
- Capri Marina Piccola 15€
- Capri Grotta Azzurra 35€
- Capri Faro 30€

#### SCOOTER RENTAL

You can rent scooters to explore the island in **Marina Grande**, **Capri** town, and **Anacapri**. The duration of the rental can be a few hours, an entire day, or a number of days. You can negotiate a rate based on the duration.





#### CHAIRLIFT

The chairlift runs between Piazza Vittoria in the center of Anacapri to the top of Mount Solaro, 589 meters above sea level. Once at the top, you can take in views over Capri town, the Faraglioni, and Mount Tiberius to Punta Campanella and the Sorrentine Peninsula in the distance. It takes 12 minutes to reach the top, and the chairlift is single seats only. Children can be carried on an adult's lap, but as these are chairlifts suspended above ground with just a single lap bar, it's easy to slip underneath. We recommend carrying infants in a baby carrier and to not take toddlers who are less able to sit still. Older children and adolescents can ride alone. There are staff members at the departure point and arrival point who help passengers get on and off the chairlift.

Mount Solaro Chairlift (p. 50)

#### BOATS

You can visit Capri by sea by renting or chartering any number of boats, from a traditional island lancia or gozzo boat, to a rubber dinghy or speedboat with a sun awning and ice chest, with or without a skipper.

While on board, you can stop for lunch at one of the many restaurants along the water's edge, or purchase picnic supplies before setting sail. Some boat companies will also take care of providing a lunch of the catch of the day, local mozzarella, and heirloom tomatoes from the island.

A less expensive alternative to a private boat is to join **a group or shared tour**.

It takes about two hours to tour the island by boat, including a stop at the **Blue Grotto** which is entered by rowboat. There may be a wait to enter the Blue Grotto, depending upon the season and the crowds that day, as only so many visitors can enter at one time.

Boat tour of the island (p. 33)

If you are arriving on Capri with your own boat, you can moor at the marina in **Marina Grande**.

For those who drop anchor in open water, it's a good idea to remain at least 300 meters from the coast.

## APRI

#### Day trip and boat tours

Plan, book, and discover your Capri www.capri.com/tours Laser Capri Blue Grotto and island tours (2)081 837 5208 www.lasercapri.com Motoscafisti Capri Blue Grotto and island tours (2)081 837 5646 www.motoscafisticapri.com









THE BLUE GROTTO





ANACAPRI - LA CASA ROSSA

VILLA SAN MICHELE - AXEL MUNTHE





BOAT TOUR OF THE ISLAND



GARDENS OF AUGUSTUS



LA PIAZZETTA

## **ONE-DAY ITINERARY ON CAPRI**

Here is a suggested itinerary for those taking a day trip from Sorrento or a shore excursion to Capri.

#### 9:00 AM

Try to arrive on the island first thing in the morning. As soon as you disembark in **Marina Grande** on **Capri**, you'll see the ticket offices for the boat companies on the pier. Here you can purchase a ticket for a boat tour of the island with a stop at the *Blue Grotto (p. 28)*. This is a great way to have an overview of the entire island of Capri! Choose a full tour of the island that also passes by the **Faraglioni**, or a shorter transfer to the Blue Grotto... we recommend the full tour!

Boat tour of the island: €18 Entrance to the Blue Grotto: €14

After visiting the grotto, you can ask your rowboat skipper if he would drop you at the bottom of the stairs at the Grotto entrance rather than returning to the port, so you can catch the bus to Anacapri from here. That way you won't have to wait in the long line to board the bus in Marina Grande for Anacapri.

#### 11:30 AM

Once you've returned to **Marina Grande**, take a taxi or bus to **Anacapri** (20-25 min.), and catch the **chairlift** up to the top of *Mount Solaro (p. 50)*. From the top, you can enjoy spectacular views over the **Bays of Naples and Salerno**... perhaps the best panorama on the island! After enjoying the view, you an either take the Seggiovia down or walk down, stopping at the **Cetrella hermitage**. It takes about an hour to walk down.

Chairlift tickets: €11 round trip; €8 one way

#### 2:30 PM

You can either stop for lunch at one of the restaurants in **Anacapri** or have a quick snack

Day trip and boat tours Plan, book, and discover your Capri www.capri.com/tours and continue on to *Villa San Michele (p. 48)*, the former home and now museum of the Swedish doctor and writer **Axel Munthe**. Here you can view the archaeological artefacts the physician collected during his world travels and admire the view from the terrace.

