

Gardens of the Amalfi Coast

Destination: Italy
Trip code: STGDT



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Discover some of the beautiful gardens of the Amalfi Coast, designed with classic Italian flair. We'll visit the famous formal cliff-top gardens of Ravello, enjoy a private guided tour of the Mediterranean botanic park at Villa Ravino on the island of Ischia and visit the Botanical Garden of Naples. The island of Capri delights with Villa San Michele's garden and sculpture gallery set high on the cliffs while the gardens at the Royal Palace of Caserta will impress with their large pools, fountains and cascades. The holiday also includes a day visiting the amazing Roman ruins at Pompeii while there's the option of also taking in Herculaneum on the free day.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Half-Board en-suite accommodation.
- The services of an experienced HF Holidays leader.
- Full day excursions with all entrance fees and essential transport.
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers.

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the many garden 'rooms' of Capri's 'Villa San Michele', which incorporates incredible views of Vesuvius

- Visit `La Mortella` designed by English landscape architect Russell Page
- Discover Palazzo Reale – a magnificent garden inspired by the park of Versailles
- Spend a full day exploring the ruins of the Roman city of Pompeii

TRIP SUITABILITY



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Arrive at Hotel Caravel, unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Ravello

Today starts with a drive along the picture-perfect Amalfi Coast to Ravello, a renowned beauty spot with stunning sea views. We will first visit Villa Rufolo, originally built in the 1270s and centred around a courtyard richly decorated in the Moorish style. The garden on the upper level contains cypresses and exotics such as cycads, yuccas and palms, and overhanging the sea is the terrace where the Ravello Festival is celebrated each year.

There will then be time to explore Ravello and its small cathedral before continuing on to the charming gardens at Villa Cimbrone. They were largely redesigned at the start of the 20th century with the valuable input of the English gardener, Vita Sackville-West and are considered among the most important examples of the English landscape in southern Europe. There are any number of corners to explore including the 'Terrace of Infinity' where the sea meets the sky and the Avenue of Immensity.

Day 3: Pompeii

The eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD froze Pompeii as it stood in time. Past excavations have revealed a rich culture which can be explored today. We will have plenty of time to unearth the stories of those who lived and worked in this buried city before we begin our return journey to the hotel.

Day 4: The Island Of Ischia

Today we sail across to the island of Ischia for a private guided tour of Villa Ravino's Mediterranean tropical botanic park. This is a unique garden is the vision of Giuseppa D'Ambra and first opened to the public in 2006 showing a magnificent collection of succulents and cacti. We then visit the lush tropical garden of La Mortella, the former home of the late British composer Sir William Walton and his wife. They, together with the designer Russell Page, took on the arduous task of sculpting the terrain to create the hard landscape of the garden with its wonderful pools and cascades of water.

Day 5: Free Day

On our 7-night holidays, we allow one free day where there is no organised excursion. This is an ideal opportunity for you to relax, enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the area independently. Some possible options include:

Herculaneum: Closer to Mt Vesuvius than Pompeii, Herculaneum was hit by the volcanic eruption first in 79AD and covered in a deep layer of ash. It is much smaller than Pompeii but some of the ruins and artefacts here are much better preserved. Herculaneum can be reached by train; the journey takes just over an hour.

Archaeological Museum in Naples: The museum has an extensive collection of Roman artefacts including many from Pompeii and Herculaneum. Highlights include Roman mosaics, frescoes and sculptures from the ruined cities plus giant Farnese sculptures from ancient Rome. There is also a large collection of antiquities from ancient Egypt. Naples can be reached by train from Sant' Agnello; the journey takes just over an hour.

Sorrento: A 5-minute train journey takes you to the centre of Sorrento. Head for the old town to explore its maze of streets and perhaps shop for souvenirs. The town is known for its colourful ceramics, limoncello, lacework and marquetry. Piazza Tasso is a great place to stop for a coffee and watch the world go by; most of the main historic attractions are a short walk from here. There is a lovely walk from here via ancient steps and passages down to the Marina Grande – Sorrento's old fishing harbour from where there are views across to Naples and Mt Vesuvius.

Day 6: Orto Botanico

This morning we travel to Naples to visit Orto Botanico, the Botanical Garden of Naples. The garden opened in 1810 and is now actively engaged in the preservation of endangered plant species as well as ethnobotany which studies plants for their potential medicinal use. The opulent gardens of Versailles provided the inspiration for the next garden on our tour at the Palazzo Reale di Caserta. Not only will you find long vistas, fountains and cascades but there is also an English-style garden styled according to Capability Brown's principles complete with ancient ruins!

Day 7: The Island Of Capri

The island of Capri awaits us today! Here we will visit the garden and sculpture gallery of Villa San Michele, set high in the cliffs just outside Anacapri. The villa was the dream the Swedish physician and writer Axel Munthe, who believed that the views were the most important aspects of a garden – "the soul needs space". Among the archaeological treasures in the garden is a sphinx who gazes out towards the sea, Sorrento and Mount Vesuvius.

