

ROYAL CLIPPER

7-NIGHTS AMALFY & SICILY:

Symmer 2018

Civitavecchia – Ponza, Palmarola – Sorrente –
Amalfi – Giardini Naxos – Lipari – Civitavecchia

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace.

Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Some excursions are only available on certain dates and/or are dependent on the ship's arrival and departure times.

Fitness requirements vary according to the chosen activity, hiking, snorkelling and boating require an average to good level of fitness.

PONZA

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 Venous 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



PALMAROLA

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.

SORRENTO

Pompeii

By air-conditioned motor-coach and by foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4h30

Euros 66

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.

- Large coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a minibus 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)
- The drive to Pompeii takes about one hour. We suggest comfortable shoes to walk on cobblestone streets.
- Attractions are behind bars and glass windows in Pompeii.



- Most of the shops in Italy are closed between 1 and 4 p.m.
- At the end of the tour, you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.
- The site of Pompeii is very busy; it is important to stay with your guide at all times. The pace of the tour is moderate, as there are many highlights to visit in this vast city.
- This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.
- Timing is subject to traffic on the Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.

Ercolano

By air-conditioned motor-coach and by foot

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4h30

Euros 66

Herculaneum was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius on August 2, 79 AD. Unlike Pompeii, an important commercial centre, Herculaneum was a smaller city but wealthier residential town. Because Herculaneum wasn't a commercial town, there was no central open space or forum, just streets of villas and shops, cut as usual by two very straight main streets that cross in the centre.

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. The preservation of the structures and their contents is surprisingly in good state.

- The drive to Ercolano takes about an hour.
- The tour is not recommended for Guests with walking difficulties.
- At the end of the tour, you may choose to stay in Sorrento and explore the village on your own.
- Large coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a minibus 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)



Capri On Your Own**Transfer by boat to Capri****With an escort – this is not a guided tour****Minimum 15 participants, maximum 40****Duration: 6 hours depending on local boat schedule****Euros 69**

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 marvelous 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 center, Anacapri, lies in a sweep of lush countryside to the west of Monte Solaro. Capri is derived from Greek *kapros* (wild boar). Inhabited since the Paleolithic 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 the concave ceiling of the Grotto are so imbued with blue that every object has a silvery outline and even swimmers in the water look blue. Delightful climate, brilliant skies and scenery and a bounty of attractions make the island a perfect holiday resort in any season.

Have the chance to discover Capri on your own! With the help of the local Guide you will treasure of some tips to spend your time on the island.

- The price includes: Escort and the Hydrofoil ticket. Prices are subject to local regulation of entrance tax and maritime transportation monopoly.
- The visit in Capri is entirely on your own. No visit is included.



Sorrento Countryside and the Terranova Farm

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 35

Duration: 4h30

Euros 80

Tasting lunch included

Your guide will be waiting to greet you at the pier and will accompany you throughout the tour to Sant'Agata.

The area is known as a gourmet paradise because of the excellent quality of locally produced food. Lemon groves abound and the variety of lemon cultivated here, the « femminello ovale », is known for its highly aromatic zest which is used in many delicious culinary specialities and also the famous Limoncello liqueur.

After a 30 minute drive you will arrive at the Fattoria Terranova situated on the hills of Sant'Agata overlooking the sea and the Galli islands. The farmhouse building is characteristic of the region and has been in the hands of the same family for four generations.

The tour begins with a visit to the plant nursery where you will discover the history of the sorrentino lemon and learn about its cultivation, planting and pruning. You will also be initiated into the art of limoncello making, and of course get a chance to sample the local elixir. Limoncello is not the only local speciality to be showcased on the tour, you will also learn how mozzarella is made.

The name derives from the Italian verb « mozzare »: to cut, which is the last stage in the cheesemaking process. Mozzarella cheese is made from cow or buffalo milk: a homogenous paste is formed by stirring the cheese continuously with a wooden stick. When the cheese is ready it is formed and « cut » by hand, this is the traditional « mozzatura » carried out with the thumb and index finger. The cheese is then left to cool in tubs of cold water before being salted.

