

# FATHOM

A Few Days On

# The Amalfi Coast





## LET'S RUN AWAY TOGETHER

Thanks for downloading Fathom's three-day itinerary for the Amalfi Coast. We're delighted to be your travel companion.

When Odysseus spoke of enchantment by the Sirens, he was referring to the Amalfi Coast. This magical collection of towns and villages continues to bewitch travelers seeking its wine, sea, and legendary vistas.

We packed a lot into a few days — so many special restaurants, sites, experiences — as well as suggested hotels, souvenirs, day trips, and essential info. We want you to feel happily satiated but not overly stuffed. Which means you can follow it to the letter or improvise as the spirit moves you and turn three days into a long and happy week. Or more!

Buon viaggio.  
Pavia and Jeralyn

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## ORIENTATION

The Amalfi Coast spans the Bay of Naples and the Bay of Salerno, though the sweet spot is the stretch between Sorrento and Ravello. Positano lies in the middle and is where we start this trip.

You'll likely arrive in Naples by plane or by train. From here, you can get picked up by a driver or rent a car for the hour-plus drive around the coast. Sorrento is a main point of entry, either by ferry from Naples or Capri or on the scenic and long local train. You'll want to leave Sorrento, because everything gets better farther down the coast.

## MAP

Here's a [Google Map](#) for all the places mentioned in this itinerary.



## DAY ONE: RISE AND SHINE

Get into Amalfi Coast mode and make it all about the sea — lazy hours basking in the sunshine at the beach and indulging in fresh seafood, produce, and wine as you ponder the impossible beauty of your surroundings.

### **A Sweet Start**

Around here, people are addicted to sweets and pastries — hence all the cornetti and sfogliatelle at the breakfast spread at your hotel. If you're starting your day in Positano, stop at **Casa e Bottega** for fresh fruits and jams.

Viale Pasitea 100, Positano

+39-089-875-225 | [casaebottegapositano.it](http://casaebottegapositano.it)

### **You're on a Boat**

Get your bearings on a sail along the coast. Your hotel can arrange a reliable captain; we trust **Capo Amalfi Coast**. You'll cruise for a few beautiful hours, from empty coves to dramatic Furore fjord. Don't waste time at Grotta dello Smeraldo, but do have the captain drop anchor when you see a spot that looks good for a dip.

[capoamalficoast.com](http://capoamalficoast.com)

[ciao@capoamalficoast.com](mailto:ciao@capoamalficoast.com)

+39-333-932-3564



## GOOD AFTERNOON

### **Spaghetti in the Sunshine**

Bid farewell to the boat but stay close to the water: lunch on the beach. **La Tonarella** is a rustic, family-style restaurant in Conca dei Marini, a pretty little cove near Amalfi. Order pasta, fresh local fish, and a bottle of a crisp fiano or falanghina.

Via Marina di Conca 5, Conca dei Marini  
+39-089-831-939 | [ristorantelatonnarella.com](http://ristorantelatonnarella.com)

Closer to Positano in Laurito is **Da Adolfo**, a lively (and very popular) restaurant only accessible by boat. The house specials are grilled mozzarella in lemon leaf and zuppa di cozze (yummy mussels). A boat service shuttles guests back and forth to Positano.

Via Laurito 40, Positano  
+39-089-875-022 | [daadolfo.com](http://daadolfo.com)

### **Look the Part**

Stop at **Emporio Sirenuse** for a chic new outfit to wear tomorrow. For her, a flowy caftan. For him, colorful swim trunks. For both, Eau d'Italie fragrances.

Via Cristoforo Colombo 103, Positano  
+39-089-811-468 | [emporiosirenuse.com](http://emporiosirenuse.com)



## EVENING UNFOLDS

### **It's Spritz O'Clock**

Positano is *very* touristy. Which means you may have to wait (or hustle) for your al fresco perch at **Franco's Bar**, which (be warned) doesn't take reservations. Your reward: epic views, primo cocktails.

