Cruise ships dock in downtown Naples, convenient to local travel by boat, bus, and train. Molo Beverello, the dock for hydrofoil boats to Capri and Sorrento, is next to the cruise ship terminal. The tram for the Napoli Centrale train station stops in front of the cruise terminal. The Hop-On bus is a short walk from the terminal. Popular excursions include: Isle of Capri – a picturesque island with shops and restaurants, Sorrento – an upscale old town for exploring, shopping & relaxing. It's the gateway to Amalfi Coast, The famous ruins in Pompeii (Pompei) and Herculaneum, The scenic, 40 Km (24 mile) long Amalfi Coast with 13 villages including Positano and Amalfi.

Maps for Naples, Sorrento, Sorrento-Amalfi Coast, and Pompeii
Download. FREE, high resolution, pdf maps from http://www.unicocampania.it/
It's a MUST VISIT website. UnicoCampania is a consortium of 14 public bus, rail, and funicular transport companies in Campania Region of Italy. Website addresses for all public transit companies are at this link http://www.unicocampania.it/index.php?lang=en&center=inside&colonna=consorzio&action=aziende

CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
NOTE: I would like to thank Mike Engelberg, Delia Lai, and Brian Losie for their help on this port guide.
BEWARE OF THIEVES AND SCAMS IN NAPLES  Large port cities pose an increased risk for travelers. Regrettably, Naples is judged the "capital city for petty theft" in Italy.

Thieves on motor scooters are particularly troubling. In May 2011, a passenger on Celebrity Solstice died from head injuries when he was knocked down by two men on a motor scooter attempting to grab his Rolex watch. Whether thieves attempt to grab a watch, handbag, or camera, the risk of being knocked down by thieves speeding by on a motor scooter is a potentially serious problem.

On page 25 of this guide, I've outlined what I believe is a "common sense" approach. Please do your own research on how to avoid and minimize travel safety and security problems.

Cruise Port Dock & Naples Self-Guided Travel (photo below)

It's 750 feet from the cruise ship passenger terminal to the road. You can buy tram and train tickets at a newspaper stand on the other side of the road. Purchase hydrofoil boat tickets at Molo Beverello. Buy Hop-On bus tickets at the main stop as shown in the aerial photo above.

Galleria Umberto I is gorgeous! (photo – left, location on map above). Use the link below to see virtual tours. You can also download FREE audio travel guides from this site for self-guided touring.

http: www.italyguides.it us napoli umbe.htm

NOTE: When many cruise ships are in port, your ship may dock a half mile away from the passenger terminal. Cruise lines usually provide a bus service back to the passenger terminal for access to the city.

Be careful when crossing streets. Vehicles travel at high speed, change lanes, cross the center line, and even use the sidewalks due to frustration with heavy traffic and delays due to road construction. And it's not just cars, there are also scooters and motorcycles racing by you.
Hop-On Bus Tour
There's usually a Hop-On bus in front of the cruise terminal or you can walk to the Hop-On bus main stop shown in the map on page 2 (above). It's a good tour with 3 routes for 22 Euros. Cruise ships offer a 2.5 hour city bus tour with a few stops for 28 Euros. The ship's tour is shorter, but I liked it better because we had a guide (not a headphone) and the bus stopped in a picturesque area were we could walk around and take photos.

Check the city-sightseeing website for information and download this map (above) for the Hop-On bus routes
The Isle of Capri:
It's a beautiful island with gorgeous views of the shoreline and limestone rocks *Faraglioni*. Visit the public gardens, numerous boutiques, enjoy a cappuccino or gelato at a cafe, and dine on Italian cuisine. It's a festive and fun place to visit for young and old. You can take a boat ride to the blue grotto (Grotta Azzurra) and change your day as you proceed = ideal for self-guided touring.

It's a short walk from the cruise ship to the boat docks. Round trip tickets/person are 32 Euros plus 6 Euros for the Funicolare. It's a 30 minute ride; boats run every hour. Cruise ships offer a 9-hour tour for 106 US$. People on that tour sit next to me on the hydrofoil and stand next to me in funicolare, gardens and scenic overlooks. The ship's tour includes lunch, a visit to the blue grotto and it has a guide. We prefer the flexibility of touring and having lunch on our own.

