

Civitavecchia, Rome – Lipari – Messina – Amalfi – Sorrento – Ponza – Civitavecchia, Rome

What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:

- All our tours are offered with English speaking guides.
- The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace.
- The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication. Passengers should be fit and active to join tours which include hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating, or similar activities.

How you can book your shore excursions:

- You can book shore excursions onboard, using our "sign-up lists" available at the library.
- In order to provide the best service and to avoid disappointments, please book your shore excursions as early as possible: places are limited and there is a booking deadline for each port.
- A minimum number of participants is required for tours; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.

Important notes:

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned on the daily program of each port.
- The Captain reserves the right to alter the itinerary in order to suit wind, weather and local conditions.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100 % cancellation fees will be charged.
- All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However, Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions. Last updated tour descriptions are available in a file at the library.



LIPARI, ITALY

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.

Lipari island tour

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 55 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 20 / Max 70 participants

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.

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 dessert wine, fortified by the strong rays of the island sun. Traditional Aeolian delicacies include Nacatuli – small cookies stuffed with almonds, cinnamon, and mandarin. Sesamini, flavoured with vanilla and orange and covered with sesame seeds and Spicchitedda : made with almonds mulled wine and cinnamon.

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

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves walking over cobblestone and uneven surfaces. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.



STAR CLIPPERS

Vulcano island tour

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Price: 69 €

Min 25 / Max 65 participants

Transportation: motorboat

Activity level: moderate

Disembarking from the tender you will reach Marina Corta, 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.

The tour continues to the hot sea waters (you can swim in there if you wish), the fumaroles and Sabbie Nere ("black sands") beach.

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. On the way back you will enjoy a scenic sailing of approximately one hour.

Please note: Mud baths in Vulcano are currently closed until further notice.

This tour is not recommended to guests who suffer from seasickness and guests with limited mobility since it involves walking over cobblestone and uneven surfaces. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Boat ride between Lipari and Vulcano lasts approx. 20 minutes. On the way back to Lipari, the scenic sailing lasts approx. one hour.

MESSINA, ITALY

Messina, Greek Zankle, Latin Messana, city and port, extreme northeastern Sicily, Italy, on the lower slopes of the Peloritani Mountains, on the Strait of Messina opposite Reggio di Calabria. It was an ancient Siculan colony, first mentioned about 730 BC, founded by settlers from Chalcis, who called it Zankle ("Sickle"), from the shape of the harbour.

In the early 5th century BC it was occupied by Greek fugitives from Persian-occupied Miletus and Samos. The fugitives were assisted by Anaxilas, tyrant of Rhegium (Reggio di Calabria), who then ruled over Rhegium and Zankle, the name of which he changed to Messene in honour of his native region of Messenia in the Peloponnese. After regaining its independence, the city was destroyed by the Carthaginian Himilco in 396 BC. It was reconquered and rebuilt by the Syracusan tyrant Dionysius and was later involved in the war between the Carthaginians and the Syracusan tyrant Agathocles. It fell in 289 BC to the Mamertini, Campanian mercenaries in the service of Agathocles, who made it the centre for their domination of Sicily. Pressed by Syracuse and the Carthaginians, the Mamertini allied themselves with the Romans in 264 BC; Roman intervention led to the First Punic War, at the end of which Messene was a free city and an ally of Rome.

Admire the bell tower of the Cathedral of Messina, which contains the biggest and most complex mechanical and astronomical clock in the world. Designed by the firm Ungerer of Strasbourg it was inaugurated in 1933 and is the city's main attraction even today. At noon a complex system of counterweights, leverages and gears, determines the movement of the gilded bronze statues located in the façade. They are related to the civil and religious traditions of the city.



Taormina

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Price: 65 €

Min 20 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

You will leave Messina and travel in air-conditioned comfort to Taormina, taking a panoramic route along the eastern coast of Sicily. Taormina is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful places to visit in the world. The coach will stop at the car park and from there a shuttle bus will take you to the city's Northern Gate where your guided walking tour will begin.

The tour showcases some of the highlights of Taormina including the Greek theatre, set against wonderful views of Mount Etna, Palazzo Corvaia, a palace dating from the 14th century which used to house the Sicilian parliament, and the Roman Odeon (outside visits). You will also visit the Cathedral and stroll through Corso Umberto, the vibrant main street and shopping area.

After the guided tour you will have some free time to explore Taormina on your own and discover the palaces, squares, staircases, and narrow streets which lend such charm to this medieval town. Alternatively, you might like to browse the shops or relax and people watch in one of the little cafés. The choice is yours. You will then return to the parking lot on foot and board the motor coach for the hour-long drive to the port of Messina

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking uphill, with steps and uneven cobblestones. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The drive between Messina and Taormina takes approximately one hour each way.

Mount Etna

Duration: 08:00 approx.

Price: 149 €

Min 25 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach, 4x4 minivan (or cable car)

Activity level: strenuous

Lunch included

Majestic Mount Etna is Europe's largest active volcano, rising some 11.000 ft (3340 m). The slopes of the volcano soar up to over 3296m and its flanks are dotted with cones and craters. From the peaks you can gaze out across the Gulf of Catania and see the woods, orchards and vineyards below.

