

EXPLORE!



Why book this trip?

The sun-drenched region of Campania isn't short on well-known attractions and this trip explores the colourful Amalfi Coast, Bay of Naples, and legendary ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Stride along the scenic Walk of the Gods and travel by ferry along the coast.

- **Naples** - Stroll through the old city streets and perhaps see the wealth of Roman artefacts in the National Museum
- **Herculaneum** - Explore the incredible excavations of this Roman city and have the option to climb Mount Vesuvius
- **Amalfi Coast and the Sorrento Peninsula** - Explore Ravello and Positano and admire the sea views



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 7



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
Ferry
Public Bus
Train



ACCOMMODATION
7 nights
comfortable hotel



TRIP PACE:
Moderate



GROUP SIZE:
12 - 18

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Naples

Our trip starts in Naples, a city of diverse contrasts and one that evokes enormous pride among the locals. Its rich history, staunch Catholicism and endless charm make it one of the most engaging cities in Italy.

Tonight you might like to try the most famous Neapolitan cuisine, pizza. The traditional pizzas served here aren't as crispy as in most parts of Italy. They tend to be thinner in the centre so that the fresh tomato sauce collects and soaks into the base. It's normally then topped with a drizzling of olive oil, mozzarella and fresh basil.



ACCOMMODATION:
B&B Hotel Napoli (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Walking tour of Naples; chance to visit Napoli Sotterranea

We start our sightseeing this morning by our Explore Leader taking us on a walking tour of old Naples. We'll wander through the old city streets, open air markets and narrow alleyways that give us a captivating insight into the city's heart, which has gone unchanged in essence for generations. Along the way we will see the round stone turrets of Maschio Angioino Castle, the square seafront Castle Dell'ovo, the main square of Piazza del Plebiscito, the ornate glass covered shopping arcade of Galleria Umberto and the Baroque and Neo-Classical facade of the Royal Palace.

This afternoon is free for you to maybe visit the National Museum, which is one of the most important archaeological museums in mainland Europe and houses a prestigious collection of ancient art. You can see antique marbles, bronze sculptures, colourful mosaics and a myriad of treasures from the famous sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Alternatively you might like to head underground in the Napoli Sotterranea where 40 metres below Naples' historic centre you can discover an underground world of passageways. The Greeks quarried out the tufa stone from here and used it to build the city walls and temples above, and the underground passages that were left as a result were then used as tombs. During the Roman's reign the tunnels were a bypass to avoid climbing Mount Piedi Grotta, and then most recently during World War II they were used as bomb shelters.



ACCOMMODATION:
B&B Hotel Napoli (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Visit to ancient Herculaneum; chance to climb Mount Vesuvius

This morning we will take the train to the nearby ruins of Herculaneum at the foot of Mount Vesuvius. Buried by the volcanic eruption of AD 79, the city was hermetically sealed under a thick layer of volcanic mud, which preserved a staggering amount of wooden furniture and other organic materials - even fruit. After our two hour guided tour, you'll have further time to explore before we take the train to Sorrento Peninsula, where we will stay for the next three nights. Our luggage will have been transferred separately by road, so we don't need to worry about taking this with us on the train and can just sit back and enjoy the journey.

Rather than spending free time at Herculaneum you might like to join a bus trip to Mount Vesuvius. You can then either relax at 1,000m, perhaps with an ice cream, or walk up to the volcanic crater rim at 1,120m along a well-graded cinder track. From the top there are remarkable views down to Naples, the

coastal plain and the glistening bay. Vesuvius is the only active volcano on the European mainland and dominates the skyline between Naples and Pompeii, rising up from the flat, fertile landscape. Since the mighty eruption of AD 79, it has had another 18 violent eruptions. The last one, in 1944, surprised the Allied forces and destroyed an entire squadron of 88 B-25 bombers belonging to the American Air Force. We will return back to Herculaneum the same way and meet back up with the rest of our group before catching our train to the Sorrento Peninsula.

The Sorrento Peninsula is located to the south of the Bay of Naples and here we can see the rocky cliffs and green rolling hills where orange, lemon and olive trees are grown. The weather is mild year round, so it's ideal for growing fruit trees and a pleasant spot for us to enjoy sightseeing from.



ACCOMMODATION:

La Ripetta Hotel di Piano di Sorrento (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Free day on the Sorrento Peninsula; option to visit Capri Island

Today you are free to relax on the Sorrento Peninsula or perhaps to visit the island of Capri. You can take a train to Sorrento town and then it's just a short walk to the Port of Sorrento to board a hydrofoil ferry across to the island of Capri, which takes about 20 minutes each way. There are then multiple ways for you to explore the island, but we'd recommend taking a private bus excursion to the main sights of Anacapri and Capri. From Anacapri you could walk to the delightful museum and gardens of Villa San Michele and to the Villa Jovis - the ruins of the Roman Emperor Tiberius' cliff top palace with impressive views over the island. Alternatively you can take a boat to the famed Blue Grotto, which is a sea cave where the sunlight shines through it in such a way that it illuminates the waters and makes them appear bright blue. Go into the cavern to witness this natural spectacle.



