

Royal Clipper
SICILY & AMALFI COAST PORT INFORMATION





Sicily & Amalfi Coast

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The length of the tours is estimated and may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions. Tour minimum is indicated.

Ponza, Italy

Composed mainly of rhyolitic and andesitic rocks, Ponza shows characteristically gray, yellow and ash colored tuft formations that contribute to the peculiar blue of the rocks. Ventotene and St. Stefano, 39 kilometers east of Ponza, are rich in acid and basaltic rocks. The archipelago, about 20 miles from the coast of Latium, was inhabited during the Neolithic period. The Phoenicians and Greeks inhabited Ponza after colonization by the Aurunci, and built a fortified citadel, of which some traces of cyclopean walls remain. In 313 BC, the Romans colonized Ponza, enriching it with grand public works. They built a magnificent aqueduct—still partly used today—a temple devoted to the Dioscuri, and another to the Venous Epiponzia. In 1734, Ponza became the property of the Bourbons, who looked after its renaissance through innumerable events, including being the staging ground for glorious naval fights. When united to the Italian kingdom, Ponza experienced a long period of isolation that grew during Italy's twenty years of Fascism. It was only after the Second World War that Ponza was restored to its nascent role as an oasis of sea and sun. Its natural beauty, together with the many historical aspects of thousands of years, contributes to making the island a true paradise on earth with modern tourist organizations.

Sorrento, Italy

Pompeii

By air-conditioned motor-coach and by foot
Min. 20 / Max. unlimited, 4 hours, Euros 60

Ancient Pompeii was a prosperous provincial center with an estimated population of 20,000. An earthquake destroyed much of the town in 63 AD. Rebuilding was still in process when the volcano erupted again 16 years later. The whole town was buried beneath more than 20 feet of ash and pumice stone.

Many residents were killed by lethal sulphur fumes or struck by lava and pumice stone that rained down upon the city, but others escaped. Abandoned until the 18th century, Pompeii was frozen in time until excavations revealed this amazing archaeological site. Plaster was poured into empty spaces in the lava to make body casts of some of the victims, such as a young man stretched out to protect his mother and the famous twisted body of a dog still tethered by its chain. The eruption of Vesuvius on August 24, 79 A.D. not only preserved structures but also evidence of the ancient way of life, such as a fully-equipped tavern with the last customer's money still on the counter. Admire the luxurious mansions and fabulous art of wealthy patricians who came to Pompeii to escape the turmoil in Rome. Their houses were designed around an inner garden with few windows on the exteriors, so residents could forget the outside world and get sunlight from their own courtyards. Visit some of the more modest homes, and explore ancient baths, temples, theaters, markets and the huge forum.

NOTES:

- Large coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a mini-bus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and a main parking lot in Sorrento. (Same on the way back; a minibus will take you down to the pier)
- The drive to Pompeii takes about one hour. We suggest comfortable shoes to walk on cobblestone streets.

(Notes continued on next page.)

- Attractions are behind bars and glass windows in Pompeii.
- A late lunch is served onboard the ship upon return.
- Most of the shops in Italy are closed between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- You may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.
- The site of Pompeii is very busy, it is important to stay with your guide at all times. The pace of the tour is moderate, as there are many highlights to visit in this vast city.
- This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.
- Timing is subject to traffic on the Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.

Sorrento, Flavors and Savors

Min. 18 / Max. 40, 4 hours, Euros 78

Tasting of Local Products

Transfer by minibus from the port to the main square of Sorrento to reach the large coaches and be driven to the farm. Guests will stop at La Sorgente OR Le Colline, in the sorrentine hillsides with a fabulous view of the gulf of Naples. This agricultural farm lies in a natural area with oranges, lemons, olives and wine worked with equipment and methods dating back to the end of 800. You will have the chance of watching the real method on how to make the MOZZARELLA and you will also be taught on how to cook GNOCCHI. A brunch with your GNOCCHI ALLA SORRENTINA and various cheeses & salami will follow before re-board the coach to return to Sorrento. Once in town square, guests, after a brief orientation of the city center accompanied by their guide will enjoy a taste of Limoncello in one of the typical place in the narrow roads.