The main attraction is Etna's crater and the awe-inspiring petrified remains of the lava flows. The tour starts with a scenic transfer to Mount Etna. The route to Mount Etna is a winding mountain road, passing the town of Giarre and the villages of Santa Venerina and Zafferana. The ever-changing scenery is quite delightful: lemon groves, orchards, vineyards, chestnut and pine woods blend with the hardened lava and endless volcanic cones. The Silvestri crater is located about 1950 m above sea level.

Upon arrival you will transfer to 4x4 minibuses or cable car to climb to approximately 2800m (8500 feet) above sea level. A professional mountain guide will accompany you on a 30-45-minute hike to see the most recent lava flow and walk around the crater (depending on volcanic activity).

Please note: We recommend comfortable shoes and a jacket or sweater. It can be cold and windy on Mount Etna, even in summertime. The drive between Messina and the Mount Etna takes approximately one hour each way. This tour is only available in summer, weather permitting. You will visit either the North or the South side of the volcano depending on current volcanic activity.

You will reach an altitude of approximately 2800m above sea level – if you suffer from high blood pressure or heart disease, please check with your doctor about the advisability of going on this excursion.



Taormina & Sicilian Brunch

Duration: 07:00 approx.

Price: 115 €

Min 20 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

You will take a tender to the shore where a deluxe motor coach will be waiting to take you to Taormina, celebrated the world over for its beauty.

This picturesque town, perched on a natural terrace 200m above sea level, has many delightful medieval features, as well as a host of interesting shops.

You will leave the coach at the parking lot and continue on foot. This guided walking tour showcases many of the town's highlights including views of the Cathedral, Palazzo Covaia and the Odeon (exterior views). You will also get to stroll down Corso Umberto, the main shopping area in Taormina.

After the guided tour you will have some free time on your own to taste some local pastries, sit in a café and people watch, browse the shops, or just walk around admiring the palaces, squares, staircases, and narrow streets which lend such charm to this delightful medieval town.

You will then return to the parking lot and board the coach for a drive heading south, leaving the freeway in Giarre and on to Mount Etna. This scenic route around the mountain takes you past the town of Giarre and the village of Santa Venerina and crosses orchards, vineyards, and forest. Our destination is the Estate belonging to the Barons of Villagrande. Here you will be welcomed by a member of the Nicolosi family who will take you on a tour of the cellar and the winery and talk about the particular characteristics of Mount Etna wine, shaped by unique geological and climatic conditions. You will also enjoy fantastic views over the fertile valley and vine covered fields which produce certified Etna wine. After the visit you will be treated to a Sicilian brunch of local specialities and get to taste four different wines produced on the estate. Before driving back to the pier, you will have the chance to buy some wine at the estate shop.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking uphill, with steps and uneven cobblestones. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The drive between Messina and Taormina takes approximately one hour each way.

Messina City Tour and Museum

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Price: 55 €

Min 20 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

You will drive through the city of Messina in air-conditioned comfort on an orientation tour passing by: City Hall, the University, and the Law Court. The first photo stop will be at the shrine of Cristo Re, a baroque style war memorial for the soldiers who died in the two world wars. You will also see the Neptune fountain created in 1557 by one of Michelangelo's pupils, before heading north on the coast road. There will be a second photo stop at Cape Peloro which dominates the entrance to the Strait of Messina and is the nearest point to the mainland. The tour continues driving through the fishing villages of Ganzirri and Faro and passing the small saltwater lakes used for mussel farming before returning to Messina and visiting the Museum and the cathedral (outside visit). The museum is small but boasts a rich collection of portraits and sculptures and some masterpieces by Antonello da Messina and Caravaggio.

The Cathedral was built in 1200 and destroyed many times over by earthquakes and bombing during the second world war. Messina Cathedral is famous for its bell tower which boasts the largest astronomical clock in the world. When the clock strikes the hour at noon, you will see the gilded bronze statues on the façade of the bell tower spring to life to the sounds of Schubert's Ave Maria. The show lasts about ten minutes and afterwards we will take a look at some of the Monuments in Old Messina which withstood the devastating earthquake of 1908. The highlights of the tour include: the Cathedral, Catalani's church, the statue of Don Giovanni d'Austria, and Montorsoli fountain.

After the visit you will return to the ship

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Proper attire is required to visit churches.



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 Amalphitane" 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 & the villa Rufolo

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 59 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 20 / Max 50 participants

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 cypresses 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, cypresses 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.

Please note: Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone and uneven surfaces, uphill and steps.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. 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 Amalfi Coast drive, especially during high season and weekends.



Positano and Amalfi Coast by boat

Duration: 05:00 approx.

Transportation: boat

Price: 55 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 20 / Max 50 participants

The Amalfi Coast offers a scenery of incomparable beauty, characterized by a succession of uncontaminated beaches, bays, caves, inlets and villages perched on cliffs. Since time immemorial, artists and travelers have fallen under the spell of its tiny villages lost amidst the orange, lemon and olive groves, the vines and bougainvillea.

