THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

The Amalfi Coast

9 DAYS: Saturday, May 14-Sunday, May 22, 2022

THIS IS THE TRIP OUR MEMBERS CALL THE BEST VALUE in travel today! In a country with over 7,000 km of coastline, the Amalfi Coast is often considered the "coast with the most." This 50 km long stretch of paradise entrances visitors with stunning scenery, panoramic vistas, sun-washed, hill-hugging villages and, of course, its unmatched Italian style and culture. The Amalfi Coast is beautiful, romantic and dramatic and the Club has become justly famous for our tour of the best of the best. Home-base is a charming hotel in Maiori with its long, wide beach. From there we'll set out on a new adventure each day—a guided tour of the excavations at Pompeii followed by a winery visit; a full-day visit to the magical and glamorous isle of Capri; an excursion to Sorrento where we'll have a pizza-making lesson followed by lunch and a limoncello tasting, an exploration of Amalfi and Ravello with lunch. The next day we'll travel by motorboat to the village that seems to tumble into the blue sea—Positano—where we'll enjoy lunch and have the whole day to explore on our own.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled **Alitalia Airlines** flights from Boston to Naples, via Rome (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Seven nights' four-star accommodations at the **Pietra di Luna,** Maiori (or similar)
- Welcome cocktail and tour presentation
- Sixteen meals, seven continental buffet breakfasts, five lunches, four dinners with wine
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Services of a professional local guide during excursions

Rates

$3,199 per person double occupancy
Single supplement is $375
Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is $300.

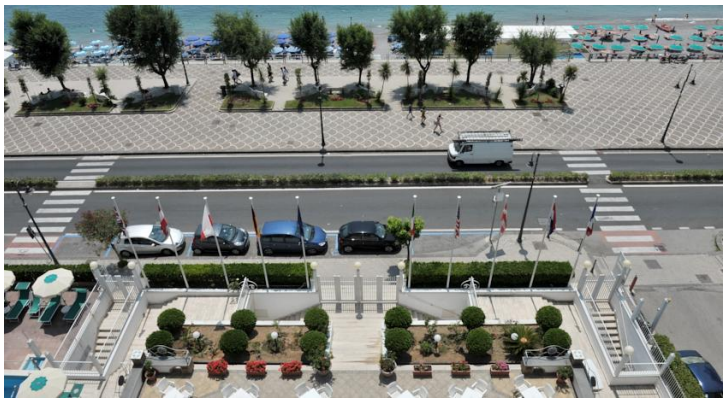
Accommodations

Hotel Pietra di Luna
Lungomare G. Capone, 27 - 84010 Maiori
Overlooking the beautiful Maiori promenade, just 30 meters from the sea, the Hotel Pietra di Luna is a typical seaside hotel – a five-story whitewashed affair with stripy awnings and a large pool. Located in the center of the town, it enjoys a stunning panoramic view of Maiori's bay, between the Norman Tower, on the east side, and the Miramare Castle, on the western one, surrounded by beautiful terraced hills, cultivated with vines and lemon trees. Bright and comfortable rooms are equipped with private services (shower or bath), air conditioning, SAT TV, mini-bar, hairdryer, direct dial telephone and safety box. All double rooms have balconies with side sea view. Amenities: pool with sunbeds and parasols; private beach, hall with wi-fi connection and internet point; American Bar with snack service; restaurant.

Features:

Welcome drink and tour orientation; half-day guided excursion to Pompeii archaeological site, including a winery visit and lunch; full-day guided excursion to Capri; excursion to Sorrento with a pizza-making class followed by lunch and a limoncello tasting; full-day excursion to Amalfi and Ravello with lunch; full-day visit to Positano with lunch; cooking lesson at hotel.

Hotel Pietra di Luna



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Depart Boston on an evening Alitalia Airlines flight to Rome. Dinner will be served on board. Relax and enjoy the in-flight entertainment.

Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Naples – transfer to Maiori

Continental breakfast will be served before landing in Rome. Clear immigration and passport control and proceed to our connecting/domestic flight to Naples. Upon arrival in Naples we'll retrieve our luggage and clear customs and meet our local representative who will assist with the transfer to the **Hotel Pietra di Luna** in **Maiori**. Check in and receive room assignments. We'll enjoy a welcome drink and short tour orientation. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. This evening we'll enjoy a welcome dinner with wine at the hotel. ***(D)***

The perfect address

Pretty Maiori nestles on the sun-drenched coastline of southern Italy. It's an L-shaped town, with shops, cafés and restaurants lining Corsa Reginna and the seafront, or Lungomare Amendola. It's got fabulous churches, easy access to Positano and Ravello – and the longest sandy beach on the Amalfi Coast.

A sandy beach

Maiori has made a bit of a name for itself with its sand-and-shingle beach – a bit of a rarity in these parts. It's nearly a kilometre long, with a full back-up of bars, sunbeds and deckchairs. Watersports cover off scuba diving, snorkelling, sailing, boating and surfing, and there's a promenade with shady lawns and benches.

