

Discover the Amalfi /Positano Coast Itinerary

April 5 - April 12, 2025

Saturday, April 5

Depart United States for Naples

Sunday, April 6

Arrive in Naples (by 1:00 p.m.)

Travel via bus to Massa Lubrense. Upon arrival in the early afternoon, there will be time to unpack, rest, freshen up, or take a leisurely stroll prior to gathering for an overview of the neighboring town of Sorrento and our upcoming tour.

Monday, April 7

Amalfi and Positano

Our drive along the Amalfi/Positano coast will be one of the unforgettable experiences of this trip. Built on a precipice, the road offers some of the most spectacular vistas in the world while winding from one little village to another. We will visit Amalfi, one of the strongest maritime powers of medieval times, a rival of Venice and Genoa as its architectural treasures still testify. We will then descend to Furore, a poor fishermen's village located in one of the most beautiful bays on the Amalfi coast, and we will take part in the glitz and splendor of Positano, the socialite capital of the coast.

Tuesday, April 8

Pompeii

We will explore Pompeii, a city destroyed by the wrath of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Volcanic ashes buried Pompeii, thus preserving for later generations a fascinating glimpse into the life of Roman society. Pompeii will dazzle us with the gorgeous frescoes of its villas, the complexity of its urban plan and the harmony of its architecture. Herculaneum, still partially buried under a sea of lava, will provide, with its surviving buildings, a real sense of everyday life in an old Roman town

Wednesday, April 9

Napoli

As a natural continuation to the visit to Pompeii, we will tour the archeological museum in Napoli. While Pompeii will give us a wonderful idea of how a Roman city was structured, the museum will allow us to appreciate the artistic wealth of a Roman city. The museum houses the most precious mosaics and frescoes found during excavations in Pompeii. It also comprises the famous Farnese collection of ancient sculptures, an invaluable assembly of Roman copies of long-lost Greek artifacts. In many ways, Napoli is considered the most "Italian" of all Italian cities. Founded by the Greeks, embellished and enlarged by the Romans, and subsequently the prized booty of foreign invaders, its ancient world flavor has never been completely extinguished. *Spaccanapoli*, the heart of the city and a true depository of artistic treasures, Neapolitan folklore, and history will be the focus of our afternoon

Thursday, April 10

Sorrento and Capri

We begin our day in Sorrento, a very romantic and picturesque town perched on a cliff overlooking a coastline laced with coves. Sorrento's reputation as a holiday resort, which attracted many Nineteenth Century Romantic artists, is well earned by its pleasant climate, magnificent vegetation and beautiful surroundings. From here, we will take a ferry to the Isle of Capri. A beloved location for vacationers and nature lovers, this island was described by Alberto Savinio as an "Insula Beatorum, a floating Garden of Eden," due to its colorful environment and fragrant flora.

Friday, April 10

Napoli

This second visit to Napoli will take us to the *Museo di Capodimonte* located in the former residential palace of the Bourbon Monarchs, one of the most important art collections in Italy and to the Certosa of San Martino. Nested on top of the hill overlooking the Bay of Napoli, the Certosa was built in the Fourteenth Century as an ideal place for contemplation and spiritual retreat. Refurbished during the Renaissance and the Baroque periods, it offers a spectacular window into the achievement of Neapolitan art. Its church and its cloisters reverberate with the color of marbles, and the paintings housed in the building are a veritable collection of works by the greatest masters.

Saturday, April 11

Ravello and Vietri

Ravello is a charming, peaceful town perched on top of a steep slope, covered with vineyards and olive trees, which then dives dramatically into the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The incredible beauties of Ravello, such as the hillside gardens of *Villa Rufolo* and the breathtaking views from *Villa Cimbrone*, provided inspiration for some of the most sensual music written by the great German composer Richard Wagner. From here we will move to the charming town of *Vietri sul Mare*. This town has been renowned since the Middle Ages for its ceramics and pottery, which form an integral part of the decorations of its buildings and churches. A real paradise for gift seekers and lovers of gorgeous artifacts!

Sunday, April 12

Depart for the United States via Naples (not prior to noon)

Tour Fees

The tour fee for "DISCOVER THE AMALFI/ POSITANO COAST" is \$4500, payable to Asheville School, and due no later than December 15, 2024. This fee includes the hotel accommodations, bus transportation, continental breakfasts, all dinners, and all activities scheduled as part of the tour (museum entrance fees, etc.). There will be an added cost for single supplements. **This fee does not include lunch, health and travel insurance, or airfare. Excursions may be altered based on weather.**