The tour culminates in a flavourful and appetising tasting lunch, composed exclusively of farm produce.

- The tasting lunch consists of local specialities such as bruschetta (baked bread) with tomatoes, seasonal vegetables, salami, cheese and homemade cake, washed down with ¼ of local wine and ½ bottle of mineral water.

- Big coaches cannot drive to the pier, so a minibus shuttle will take participants from the pier to a parking lot in Sorrento. The return procedure will be the same with a minibus ride back to the pier.



AMALFI**Ravello & The Villa Rufolo****By air-conditioned motor coach****English speaking guide only****Minimum 20 participants, no maximum****Duration: 3h30****Euros 52**

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.

- This tour involves some walking.
- 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 Sorrentine drive, especially during high season and weekends.



Positano and Amalfi Coast**By private boat****English speaking guide****Minimum 25 participants, no maximum****Duration: 3h30****Euros 50**

The Amalfi Coast offers a scenery of incomparable beauty, characterised 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.

- Comfortable shoes are suggested, as sometimes surfaces are uneven and steep.
- The ride to Positano is approximately 45 minutes.
- Time at leisure and free exploration in Positano.
- This tour is subject to weather conditions.

GIARDINI NAXOS

Giardini Naxos is Taormina's small port. Taormina is the most important resort in Sicily and Southern Italy. It is located on Mount Tauro, between the jagged mountains and the calm Ionian Sea. The town's origins date back to 398 AD. The Romans considered Taormina an ally, but as the city sided with Pompeus against Octavianus, it was reduced to the rank of mere colony. Thanks to its strategic position, it remained important to the various powers that held sway over the island. In 902, after a long siege, it fell to the Muslims. They destroyed it, but the caliph Al Muezz later rebuilt Taormina on a grander and much more beautiful scale. In 1079 it was conquered by the Normans, and was chosen as the seat of the Sicilian Parliament for the King's election in 1410. Its most important monument is the theater, built in the 3rd century BCE by the Greeks and restructured by the Romans. The site is really spectacular. The theater is situated between looming Mount Etna and the sparkling blue sea. It is one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, a beautiful jewel set among the blue sky, aquamarine sea, green valley and white snow-capped peaks of Mount Etna.



Mount Etna

(Depending on weather conditions and local authorizations)

By air-conditioned motor-coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration: 5h30

Euros 112

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 drive through the small town of Naxos. The scenic 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 2500m and then carry on upwards until you reach the base of the main crater 2950m 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).

- We recommend comfortable shoes and a jacket or sweater. It can be cold and windy on Mount Etna, even in summer time
- It is a 1h15 drive each way to reach Mount Etna
- 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 2950m 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.

Transfer to Taormina and Guided Visit of the Theatre

By air conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration: 4 hours

Euros 54

You will leave the landing pier at Naxos and drive along the coastal road, dotted with lovely villas and gardens in bloom. Once you reach the picturesque city of Taormina, you will leave the coach and start on the walking tour. The town is perched on a terrace overlooking the sea and has a delightful medieval feel. First stop is the famous Palazzo Corvaja, a 15th century palace with typical architecture and classic double windows. Then you will visit the impressive Grecian theatre built in the third century BC; it is renowned for its size and unique acoustic qualities and is still used in summertime for open air performances.

Before returning to the ship you will have time to stroll along the Corso Umberto. Just off this pedestrian street you will find many boutiques selling local handicrafts and cafés where you can savour real Italian coffee and local sweets.

- This tour involves a lot of walking.
- Once you leave the coach in the parking area the excursion is entirely on foot. The path to Taormina city centre involves walking uphill. So please wear comfortable shoes.
- Shops are open Monday to Saturday from 9 am – 1 pm and from 4 pm until 8 pm.



LIPARI

Island Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 80

Duration: 3 hours

Euros 49

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 desert 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.