Via Cristoforo Colombo 30, Positano  
+39-089-812-189 | [francosbar.com](http://francosbar.com)

### **Dinner Is Served**

**Da Vincenzo**, a sweet, family-run trattoria off the main road in Positano, is more popular with locals than tourists — just one reason to love it.

Viale Pasitea 172, Positano  
+39-089-875-128 | [davincenzo.it](http://davincenzo.it)







## DAY TWO: RISE AND SHINE

Stick to the **Sorrentine Peninsula**, the part of the coast most tourists forget, for a little nature, a little history, and two unforgettable meals.

### **Morning Hike**

Get a ride or drive to Nerano and follow the small hand-written signs for **Ieranto**, a protected nature reserve. This walk can last from one to four hours, depending how far you want to go. To the right is one of many crumbling Saracen towers that dot the coastline. To the left is the beautiful and quiet bay (no boats allowed) and the former quarry works. Don't forget to bring water (buy it at the bottega in Nerano) and sunscreen.

Bay of Ieranto, Nerano

### **Reward Your Feet**

You'll spend the afternoon downhill in Marina del Cantone. Stop at **La Piccola Positano** in the small piazza and order a pair of custom-made leather sandals. Have lunch, and the shoes will be ready by the end of your meal.

Piazza Delle Sirene 7, Marina del Cantone  
+39-081-808-1934



## **Farm to Table to Heaven**

The dining room at family-run **Lo Scoglio da Tommaso** is perched on the sea and attracts a well-heeled but mellow crowd. Come hungry: This is Italian grandma cooking at its finest, with a menu spotlighting produce from their farms around the peninsula and seafood from the nearby waters. The food is so incredible, you'll want to come back again tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.

Piazza delle Sirene 15, Marina del Cantone  
+39-081-808-1026 | [hotelloscoglio.com](http://hotelloscoglio.com)

## **Easy Pirate Adventures**

Walk along the rocky beach of Marina del Cantone and rent a paddleboat from one of the concession stands and spend an hour or so exploring the bay. Or follow the path south along the coast to the next cove and stop at **La Conca del Sogno** for an afternoon aperitivo and a dive into the sea.

Via Amerigo Vespucci 25, Marina del Cantone  
+39-081-808-1036 | [concadelsogno.it](http://concadelsogno.it)



## EVENING UNFOLDS

### **Capri Sunset**

After freshening up back at your hotel, drive to Marciano for elegant cocktails at **Relais Blu**. Wave to Capri, shimmering on the horizon before you.

Via Roncato 60, Marciano  
+39-081-878-9552 | [relaisblu.com](http://relaisblu.com)

### **Table for Two**

**Don Alfonso 1890**, the finest fine dining restaurant on the Amalfi Coast, underwent a radical transformation to become one of the most ecological culinary destinations in the world (zero emissions, zero waste). Beautifully composed dishes either innovate or revisit classics. Order the tasting menu and a wine pairing — owner Livia Iaccarino will probably drop by the table to make sure you're having the meal of a lifetime. After dinner, ask to tour the wine cellar built into an Etruscan passageway to the sea. It's almost too good to be true.

Corso Sant'Agata 11/13, Sant' Agata Sui Due Golfi  
+39-081-878-0026 | [donalfonso.com](http://donalfonso.com)





## DAY THREE: RISE AND SHINE

Head down the coast to **Amalfi** and **Ravello**, popular but unmissable towns with great historic and artistic legacies. And, yes, more amazing views.

### **Morning Jolt**

Amalfi, once a mighty port town, can get crowded quickly. But it's worth a visit – just stick to local spots like lovely **Bistro F.II Pansa**, where Amalfitani sit in the sunshine and have too many espressos and pastries.