Medieval architecture
Maiori's Medieval architecture harks back to a time when it was a great maritime power. An easy 30-minute walk up the surrounding hillside brings you to the Castle of San Nicola de Thoro Plano, a 9th-century fortification with views stretching along the mountainous coast to Ravello. Cut into the coastal cliffs, the Santa Maria de Olearia monastery is just 5 minutes' drive away and the elaborate frescoes are a must-see.
Exploring the Amalfi coast
Ravello, Amalfi and Positano – the big 3 UNESCO towns on the Amalfi coast – are all within 30 minutes' bus ride. In Positano there's a 13th-century baroque cathedral, and Ravello is filled with palazzi, gardens and cobbled squares. Another option is Capri, a 2-hour boat ride from Maiori. This chic island – all tree-lined avenues and boutiques – was once a haunt of Princess Diana. The shopping hub is Via Camerelle Capri.

Day 3: Excursion to Amalfi and Ravello

After breakfast we'll set off for the town of Amalfi. Here we'll enjoy free time and admission to the Chiostro del Paradiso. Later we'll venture to the town of Ravello located high up in the mountains. Ravello sits on a terrace over the sea, offering stunning views of the Mediterranean. Enjoy a guided tour of the Villa Rufolo and its gardens. Situated right in the heart of Ravello, just steps from the central Piazza Duomo, the Villa Rufolo is a lovely spot to savor the beauty of the Amalfi Coast. Enjoy an included lunch (no beverages included) before returning to Maori in the afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure. ***(B, L)***

AMALFI
Coastal beauty
Amalfi, the main town on this UNESCO-listed coastline, is a cluster of pretty villas spilling down the cliffside to the fishing port and beach below. The town – all Medieval architecture, winding alleys and steep steps – is set in a landscape of lemon trees and olive groves. It's been a magnet for glamorous visitors for decades.
St Andrew's Cathedral
The Cathedral of St Andrew is the town's centrepiece. A grand staircase of 57 steps leads into the 13th-century building, with its mix of European and Moorish architecture. The beautifully frescoed crypt contains the relics of St Andrew, but the cathedral's highlight is the Chiostro del Paradiso, a Moorish-influenced cloister with a magically peaceful garden.

RAVELLO
The high ground
When the Amalfi Coast's seaside jewels like Positano and Sorrento started to become overrun with tourists, those in the know escaped to the more rarefied air of Ravello. Hidden high up in the mountains, and with staggering views of the Bay of Salento, the town has welcomed its fair share of celebrity visitors, famously Greta Garbo, and author Gore Vidal. The Mediterranean beaches may be 7 kilometres away, but who cares when you've got the world at your feet.
Italian gardens
Ravello's manicured gardens are an Englishman's dream. Pay a visit to Villa Cimbrone and Villa Rufolo to find wisteria-lined walkways, rose gardens, and panoramas that stretch out in to infinity. Villa Rufolo's grounds are said to have inspired Richard Wagner, who included them in his opera, Parsifal. The villa returns the favour by hosting an internationally renowned classical music festival every year in his honour.
Quiet sophistication
Ravello trades on its discreet, unruffled charm. Its web of car-free lanes, which spider over the mountaintop, all seem to lead back to Piazza del Duomo, the main square. It's here that the cathedral, originally built in the 11th century,

casts its shadow in the midday sun. Elsewhere around town, you'll find a few dozen trattorias and pizzerias serving delicious Italian cuisine. Ravello's other major talent, fine ceramics, are on display at a handful of celebrity-frequented shops.

Day 4: Capri

Perhaps the highlight of this holiday--today we'll enjoy a full-day guided excursion to the magical isle of Capri. Transfer by motorcoach to the port of Amalfi and proceed by ferry across the Gulf of Salerno to Capri. Our local guide leads us on a tour of the island by minibus, including a visit of Villa San Michele, the famous "Piazzetta" and the Gardens of Augustus that overlook the famous Fraglioni rocks. There will be free time to browse around and have lunch on our own. Return in the late afternoon to Maiori for dinner with wine at the hotel. ***(B, D)***

Welcome to a legendary idyll: Capri's beguiling combination of fabled beauty and hedonism has charmed Roman emperors, Russian revolutionaries and Hollywood stars for decades. It's the perfect microcosm of Mediterranean appeal – a smooth cocktail of chichi piazzas and cool cafes, Roman ruins and rugged seascapes. Already inhabited in the Palaeolithic period, Capri was briefly occupied by the Greeks before Emperor Augustus made it his private playground and Tiberius retired here in AD 27. Its modern incarnation as a tourist centre dates from the early 20th century. It's also a hugely popular day-trip destination and a summer favorite of holidaying VIPs. But explore beyond the swish cafes and designer boutiques and you'll find that Capri retains an unspoilt charm, with grand villas, overgrown vegetable plots, sun-bleached, peeling stucco and banks of brilliantly coloured bougainvillea. All of this overlooks the deep blue water that laps into secluded coves and mysterious grottoes.