ACCOMMODATION:

La Ripetta Hotel di Piano di Sorrento (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Guided tour of legendary Pompeii; free afternoon in Sorrento

We board the train this morning to Pompeii for a guided walking tour to introduce us to this remarkably well-preserved example of a provincial Roman city. The town once housed 15,000 people and was an important commercial centre, as well as a favourite residence of wealthy Roman patricians. Of course, on one fateful day some 2,000 years ago, this all changed when the powerful eruption of nearby Mount Vesuvius buried the city, preserving the city and its citizens in layers of ash and pumice. On our tour, we will see the extensive colonnaded forum with its Temple of Jupiter and the magnificently-decorated villas, such as that of the Vetii. Human casts of some of the victims trapped by the eruption give an emotive snapshot of this catastrophic event.

Following our visit we take the train to Sorrento where you are free to explore or perhaps join a guided walking tour of the main city sights. Sorrento's Baroque Church of Saint Francesco with its cloisters and monastery is well worth a visit, especially as it boasts a garden terrace with sweeping views over the bay. The historic centre and Piazza Tasso (Central Square) are home to many quaint shops featuring the work of the local artisans and also restaurants where you can sample home-grown cuisine. The city is rich in historical and religious places of interest, including the remaining four gates of the old city walls.



ACCOMMODATION:

La Ripetta Hotel di Piano di Sorrento (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Admire the magnificent views along the Walk of the Gods

Drive to Bomerano where we begin the Walk of the Gods to Positano, which is regarded as one of the best coastal walks in the world. The high cliff path contours west, with magnificent views over the Bay of Salerno and Capri. The trail passes under huge limestone cliffs and above picturesque stone farmhouses until it reaches the attractive village of Nocelle. From here, we descend down an ancient stairway, passing pretty flower gardens, into Positano. A poor fishing village until the 1950s, Positano has grown into a chic town that is still a favourite with Hollywood stars. Positano's colourful buildings are stacked up the green cliff side above its sandy beach.

The walk today is Moderately graded, will take approximately five hours and will cover a distance of eight kilometres with a 650 metre descent. The walk can be shortened and end in Montepertuso for anyone who doesn't want to do the steep final descent with a significant number of steps into Positano. From Montepertuso it's easy to take the public bus to Positano to catch up with those finishing the walk.

After free time in Positano to relax on the beach or to have a cold beer to reward ourselves on finishing our walk, we take a ferry to Amalfi and on to Minori where we spend the next two nights. Our main luggage will have been brought to the hotel ready for our arrival.

For anyone who doesn't wish to hike today you can be dropped off in front of Hotel Eden Roc (on Via Marconi), just outside Positano. From here it's 10 minutes' walk along the shopping street of Via Cristoforo Colombo to town centre. You can spend time on the beach, browsing the quaint shops or unwinding with a glass of wine while admiring the beautiful coastal views before meeting up with the rest of the group at the end of the walk.

Please note that if you are travelling on the 25 August 2019 then you will be staying in Maiori for the final two nights of the trip, which is only a short distance away from Minori and your trip itinerary is unchanged.

During 2018 there has been a partial closure of the Walk of the Gods path due to a landslide. The full path has now reopened, however if it isn't possible to do the entire walk on your departure then you will do a loop walk along the first section of the Walk of the Gods before then following a different path back to Bomerano and from here you will travel by road to Positano to continue the rest of the days itinerary as planned.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel 7 Bello (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Discover the iconic towns of Amalfi and Ravello

Today we drive along the coast and get to enjoy the spectacular scenery on our way to Amalfi. Our leader will take us on an orientation walk of the main square. A great maritime power since the Byzantine era, Amalfi went on to reach its pinnacle during the Middle Ages, when it was an independent trading republic rivalling those of Venice, Pisa and Genoa. The beautiful 11th century Cathedral of Saint Andrea dominates the town - a magnificent combination of Romanesque and Saracen design, with an impressive set of bronze doors that hail from Constantinople. At the far end of the town lies the Valley of the Mills, a once important centre of Amalfi's paper industry, that today echoes with the ghosts of its past glories.

Next we'll take the public bus to nearby Ravello to go on a brief tour with our leader before having free

time to explore more. A tranquil spot located high on a rocky promontory overlooking the azure waters off the coast. The architecture here is a glorious mix of Moorish flair and aristocratic excess and the town's captivating charms have attracted artists and writers to its enchanting streets for generations.