Piazza Duomo 21, Amalfi  
+39-089-871-532 | @[bistro\\_pansa](#)

### **Where History Lives**

Spend some time visiting the impressive **Duomo di Amalfi** for its imposing staircase, stunning mosaics, black and white facade, and medieval cloister.

Piazza Duomo, Amalfi



## **The Paper Trail**

Follow via delle Cartiere aaaaall the way past the shops and hotels until you reach **Museo della Carta**, where you can take a tour of Amalfi's paper-making facilities through the centuries. And at the end, they'll let you make a sheet of your own.

Via delle Cartiere 23, Amalfi

+39-089-830-4561 | [amalfipapermuseum.com](http://amalfipapermuseum.com)



## GOOD AFTERNOON

### **Seconds of Seaside Spaghetti**

Walk back to the water to the wonderful waterfront restaurant **Lido Azzurro**. More pasta, more fresh seafood, more white wine. Are you sick of it yet? Of course not!

Via Lungomare dei Cavalieri 5, Amalfi  
+39-089-871-384 | [ristorantelidoazzurro.it](http://ristorantelidoazzurro.it)

### **Hilltown Charms**

Catch a taxi uphill to Ravello and get lost amid the charming cobblestones that have attracted the likes of Garbo, Capote, Mirò, and Jackie O. Spend time at a town jewel, **Villa Rufolo**, touring the villa and the gardens.

Piazza Duomo, Ravello  
+39-089-857-621 | [villarufolo.it](http://villarufolo.it)

### **Tea Time**

The terrace restaurant at **Hotel Villa Maria** is a picturesque spot for a restorative afternoon caffeine fix.

Via Santa Chiara, Ravello  
+39-089-857-255 | [villamaria.it](http://villamaria.it)



## EVENING UNFOLDS

### **Gardens of Eden**

For a Ravello villa trifecta, spend late afternoon and twilight at **Villa Cimbrone**, wandering the wonderful garden filled with statues, plants, and precipitous panoramas of the sea below.

Via Santa Chiara 26, Ravello

+39-089-857-459 | [villacimbrone.com](http://villacimbrone.com)

### **Table for Two**

Stay on site for dinner at **Il Flauto di Pan**, Villa Cimbrone's Michelin-starred restaurant, which serves produce from their own organic gardens.

Villa Cimbrone 26, Ravello

+39-089-857-459 | [villacimbrone.com](http://villacimbrone.com)

### **A Musical Interlude**

Ravello has a proud history as a music town, and local historic venues often host classical and chamber concertos indoors and out. Check posters around town to see what's on, and end the night on a sweet spontaneous note.







## HOTELS: REST EASY, REST HAPPY

### **Caruso, A Belmond Hotel**

The luxury bolthole in a former 11th-century palace has frescoes, traditional décor, an unforgettable hilltop location in Ravello, and an infinity pool looking out to sea that has been photographed probably more than any other in the country.

Piazza San Giovanni del Toro 2, Ravello  
+39-089-858-800 | [belmond.com](http://belmond.com)

### **Borgo Santandrea**

Two Italian brothers spent four years restructuring an old hotel in Conca dei Marini, a mellow cove just outside Amalfi. The structure tumbles graciously down a cliff — the entrance is at street level; the rest of the hotel is terraced down to the sea, where Borgo has a private beach, beach club, and dock. The decor mixes mid-century (original Gio Ponti) and classic Amalfi (the ceramic tiles include 31 floor patterns).

Via Giovanni Augustariccio 33, Amalfi  
+39-089-831-148 | [borgosantandrea.it](http://borgosantandrea.it)



## **Casa Angelina**

A chic and discreet hotel with 39 rooms in a quiet location on the coast right outside Praiano. Everything is crisp and white — the structure, the furnishings, the billowing curtains — except for the artwork and sculptures.

