

5 Insider Tips for an Authentic Amalfi Coast Experience

March 3, 2016



Italy's Amalfi Coast has long been considered a must-see destination, since the golden days when old Hollywood made it their playground, visiting dignitaries used it as a place to unwind, and adventurers flocked to its mountainous peaks and turquoise seas.

Today, the coast is as popular as ever, and many travelers are taking advantage of the wealth of luxurious amenities that the area has to offer. There is much to see and experience along the Amalfi Coast, from the well-known sun-drenched beaches of Positano to the lesser-known charms of the tiny Conca dei Marina village.

To get the most out of your trip, however, you may want to avoid tourist-driven hotels and instead find a luxury villa or vacation home. Finding such a place and trusting its quality can be difficult to do from far away, so interested travelers should seek the help of the area's luxury booking agencies, which not only offer varied portfolios of homes, but also insight into the hidden gems of the Amalfi Coast and custom-tailored vacations.

Visiting this stunning, seaside locale is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and travelers should be sure to get a unique experience that is customized to their tastes and interests.

If you've yet to visit the splendor of the Amalfi Coast, consider these five tips to help you get the most out of your luxurious tour of the Italian coast.

Make the Most of the Sea

The waters off the Italian coast are not only stunning to look at, but they also offer the best way to see the area, so whenever possible, take a boat. Driving into Positano is an amazing experience, as the road into town is built into the cliffside, making for dramatic views and incredible scenery. But there's nothing quite like viewing the Amalfi Coast from sea level, where you can see more of how each town is built into the side of the mountains.

The area offers a ferry service, as well as individualized boats-for-hire. The ferry's best arrival and departure points are between Positano, Amalfi, Capri and Sorrento. It can get crowded in the summer months, so get there early – and know that service can be suspended if the waters are too choppy.

If you really want an authentic and personalized Amalfi Coast experience, however, nearly every town along the coast offers boats for hire – either with or without a captain – for a full or half day. In fact, some booking agencies will help guests create a custom itinerary with their own boat-for-hire experience. It's the best way to see the coastline and learn of its rich history – and even drop in on some small beach coves or grottos for swimming. Then you can cap off the day with a meal at a world-class restaurant that's only reachable by boat and offers mouthwatering seafood. This is the one-of-a-kind coastal experience you came here for!

Don't Miss Out on Anacapri

Capri is a cosmopolitan gem on the island, well-known for its beauty, designer shopping and allure for celebrities, but too many people miss the true jewel of the island: Anacapri. Easily accessed by bus from Capri, Anacapri offers lovely boutiques and cafés that are enjoyably walkable, as well as panoramic views from the historic Villa San Michele. One of the most incredible offerings Anacapri has is a chairlift that takes guests to a view point at Mount Solaro. It would almost be cliché to say the view is breathtaking, but you'll discover how true that statement is once you step off the chairlift and see the beautiful Italian landscape laid out ahead of you.

Consider Traveling in Late September and October

If you're looking to experience the Amalfi Coast at its best, and exceptional Italian villa living at its finest, travel in the fall. That's when the oppressive heat of summer begins to wane and the crowds begin to thin out. Fall weather along the Amalfi Coast is nothing short of spectacular, and there's plenty to do to celebrate the shift in season. For example, wine enthusiasts will be interested in the "vendemmia," or grape harvest, which happens during this time at local vineyards. And a short time later over the months of November and December, the olives are harvested for olive oil production. Local luxury booking agencies may be able to offer customized wine tastings or tours of local vineyards.

Ditch the Heels, and Step Into History

The Amalfi Coast is known for its dramatic and picturesque coastline, which is made of mountainous hills that drop directly into the sea. Many of its towns, especially Positano, were gradually built into the hillside over time – which means there's a lot of up and downhill walking! You'll come to love the quaint cobblestone pathways and ancient stone stairways, and you'll revel in the majesty of each town's historic hillside buildings – but not if you're traversing the landscape in heels all day long. Make sure you pack some comfortable footwear that's suitable for walking, or consider purchasing a pair of famous handmade Positano sandals that have been crafted by local artisans for decades.

Enjoy a Slower Pace of Life

There's no need to rush when you're on the Amalfi Coast – time moves differently here. Everyone embraces a leisurely way of life and slows down to enjoy every moment that's presented to them. Whether it's lingering over lunch at a fine seaside café, enjoying a stroll on the cobblestone streets, or even sitting on the patio of your villa watching the mesmerizing blue waters below, you'll learn to love taking the time out to enjoy the beauty of the Amalfi Coast.

If you want to make the most out of your trip to the Amalfi Coast, consider asking for professional help, because there's a big difference between booking a room in a hotel, and planning a custom-made vacation that takes in all the splendor of the area. Make sure any agency you consider has a local office, with expert bilingual advisors to help you plan the critical details of your stay. Booking with an exclusive luxury travel company can help you learn more about your destination and experience the richness of the environment the way a local would, ensuring that your visit to the Amalfi Coast is both relaxing and memorable.

By Erin Romano, Carrington Italia Villa Host. Carrington Italia is a dedicated booking website for luxury villas and vacation homes on the renowned Amalfi Coast of Italy. With a local presence in Positano, Carrington Italia's bilingual team sets a new standard of excellence for custom-tailored holidays. To learn more about Carrington Italia, please visit www.CarringtonItalia.com, call (844) 550-5805 or email info@carringtonitalia.com.

Photo: Amalfi Coast vacation villa from Carrington Italia's current portfolio of properties, featuring a private garden, pool and view of the cascading houses of Positano.