Entrance to Villa San Michele: €8

#### 4:00 PM

Take the bus back to Capri and stop for an espresso or drink in the Piazzetta. After your break, visit the Gardens of Augustus and snap a picture of the Faraglioni in the distance, and then stroll down Via Camerelle to admire the island's most fashionable boutiques along what may be the highest concentration of luxury stores in the world. At the end of the road, make a quick left up the hill and then right to continue along Via Tragara to the beautiful scenic overlook facing the Faraglioni. Go back the way you came along Via Tragara, but instead of taking Via Camerelle, walk up the road to the right (Via Padre Reginaldo Giuliani) and continue along Via Fuorlovaldo and Via Le Botteghe until you find yourself back in the Piazzetta.

Take the **funicular (cable-car)** back down to the port (5 minutes) or **walk** (15 minutes) along narrow lanes and flights of stairs.

Entrance to the Gardens of Augustus: €1

#### **CAUTION: HIGH TEMPS**

During the months of **July** and **August** when the temperatures are at their highest and the island is very crowded, this itinerary may be a challenge. As there may be long lines for the bus, **we suggest choosing what you would like to see ahead of time rather than trying to fit it all in on one day!** On hot summer days, the best time to visit the **Piazzetta** is early morning or late afternoon, spending the hottest hours of the day on board a boat or at the beach.

# **THREE-DAY ITINERARY ON CAPRI**

Escape to Capri for three days of romance, relaxation, or a beach break with friends... No matter what your plans, Capri is always a good idea!

#### DAY ONE

Once you've settled in at your hotel, start exploring the island from its most famous landmark: the **Piazzetta**. This tiny square is the heart of both the town and island of Capri, and the streets of the village center all begin here. Take **Via Vittorio Emanuele** down to the historic **Quisisana Hotel** and **Via Camerelle**, lined with luxury boutiques. Walk the length of the lane and continue along picturesque **Via Tragara** that ends at a scenic overlook onto the **Faraglioni**. On your way back, take **Via Padre Reginaldo Giuliani**, **Via Fuorlovado**, and **Via le Botteghe**, home to small independent clothing and design shops.

At this point, it's probably starting to get late in the day and time for an aperitivo in the **Piazzetta**, elbow-to-elbow with locals and the international jet set. This is where everyone on the island gathers to see and be seen... For dinner, we suggest reserving a table in advance, especially on the weekends or during the summer months.

#### A FEW OF THE MOST FAMOUS RESTAURANTS

Da Paolino €€€ ③ 081 837 6102 for a traditional island meal in a charming atmosphere. Aurora €€€ ③ 081 837 0181 a fashionable spot

just steps from the Piazzetta. **Da Mammà €**€€ **○ 081 837 7472** for those who love gourmet meals and Michelin stars.

**Da Giorgio**  $\in \notin / \notin \notin \oplus$  **081 837 0898** for a table with a view and authentic dishes.

**Verginiello** €/€€ **○ 081 837 0944** if you're on a tight budget.

For a unique and informal spot for a light meal or snack: **È Divino**  $\in / \in \odot$  081 837 8364 or **Pulalli Wine Bar**  $\in \odot$  081 837 4108 in the **Piazzetta** at the top of the clock tower.

The evening continues into the wee hours at

island clubs. The most popular is **Anema e Core**, but all the nightclubs are clustered around the **Piazzetta** and **Via Camerelle**.

#### DAY TWO SIT BACK OR SET OUT?

You have the whole day ahead of you... how would you like to spend it? You can relax on the beach or explore the town of **Anacapri.** 

#### **OPTION 1: A DAY AT THE BEACH**

If all you want to do is relax on a sunlounger, cocktail in hand, then the only thing to decide is which beach and which bathing suit. It's a good idea to book a place at one of the beach clubs on the island a day or two in advance to be sure to have a place waiting for you even if you stop for an espresso in the **Piazzetta**. Most beach clubs on Capri have **excellent restaurants**, as well. *Beaches on Capri (p. 38)* 

#### **OPTION 2: EXPLORING ANACAPRI**

If you would rather spend the day exploring a different side of the island, head to Anacapri.

#### First stop: Mount Solaro by chairlift.

You will catch the chairlift from **Piazza Vittoria** in Anacapri; the ride up to the top takes 12 minutes, and you are rewarded with sweeping views. From there, you can walk back down, stopping at the **Cetrella Hermitage.** It takes about 25 minutes to walk back to the center of Anacapri from Cetrella.