NOTES:

- You will spend about 1 hour and 30 minutes at the farm.
- After the walking tour in Sorrente, you can either stay in the city or get back to the ship.

Capri, Italy

Capri is the outpost of Sorrento's peninsula. It is called the jewel of the Bay of Naples because of its unmatched scenery, clear skies and beautiful climate. Geologically, Capri is built on limestone. Dolomite cliffs, which at many points tower out of the sea, have been cut by time into fantastic shapes and marvelous grottoes. There are two main massifs: to the east is Monte Tiberio at 1,095 feet, and to the west Monte Solaro rises 452 feet above sea level. Capri itself is 452 feet high and sits between them. Capri has the Marina Grande to its north and the Marina Piccola on its southern side. The island's second residential center, Anacapri, lies in a sweep of lush countryside to the west of Monte Solaro. Capri is derived from Greek kapros (wild boar). Inhabited since the Paleolithic age, the island was, in classical times, first Greek then Roman. Many emperors lived part-time on Capri, and Roman nobles resided on or visited the island until the 6th century. The island endured Saracenic incursions in the 6th and 7th centuries and thereafter became the dominion of the Lombards, then Spain, then the French and British. Around the beginning of the 19th century, the island faced a more welcome artistic invasion when artists, writers and poets settled here. Capri's Faraglioni and the Blue Grotto are very famous and beautiful. The Blue Grotto is the most celebrated of all the grottoes of Capri. It was already renowned in ancient times but was rediscovered in 1826 by Augusto Kopisch, a German. Many tourists visit the Grotto each year and never fail to be stunned by its magical atmosphere. The walls and the concave ceiling of the Grotto are so imbued with blue that every object has a silvery outline and even swimmers in the water look blue. Delightful climate, brilliant skies and scenery and a bounty of attractions make the island a perfect holiday resort in any season.

Amalfi, Italy

Amalfi was one of the original maritime republics. It has a glorious history. Compared to the ancient cities of Campania it was founded rather late--around the 6th century--yet Amalfi flourished while other ancient towns were in decline. Its inhabitants were expert sailors and built up an extensive trade with the East, founding churches and hospitals and making their town the richest in the south of Italy. The Amalfi fleet, together with those of Naples and Gaeta, defeated the Saracens who were about to launch an attack on Rome in 849. The 11th century saw the town at its pinnacle of greatness. Its dockyards built ships for foreign countries as well as Italy's own fleets. Amalfi minted its own money and had its own maritime laws. The famous "Tabulae Amalphantane" is kept in the town's museum. Amalfi sailors were the first to use the compass. The founder of the order of St. John of Jerusalem also came from Amalfi. Amalfi was, alas, defeated by Pisa, and although it was among the first maritime republics to rise, it was also the first to fall into decline. It became part of the principality of Salerno, losing and regaining its independence under the Normans, only to lose it again under Norman Roger II. After belonging to a succession of different lords, it was taken by the Aragonese, with a subsequent history similar to that of other Campanian towns. The Cathedral of Amalfi, atop its great steps, remains a testimony to the town's ancient glory. It is dedicated to St. Andrew. A great statue of St. Andrew, sculpted by Michelangelo Naccherino, stands in a 13th century crypt along with the statues of St. Stephen and St. Lawrence by Pietro Bernini. The so-called Cloister of Paradise is attached to the Cathedral. It is accessible via an arched passageway decorated with frescoes by Pietro Cavallini. Sarcophagi, Roman and medieval objects d'art are kept here. The other tower, built at the same time as the Cathedral's bell tower, is now annexed to a hotel that occupies the old 12th century monastery.

