

The Short Guide

AMALFI COAST

About an hour south of Naples, the Amalfi Coast encompasses 34 miles of breathtaking Mediterranean coastline. This region evokes the best of la dolce vita: coastal cliffs, colorful villages, abundant lemon groves, chic Italian restaurants and picturesque beaches. Can a place so immortalized by Slim Aarons and Gray Malin live up to the dreams of a seasoned traveler? Sì, certamente, senza dubbio! Whether it's your first time to Italy or your tenth, the Amalfi Coast is calling you.

Where to Go

The Amalfi Coast is located in Italy's Campania region and features 13 towns and villages: Amalfi, Atrani, Cetara, Conca de'Marini, Furore, Maiori, Minori, Positano, Praiano, Ravello, Scala, Tramonti, and Vietri sul Mare. While each town has its own bragging rights (Atrani makes the list of "most beautiful villages in Italy" and Vietri sul Mare boasts the famous ceramics of the same name), most visitors choose to stay in Positano, Amalfi, or Ravello – or a combination of the three.

Positano

Positano is the quintessential Amalfi Coast town, and probably the most photographed. From the dome of the Chiesa di Santa Maria, to the iconic beach clubs with striped umbrellas, to the gorgeous cliffside architecture, Positano in person is both familiar and spectacular. Shops and restaurants line cobblestoned streets, gorgeous views appear around every corner, and it's easy to find a boat or ferry and hop on the water.

Amalfi

A historic maritime power, Amalfi town faces the Tyrrhenian Sea from the base of a ravine, with the Monti Lattari protecting it from behind. This nautical republic was also known for producing the finest bambagina paper, showcased today at [Museo della Carta](#). Visitors can't miss the Duomo di Amalfi, the beautiful town center cathedral with striking Moorish influences.



Positano



Amalfi Cathedral

Ravello

High on a mountaintop above the sea, you'll find magical Ravello. Getting there by bus may feel less magical and more death defying, but any way you reach Ravello it's worth the trip. Ravello is home to a charming village surrounded by pristine villas, where stone arches surround immaculate gardens and frame views to the sea.

Wandering the grounds of the Villa Cimbrone and Villa Rufolo and staring out at the majestic ocean vistas is an otherworldly experience.

When to Go and How to Get There

This region gets very crowded in the summer with international and Italian tourists. For the best experience, go in May, June, September, or early October. The closest airport is Naples, but the Amalfi Coast is also a great itinerary companion to a few days in Rome. By train or car service, the journey from Rome to Amalfi takes about 3.5 hours. From Naples to Amalfi, expect 1.5 hours by car service and a little longer by train. Can you rent a car and do this driving along twisty narrow roads yourself? Yes. Do you want to? Probably not.

What to Do

It would be easy to lounge by the cliffside pool at your hotel all day, sipping Aperol Spritzes and feeling all the Italian vibes. And you should! But pulling yourself away on occasion to explore the area is required and you'll be so glad you did.

Boat Day

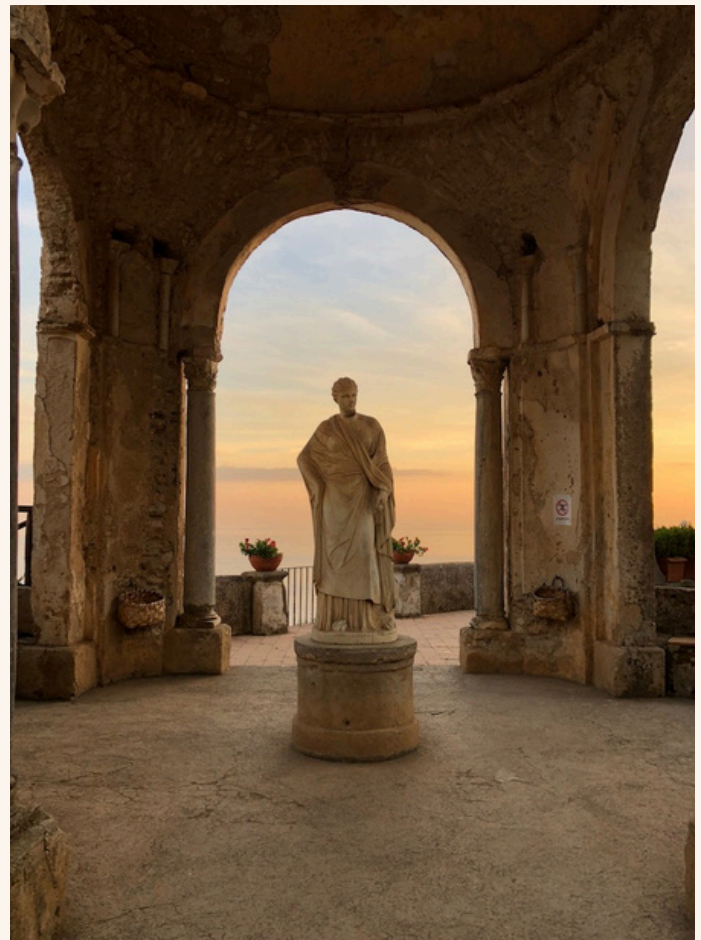
The *best* way to see the beauty of this region is from the water via a private boat charter. Your captain can take you to the famous Blue Grotto and to explore the islands of Ischia and Capri, all while you nibble charcuterie and soak up the Mediterranean sunshine. Does life get better?