**NOTE**
High speed hydrofoil boats can make the calmest of seas a problem for people with any hint of motion sickness. I saw two dozen people stand up, run to the toilets, and start to heave on our May 2010 crossing. Attendants passed out barf bags. We were on a larger boat with a smoother ride on the return trip. I think size matters. Next time, I'll try to book on the biggest boats.

Photo at left is one of the larger, more comfortable hydrofoil boats.

Photo below shows it's a 1000 foot walk to “Molo Beverello dock” to buy hydrofoil tickets to Capri.

Looking back to the water from the street side, you will see ticket counters to buy hydrofoil boat tickets.

There is an ATM machine next to the ticket counters. We use the SNAV hydrofoil boats to Capri.
The dock in Naples is called Molo Beverello or “Mollo” Beverello.
The SNAV website is at this link:  http://www.snav.it/en/destinations/capri.html
The trip takes about 30 minutes and costs 16 Euros/person each way.  Boats run about every hour and you purchase round-trip tickets at the the Naples dock.

2010 Schedule From Naples Molo Beverello to Capri:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>07.10</th>
<th>08.10</th>
<th>09.10</th>
<th>10.00</th>
<th>11.10</th>
<th>13.15</th>
<th>14.00</th>
<th>16.05</th>
<th>17.10</th>
<th>18.10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Schedule From Capri to Naples Molo Beverello

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>08.10</th>
<th>09.00</th>
<th>10.10</th>
<th>12.15</th>
<th>14.10</th>
<th>14.40</th>
<th>17.10</th>
<th>17.25</th>
<th>18.10</th>
<th>19.10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

NOTE:  Some ticket counters in Naples ONLY SELL ONE-WAY ferry tickets to Capri.  When you arrive in Capri, immediately go to the ticket office and purchase your return tickets to Naples to ensure you will have a seat on a ferry that gets you back to Naples port in time for your cruise ship departure!!!

The departure location for the boat is not necessarily marked well.  Boats are only at the dock in Naples for a few minutes.  Get there early and ask the dock/boat attendants which boat you need to board.  We missed a boat because the electronic sign showed the wrong departure location.  Boat tickets are time specific.  We had to return our unused tickets to the sales counter, get a refund, and purchase other tickets.

Hydrofoil boats arrive in Capri Marina Grande.  Your boats will arrive and depart in the area noted as “hydrofoil dock area” on the map below.  A map scale of 300 feet is show for reference.

The top of the island is called “Anacapri”.  Take a bus (2 or 3 Euros/person) or a cab to Anacapri.  We like the middle elevation of the island called “Capri” or “Capri Town”.  There's a Funicolare railway from the dock area to “Capri”.  Buy Funicolare tickets on the North side of the street about 100 feet West of the the docks.  Tickets cost around 2 or 3 Euros/person one way and the funicolare trains run every 15 minutes.

Entrance to the Funicolare is on the South side of the street as shown in photos below and above.
When you exit the Funicolare at #4, it's a few steps East (to the right in the map above) to La Piazzetta, the main square.

From La Piazzetta, walk South on Via Vittoria Emanuele to Hotel Luna. The map on the left shows the route.

When facing #5-Hotel Luna, turn right/West. Walk to #6 the scenic overlook, Augustus Gardens, and then on Via Krupp (zig-zag path) toward the water.

We like Da Verginiello restaurant, #7 on the map above. It's a favorite with locals. Great food, good prices, and excellent views.

The restaurant is just a short walk West from the Funicolare stop #4 on the map. It's just past the police station, next to the
post office, and down a set of stairs. If you can't find it, ask any policeman. They all eat lunch there.

