

# WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



# ITALY

## BAY OF NAPLES & AMALFI COAST

WITH CHRIS ROCHE

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The island of Capri
- Sorrento markets and street life
- The ancient ruins of Pompeii with views of Vesuvius
- Walking the mountain top 'Path of the Gods'
- The beautiful and vertiginous town of Positano
- Villa Cimbrone and its gardens, Ravello
- Stunning landscape and seascape views
- Culinary delights of southern Italy

### INTRODUCTION

This area of Southern Italy, Campania, has attracted visitors ever since the Romans named it 'happy land'. The mild climate, the beauty of the coasts, the richness of its art and history, and the love for food contribute to make this one of the most alluring regions of Italy and a delight to photograph.

The journey begins with the sea: Naples and Sorrento, the legendary volcano Vesuvius and the neighbouring ruins of Pompeii, all look out over the bay to its jewel, the island of Capri – with its stunning landscape and dramatic history.

Across the peninsula the unique and remarkable Amalfi Coast unwinds before the eye. Pastel coloured fishing villages tumble down the mountainsides, indented and

inaccessible bays with small and hidden beaches weave their way through lush and enthralling scenery.

This tour offers the opportunity to explore various different photographic genres: wonderful land and seascapes which seem to constantly evolve under the Mediterranean light; street photography that captures the drama of every day Italian life with its elderly fishermen, bustling markets, louche coffee drinkers, busy waiters and artists with easels; long exposure night photography; the stillness of architectural photography with highlights such as the ancient ruins of Pompeii and Tiberius' palace in Capri.

Christopher Roche, your guide, has been visiting the area for over thirty years and knows many hidden gems as well as the 'must sees'. Having travelled extensively



across the world this remains one of his favourite destinations and one that he regularly returns to because - as he tells us – it nourishes his soul.

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive In Sorrento.

You will be picked up at Naples airport and transferred to our hotel in Sorrento. This is about an hours drive, passing under Vesuvius and around the bay of Naples. We will meet in the early evening for introductions and a briefing for the following week followed by dinner. Hotel Sorrento (D)

### Day 2: Sorrento, Pompeii and Vesuvius

This morning we head around the bay of Naples to Pompeii where a guide leads us amidst the famous ruins, regaling us with stories from how life was led during the ancient times and taking us to wonderful vistas with Vesuvius as a backdrop. We then head up to Vesuvius itself, one of the two active volcanoes in Europe. The whole of the Mount Vesuvius National Park is both beau-

tiful and productive, dotted with small farms and vineyards. The views across the city of Naples and its bay are breathtaking. It is approximately a 20minute hike from the car park to the rim of the crater itself.

We return to Sorrento leaving time free to explore this gorgeous town, whether that be visiting the Cloisters of San Francisco, the maze of back alleys bustling with life and markets or sipping a coffee in Piazza Tasso and watching the drama of Italian life go by. All offering great opportunities for street photography.

We have dinner out at a local restaurant.

Hotel Sorrento (B,D)

### Day 3: Capri

This morning we depart early from Sorrento on a ferry to Capri that rises like a mirage from the Bay of Naples This beauty of this island has to be experienced to be believed. It is here that some say Odysseus resisted the seductive but deadly song of the Sirens, and the Roman emperor Tiberius caroused in orgiastic debauchery. The Russian novelist Gorki lived in exile on Capri, as did the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. Later, Jacqueline Kennedy



Onassis stopped by while on the yacht Christina, buying Capri pants on her trips ashore.

We will head up to Villa Jovis, the ruins of Tiberius' palace, explore the back alleys of Capri town, take a chair lift up to Monte Solario, as well as explore the coastal paths, photographing the remarkable rock formations such as the Arco Naturale or Faraglioni. The views from here to the Amalfi Coast are stunning.

At the end of the day we return to Sorrento by ferry. Dinner out at a local restaurant.

Hotel Sorrento (B,D)

### Day 4: Positano and the Path of the Gods

This morning we cross the Sorrentine Peninsula and head down one of the most spectacular drives in the world to Positano on the Amalfi Coast.

The Ancient Romans built luxury villas along the coast of Positano, the ruins of which can still be seen. The town later became an important medieval port with fortified walls, watch-towers and innumerable churches. After the unification of Italy and the opening of new commercial



routes the town's importance declined, many emigrated and Positano was reduced to a quiet fishing village. In the 1950s it was rediscovered by visitors such as John Steinbeck, Picasso and Liz Taylor and quickly became the chic destination it is now whilst retaining its old charms.

Pastel coloured houses and hotels tumble down vertiginous cliffs, navigated by a maze of paths and steps. Fishing boats still anchor off the shore and artists direct their easels towards whatever sights inspire them each day. Kids kick footballs against medieval cathedrals and the scent of wisteria blends with that of seafood fresh from the day's catch. Offering endless opportunities for street

photography we explore the town and enjoy a coffee or gelato on the waterfront.