In the afternoon, it's time to discover Capri Town. We will take a wonderful walk through the garden alleyways to visit our final garden, Giardini di Augusto, established by industrialist Alfred Krupp. This is a smaller formally-planted garden which offers the most magnificent view of Isole Fraglioni set out in the Tyrrhenian Sea. There will then be free time to explore the town further before catching the funicular down to the port and sailing over to Sorrento.

Day 8: Departure Day

Depart after a leisurely breakfast.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Caravel - Sorrento Peninsula

The Liccardi family and their staff have been looking after HF Holidays' guests for twenty years, and will offer you a warm welcome at 4-star Hotel Caravel. The hotel lies in the residential district of Sant' Agnello and is surrounded by pleasant gardens with lemon trees. Close by are the shops and Sant' Agnello railway station. The centre of Sorrento town is about 1 mile away.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

Hotel Caravel has 92 comfortable bedrooms which are decorated in a traditional style.

All bedrooms have:

- En-suite bathroom with shower or bath
- Cable television
- Telephone
- Hairdryer
- Safe deposit box
- Mini-bar

Facilities

Hotel Caravel has a:

- Large open plan lounge area incorporating a piano bar
- Garden terrace
- Swimming pool
- Games room with pool-table
- Internet access

Food & Drink

Our holidays at Hotel Caravel are on a Half Board basis and include breakfast and evening meal.

Breakfast

Hotel Caravel offers a self-select buffet breakfast including cereals, fruit, bread and cake, yogurts, cheese and ham, and scrambled eggs, bacon and sausages. Tea, coffee and hot chocolate are available.

Lunch (Payable Locally)

Picnic lunches can be bought from the hotel (ordering the evening before). Alternatively ingredients can be bought in local shops. It may also be possible to eat in a café during the day; your leaders will advise you of the options.

Evening Meal

Dinner at Hotel Caravel is a three course meal offering many Italian specialities plus an excellent self-service salad bar. There are vegetarian options at each course. For special dietary requirements we recommend that you discuss your requirements with the manager on arrival.

Drinks

Hotel Caravel has a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine and spirits.

Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our holidays continues throughout the evening.

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before hearing about the next day's activities followed by a leisurely meal with your fellow guests.

One evening we visit a local Limoncello factory and have a tasting session and another we visit the famous Foreigner's bar which offers spectacular views across the bay.

Your leader will also be checking out for other local events or you may like to relax on the terrace or in the piano bar with a drink.

TRAVEL DETAILS

THE HASSLE FREE OPTION

Book your holiday 'with flight' from Gatwick to Naples airport. For flight times and prices please see the Dates & Prices tab.

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx 1 hour 15 minutes to the Hotel Caravel.

THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

- We can book you a seat on the **HF Holidays' transfer coach** from Naples airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £24.
- Why not let us book you a **private taxi transfer** at a cost of £136 per single taxi journey?

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

* Please note that HF Holidays is not responsible for your onward travel if you fail to meet the transfer coach

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

Sorrento, known in local dialect as 'Surrient', is the most important town on the peninsula. Sorrento's greatest prosperity was during the first century of Roman occupation, when it and Capri were favoured homes of Augustus and Tiberius and the town experienced considerable commercial trade.

Today, Sorrento has a fascinating atmosphere and is a busy tourist destination. Attractions in the town include the cathedral, renovated in the 15th century, which has an unusual campanile in front, and the 16th century city walls, which are interrupted by the remains of a Roman arch at the top of the town. Also the Museo Correale di Terranova houses an interesting collection of 17th and 18th century decorative art. Narrow streets wind down the cliffs to sea level, where you will find the harbour and two marinas.

Why not sample the local drink, limoncello, made in Sorrento and the surrounding villages? You can see the lemons and vines growing even in Sorrento itself.

Essential Information

To enjoy your holiday comfortably and safely, it's essential that your clothing and footwear is suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Changeable weather is possible throughout the year, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities – hot, cold, wet or dry.

All of our Gardens Tours are active and you should therefore be prepared for walking around the gardens and wear flat, comfortable shoes. In the evening most guests wear casual clothing.

You will probably find a small rucksack or cross-body bag useful for carrying spare clothing, camera, sun protection, drinks (at least 2 litres) etc during the day. A money belt is always a good idea.

You'll also need to bring your:

- Booking confirmation
- Travel insurance cover note and contact details
- European Health Insurance Card (if applicable)
- Completed guest registration form
- Photocopy of photo page of passport
- Sunhat, sun cream and sunglasses
- **Medication:** If you require any medication, please take adequate supplies for the duration of your holiday. It's advisable to carry your medication in your hand luggage instead of packing it in your suitcase

Trip Information

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance and any other personal insurance relevant to you and the holiday. It is particularly important with the possibility of flight changes and cancellations due to the challenging weather conditions that can occur on the islands and might impact your onward travel arrangements.

Dietary Requirements

Vegetarians and special diets can be catered for if requested in advance of the holiday.

Useful Information

The language of the Sorrento Peninsula is Italian.

Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial an Italian number 0039

Luggage

We suggest that you take just one small or medium size suitcase/holdall with wheels and a smaller bag/rucksack that can be used during your Gardens Tour.

Local Currency

The currency of the Sorrento Peninsula is the Euro.

Electricity

220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

ATM Availability

There are several ATM machines in Sorrento where you can obtain money.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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