Da Verginiello Restaurant – map above

Switchback zig-zag walkway called “Via Krupp”

Excellent website to help plan your self-guided tour of the Isle of Capri

A MUST VISIT WEBSITE = http://www.capri.com/en/what-to-see

This website has excellent descriptions of things to see and do, great photos, history, tips on getting to the island including boat schedules and prices and everything you want to know about travel on the island by bus, cable car, and boat tours around the island. I highly recommend that you spend time reviewing it.
Self-guided Touring of Sites in the Naples Area

My checklist for self-guided touring:

- Is the tourist site relatively easy to reach via walking and/or readily available transportation?
- Is the site clean and will I feel safe there?
- Are there a variety of things to do and places to see?
- Is there much risk that I will get lost at the site due to size of the site, poor signage, etc.
- Will it be obvious where to go and what to look at, or do I need a guide to explain the site to me?
- Are streets and walkways pedestrian friendly?
- Is walking easy, or strenuous with steep inclines and many steps? Do I have to walk a long distance?

My favorite sites for self-guided touring near Naples based on my checklist:

**Isle of Capri** – Ready for a full day of fun? Go to Capri; it's a no brainer. You have many options to explore this beautiful island and personalize your visit to your preferences. Board a hydrofoil boat next to the cruise ship terminal, and in 30 minutes, you're at Marina Grande.

**Sorrento** - It's more sedate than Capri, but it is a must see town. It's a posh, well manicured, clean, picturesque town on a cliff. The Old Town is a must-visit area with flower stands, fruit and vegetable stands, small shops, cafes, etc. Shopping includes jewelry, fine ceramics, clothing, wood inlay, wine, limoncello, etc. You can see a demonstration of how wood inlay is made. There are beautiful churches, museums, parks, and many impressive buildings. You can board a boat next to the cruise ship terminal and be in Sorrento in 35 minutes. Or you can take a cab or tram in front of the cruise ship to the Naples Centrale station and board a train for Sorrento. Beware of pickpockets on the tram and train.

**Herculaneum** might be suitable for self-guided touring because it is relatively small. By comparison, Pompeii is huge, the cobblestone roads are difficult to walk, and you can get lost without a guide.

**Amalfi Coast** – Some people do self-guided touring of Amalfi Coast. There are public buses to Amalfi Coast from Naples. The City-Sightseeing Hop-On bus company departs from the train station in Sorrento to tour the Coast. I’ve seen the Hop-On buses along the coast, but have not used one. Travel time might be an issue.
You can purchase tram and train tickets from the newsstand across the street from the ship's terminal. The Naples main train station is called by two names *Stazione Centrale di Napoli* and *Napoli Piazza Garibaldi*. I've marked the tram route by red dots in the map above – it's two miles from the cruise terminal. Check this website for train schedules and pricing [http://www.vesuviana.it/web/en](http://www.vesuviana.it/web/en).

**Location of Herculaneum and Pompei** (aerial photo below)
**Herculaneum**

Unlike Pompeii which was buried in ash, Herculaneum was buried in mud which better preserves the timber structure of buildings. Pompeii is huge and it's easy to get lost. Herculaneum is much smaller and may be better suited for self-guided touring. Some of my friends prefer Herculaneum over Pompeii.

The “official” website for Herculaneum is amazing = great panorama views, interactive site maps, etc. [http://www.proxima-veritati.auckland.ac.nz/Herculaneum/fullscreen_gallery.html](http://www.proxima-veritati.auckland.ac.nz/Herculaneum/fullscreen_gallery.html)

This website has details on travel to the Herculaneum [http://wikitravel.org/en/Herculaneum#Get_in](http://wikitravel.org/en/Herculaneum#Get_in)

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**Aerial Photo of Herculaneum** (below)

The map (below) shows the walking route from the train station to the Herculaneum entrance.

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Coordinates to find these locations on Google Maps:

- Herculaneum entrance gate = 40.805972,14.349115
- Ercolano Scavi Train Station = 40.808734,14.355494

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Pompeii (Pompei)

NOTE: Pompeii is a huge site. I believe you need a guide to show you the way and explain the site. If you tour on your own, note that the admission office does not have small bills and coins to “break” large bills. Bring “exact” change to insure you can enter the site. The 2011 entrance fee was 11 Euros.