Via Gennaro Capriglione 147, Praiano  
+39-089-813-1333 | [casangelina.com](http://casangelina.com)

## **Don Alfonso 1890**

An intimate boutique hotel and Michelin restaurant in the hilltop town Sant' Agata Sui Due Golfi. The handful of rooms named for herbs are decorated in bright and beautiful ceramics and textiles. Of special note is the Casa del Poeta, a two-story, single room hideaway near the pool decorated with the laccarino family's own furniture from the 1700s and 1800s.

Corso Sant'Agata 11/13, Sant' Agata Sui Due Golfi  
+39-081-878-0026 | [donalfonso.com](http://donalfonso.com)



## **Hotel Lo Scoglio**

The third-generation family restaurant has a handful of very simple, spotless (like, Italian nonna spotless) rooms upstairs. The hotel isn't right for anyone who wants extensive services, but it's a divine choice if your idea of heaven is a large terrace on the Mediterranean in a low-maintenance and totally unplugged hideaway.

Piazza delle Sirene 15, Marina del Cantone  
+39-081-808-1026 | [hotelloscoglio.com](http://hotelloscoglio.com)

## **Hotel Santa Caterina**

Once through the hotel entrance along the main road before Amalfi, you'll feel transported. The food excels at gourmet Glicine and seaside Al Mare, the rooms are decorated in traditional charm, and the Beach Club is for guests only. In other words: old-world luxury at its finest.

Via Mauro Comite 9, Amalfi  
+39-089-871-012 | [hotelsantacaterina.it](http://hotelsantacaterina.it)



## **Le Sirenuse**

Easily the chicest and coolest address on the Amalfi Coast for the art, the fashion, and the Sersale family's hospitality. It's a beloved refuge — and easily the best thing in touristy Positano.

Via Cristoforo Colombo 30, Positano  
+39-089-875-066 | [lesirenuse.it](http://lesirenuse.it)

## **Maison la Minervetta Hotel**

The best thing about Sorrento may be this charming boutique hotel built onto a hill and impeccably decorated with colorful ceramics and objects in a nautical theme by the designer behind some of the coast's best spots.

Via Capo, 25, Sorrento  
+39-081-877-4455 | [laminervetta.com](http://laminervetta.com)

## **Palazzo Avino**

Another stunner in Ravello in the former villa of a 12th-century noble family, with a Michelin starred restaurant, a clubhouse by the sea, and terraced sun decks along the hillside.

Via San Giovanni del Toro, 28, Ravello  
+39-089-818-181 | [palazzoavino.com](http://palazzoavino.com)



## **Villa Treville**

A collection of four villas right outside Positano in the former home of Italian director Franco Zeffirelli. The setting is dramatic: lush gardens and an elevator that cuts through the cliffs down to the sea. Suites are named for former guests and operas (Nijinsky, Callas, Aida) and are decorated in whites with bright tiles and accents. The Moroccan-style bar is ideal for nightcaps.

Via Arienzo 30, Positano

+39-089-812-2411 | [villatreville.com](http://villatreville.com)





## BONUS ESCAPES

If you want to add more time to your Amalfi Coast vacation — and, truly, you'll always want to add more time — here are a few excellent destinations to round out your trip.

### **The Glorious Ruins**

As hard as it will be to tear yourself away from the sea and the sun, the ruins of **Pompeii** and neighboring **Herculaneum** are a wonder to behold and make for an easy day trip. The Italians aren't doing the best job of preserving these treasures, but not even that can get in the way of the experience. Take a taxi or the local train La Circumvesuviana, which stops at the ruins. For the best experience, hire **Silvia Braggio** and her team of excellent guides.

For more history, head south to **Paestum** for the impressive ruins of the ancient Greek city and to visit a local mozzarella di bufala farm like Barlotti (lunch and water buffalos!). Definitely work with Silvia to arrange this.