Beach Club

There are several, but the Arienzo Beach Club is a personal favorite. A little boat picks you up at the Positano dock and zips you to the club with its distinctive orange and white umbrellas. When you need a break from your lounge, enjoy a seafood pasta lunch with crisp wine on the covered terrace.

Tour of Pompeii

Visit the site of the 79 AD eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, which left the city of Pompeii frozen in time. I worried this day trip would feel like a tourist trap, but our private guided visit to Pompeii was an absolute highlight of my last trip to the Amalfi Coast. It's a fascinating window into history.



Villa Cimbrone, Ravello



Arienzo Beach Club

Hike the Path of the Gods

Il Sentiero degli dei, “the path of the gods,” is a roughly 4.5 mile hike, 2000 feet above sea level in the Amalfi Coast mountains and it’s a must-do. The rewarding trek yields breathtaking vistas, pastoral scenery, and offsets all that pasta and wine.

Villa Cimbrone and Villa Rufolo

You haven’t been to Ravello if you don’t amble around the [Villa Cimbrone](#) and [Villa Rufolo](#), enjoying their expansive gardens, distinctive statuary, and iconic ocean views.

Amalfi Lemon Experience

This region is well known for its lemon growing and you’ll find lemon in everything from soap to liqueur to pasta. Check out the [Amalfi Lemon Experience](#) to enjoy a memorable lemon tour and cooking class.

Shopping, Italian Style

The best goods in the Amalfi Coast region are leather, paper, pottery, and lemons. Find yourself a handmade leather bag at [Carro](#) or have a pair of sandals made while you wait at [Safari Club Positano](#). Bring home some high-quality paper goods from [Tabula](#) in Amalfi. My choice for the finest hand painted ceramics in the region is [Pascal Ceramiche d’Arte](#) in Ravello. The detailed artistry is incomparable and patterns range from traditional to contemporary.

To sample and buy homemade, artisanal limoncello, be sure to pay a visit to [Antichi Sapori d’Amalfi](#).

Bring home plenty of lemon soaps and limoncello to transport yourself back to paradise.

Where to Eat

Deciding where to eat in Italy is a luxury. There are more life changing restaurants than you have days left to live. These are my vetted suggestions in Positano, Ravello, and Amalfi. Reservations should be made well in advance, and *always* request to be on the patio or terrace. If I’m planning your itinerary, I’ll have many more suggestions at varying price points, but these are some requisite culinary experiences.

Dining in Positano

[Next2](#) uses delicious local ingredients in a sleek, modern setting with a terrific wine list. Known more for scene than cuisine, channel your inner Italian celebrity at [Chez Black](#). No trip to Positano is complete without a meal on the terrace at [La Sponda](#), located at Le Sireneuse Hotel. It’s fancy, it’s expensive, its beyond picturesque, and it’s perfect.



Ruins at Pompeii



Amalfi Harbor

Dining in Ravello

Life is good when you have terrace reservations at Rossellini's in the Palazzo Avino Hotel, where you'll savor artfully prepared Italian-Mediterranean cuisine. Il Flauto di Pan is a charming restaurant in the Hotel Villa Cimbrone, honored with one Michelin star.

Dining in Amalfi

You can't go wrong with Da Gemma, which offers divinely prepared seafood that is best enjoyed on their terrace. Also not to be missed is Sensi, for yet another perfectly designed restaurant with exquisite food, sea views, and a Michelin star.



Positano at Dusk

Where to Stay

Recommended Positano Hotels

Il San Pietro

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily buffet breakfast for two
- \$100 food/beverage
- Early check-in/late checkout subject to availability
- Complimentary WiFi

Le Sireneuse

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily breakfast for two guests
- \$100 spa services credit
- Welcome bottle of Italian Spumante
- Early check-in/late checkout subject to availability
- Complimentary WiFi

Villa TreVille

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily full breakfast for two guests
- \$100 hotel/resort credit
- Early check-in/late checkout subject to availability
- Complimentary WiFi

Recommended Amalfi Hotels

Hotel Santa Caterina

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily buffet breakfast for two guests
- \$100 food/beverage credit
- Early check-in/late checkout subject to availability
- Complimentary WiFi

Borgo Santandrea

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily breakfast for two guests
- \$100 food/beverage credit
- Early check-in/late checkout subject to availability
- Complimentary WiFi

Recommended Ravello Hotels

Palazzo Avino

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- Daily buffet breakfast for two guests
- \$100 spa service credit
- Early check-in/late checkout subject to availability
- Complimentary WiFi

Caruso, a Belmond Hotel

Fora Perks:

- Upgrade on arrival, subject to availability
- VIP welcome treats
- A-la-carte breakfast for two daily
- \$90/room or \$200/suite hotel credit
- Complimentary WiFi