Ravello

By air-conditioned motor coach

English speaking guide only

Min. 25 / Max. 30, 3 1/2 hours, Euros 54

You will enjoy a pretty and panoramic drive climbing up from the harbor in Amalfi to Ravello, one of the most famous and popular spots along the Amalfi coast. You'll see the Duomo as you enter the main square of Ravello. The linear facade preserves, from the original Roman design, three oculi and a lit window above the entrance portal. Decorated with a classical marble cornice, it has a bronze door that was crafted in 1179 by Barissano da Trani. On the right hand side of the church stands the bell tower, built in the 13th century. When the Duomo is open, you can peek inside and see the majestic marble pulpit, richly cased with mosaics, friezes and columns, supported by six slim spiral posts resting on marble lions. You'll visit the Villa Rufolo, a spectacular complex formed by the main palazzo, built in the second half of the 13th century. You'll see various buildings in Arabian-Sicilian style on a wide terrace facing the gulf. Entering the smaller 14th century tower, the tour continues along a small avenue flanked by cypress until reaching the Moorish courtyard in front of the palazzo, decorated with friezes and arabesques. Beyond the knights room, the picturesque belvedere opens up to reveal a luxurious garden with pines, cypress and exotic plants. From here you can descend to the lower terrace, bright with flowers and exotic plants. Richard Wagner was particularly struck by the spectacular nature of the gardens. He saw in them the materialization of the magic garden, or Klingsor, in his "Parsifal." Enjoy the return ride back to Amalfi; your senses will be saturated by the spectacular panorama.

NOTES:

- This tour involves some walking.
- The local authorities of the Amalfi Coast often apply new traffic regulations, such as a change of the drop off/pick up site, establishment of one-way streets through the Amalfi drive, etc. These rules could affect the coach tours.
- Timing is subject to traffic on the Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.

Positano and Amalfi Coast

By motorcoach and public boat

English speaking guide

Min. 25 / Max. 60, 3 1/2 hours, Euros 45

The tour starts from Amalfi. You will enjoy a scenic drive up from the harbor to Positano and you'll stop along a stretch of coast in Positano where you'll walk from the coach park to the village. Admire the white, Moorish-style houses clinging to the slopes around a small, sparkling bay. In 1953, when writer John Steinbeck lived here, the town was a forgotten fishing village, loved by artists. Since then it has become a retreat for the wealthy and a popular resort area. Spend some time browsing in some of Positano's 200 boutiques, which sell the casual, locally made cotton clothing that the town is famous for. You will have some time at leisure to explore the village. Then meet your guide and board the public boat for a ride back to Amalfi. Amalfi has a Spanish flavor and a prestigious history. Its white houses sit atop rocks facing a bright blue bay. After an introduction by the local guide, you will be free to visit Amalfi's Cathedral and village on your own, or walk to the landing pier to return to the ship.

NOTES:

- This excursion is not suitable for passengers who have difficulty walking.
- Comfortable shoes are suggested, as sometimes surfaces are uneven and steep.
- The drive to Positano is approximately 40 minutes.
- Once in Positano, you will have to walk from the parking area to the village (a 20 minute long steep walk. Partially on a road with traffic, partially pedestrian. You will have to climb stairs).
- Time at leisure and free exploration in Positano.
- Meet your guide and ride back to Amalfi (30 minutes).
- Guides available in English only.
- This tour is only offered from June to September and is subject to weather conditions.
- The tour timing depends on local traffic and the line of tourists at the public boat departure.

Giardini Naxos, Sicily

Giardini Naxos is Taormina's small port. Taormina is the most important resort in Sicily and Southern Italy. It is located on Mount Tauro, between the jagged mountains and the calm Ionian Sea. The town's origins date back to 398 AD. The Romans considered Taormina an ally, but as the city sided with Pompeus against Octavianus, it was reduced to the rank of mere colony. Thanks to its strategic position, it remained important to the various powers that held sway over the island. In 902, after a long siege, it fell to the Muslims. They destroyed it, but the caliph Al Muezz later rebuilt Taormina on a grander and much more beautiful scale. In 1079 it was conquered by the Normans, and was chosen as the seat of the Sicilian Parliament for the King's election in 1410. Its most important monument is the theater, built in the 3rd century BCE by the Greeks and restructured by the Romans. The site is really spectacular. The theater is situated between looming Mount Etna and the sparkling blue sea. It is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, a beautiful jewel set among the blue sky, aquamarine sea, green valley and white snow-capped peaks of Mount Etna.