[itineraguide.it](http://itineraguide.it)

[info@itineraguide.it](mailto:info@itineraguide.it)

+39-333-102-3534





## **Naples**

Many of the best Pompeii ruins are on display at the Naples National Archaeological Museum. Naples itself may be a former beauty that's gone to seed (hey, the truth hurts), but the city is still so very captivating. For a quickie afternoon tour, take in Spaccanapoli, Sansevero Chapel to see *The Veiled Christ* sculpture, the garden cloisters at Santa Chiara, and the Bourbon spoils at Palazzo Reale.

Break to taste the famous Neapolitan pizza at Concettina ai Tre Santi or Sorbillo — the families have been slinging pies for generations — or head to Mimì alla Ferrovia for traditional Neapolitan cooking. When the meal is great, they say it's "*tutt'appost!*" Finally, stop for a coffee at Caffè Gambrinus in Piazza del Plebiscito, close to the port where ferries leave for Sorrento and Capri. If you want to spend the night, the art-filled B&B Atelier Inès wins for charm and local color.



## **Ischia**

The islands in the Bay of Naples make for nice two- or three-day additions to an Amalfi Coast getaway. Ischia is not nearly as well known as Capri, and is all the better for it.

There are fantastic ruins (Castello Aragonese, Villa Arbusto), beautiful gardens (Giardini La Mortella, Giardini Ravino), and thermal water parks where you can easily spend a day (Negombo, Poseidon). The hotels of choice are Terme Manzi, Mezzatorre, and Albergo il Monastero.



## Capri

A proper visit means avoiding the hordes of tourists who flock here, especially the day trippers. One way to do it is by boat, sailing around the southern end of the island — posing for photos with the Faraglioni, visiting the lesser-known grottoes, stopping for lunch (as for La Fontelina, it's overpriced and overrated).

If you're staying on Capri, super chic hotel J.K. Capri is a convenient base. Walking is the most charming way to get around. After hurrying through the clogged center of town, visit the Roman ruins of Villa Jovis, stroll Via Tragara to the gardens of Certosa San Giacomo, and have a lunch on the water.

Anacapri is an easy ride away and has its own treasures, notably the house and gardens of Villa San Michele and the chairlift up Monte Solaro for a breathtaking panorama out to sea. The magnificent art-filled Capri Palace is the place to stay, not only for the spa but for its fine dining restaurant L'Olivo and for Il Riccio, its glamorous seaside beach club and restaurant.





## DRIVERS & SAILORS

### **To Drive or Not to Drive?**

For some, navigating the hairpin curves with their plunging ravines is no big deal. (It's even fun.) For others, driving the Amalfi Coast is a white-knuckled nightmare. The traffic snarls, especially in high season, are no joke, and the two-way roads mean going a short distance can be a long excursion. Whether or not you rent a car ultimately depends on how mobile you want to be. While there is so much to see, you shouldn't underestimate the joy of staying put.

As for public transportation between Sorrento and Ravello, it's limited to slow local buses.

Hiring drivers may be the best bet. Your hotel will have reliable recommendations, but we rely on Fabrizio Fiorinelli of Amalfi Drive Limousine Service. He covers the coast, makes airport pickups, and speaks excellent English.

[amalfi-drive.com](http://amalfi-drive.com)

[fabrizio@amalfi-drive.com](mailto:fabrizio@amalfi-drive.com)

+39-338-324-3809



## **Trusty Sailors**

There is no better way to spend a few hours than sailing around the gorgeous coastline. Your hotel will have contact information for sailors who speak English, know the best spots, and are colorful characters. We always work with Capo Amalfi Coast.

A word of caution: It's a good idea to check you've been dropped off at your intended destination. Some less scrupulous sailors take commissions for delivering tourists to other spots.