For general information and self-guided travel details to Pompeii, see [http://wikitravel.org/en/Pompeii](http://wikitravel.org/en/Pompeii)

Map (below) shows directions from Pompeii Scavi train Station to the Pompeii entrance gate

For old people like me, and those who are mobility challenged, Pompeii can be a problem. The cobblestones have large gaps and the step-over height in some areas is about twice as high as a standard step on stairs. I find myself constantly looking at the road to avoid twisting my ankle or tripping on the holes between cobblestones. Walking can be strenuous in the hot sun. And most tour guides walk fast. My wife walks with a cane, so we stopped for a rest outside a building. The tour group left through the back door and disappeared into the sea of ruins. I found English speaking guides who directed us to the exit to reconnect with our tour group at the bus.

**TIP:** Get the cell phone number for your tour guide so you can contact the guide if separated from your group. You’ll find lots of people who have cell phones and will help you make the phone call.

Naples-01-31-2012

For more guides, see [www.TomsPortGuides.com](http://www.TomsPortGuides.com)
You can download FREE, high resolution pdf maps for Pompeii from this website
http://www.unicocampania.it/?lang=it&center=inside&colonna=turisti&action=mappe_pompei

The official website for Pompeii is http://www.pompeiisites.org/

Note the condition of the road – photo above
The ruts and holes in the road were caused by wheels of chariots a long time ago.

It was hot and dry when we visited Pompeii. I imagine the roads might be very slippery if it were raining.

Use these coordinates to find Pompeii on Google Maps
Piazza Antfiteatro entrance 40.749752,14.495274
Piazza Porta Marina entrance 40.747521,14.48458
Pompeii Scavi train station 40.749043,14.481187
Sorrento - Alternative Port to Naples

Most cruise ships dock in Naples, but some anchor in Sorrento and tender passengers into the dock. Here is a list of ships that have anchored in Sorrento harbor - Crystal Symphony, Crystal Serenity, Prinsendam, Maasdam, MSC Melody, Artemis, Insignia, Marina, Wind Surf, and Nautica.

If I had a choice between docking in Naples and anchoring in Sorrento, I would pick Sorrento. It's a beautiful, clean, safe, small town with many things to see and do, and ideally suited for self-guided touring. It is closer to Capri and the Amalfi Coast than Naples, and serves as a transportation hub for tourists with a train station, buses, Hop-On bus tours, and a boat dock for hydrofoil and ferry boats to the islands, Naples, and the Amalfi Coast. Sorrento is a perfect location to book a hotel as a “base” to visit the area. Been there, done that.

Sorrento Description

- An upscale, well-manicured town with beautiful views, great shopping, and fine restaurants. The town is perched on a 150 foot cliff overlooking the sea and has rolling hills with vineyards and lemon, olive, tangerine, and orange trees. The area is famous for limoncello and other liquors as digestives.

- Gateway to the poetic heart of Italy with easy access to pretty farmhouses, ancient castles and churches. Most tours of the Amalfi Coast either depart from, or stop in, Sorrento. Travel between Naples and Sorrento is convenient via bus, train, or boat. Hydrofoil boats are faster than buses between the cruise ship dock in Naples and Sorrento due to very heavy road traffic, delays due to road construction, and road accidents in the Naples area. This is especially true in the afternoon when road traffic is very heavy in Naples.

- Shopping runs the gamut from fine jewelry, delicate porcelain products, fine linens, lace, clothing, wood inlay, wine and liquors, etc. Visit a showroom to see a demonstration of manufacture of ‘tarsia’ wood inlay for music boxes, pictures, tables, serving trays, etc. This stuff is gorgeous. You have to at least buy a music or jewelry box.

- The Old Town is filled with numerous shops, fruit and vegetable stands, flower stores and numerous cafes to relax with a cup of cappuccino.

- Museums include Correale di Terranova - “the most beautiful provincial museum of Italy” Georges Vallet Archaeological Museum - Villa Fondi – artifacts and sculpture from prehistoric to Roman times, and the Wooden Marquetry Shop-Museum.

- Important churches to visit include the Cathedral of Sorrento, Basilica of Sant'Antonino, Church and Cloister of San Francesco, Church of S. Maria del Carmelo, and Church of “I Servi di Maria”.

- There are beautiful parks, scenic trails along the coast, beaches, impressive hotels, folklore entertainment, and nightlife. It's all here in Sorrento – more than you can see and do in one visit.