Sicilian Brunch, Wine Tasting and Transfer to Taormina

By air-conditioned motor coach
Min. 25 / Max. 40, 7 hours, Euros 89

Leave the pier by motor coach on the freeway heading south towards Giarre. Exit the freeway and continue to Mount Etna on a scenic road that winds around the slopes of the mountain, passing the town of Giarre and the village of Santa Venerina, across vineyards and woods. Driving across Santa Venerina, you will see the damage caused by a 2002 earthquake. You'll reach the Barons di Villagrande estate and the baroness herself will welcome you. This charming lady will guide you on a tour of the cellar and the winery, explaining the qualities of the Mount Etna wine and expert winemaking. You will enjoy a magnificent view over the fertile valley and the sunny, vine-covered, lava enriched fields, which produce the certified Etna wine. From there, you will proceed to the old stable to enjoy a Sicilian brunch with local products, and you'll taste the different regional wines. Leave the winery and proceed towards Taormina. The town is perched on a terrace overlooking the sea and has a delightful medieval character. There will be time for a stroll in Corso Umberto. Just off this pedestrian street there are many smaller streets where you'll have time to buy local handicrafts and savor some Italian coffee or local sweets. You might decide to go and visit the Roman amphitheater. Drive back to the pier at the arranged time.

NOTES:

- 45 minute drive from the pier to the Barone di Villagrande Estate.
- 45 minute drive to Taormina.
- Time at leisure in Taormina.
- Wine and water included at lunch.

Mount Etna

(depending on weather conditions and local authorizations)

By air-conditioned motor coach

Min. 20 / Max unlimited, 5 1/2 hours, Euros 94

Majestic Mount Etna is Europe's largest active volcano, rising 11,000 feet (3340 meters). Her slopes soar up to over 3,296 meters, and the flanks are spotted with cones and craters. From the peaks, you can gaze out across the Catania Gulf and view the woods, orchards and vineyards. The main attraction is Etna's crater and the awe-inspiring petrified remnants of lava flows. The tour will start with a drive through the small town of Naxos. Driving to Mount Etna along the motorway, you'll enjoy the journey along a scenic road that winds around the slopes of the mountain, passing the town of Giarre and the villages of Santa Venerina and Zafferana. You'll delight at the ever changing scenery of lemon groves, orchards, vineyards, and chestnut and pine woods that blend with the hardened lava and endless volcanic cones. The Silvestri crater is located about 1,950 meters above sea level. Once there, you will transfer to 4x4 minibuses or cable car to reach approximately 2,500 meters and then go further up to the base of the main crater at about 2,950 meters above sea level. A professional alpine guide will lead a 30 to 45 minute hike to see the last lava flow and walk around one of the craters (Depending on volcanic activity).

NOTES:

- Comfortable shoes are suggested, and a jacket or sweater is necessary on Mount Etna. It might be cold and/or windy even in Summer!
- It is a one hour 15 minute drive each way to reach Mount Etna.
- This tour is available only during summer, weather permitting. You will visit either the north or the south side, depending on the current volcanic activity.
- You will reach 2,950 meters above sea level - if you suffer from high blood pressure or heart disease, please check with your doctor.

Aeolian Islands

There are seven small main islands off the Aeolian archipelago: Lipari, Vulcano, Salina, Alicudi, Filicudi, Panarea and Stromboli. The hill isles are the product of volcanic phenomena and offer an inexhaustible source of fascinating countryside scenery. The islands have been inhabited since prehistoric times. King Ausone's son, Liparo, founded the first settlement on the Lipari coast. Around 580 BCE, Greek colonization began on the Lipari islands. Lipari was besieged by the Athenians during their expedition to Sicily in 427 BCE, and in 304 BCE it was plundered by Agatocle from Syracuse, who pillaged the wealth of the temples. The Romans conquered Syracuse in 252. In the following centuries it fell into decline. It flourished once again under the Normans. In 1544, a tremendous tragedy befell the islands: Lipari was savagely plundered and destroyed by the Turkish fleet. The 9,000 inhabitants became slaves of the occupying force after 10 days of desperate resistance. Immigrants from Sicily and Southern Italy later repopulated the town. Lipari boasts endless beaches, bays, grottoes and a rich seabed, as well as geological and volcanic formations. The archeological museum of Lipari is among the most important in Europe. It highlights many aspects of history, including prehistoric villages from seven thousand years ago.