Late morning we head up to the mountain villages of Nocelle and Montepurtuso. We enjoy a traditional lunch of handmade pastas and local cheese and meats before exploring these villages and 'The Path of the Gods', an ancient mule trail high up in the mountains that offers spectacular scenery and views to the coastline below. Hotel Positano (B,L,D)

#### **Day 5 – 6: The Amalfi Coast**

Over the next two days we explore the Amalfi Coast. Highlights include various magical coves such as La Praia and Furore with their fishermen's houses built into

the cliff face as well as the bustling Amalfi. This pretty little town with its sun-filled piazzas and small beach was once a maritime superpower with a population of more than 70,000. Worth visiting are the Byzantine influenced Cathedral and paper museum. Beyond the town there is an interesting walk past a ruined water mill and up to the Path of the Gods once again.

We visit the tiny Atrani which is nestled in between two steep cliffs, its maze of narrow streets reveal medieval fountains and baroque churches. Far from the glitz of Positano, paint flakes off the facades and the day's laundry flaps on the clotheslines hanging from high windows. One of the highlights of the tour is the village of Praiano which is usually skipped by the majority of tourists but

which offers the best views on the whole coastline. Watching the sun set behind Capri with Positano in the foreground and the Galli Islands (where Nureyev lived) in between offers great photographic opportunities. Due to the ever-changing light the view is never quite the same. Hotel Positano (B,D)

### **Day 7: Ravello, Scala and Pontone**

Today we head back up to the hill towns of the Amalfi Coast and the most famous of them all, Ravello. Visiting Ravello is reported to have cleared Richard Wagner's creative block and inspired D. H. Lawrence to his greatest writings. Founded in the 5th century as a sanctuary from barbarian invaders fresh from sacking Rome, this lofty town was built, in contrast to other nearby settlements, up on a hill rather than down on the coast.

We will visit Villa Cimbrone and Villa Rufulo with their famous gardens which are well worth exploring for those with an interest in botanical photography. Once again there are the inevitable spectacular views – this time looking south towards Salerno.

This evening before dinner we will meet for a presentation of our best images.

Hotel Positano (B,D)

### **Day 8: Departure**

Today there are transfers to Naples airport for those heading home.

### **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

Easy Jet, Ryan Air, British Airways and Al Italia all offer flights to Naples and the flight time from London is approximately 2.5 hours.



### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Airport transfers
- All local transport; minibus, ferry, etc.
- All breakfasts and dinners
- One traditional lunch
- Local guide
- Entries into Pompeii, Villa Cimbrone, Villa Rufulo and chair lift to Monte Solario
- No extra charge for single rooms

### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- International Flights
- Travel Insurance
- Lunches except for where mentioned
- Alcoholic Drinks
- Soft drinks and snacks between mentioned meals
- Food

All breakfasts and dinners are included. The bay of Naples and the Amalfi Coast is famous for its cuisine and rarely disappoints. One traditional lunch is a mountain village is included. For the rest of the trip each guest has the freedom to lunch where they want and how they want – though Chris will offer suggestions.

### **CLIMATE**

The climate of this region is what has made it such an alluring destination for centuries. Nearly always mild, it can in the Spring and Autumn be quite warm during the days, though with a cooling sea breeze. The evenings can be cooler and a sweater and jacket would be recommended. These are transitional months and a downpour of rain is possible so do bring light waterproofs.



Although the walk along the Path of the Gods is not too vigorous it is worth bringing walking boots or strong shoes. In the Autumn the sea is still warm and if a swim tempts, do not forget your togs.

### CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Backpack to contain camera gear and spare items
- Warm trousers
- Light trousers
- Shorts
- Light tops
- Sweater
- Jacket
- Waterproofs
- A change of clothes if you fancy dressing for dinner
- Sun cream, sunglasses

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

- In addition to your chosen camera equipment you will need to carry a day pack that will also hold a few extra

items such as water, spare layer etc. Specially designed camera rucksacks like F-Stop, Lowepro and Peak design will be fine.

- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...  
for full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle, 17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.
- Spare camera
- Sturdy travel tripod for low light photography
- Remote release to avoid shake on long exposures
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. Please do not buy especially for this tour.
- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)



- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.
- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop or tablet with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers
- All the electrical sockets are European two/three-pin, so you might need a travel plug adapter on sale at airports.

### PARTNERS

Although this is primarily a photography holiday, non-photographer partners will be very welcome as there are many options and interesting possibilities in addition to taking photographs. The price will be the same.



### **MORE QUESTIONS?**

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

### **BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY**

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1270 440222.

### **LINKS**

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website.  
Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)