The website has a descriptive information of each of the major tourist site with photos, open times, entry fees, etc. The website also does a good job of describing how to get to Sorrento, and there is a pdf file tour guide you can download. There is also a video on Sorrento which shows a few cruise ships anchored in the harbor.

The official website does not include a map you can download and print. Please download the maps for Sorrento from http://www.UnicoCampania.it

I have included a marked up section of the map from this website on the next page.

This website has good information on things to see and do and descriptions of several tours http://www.sorrentotour.it/artandculture/itineraries1.html
Sorrento is pedestrian friendly with wide pathways on gentle rolling hills. Note the 500 foot scale on this map.

**Piazza Tasso** is the center of town, the main square. This is the place to start your self-guided tour.

**Sorrento Train Station** has cabs, buses, and the City-Sightseeing Hop-On bus. It's about 1200 feet from the train station to Piazza Tasso.

**Marina Piccola** is the transportation hub by sea for tenders from cruise ships docked in the harbor and ferry and hydrofoil boats to/from Naples, Capri, the Amalfi Coast, and other islands. The marina has cabs and buses to take you up the 150 foot cliff to the town. **Walking up to the town would be tiresome, take the lift.**

In **2011, a lift/elevator system was built between the harbor and Giardini Public Gardens.** I have not used it, but I would like to thank Brian Losie for sharing his experience as follows:

*The lift is approximately 1200 feet from the marina. As you leave the marina, walk West and keep right along the waterfront via a pathway with signage on the rock face indicating ‘Lift’ with arrows. Cost to use the lift is one Euro. At the top of the cliff, the elevator is located at the Giardini Public Gardens on Via San Francesco. The St. Francis Cloister and Church is near the elevator. Also, the Georges Vallet Archaeological Museum - Villa Fondi is at the park.

The park is at the North end of the Old Town; about a 1200 foot walk to Piazza Tasso.

We took a single hulled vessel with 300-400 passenger capacity, not a hydrofoil, from Naples Molo Beverello dock, next to the cruise ship to Sorrento. It was 11 Euros one way and a 35 minute ride. We had to pay cash, credit cards were not accepted. We returned to Naples on a train from Sorrento for 4
euros and paid 10 Euros for a taxi from the Naples train station back to the ship. The taxi meter showed 7 Euros, but we had to pay 10 Euros.

Vigilance is required while traveling the trains in, and around, Naples. I carried a backpack with reinforced straps that cannot be severed with box cutters. Travel in groups of four, if possible, and “have each others back” to discourage the pickpockets.

Photos courtesy of Brian Losie (below)
The lift from the harbor to the city is new and does not appear on any maps.
Use these coordinates to find these locations on Google Maps
- Sorrento Marina Piccola boat dock: 40.629688,14.375219
- Lift from harbor to city: 40.627959,14.372644
- Sorrento Piazza Tasso (main square): 40.626347,14.375707
- Sorrento Train Station: 40.625614,14.379505

There is a cafe in the main square (Piazza Tasso) = excellent opportunity to relax, view the sites and activity, and enjoy refreshments.

Immediately South of the cafe is a wood inlay store featuring an incredible array of beautiful products. Tour buses stop at this store to see a demonstration of wood inlay and for passengers to use the toilets which are freely available to all travelers. There are a few park benches, under the trees, in front of the store. We purchased a wood inlay music box. The identical music box was more expensive in the US than Sorrento.

Private tour vans usually park in the parking garage shown on the map.

There is a ceramics store on the North side of the main square with Capodimonte fine porcelain products.

Old town is a wonderful place to visit. Shopping - the main jewelery and clothing stores are on Corso Italia.
The **Wood Inlay Store** has a wide assortment of trays, music boxes, chess sets, clocks, small tables, chairs, full size tables, chests, beds, dressers, dining tables, etc. This stuff is beautiful. You can carry small items or they will ship anywhere. They also sell some ceramics and souvenirs.

**Shopping and the Ceramics store – looking West at Piazza Tasso**

Looking West from the main square, you will see the main street, Corso Italia, continues to the left. I have indicated this with the “shopping” arrow (photo left). If you continue down this street, you will pass the larger stores selling jewelry, clothes, and other items.