#### Second stop: Villa San Michele

Once you have come back down from *Mount Solaro (p. 50)*, go back to **Piazza Vittoria** and continue straight along **Via Capodimonte**  to visit Villa San Michele (p. 48), the residence-cum-museum built by the Swedish physician and writer **Axel Munthe**.

#### Third stop: The historic center of Anacapri

Your walk continues along **Via Giuseppe Orlandi**, Anacapri's main pedestrian thoroughfare. Stop to admire the majolica floors in the **Church of San Michele**, visit the **Casa Rossa**, and spend some time shopping in the artisan shops. Don't miss the **Boffe** neighborhood, with its unique architecture, before returning to **Piazza Diaz** and **Piazza Caprile**. The **bus terminal** with routes to **Capri** and the **Marina Grande port** is nearby.

#### Last stop: Relax at the lighthouse

We suggest spending an afternoon at the **Punta Carena lighthouse** in Anacapri. Catch the bus that departs from **Piazza Caprile** or walk the 30 minute trail down to the water's edge. At the lighthouse, the **Lido del Faro**  $\in \in /\in \in \in$ **0818371798** beach club has a restaurant and two snack bars with sandwiches and drinks. Next to it, there is a free beach.

Stay here until sunset: the most beautiful one of the island can be seen from here.

Suggestions for dinner: for your second dinner, you can opt for one of the traditional restaurants on Anacapri. Two good options are: Da Gelsomina €€/€€€ ① 081 837 1499 at Migliara and Da Giorgio al Cucciolo €€/€€€ ① 081 837 2675. Both serve traditional dishes with a lovely sea view and offer a shuttle service to and from the center of town. If you prefer to stay in the center of Anacapri, try Trattoria II Solitario €€ ① 081 837 1382, also specializes in traditional dishes, Le Arcate €€ ① 081 837 3588 and Aumm Aumm €/€€ ① 081 837 3926 (also serves pizza), or La Zagara €€/€€€ ① 081 837 2923, updated classic cuisine under a fantastic lemon grove.

Restaurants in Capri and Anacapri (p. 58)



BOAT TOUR OF THE ISLAND

#### DAY THREE CAPRI BY SEA

In the morning, take another walk through the center of Capri with stops at the Gardens of Augustus and the Charterhouse of San Giacomo. If you enjoy walking, you can stroll all the way to Villa Jovis and Villa Lysis, or walk along the *Pizzolungo Trail (p. 41)*.

You can't leave Capri without having explored the coastline by boat. Hop on a boat tour from Marina Grande.

If you want to have a picnic on board, stop at Salumeria Da Aldo (grocery) in Marina Grande for the island's best Caprese mozzarella and tomato sandwiches!

End your three days right with a dinner on the water's edge in the former fishing village of **Marina Grande**, full of excellent fish and seafood restaurants.

#### Two suggestions: **Lo Zodiaco** €€/€€€ **○ 081 837 6332** and **Da Gemma** €€/€€€ **○ 081 837 4014**.

If you would rather dine in the center of Capri, be sure to book well in advance for a table with a sea view at **Terrazza Brunella** €€/€€€ ① 081 837 0122 or **Al Geranio** €€/€€€ ① 081 837 0616 for a romantic dinner for two!

# **THE BLUE GROTTO**

The most famous sight on Capri is also its most expensive and crowded! Here's all you need to know to plan your visit.

#### A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

Visitors flock from across the globe to visit the Blue Grotto, even for just a few minutes. Lines to enter can be long in high season.

Blue Grotto facts: 25 meters wide and 40 meters long in the internal cavern, the cave mouth is less than a meter above sea level. To enter, you must lie back along the bottom of a small rowboat that can slip through the

tiny entrance. Inside, you will be floating in the darkness above the glowing blue water.

#### **OPENING HOURS**

# The cave is open from 9am to 5pm when sea conditions are favorable (the cave closes in high winds and choppy seas).

The grotto is rarely open from **November** to **March**; on mild days it may open a few days in the morning.

#### HIGH WINDS AND CHOPPY SEAS

Unfortunately, there is no way to know in advance if the grotto will be open on any specific day. The Grotto can also open or close for different stretches of time in a single day.

### You can check the updated status of the grotto here:

www.capri.com/grotta-azzurra (updated from March to November)

#### TICKETS

Tickets cost €14/person and must be paid in cash at the cave entrance. There are no tours that include entrance tickets to the Grotto, which must always be paid for separately. Wait times: wait times run from 10 minutes to an hour, depending upon how long the line is. Duration: visits inside the cave last for about 5 minutes.