We drive back to our hotel in time to have dinner this evening.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel 7 Bello (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Trip ends at Naples Airport

We drive back to Naples Airport (approximately 1.5 hours) where our trip ends.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

Italy

Climate

April/May and October/November are pleasantly warm. June/September are the hottest months. Showers are common in Autumn.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
+1	2 Pin Round	Roman Catholic	Italian

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Naples:

National Museum entrance €12.00 or alternatively you can pre-purchase tickets online to avoid the long queues, but this service costs an additional €2.00: <http://www.coopculture.it/en/ticket.cfm?office=Museo%20Archeologico%20Nazionale%20di%20Napoli&id=73>

Napoli Sotterranea guided tours in English €10.00 (duration is about 1.5 hours and tours start every two hours from 12.00-18.00).

Sorrento Peninsula:

Guided walking tour of Sorrento €100.00 per group.

Capri:

Hydrofoil ferry to the island of Capri €14.00 each way.

Charter bus tour around the islands highlights from Marina Grande to Anacapri and Capri before returning to the marina €16.50 per person (minimum 8 people).

At Anacapri can walk to Villa San Michele (1.5kms, 15 minutes per way) €8.00 entrance.

At Anacapri can walk to Vila Jovis (6.5kms, 30 minutes per way) €4.00 entrance.

Boat trip from Marina Grande to the Blue Grotto is €18.00 per person and last for approximately two hours.

Clothing

July and August are the hottest months and lightweight cotton clothing is best. During spring and autumn temperatures can be lower or drop during the evenings and there is also a stronger possibility of rain. You'll need your swimming costume and light rainwear may be needed at any time of year. A warm fleece or jacket is recommended for cooler evenings and layers for if you decide to climb Mount Vesuvius where the temperatures are considerably lower at the top.

For the Walk of the Gods you will need comfortable walking trousers, and also a rain coat and fleece in case of bad weather.

Footwear

We recommend taking comfortable walking shoes for exploring and trainers or sandals for relaxing.

You will need to wear closed toe shoes if you decide to climb Mount Vesuvius.

For the Walk of the Gods you will need comfortable walking shoes or boots with good grip and ankle

support. Trainers, flip flops or sandals are not suitable for the terrain on this walk.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a day pack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

We advise taking a water bottle for our included walks as well as sun glasses, sunscreen and a sun hat. In case of emergency we recommend that you carry a first aid kit and a torch. Bring a swimming suit and towel for taking a dip in the sea. We also recommend bringing a reusable shopping bag, so that you don't need to use plastic shopping bags during the holiday.

For the Walk of the Gods we strongly recommend that you bring walking poles, as the path is over uneven rocky ground, some sections are steep and the descents can be a bit tough on the knees. We'd suggest taking a backpack (handheld bags are not suitable) with a waterproof cover for this walk to store your camera, water, a picnic lunch and snacks, any clothing and sun products required, etc.

In May 2019, the Municipality of Capri introduced a law forbidding the use of any disposable plastic objects such as bags, cutlery, plates, cups, food packaging, trays, straws on the island of Capri. Violations can incur a fine of up to €500.00.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly please allow £20.00 for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

Italy

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price £10.00 - 15.00	Dinner price £20.00 - 25.00	Beer price £2.00 - 4.00	Water price £1.00 - 2.00
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Foreign Exchange

Local currency Euro.	Recommended Currency For Exchange GBP.
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Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

ATM Availability Major towns.	Credit Card Acceptance Larger hotels and restaurants.
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Travellers Cheques

Only in major towns. Please note, the exchange rate for cash and Travellers Cheques is poor.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Ferry, Public Bus, Train

Accommodation notes

On the three nights of our trip spent on the Sorrento Peninsula and two nights in the Amalfi region the exact location of the accommodation will vary depending on the departure date and will be confirmed to you on your final documentation.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Italy: Visas are not required by UK, E.U. Nationals, Australian, New Zealand, US or Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport. On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Included activities

Naples is a city that is unfortunately frequented by pickpockets, so please avoid wearing valuable jewellery and keep expensive items, your passport and any spare cash or cards in the hotel safe when you go out exploring.

At Pompeii and Herculaneum you aren't permitted to take in any backpacks or bags that measure more than 30cm x 30cm x 15cm. There are bag storage facilities at the sites where you can leave bigger items without charge.

The walks in and around Amalfi may involve steep ascents/descents which are often stepped. Including the Walk of the Gods, which isn't suitable for anyone who suffers from vertigo.

Ability to swim

No

Italy

Vaccinations

Nothing required. Tetanus recommended. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

This one week highlights trip offers a great balance between world renowned historical sites like Pompeii with time exploring the famed Amalfi coastline on foot and by ferry. There's also free time to relax and take in the atmosphere or to take optional trips to fill every second of your time.

Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**