

The Divine Coast

Declared one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites for its undisputed beauty and the uniqueness of its natural landscape, the Amalfi Coast is the land characterized by the oxymoronic combination between mountain and sea, the farmer and the fisherman. The mountain, that thanks to the intense work of man, has been adapted to the demands of life over the ages. It plunges steeply into a sea, creating charming coves, deep fjords, cliffs, caverns, bays, natural arches and small pebble beaches; natural elements that have created, over the centuries, an enchanting, sinuous and seductive landscape: it is certainly not a coincidence that this area is known as the land of the Sirens, in the Homer's epic poem "Odysseus". Typical houses, painted in warm pastel colors, follow the natural slope of the foothills of Mounts Lattari, leaning against each other, creating a very picturesque landscape. From the characteristic terraces, built with dry stone walls, expands the intense scents of the lemon groves, the vineyards, the broom, the bright colors of bougainvillea which, combined with the smell of salt air, creates a unique sensory experience.

The best place to spend beautiful holidays and a wonderful honeymoon accompanied by a splendid classic car.

CAMPANIA

“The Divine Coast "corner of paradise considered a World Heritage Site by Unesco, bordering to the south of Naples Gulf with high and jagged rocky cliffs. It is a small and inaccessible territory, made cultivable over the centuries thanks to the technique of terraces, characterized by the presence of characteristic and historic settlements, nestled between sea and Lattari Mountains. The scenic splendor and cultural and artistic richness of these places for centuries has made them famous throughout the world, home to artists and musicians.”

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SORRENTO

Sorrento Peninsula has a landscape unique in the world, where low and high hills, deep valleys and majestic mountains alternate, where the Man's work - who leveled even the most impervious areas, transforming them in the famous terraces degrading towards the sea, on which he cultivated orange and lemon trees, olive groves and vineyards - has been grandiose. These are the delight's gardens that in springtime exhale a stirring scent of orange - blossom. The mild and dry climate for most part of the year makes Sorrento Peninsula the ideal destination in every season.

Moreover Sorrento Peninsula is also the starting point for numberless excursions: Pompei, Paestum, Naples and Vesuvius, Capri and Ischia, Positano, Amalfi and Ravello.

It's the perfect place for holiday, tour hiring a car and for a romantic honeymoon.

POSITANO

This town has Roman origins, and it was founded by people from Paestum, who found shelter in these three little valleys. Positano followed the rise and decline of the Amalfi Republic, and it hosted the Amalfi Naval Academy. During the XVI and XVII century, it became rich from its trade in the Mediterranean.

Places to visit:

The Church of Santa Maria Assunta built in the XIII century, with its dome built completely in majolica ceramics. The altar displays a byzantine icon of the Black Madonna with child Jesus. The legend tells that this came to Positano, on the waves of the sea after a terrible storm.

A good idea is to visit the isles of "li Galli" too, by boat. On the seaside some ancient towers can be seen. They were used for defensive purposes, against pirates assaults, such as "Torre Trasita" and "Torre Sponda".

Perfect for a wonderful holiday on Amalfi Coast renting a classic car. one of the most beautiful places for a romantic honeymoon.

PRAIANO

Praiano is between Amalfi and Positano. It was once the summer residence of the Dogi, the dukes of the Amalfi Republic.

In the past Praiano had a flourishing industry of silk, but that disappeared in the XIX century. During the XX century the discovery of coral restarted the economy of the area. Now the flourishing industry is tourism, thanks to this town's perfect position.

Places to visit:

The church of San Luca Evangelico, the last of dozens of churches and monasteries built in the past centuries. The remains of Saint Luca are kept here. The church also features some painting of Giovanni Bernardo Lama (XVI).

It's very nice to reach by a vintage car for a nice holiday or for an interesting tour on Amalfi Coast.

AMALFI

Amalfi, with its wonderful views, is the main town of the Amalfi coast. White houses cling onto the rocks opposite the Saint Andrew Cathedral, and the main square which is also the town centre.

Amalfi is made of alleys, and steps, it is 57 steps to get in the Cathedral of St. Andrew. On the right side of the Cathedral, we find the church tower (from the XII century), and the "chiostro del

Paradiso" and "chiesa del Crocifisso". These places tell visitors about the history of ancient Amalfi and of the church. A great view can be enjoyed from the "Atrium" of the Cathedral, showing little alleys and hidden corners of Amalfi.

Places to visit:

Many streets lead to small squares, where people used to sell their merchandise. Through one of these streets we discover Piazza dei Dogi, still called "Piazza dei Ferrari", because blacksmiths' shops were there. From here you can reach the seaside, and you can find the entrance of the "Antichi Arsenali". The Vagliendola area is also interesting, with its tower houses climbing up the hill. You can walk on to the Hotel dei Cappuccini, which was a monastery (called San Pietro della Canonica) founded in the XIII century.