[capoamalficoast.com](http://capoamalficoast.com)

[ciao@capoamalficoast.com](mailto:ciao@capoamalficoast.com)

+39-333-932-3564



## LOCAL DELICACIES

The Campania region is flanked by sea breezes on one side and mountain airs on the other, making for an excellent growing climate for fruits and vegetables, most notably tomatoes and lemons. The seas are also especially bountiful, making fish the thing to eat. You'll recognize sea urchin (rici), anchovies (alici), and Venus clams (tartufi di mare), but don't miss regional species like pezzogna, scorfano, and cicala. Most restaurants will brag that their food is incredibly local, and that's pretty much true. In the province of Naples, desserts are beloved. Do try sweets like baba al rhum and Caprese, a divine flourless chocolate cake.



## SOUVENIRS

### **Old-Fashioned Stationery**

Amalfi has a long and storied paper-making tradition. **La Scuderia del Duca** is a two-room shop overflowing with stationery, paper goods, and leather-bound books at all price points. For the ultimate Amalfi look, get a fountain pen and brown ink and a personalized wax seal.

Largo Cesareo Console 8, Amalfi

+39-089-872-976 | [carta-amalfi.com](http://carta-amalfi.com)

### **Shoes That Fit Like a Glove**

Italians take their shoes seriously, and custom-fit footwear is de rigueur around these parts.

Almost every town has a cobbler who can make bespoke sandals and flats in a few hours, but the price to quality ratio is especially excellent at family-run shop **La Piccola Positano** in Marina del Cantone.

Piazza Delle Sirene 7, Marina del Cantone

+39-081-808-1934 | [@la\\_piccola\\_positano](https://www.instagram.com/la_piccola_positano)





## **Bright-as-the-Sun Ceramics**

The Amalfi Coast has a ceramics culture (and look) that rivals that of Deruta in Tuscany. The main piazza in **Vietri sul Mare** is given over to shop after shop of plates, cruets, pitchers, and other kitchen goods.

The truly committed can find incredible booty in the dusty stacks at the factory outlet of **Ceramica Artistica Solimene**, where pieces cost a fraction of what they fetch at tony shops worldwide.

Via Madonna Degli Angeli 7, Vietri sul Mare  
+39-089-210-243 | [ceramicasolimene.it](http://ceramicasolimene.it)

## **Amalfitana Chic**

If you want to bring that ineffable Le Sirenuse style home, **Emporio Sirenuse** carries clothing and accessories for women and men, ceramics and glassware for the home, and no-I-didn't-steal-it hotel merch.

Via Cristoforo Colombo 103, Positano  
+39-089-811-468 | [emporiosirenuse.com](http://emporiosirenuse.com)





## SAY IT LIKE A LOCAL

Italians are very generous — happy and charmed — when you try to speak their language. These phrases will delight them even more. As a rule of thumb, words are pronounced as they're written. Italian is not a tricky language with lots of silent letters.

Hint #1: When speaking Italian, pretending there is a soft H sound after most vowels will give you that excellent breathy pronunciation.

Hint #2: Don't even try the Neapolitan dialect.

Another bottle, please!

*Un' altra bottiglia per piacere!*

(oon AHL-trah boh-TEE-lee-ah  
pehr pia-CHEH-reh)

What a good idea.

*Che ottima idea.*

(kay OH-tee-mah ee-DEH-ah)



An extra dessert? Why not?  
*Un dolce in più? Ma perché no?*

(uhn DOHL-cheh EEN pew?  
mah pehr-KAY noh?)

And now, we have to go to bed.  
*E adesso, dobbiamo andare a letto.*

(eh ah-DESS-soh DOH-bee-ah-moh  
ahn-DAH-reh ah LEH-toh)

We can't wait to come back to Italy.  
*Non vediamo l'ora di tornare in Italia.*

(non vehd-YAH-moh lorah dee tor-NAH-reh  
een eee-TAL-ya)



## THE FINE PRINT

Although all listings were correct at the time of publication, the world moves fast, so it's always best to confirm opening hours and such.

### Comments?

We'd love to hear from you. Please send any feedback to [guides@fathomaway.com](mailto:guides@fathomaway.com)

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