If you continue walking in the direction of “shopping” you will see the Sorrento Cathedral on the left side of the street. (Photos below)

**Photos of Sorrento Cathedral** (Below)
The **Ceramics** store has beautiful, “Capodimonte” which is the finest quality Neapolitan porcelain and ceramics. There are a variety of products including figurines, lamps, flower baskets, etc. We chose a fine floral display shown in the photo (above right). We paid 100 Euros in 2007. The actual size is about 12 inches long. It's very thin and delicate. Our cat has broken off several of the leaves which I have glued back together. For background information on Capodimonte, see [http://antiques.about.com/cs/ceramicsporcelain/a/aa062503.htm](http://antiques.about.com/cs/ceramicsporcelain/a/aa062503.htm)

**Old Town** - bear left on the narrow street as shown by the arrow (photo above left).

**Photos of shops in Old Town (above)**

Old Town is a “neat” place to explore. Lots of shops, cafes, etc. Be sure to walk many of the streets – it covers a good size area. Explore the back streets near the Old Town area. You'll see many interesting sites; many things to photograph. After even a brief visit to Sorrento you will understand why it is so popular.
Amalfi Coast

The Amalfi Coast is a beautiful mountainous 40 Km (24 mi) long coastline. It starts just West of Positano and continues East to Vietri sul Mare, next to Salerno. For reference, I have included Sorrento in the map (below) because most Amalfi coast tours stop in Sorrento.

Locating these towns on a map

The table at left shows Google Map coordinates for towns along the coast. Select and paste the coordinates from this table into Google Maps. Then adjust the map size and coverage to suit your needs.

You can estimate distance and travel time between locations. Google Maps shows 16 Km and 25 minutes from Sorrento to Positano, 16 Km and 23 minutes from Positano to Amalfi, and 21 Km and 28 minutes from Amalfi to Vietri sul Mare. This is travel time only without stops or traffic delays.

NOTE: Travel time along the Amalfi Coast can be unpredictable. The roads are narrow and are only one vehicle width in some towns. Cars have to back up/down the hills to allow other vehicles to pass. Traffic can be heavy. And, if there are accidents on the roads, delays can be lengthy.
The Amalfi Coast Is Spectacular – the road is 500 feet above the sea

Roads are narrow with sharp turns and narrow lanes, especially in the small towns. Tours usually make a few stops between Sorrento and Positano to get out and take photos. You'll spend a lot of time in the bus or van. All the tours I've been on included lunch. Ship's tours tend to stop along the major highway at restaurants that accommodate large groups and big buses. Private tour vans go up into the hills to smaller restaurants with “Nonna” as the head chef. The food at these small restaurants is usually very good to excellent and the views overlooking Positano are spectacular.

If do not plan to have lunch with your tour group, be prepared for the possibility that there is nothing to visit near the restaurant. You may spend your time sitting outside the restaurant taking photos.
Positano - Things to do

The town is small and it caters to tourists. Hotels, restaurants, and bars are abundant with good food and drink. Shopping is limited to boutiques with bright colored clothing, sandals, footwear, and souvenirs. There are also shops selling ceramics and art (photos below).

Most tours schedule one hour free time in Positano. Private tours drop off point you off at Mandara parking garage (#1 on the map below-left). I believe large buses drop you off at #2 on the map (below-left).

1- Parking area (photo below)

2- Bear right from the main road as shown (photo below) The building at right is a small church.

3- Location of the Santa Maria Assunta Church see the photo on the next page

NOTE: You may find it strenuous to walk down to the beach. After you bear right at point #2, the path becomes steeper. Then you encounter many steps to continue to the beach.
The church is prominent near the beach. The dome is covered with majolica tile glazed with bright metallic oxides. A Byzantine inspired Icon of a black Madonna, dating back to the 13th century, is inside the church.

The black Madonna
Amalfi is the main town on the Amalfi Coast

Amalfi has a different “feel” than Positano; it's more like a “city” than a “beach village” on a cliff. As you can see in this photo and map (below) it's relatively flat with wide streets, many shops, cafes, and places to explore. Plus there is a gorgeous Cathedral.