#### **ENTERING THE GROTTO**

To access the inside of the grotto, you must enter a rowboat for four passengers. The skipper will ask you to lie back on the bottom of the boat while he pulls you through using a length of chain attached to the wall of the cliff. Visits inside the Grotto last about five minutes. With a small tip, you can stay in a bit longer.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE BLUE GROTTO

This sea cave was known during the time of ancient Rome, when it was one of **Emperor Tiberius' favorite nymphaea**. For many centuries, the **Blue Grotto** (also known in the past as the **Grotta di Gradola**) was abandoned, feared by the local sailors because of legends of spirits and demons which inhabited the cave. This changed dramatically on **April 18, 1826** when the cave was "rediscovered" by the Prussian writer **August Kopisch** and painter **Ernst Fries**, who were taken to the cave by **Angelo Ferraro**, a local fisherman, and notary **Giuseppe Pagano**.

#### **GETTING TO THE GROTTO**

#### **BY GROUP BOAT TOUR**

Ticket offices for **Motoscafisti** and **Laser Capri**, the two boat companies that offer group tours and transfers to the **Blue Grotto**, are located at **Marina Grande**.

If you purchase the **"Island tour + Blue Grotto"** ticket, the tour will first go around the island and then stop at the Grotto entrance. Here passengers have to transfer from a large boat to small rowboat to enter the cave.

»

#### Motoscafisti Capri

Blue Grotto and island tour **081 837 5646** www.motoscafisticapri.com Laser Capri Blue Grotto and island tour 3081 837 5208 www.lasercapri.com Guide to Boat Rentals

Choose a boat and reserve in advance for an unforgettable day at sea! www.capri.com/boats

#### **BY PRIVATE BOAT**

If you are visiting Capri with your own boat and want to see the Blue Grotto, moor at one of the buoys in open water and signal to the rowboats to come and pick you up.

You can also reserve a private gozzo boat with skipper at **Marina Grande**.

These boats can carry up to **7 passengers** (though there are larger models, as well) and the cost of a two-hour tour begins at  $\in$ 150.

#### ON FOOT

From the center of Anacapri, walk down Via Pagliaro and then Via Grotta Azzurra (3.5 km). At about the halfway point, you can take a side trip to the Roman ruins of Villa Damecuta, one of the 12 villas built by Emperor Tiberius on the island.

On top of the ruins, a watchtower was built in the Middle Ages overlooking the sea, expanded in the 14th century into a small fortress.

#### **BY BUS**

There is a bus that runs from **Piazza della Pace** directly to the Blue Grotto.

Once you get off the bus, take the stairs down to the cave entrance where there is a line to enter the cave.

Next to the stairs, the La Tortuga snack bar (open only in summer) sells drinks, souvenirs, and excellent sandwiches and local dishes.

#### THE MOST COLORFUL TIME OF DAY TO VISIT

The colors in the Blue Grotto are at their most intense between noon and 2pm. **That said**, **there is not much difference from the rest of the morning, but we do recommend visiting the cave on a sunny day** as the grotto is much less colorful when it's cloudy.

There is generally less of a line to enter in the

afternoon, but the sea tends to get choppy after around 3pm, and the cave sometimes closes.

#### WAITING FOR GROTTO ENTRANCE IN SUMMER

Lines to enter the grotto can stretch into the hours in the summer months, especially **during the midday hours**. Generally, priority is given to those visiting by private boat with skipper.

#### SWIMMING IN THE GROTTO

It is illegal to swim into the grotto, though swimmers do enter after 5pm when the boats leave. Enter at your own risk!

#### GETTING TO THE ENTRANCE TO THE BLUE GROTTO

**By boat:** 10 minutes from Marina Grande or as a stop on an island tour.

**By bus:** Board at Piazza della Pace in Anacapri, 50 meters from Piazza Vittoria. Departures about every 20 minutes (the trip takes 15 minutes).

**On foot:** From Piazza Vittoria, take Viale T. de Tommaso, Via Pagliaro, and Via Grotta Azzurra with an optional stop at the Villa Damecuta ruins (3.5 km, 40 minutes)

II Riccio Restaurant €€€ Gourmet fish and seafood restaurant near the Blue Grotto ③ 081 837 1380 Gradola Beach €/€€ Restaurant, snack bar, and sun deck near the Blue Grotto ① 081 837 1433

La Tortuga Snack Bar €/€€ Snacks and light meals on a terrace overlooking the Blue Grotto ② 081 837 1705