Day 5: Maiori – Free day on the Amalfi Coast

Today is a day of leisure and we can set our own pace to explore the area. There will be an optional cooking class followed by lunch at the hotel at no additional expense if you prefer. ***(B, L)***

Day 6: Pompeii excursion

After breakfast, depart the hotel by motorcoach for an excursion to Pompeii. A local professional guide will lead us on a walking tour of the ruins of this Roman town buried by the sudden eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. Thanks to the patient work of talented archaeologists, Pompeii comes to life once again. Walking through the ancient streets of Pompeii we'll enter ancient dwellings with exciting frescoes, pause at the baths and browse through the shops that were open 2000 years ago. After our tour we'll be treated to a

winery visit and enjoy lunch featuring local specialties and wine. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. ***(B, L)***

Day 7: Sorrento

After buffet breakfast at the hotel we'll depart on a full-day excursion. Our first stop will be the quaint town of Sorrento. Enjoy a walk through Piazza Tasso and the narrow streets nearby. After our tour we'll head to a local Agriturismo where we'll enjoy a pizza-making lesson followed by pizza lunch. As we return to Maiori well stop on the way and have a limoncello and "baba" tasting. Return to the hotel for dinner, with wine and overnight. ***(B, L, D)***

SORRENTO

A beautiful position

Cobblestone streets, colourful flowers and picture-perfect views of Mount Vesuvius and Naples – as a resort, hilly Sorrento comes up with it all. This sophisticated place on the southwest coast of Italy also offers designer boutiques, lively bars and great restaurants. And it's at the heart of the Neapolitan Riviera, so the beautiful towns of Positano and Amalfi are within easy reach as well.

Cobbles and cafés

Pavement cafés and tucked-away antique and craft shops cram the maze of cobbled streets of Sorrento's old town, making it an ideal place for a wander. For culture vultures, the old town also has an impressive church – the 11th-century Chiesa di San Francesco – plus a bell tower, a monastery, and a cathedral with beautiful frescoes.

Day 8: Positano

Depart this morning at 10:30am with our local guide for an excursion by private motorboat from Maiori to Positano, arriving at 11:15am. We'll have the day on our own to explore this most elegant and well-known resort town on the Amalfi Coast. We've also arranged for lunch at a restaurant in the center of Positano. Our return is scheduled for 4:30pm, arriving back to Maiori at 5:15pm. (Please note: times are approximate and subject to change.) This evening enjoy a farewell dinner, with wine, at the hotel. ***(B, L, D)***

Positano is the coast's most picturesque and photogenic town, with vertinigous houses tumbling down to the sea in a cascade of sun-bleached peach, pink and terracotta colours. No less colourful are its steep streets and steps lined with wisteria-draped hotels, smart restaurants and fashionable boutiques. There's still a southern-Italian holiday feel about the place, with sunbathers eating pizza on the beach, kids pestering parents for gelati and chic women from Milan checking out the boutiques. The fashionista history runs deep – moda Positano was born here in the '60s and the town was the first in Italy to import bikinis from France. John Steinbeck visited in 1953 and wrote in an article for Harper's Bazaar: 'Positano bites deep. It is a dream place that isn't quite real when you are there and becomes beckoningly real after you have gone'.

Day 9: Return to Boston

Enjoy breakfast and depart the hotel for the transfer back to Naples airport and our return flight to Boston, via Rome. ***(B)***

Maiori

Maiori is a small, welcoming resort that hugs the Amalfi Coast. Clustered around an elegant bell tower and a little group of whitewashed houses dotted with colorful domes, Maiori is a charming town with a relaxed feel. Lemon groves cascade down the hillside that flanks the town and the refreshing smell of citrus fruit fills the air. Life revolves around the beach, the most attractive in the area, making it particularly popular with families and couples who enjoy soaking up the sun. The town also boasts a long strip of restaurants and cafes that look out over the waterfront promenade - the ideal setting to savor an evening meal as the sun sets over the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. Maiori also has one of the best beaches on the Amalfi Coast made up of dark, pebbly, volcanic sand.

Eating out and Nightlife

A long line of restaurants, pizzerias, cafes and bars stretch alongside Maiori's beach promenade for about 1km - so there's no shortage of places to eat! Being on the coast, fish and seafood dishes feature heavily on many menus so why not try some of the local Neapolitan cuisine? Maori is the 'loudest' of the resorts along the Amalfi coast, although the pace quiets when the sun goes down. Most evenings are spent savoring meals in the range of cafes and restaurants that flank the beach. Why not join the Italian families for their evening 'passeggiata', a leisurely stroll along the waterfront?

Shopping

A good selection of shops are located in the centre of Maiori and the town also plays host to a weekly market that sells everything from regional cheeses and salami to clothes and shoes.

Costiera Amalfitana

The glorious coastline of Amalfi is famous worldwide. Here are places of great beauty and fascinating monuments from Greek and Roman times. As you travel the twisting road along the Amalfi Coast you catch glimpses of little hamlets and bays dotted amidst the brilliant Mediterranean flora. Towns and villages cling to the cliffs which rise straight from the iridescent blue sea. Here you will find Positano, with its multi coloured houses, the supremely elegant Ravello and exquisitely beautiful Nerano, and many more delightful

towns which face out towards the Gulf of Salerno. In this place of spectacular natural beauty various Mediterranean cultures combine, creating a truly unique atmosphere.

Proof of Citizenship *is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*