In the fifties, the glamour of the Dolce Vita turned the small fishing village of Positano into a retreat for the wealthy and a popular resort area. The Amalfi Coast has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997.

After a panoramic transfer of 45 minutes by boat you will reach the village of Positano. Explore the village at leisure and 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.

Then meet your guide and board the public boat for a ride back to Amalfi. After your return in Amalfi, 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.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone and uneven surfaces, uphill and some steps. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. This tour is subject to weather conditions. Time at leisure and free exploration in Positano. The boat ride to Positano takes approximately 45 minutes (each way).

SORRENTO, ITALY**Pompeii**

Duration: 05:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 70 €

Activity level: strenuous

Min 20 / Max 70 participants

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.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

The site of Pompeii is very busy and extended; it is important to stay with your guide at all times. Attractions are behind bars and glass windows in Pompeii.

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. At the end of the tour, you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.

The drive to Pompeii takes approx. 1 hour, but it is subject to traffic on the Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.



Herculaneum

Duration: 05:15 approx.

Price: 65 €

Min 20 / Max 35 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Herculaneum was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius on August 2nd 79 AD. The town was not an important commercial centre like Pompeii, it was smaller, wealthier and more residential. There was no open space or forum, just streets lined with villas and shops and, as is customary in Roman town planning, two very straight main roads crossing in the middle.

Vesuvius destroyed the two ancient towns in different ways. Pompeii was buried under layers of ash, while Herculaneum, much closer to the volcano, drowned under a sea of mud. Over time the mud hardened to a soft stone, preserving the city and nearly everything in it as a sort of fossil, so that the furniture, clothing and even some of the goods in the shops have survived. Excavations began by accident in 1709 when some workers were digging a well - they discovered a wall which was later found to be one of the stages of the ancient theatre. Later, there were many human skeletons uncovered at the ancient shoreline, suggesting that numerous inhabitants attempted to escape but perished when mountains collapsed and volcanic gases were released.

The excavation work since has brought to light sumptuous villas, baths, theatres and even a villa thought to have belonged to the father-in-law of Julius Caesar, called Villa di Pisone (Villa dei Papiri). Much of the town is still buried and excavation work continues today. Many buildings and their contents are in a remarkably good state of preservation.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

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. At the end of the tour, you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own. The drive to Herculaneum site takes approx. 1 hour, but it is subject to traffic on the Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.

Capri on your own

Duration: 06:30 approx.

Price: 69 €

Min 20 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: boat

Activity level: easy

With an escort (no tour guide)

Discover Capri on your own, with the help of some tips from a local guide to ensure you make the most of your visit

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 marvellous 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 centre, Anacapri, lies in a sweep of lush countryside to the west of Monte Solaro. Capri is derived from Greek Kapros, meaning wild boar. Inhabited since the Palaeolithic 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 concave ceiling of the grotto are so steeped in blue light that everything has a shimmering silver outline and even swimmers in the water look blue. A delightful climate, brilliant blue skies, lovely scenery and a host of other attractions make the island a perfect holiday resort in any season. Take the opportunity of discovering Capri on your own! Your local guide will give you some great tips so you can make the most of your time on the island.

Please note: This tour does not include a tour guide. The visit in Capri is entirely on your own. No visit is included.



This tour includes assistance service, regular boat service in & out Capri; disembarking tax in Capri, ticket in & out funicular ride Capri pier/Capri.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The duration of the tour may change depending on the local boat schedule.

Lunch is not included in the tour

PONZA, ITALY

Located on the site of an extinct volcano which erupted some two million years ago, the island consists mainly of rhyolitic and andesitic rocks whose characteristic gray, yellow and ashy tuft formations combine to create a unique shade of blue. Ventotene and S. Stefano, 39 km to the east of Ponza are rich in acid and basalt rocks. Ponza is one of the treasures of the Tyrrhenian Sea and, according to legend, was the home of the sorceress Circe who seduced Ulysses. One look at the beauties of this enchanted island, and you will understand why Ulysses found it so hard to leave.

The area has many historical associations. The archipelago lying some 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 build a fortified citadel there. Traces of the Cyclopean walls (so called because of the size of the blocks used) remain to this day. In 313 BC the Romans colonized Ponza and in customary fashion set about improving the infrastructure and amenities, building a magnificent aqueduct, still partially used today, as well as a temple devoted to the Dioscuri and another to the Venus Epiponzia. After centuries of naval battles and other tumultuous events, Ponza fell into the hands of the Bourbon family, who rebuilt the port area. A long period of isolation followed the island's unification with the kingdom of Italy, which was intensified during the twenty years of the Fascist regime. It was only after WWII that Ponza gained its reputation as an ideal holiday destination. The beautiful scenery, warm climate and rich history combine to make this island a true paradise on earth.

Time at leisure (no tours organized)

PALMAROLA, ITALY

A ruggedly beautiful island cradled in the Golfo de Gaeta about half-way between Rome and Naples, Palmarola is the perfect stop for a beach day. The water is remarkably clear, and between the islands of Ponza and Palmarola, archeologists have uncovered a number of wrecks of Roman galleys dating from the Republican Period.