Island Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach
Min. 20 / Max. 48, 3 hours, Euros 44

The volcanic islands known collectively as the Aeolian or Lipari Islands emerge from the deep blue waters of the Tyrrhenian sea between Sicily and Southern Italy.

Legend has it that they were once the exclusive realm of Aeolus, God of the Winds, but now visitors are welcome to enjoy the unspoilt natural beauty of the islands with their pristine beaches, volcanoes and thermal spas, not to mention the excellent local cuisine.

Our ship anchors off Lipari, the main island in the archipelago, and guests will take a tender boat ashore to Marina Corta. Here in the bustling heart of the village, amidst the lively cafés, restaurants and attractive shops, you will meet your guide and walk to the motor coach for a scenic tour of the island.

Lipari is the largest of the Aeolian Islands and the first inhabitants can be traced back to a few centuries before 4000 BC. Nowadays the island is a highly prized tourist destination, appreciated as much for the beauty of its coastline with its crystal waters and its unique geological features: obsidian streams and pumice stone quarries, as for the archaeological interest of the site.

The excursion begins with a drive inland towards the hills to reach Quattrocchi, a panoramic look out post 300m above the sea. This lofty eyrie affords magnificent views of Vulcano Island with its stacks, sulphur springs and fumaroles, openings in the earth's crust once thought to be the entrance to the Underworld. From our next view point you can admire not only Salina, the second largest Aeolian island, situated close to Lipari, but also, weather permitting, the other islands of the archipelago.

The excursion continues with a visit to the pumice stone quarries where the light porous stone is extracted; here the white mountain sides are in dramatic contrast to the black obsidian lava flows.

The last stop before driving back to Lipari is the little village of Canneto on the east coast of the island.

(Tour continued on next page.)

During this panoramic tour there will be a short stop at “Marisa’s place”, where you will have the opportunity to sample local Malvasia wine and cookies. Malvasia grapes have been cultivated since time immemorial in the Mediterranean region and produce a sweet desert wine, fortified by the strong rays of the island sun. Traditional Aeolian delicacies include Nacatuli – small cookies stuffed with almonds, cinnamon and mandarin. Sesamini, flavored with vanilla and orange and covered with sesame seeds and Spicchitedda: made with almonds mulled wine and cinnamon.

NOTES:

- For those who wish to do a little exploring, there will be time to walk around the city before going back to the ship.

Vulcano

By boat

Min 25 / max 50, 3 1/2 hours, Euros 50

Disembarking from the tender you will reach Marina Lunga, in the port of Lipari, where you will meet your guide and embark a private motorboat for a short ride to Vulcano. Vulcano is a small volcanic island in the archipelago of the Eolie. The island has three volcanoes. One is ancient and has been dormant since the Prehistoric Era. It forms the main mass of the island. The points of highest elevation are Monte Saraceno at 481 meters, Monte Aria at 500 meters, and Gran Cratere (or Fossa di Vulcano) at 386 meters. Gran Cratere, which is still active, dominates the northern part of the island. It is characterized by strange formations and coloration, especially near the summit. Upon arrival in Vulcano you will either walk towards the base of the volcano, enjoy a short visit of the village, or go to the thermal wells. The wells, from which sulphurous steam rises, are composed of salt water and clay mud with a very high sulphur content that prohibits the growth of pathogens. The renowned therapeutic complex can treat three groups of health problems: those of the joints, skin, and respiratory system. The tour continues to the hot sea waters (you can swim in there if you wish), the fumaroles. Return to the boat and sail back to Lipari on a scenic cruise past the west coast of Vulcano, Vulcanello, Spiaggia di Ponente, Grotta del Cavallo, I Faraglioni, and Lipari.

NOTES:

- The ride from Lipari to Vulcano is 20 to 30 minutes.
- On the way back you will enjoy a scenic sailing of approximately one hour.
- If you plan on taking a mud bath, wear dark colored bathing suits. Do not wear jewelry, as the sulphur may cause a chemical reaction. Be aware that eye-irritation can occur (goggles, beach towel and water shoes can come in handy).
- The guide will take you to the thermal wells, those choosing to walk to the village or to the volcano base will be on their own.



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