From Piazza dei Dogi we get to Piazza dello Spirito Santo. This was the last square inside the ancient walls of Amalfi. Through the northern gate instead we get to "Valle dei Mulini". Here, we find the Paper Museum, with its old machines, called "ingegni", that used to produce paper. The last paper mill, that belonged to the Amatruda family and still produces the Amalfi paper, is here too.

Near the "Cartiera Amatruda", there is the Museo dell'Agricoltura, where we can see ancient machines and various instruments of the last four centuries. These instruments were used for centuries by Amalfitan farmers to produce the famous lemons called "sfusato amalfitano".

Who wants to hike can start from here and walk up through the Valle delle Ferriere, where you'll find the natural reserve by the same name, featuring some rarer plants such as the Woodwardia Radicans. Along the way, you'll find many paper-mills ruins.

Coming back to the seaside, you can see many old buildings. The monastery of "S. Benedetto", residence of the Amalfi's Municipality and the Museo Civico. In this museum you can see the "Tabula de Amalphi", the "Foscariniano Code", and some ancient nautical instruments.

It's a romantic place for a perfect honeymoon and for a tour made renting a classic car.

FURORE

Furore was founded by the Romans and thanks to the shape of the coast here, this village was never invaded by the Saraceni pirates. Furore is located in the "Furore fjord", and consists of two villages, one by the sea, the other up on the mountains.

The two villages are connected by a long staircase, built during the age of Amalfi republic. This had been the only connection from the sea to the mountains, for a long time.

The fjord of Furore can be reached by the S.S. 163 from Amalfi to Positano (Amalfi coast drive). The fjord is right after the "Emerald grotto" entrance on the road.

Places to visit:

The church of S.Elia, built in the XIII century, where you can see a triptych of Angelo Antonello da Capua. Long time ago fishermen lived the village by the sea, but this was later forsaken. Today they're still trying to get the place back. Ruins of a paper mill, and of an old mill can be found here.

It's a nice place to reach with a classic car during an Amalfi Coast tour.

RAVELLO

Ravello is situated about 5 km from Amalfi, up on the mountain overlooking the coast from Maiori to Amalfi.

Ravello was founded in the VI century A.D., and reached the peak of its splendor in the X and XI century, then shared the same fate of Amalfi Republic, even though Ravello obtained the independence from Amalfi, in the XI century, when Amalfi was in a war against Guiscardo.

The Church dedicated to San Pantaleone was built in the XI century, by the Bishop Orso Pavico. The entrance doors are similar to those of Amalfi, in bronze, made in Constantinopoli in the XII century. The church also features a museum, where several historic details of the past are kept.

Not to miss: The marble creation of Niccolò di Bartolomeo from Foggia of the XIII century and the XII century representation, with mosaic decoration, of Giona eaten by Pistrice. The Church of S. Giovanni del Toro, was built at the end of X century; we can see an "ambone" from XII century and a wooden "Crocifisso" from the XV century.

Places to visit:

The Villa Rufolo, from the XII century, built by the Rufolo's family and Villa Cimbrone, are two sites not to be missed for their splendor and their decorations. Both villas have an amazingly beautiful garden to visit.

From Villa Cimbrone, you can admire one of the best panoramic views of Italy, on all the Amalfi Coast, and on on the Coast of Cilento. Not to miss: the annual musical events and concerts at Villa Rufolo.

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MAIORI

Maiori is seaside resort featuring the longest beach of the Amalfi coast. It was founded during the Roman Empire, when the aristocrats built villas near the most important landing place of the coast. Maiori shared the fate and history of Amalfi. But in 839 it was destroyed and pillaged by "Sicardo". When Sicardo died in 840AC, the inhabitants rebuilt the village, and built a fortress around the church of "S.Nicola de Thoro-Plano" to defend the city when pirates attacked.

During the Amalfi Republic , Maiori was an important marine harbour. But, in 1135, Maiori was again pillaged and destroyed by the army of Pisa.

Places to visit:

The “Sanctuary of the Collegiata of Santa Maria a Mare”, built on three aisles with arches. Inside we find a lot of treasures and a caisson ceiling made by “Alessandro de Fulco”. We can also see a polychrome statue of the “Blessed Virgin”.

The castle of San Nicola de Thoro-Plano, built over an old church, it was rebuilt completely in 1498 thanks to the Piccolomini Duke after many mishaps during construction.

Near Maiori, we can visit the monastic complex of “Santa Maria de Olearia”; it was built in 973AC by Benedictine monks, and it is very important since it contains the monastic rest of the Coast, from the middle-ages.

It’s a nice place to reach renting a classic car. Perfect for any kind of holiday.

MINORI

Only a brief stretch of coastline divides Amalfi and Minori (the ancient 'Regina Minor'); however, even this small town played its part along with the others in the history of the Maritime Republic of Amalfi. Its origins lie with the picentines. Certainly the Romans must have come across this quiet part of coast, leaving us the remains of a first century roman villa., rediscovered at the beginning of the twentieth century.

As well as being an episcopal residence until the nineteenth century, Minori was also an important centre for the production of "paper" and "pasta".