Buses park in the large harbor area. Walk across the street, through the archway to Piazza Duomo, the town center. The Cathedral of Saint Andrew dominates the piazza.
Amalfi streets are lined with shops and cafes = many places to explore (photo below)

Cathedral of Saint Andrew (photo below)

Amalfi Coast villages are different

If you value a beautiful, mountainous coast with picturesque towns tucked into the hills, put the Amalfi Coast on your bucket list. There are 13 villages along the coast = great places to visit on a tour and probably better as vacation sites!

Positano seems to be the most popular. It's in the most picturesque part of the coast, has a “romantic charm”, and is the closest village to Sorrento.

Photo opportunities are abundant in all villages along the coast. But there are two other issues to consider; namely,

• How strenuous it is to walk around the town or to the beach?
• Are there many places to shop, explore, and places to sit down?

In Positano, shopping is limited, I didn't see any cafes, only a few benches to sit down, and walking to the beach can be strenuous. By comparison, Amalfi has a diverse range of shops and places to explore. Walking is easy and there are many cafes to sit down, relax, and enjoy a cup of cappuccino.

For more guides, see www.TomsPortGuides.com
Thinking About Travel Security & Safety

Thieves, pickpockets, and scammers are ubiquitous.

Generally accepted safety precautions include:

- Do NOT wear expensive looking watches, jewelry, or carry a lot of cash. Take a copy of your passport unless you “need” the original.
- Conceal valuables in a security belt and/or a security neck pouch. NEVER carry valuables in your back trouser pockets.
- Do not keep all your money in one pocket, distribute it in different pockets. Carry coins in pockets; coins are hard to steal.
- Whenever possible, wear a coat as an “extra” layer of protection.
- Travel with a group, whenever possible, to “watch” one another's backs and deter pickpockets.

- Be especially cautious in crowded public areas and on public transportation. Pickpockets focus on crowds, tourist sites, public streets, train stations, and will follow tourists into churches.
- Be extra vigilant when taking money from an ATM machine. I use machines inside a bank in Naples, if possible and outside ATM's in areas that are safer such as Capri, Sorrento, and Amalfi Coast.

Motor scooter “drive-by, grab and run” thieves in Naples are a problem:

If the rider on a high speed motor scooter drives by and grabs a Rolex watch, handbag or camera strap, the tourist may be thrown to the ground and injured. A man from a cruise ship died from head injuries in Naples on May 28, 2011 when an attempt to grab his Rolex watch resulted in a deadly fall to the ground.

I have a wire lined strap on my Nikon camera that cannot be cut or broken. This kind of strap makes the situation worse = a nasty fall caused by drive-by thieves. The solution is either to not carry my Nikon when walking streets in Naples or wear a coat with my camera and strap completely inside.

If you put your SLR over your neck backwards so the end of the lens rests tightly against your body, the camera and strap are protected from drive-by thieves under your coat. But you may look pregnant.

Signs you are about to be, or have already been, robbed:

You are bumped, someone hands you a flower, a child with an empty cardboard box approaches you, a beggar approaches you, a stranger stops you to ask for directions on a map, greets you as a friend, or offers to help with your luggage. If you participate in street “shell” games, onlooker thieves will crowd around you. Beware of teenagers playing “tag” in a train station. It's a distraction to surround tourists, bump, and pickpocket them.

You will probably be scammed if you:

Purchase something on a street corner at a bargain price such as electronics, a camera, etc. When you get back to your hotel or ship, the bag will be empty or the product you purchased will have been switched.

Preparing for your cruise vacation to Naples:

Ship's excursions and private tours are always safer than traveling on your own.

It's important to read the latest travel security warnings and talk to the local guides before your excursion.

See this video on pickpockets

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO6CFSosqKE&NR=1

See this website on theft and scams in Naples

Pickpocket Scams Reported in Naples Italy

CAVEAT: I'm not an expert on safety. You are responsible for your travel decisions.
Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

If there is any question about use of my guides, contact me at  TomsPortGuides@Gmail.com

Tom Sheridan