



AMALFI COAST • ITALY

Amalfi Insider's Guide

*The Amalfi Coast you won't find in the guidebook –
from a ten-year resident and skipper*

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By Ted • Oh Susannah Charters

WELCOME

Ten experiences you shouldn't miss

Planning a trip to the Amalfi Coast and feeling a bit overwhelmed? From where to stay, how to get around, and where to find the best spaghetti alle vongole or scoop of granita al limone — there's a lot of conflicting advice out there.

My name is Ted. I've lived on the Amalfi Coast for over 10 years and I run a family sailing business backed by 80+ five-star reviews on Tripadvisor. I've compiled this free guide to 10 Amalfi Coast experiences you shouldn't miss — plus a few things to skip, where to base yourself, and how to actually do the coast properly.



Onboard, off the Amalfi Coast.

No. 01

Cetara — the authentic fishing village

Visit Cetara for a taste of the real Amalfi Coast — a charming, lesser-known gem nestled beneath high mountains at the start of the coast. The town is home to the largest bluefin tuna and anchovy fishing fleet in Italy, with a fishing heritage and culinary tradition stretching back to Roman times.

A far cry from the tourist hordes in Amalfi and Positano. Life moves at a slower pace in Cetara: nets are still mended in the square, and locals chat in the warm sunshine. Eat at the best seafood restaurants on the coast surrounded by locals in the know.

Recommended restaurants: Acqua Pazza, Armatore La Dispensa.

No. 02

Pasticceria Sal de Riso, Minori

Sample the sweet delights at the most famous pasticceria on the Amalfi Coast. Salvatore de Riso is a world-renowned celebrity chef and owner of this classy establishment on the seafront in pretty Minori. He has won multiple awards, supplies high-end restaurants and celebrities (including the Vatican), and is celebrated for expertly and delicately capturing the flavours of the Amalfi Coast.

Drop in by ferry or by yacht. Try the Delizia al Limone, the Ricotta e Pera, or the Torta Caprese — all classic Amalfi Coast creations executed perfectly.

→ salderiso.it

No. 03

Villa Rufolo, Ravello

Escape the heat and chaos of the coast and head up to Ravello for a calm evening perched in the mountains above Amalfi. Take an evening stroll through the landscaped gardens of Villa Rufolo — a 13th-century historical villa with breathtaking views down over the entire coast.

The villa is home to the Ravello Festival, a series of classical music concerts that run throughout the summer in an extraordinary setting, including a famous dawn concert where the orchestra plays as the sun rises over the Mediterranean.

→ villarufolo.it · ravellofestival.info

No. 04

Hike the Valle delle Ferriere from Amalfi

Take an easy hike from Amalfi through lemon groves, past ancient watermills, into verdant forest to idyllic waterfalls and pools — perfect for a refreshing swim and a moment of calm surrounded by nature, just 45 minutes from the chaos of Amalfi.

Stop for a granita al limone at the family-run Agricola Fore Porta on the way back, or stay for lunch — run by lovely people who grow what they serve.

Best time to go: start by 8am to beat the heat.

→ agriturismoamalfi.com

No. 05

Lunch at a beach restaurant only reachable by sea

A classic Amalfi Coast experience: a long, lazy lunch at a beach restaurant only accessible by boat. These places bring in their staff, their supplies, and most of their customers from the water — the food, setting and atmosphere are not to be missed.

- **Zeffiro Sereno, Conca dei Marini** — family-run by local fishermen, incredible fresh seafood, warm hospitality on the beach.
- **Da Adolfo, Positano** — a Positano institution since the 1960s where locals and celebrities have rubbed shoulders on long benches since the heyday of La Dolce Vita.
- **Conca del Sogno, Nerano** — a celebrity and superyacht hangout with excellent food, sharp service and a fun beach-club atmosphere.
- **Il Cantuccio, Nerano** — open for lunch and dinner on a large terrace, with excellent food and a fun atmosphere.

Worth knowing: Reserve in advance. Most also run a free water-taxi service from Positano or Amalfi — ask when you call. Or arrive in style onboard [your own private yacht](#).



Lunch onboard, anchored off Nerano.

Plan your Amalfi itinerary onboard

3, 4 or 7 nights · Build a custom route with the skipper



No. 06

Cooking class in the lemon groves above Amalfi

Learn the secrets of Italian cooking from local chefs in the terraced gardens of an Amalfi Coast farmhouse. Small groups, friendly atmosphere, generous wine and limoncello, and you eat what you cook. A fun and delicious half-day experience — great for couples and families with older kids.

→ amalfigardens.com

No. 07

Li Galli Islands

These privately owned islands off the coast of Positano are the mythical setting of Homer's encounter with the Sirens in the Odyssey, and more recently the summer home of Rudolf Nureyev, the shining star of Positano's hedonistic 1980s set.

There are no ferries or public access — the only way to see them is by private boat. The underwater scenery and the light here in late afternoon are some of the best on the coast.



The light off the cliffs in late afternoon.