Places to visit:

The present church of Santa Trofimena, built during the eighteenth century in baroque style, replaced an older building. It has three aisles, with paintings by various authors decorating the walls. Meanwhile in the apse above the high altar a large panel showing the "Crucifixion" painted by Marco Pino da Siena can be seen. The remains of Santa Trofimena are kept in the church's crypt.

The Roman Villa, just in the centre of Minori. The remains of a first century roman villa where found here, it is possible to see the thermal baths, nymphaeum, the peristilio and viridarium.

Perfect place for an holiday in a classic car on Amalfi Coast and for a honeymoon too.

VIETRI SUL MARE

The town is built on a little promontory, and on the seaside where we find an impressive Saracena tower. Vietri was the old town of "Marcina", built by the Etrurian. Later the Roman conquered it. In fact a Roman thermae and a "muris reticulatum" were found recently by the seaside.

In the middle age Vietri was under the Dukedom of Salerno, later under the Cava Abbey. Only in the XVIII century Vietri began an independent municipality.

Places to visit:

The church of St. Giovanni Battista, with its dome covered with majolic ceramics. Built in the X century, with a wide aisle, on a latin Cross layout. In the church, we can see an ancient greek Cross, from the XV century.

Other interesting places in Vietri are: Molina, rich of water-mills and Raito, where we find the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, built in the XVI century, with its frescoes painted by the school of Solimena.

Vietri sul Mare has been producing ceramics since the XV century, its trade was especially with Sicily and Calabria. The decoration of Vietri ceramic, reproduces the typical colours of the coast.

This little town is a beautiful place perfect for an holiday in a classi car tour on Amalfi Coast.

Paestum

The ruins of Paestum date back to 600 BC when Greeks from Sybaris founded a large town on the bank of the river Sele. The colony, known as Poseidonia, featured a traditional grid-pattern layout of massive temples and a vast agora (market) testifying to the area's prosperity. Don't miss the adjoining Archaeological Museum, which has some excellent displays of Greek sculpture. Poseidonia became a Roman colony in 273 BC and was renamed Paestum.

Considered by the Unesco as a world heritage, Paestum remains, for its art, nature, tastes and events which characterize it, one of the most important beautiful cities of Magna Grecia, which must be visited and discovered.

Places to visit:

The Forum contains an amphitheatre, town treasury, Italic Temple and a number of Tabernae (stores).

It's a interesting place for its beautiful ruins that you could reach renting a classic car.

Capri

Capri combines, in a granite basket, all the most and fragrant species of Mediterranean flora. It is a land naturally dedicated to the repose of the mind and the delight of the senses, popular since Roman time. Capri captivated a number of Roman emperors

The most beautiful place in Capri is the Blue Grotto discovered only in 1826. It's possible to visit the grotto or swimming throught the entrance or by motorboat.

Places to visit:

The first place to visit is the famous Piazzetta (town square) ;Certosa San Giacomo an ancient monastery ; Villa Jovis that was the Emperor Tiberius' s villa. Anacapri retains a small-district is more quite but full of nice place to visit like Villa San Michele, Monte Solaro.

One of the most beautiful islands of Italy perfect for every kind of an holiday, a luxury tour or a romantic honeymoon.

Palinuro

Among **Centola** hamlets there is the famous **Palinuro**. Palinuro is very appreciated by tourists, thanks to its wonderful position, among olive trees on the hills and the wonderful sea. Palinuro was the name of the helmsman of Aeneas who, according to tradition, fell in the sea, and when he reached the beach, he was killed by the inhabitants

The sea is really uncontaminated, there are wonderful creeks, long and wide beaches, beautiful caves (**Azzurra**, del **Ribalto**, **Calafetente**, del **Buon Dormire**, delle **Ossa**) with stalagmites and remains of prehistoric animals.

Places to visit:

Molpa Castle, with sighting towers, a courtyard surrounded by walls, stone portal . Towers on the coast built between 1550 and 1600. Natural arch, at the mouth of Mingardo River in a beautiful creek, between two beaches . Then there are the Capuchin Monastery and several churches to visit around Palinuro.

It's a beautiful town for a nice tour hiring a classic car.

POMPEII



Romans took control of Pompeii around 200 BC. On August 24, 79 AD, Vesuvius erupted, burying the nearby town of Pompeii in ash and soot, killing 20,000 people, and preserving the city in its state from that fateful day. Pompeii is an excavation (It: *scavi*) site and outdoor museum of the ancient Roman settlement. This site is considered to be one of the few sites where an ancient city has been preserved in detail - everything from jars and tables to paintings and people was frozen in time, yielding, together with neighbouring [Herculaneum](#) which suffered the same fate, an unprecedented opportunity to see how the people lived two thousand years ago.

Pompeii is a walk in the history . It's a suggestive place to reach in a beautiful classic car to make your tour on Amalfi Coast really unique and for a wonderful and romantic honeymoon.