No. 08

Hidden sea caves of the coast

Explore the coast's lesser-known sea caves by yacht — places like the Grotta dello Smeraldo near Conca dei Marini, with its surreal emerald light, or smaller hidden grottos accessible only by tender, paddleboard, or — for the most adventurous — swimming in.

The colours inside these caves illuminated by sunshine — turquoise, emerald, deep cobalt — are extraordinary. Some cave entrances are very small and can only be accessed during calm, settled conditions.



Approaching the cliffs by sea.

No. 09

Positano and Capri after the day-trippers leave

Most visitors see Positano and Capri at their worst: midday, peak summer, packed streets, blazing sun, ferry crowds and guided tours shuffling along. Both towns transform after 6pm. The crowds dissipate as the day-trip ferries return to Sorrento and Salerno, the light softens, the lights come on, and the towns finally become what the photographs promised.

Doing this properly means either staying overnight (expensive in both towns, particularly in summer) or arriving by yacht in the late afternoon and leaving early the next morning. Either way, you avoid the heat and crowds of the day and experience the best side of these towns.

- **Best aperitivo in Positano:** Franco's Bar (no reservations — get there early), Music on the Rocks (later, more atmosphere).
- **Best gelato in Capri:** Buonocore — artisanal gelato with waffle cones made on the premises.



Aperitivo on deck, Positano in the distance.

No. 10

Fireworks — best from the sea

Fireworks are a near-daily event in summer along the Amalfi Coast. Each village has an annual religious festival that culminates in a midnight firework extravaganza — and there's fierce, openly competitive pride between towns for the best display.

Best experienced from the sea, where you can watch one village's fireworks reflected in the water from deck at anchor.

- **17 January** — Vampe di Sant'Antonio (bonfires and small fireworks)
- **8–22 February** — Gran Carnevale di Maiori
- **15 June** — Festa di San Vito, Positano
- **27 June** — Festa di Sant'Andrea, Amalfi (major display)
- **29 June** — Festa di San Pietro, Cetara (major display)
- **13 July** — Santa Trofimena, Minori
- **22 July** — Santa Maddalena, Atrani
- **15 August** — Ferragosto (Positano, Maiori, multiple towns)

Key 2026 dates above — verify locally, as festival schedules can shift.

Check availability for the 2026 season

Pick your dates · Pick your boat · See live availability



PRACTICAL

Where to base yourself

Salerno. Easy to reach by fast train from Rome (2 hours) or Naples (40 minutes) — and the easiest gateway to the Amalfi Coast: reasonably priced hotels and Airbnbs, excellent restaurants, a beautiful walkable historic centre, and direct ferry connections all along the coast. You can be in Amalfi or Positano in 45 minutes by ferry. The city itself is one of the more authentic stops on this part of the Italian coast — a working Italian city rather than a tourist showcase.

Sorrento. Better-known but worth mentioning — well-connected by train, ferry and road, with the Amalfi Coast on one side and Capri / Ischia on the other. A good base if you want flexibility and plan to include Ischia and Procida.

From your own private yacht. The whole reason this guide exists is that I genuinely believe exploring the Amalfi Coast by sailing yacht from the sea is the best way to experience this magical place. Anchor in a different bay each night, swim before breakfast, lunch at a beach restaurant only reachable by sea, watch the lights come on in Positano from your deck at dusk. [See the three boats →](#)



Anchored for the morning — paddleboards, swimming, breakfast on deck.

CANDID

A few things to skip

A guide is as useful for what it tells you to avoid as for what it tells you to do.

Skip the Blue Grotto queue on Capri. It's beautiful but you'll wait 90 minutes for a 5-minute visit, and the cave is packed with tourists. The Amalfi Coast has numerous sea caves accessible by boat that are just as extraordinary — and far quieter.

Skip the packed buses and the coastal road in summer. The SITA buses can quickly sap the enjoyment from your holiday — standing room only by 9am and long queues on the popular routes. Use the ferries instead — faster, cooler, and a better way to get around. [naplesbayferry.com](https://www.naplesbayferry.com) has the 2026 schedules and routes in one place.

Skip Capri and Positano in the middle of the day in summer. Both towns are at their worst when the cruise ships and day-trip crowds are in.

Skip booking the first hotel that appears on Google. Most are in Positano, all of them expensive, and many leave you stuck in one town with a difficult commute to everywhere else. See “Where to base yourself” above for better options — or skip the hotel question entirely and anchor in a different bay each night.

A NOTE FROM TED

About Oh Susannah Charters



Oh Susannah Charters is a family-run sailing business based in Salerno, with 80+ five-star Tripadvisor reviews and a decade of experience on the coast. Our boats are crewed by experienced local skippers who know the best anchorages, restaurants, and quiet spots the guidebooks miss.

If you'd like to actually do these things — anchor off Li Galli, lunch at Conca del Sogno, watch fireworks from the deck at night — get in touch. I'd love to help you plan an itinerary.

[See the boats →](#)

[View itineraries](#) · [Check availability](#) · [Send an enquiry](#)

amalfi.ohsusannahcharters.com