



The great Amalfi Coast Kayaking & Hiking Adventure

Inn-to-Inn Kayaking & Hiking along the world's most beautiful coastline: Cetara, Amalfi & Atrani, 'Sentiero degli Dei' (Path of the Gods), Fjord of Furore, Marina di Praia, Positano



8-day sea kayaking trip with 3 bases in Cetara, Amalfi and Positano



TRIP NOTES 2016

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Introduction

The Amalfi Coast is definitely one of the most beautiful coastlines in Europe, an intriguing mix between an overwhelming natural environment and cultural heritage. The blue waters of the Mediterranean are dominated here by the Europe's steepest coastline, rising up to almost 1500 m. (4500 feet).

But it's not only rocky cliffs that you'll encounter on this trip: the patient labour of generations has transformed the steep mountain slopes into a cascade of terraced lemon groves & vineyards. And with charming villages, chapels and other sites of cultural interest scattered all over. Its dramatic coastline offers wonderful views, different every step you take, and every metre you paddle....

The smell of rosemary and citrus trees fills the air, fields of multicoloured roses overwhelm the eyes and sandy beaches are magical to the touch. It offers an extraordinary palette of colours, with deep azure skies, white limestone cliffs, deep blue seas, and bright citrus orchards lit by the dazzling Mediterranean sun. This intoxicating sensual feast inspires a celebration of the goodness of life itself.

Paddling along the coastline of Amalfi offers you an opportunity to experience a blend of nature and architecture like no other. The view from the waterline highlights the dramatic cliffs and amazing terraced landscape, the amazing mix of natural wonders and ingenuity and craftsmanship of generations. Your vision will blur as you focus on the wonderment of history displayed along this amazing stretch of coastline. Highlights include the stops in the amazing 'Fjord' of Furore ('Furor'), in the charming fishing village of Cetara, and on the isolated beaches around beautiful Positano.

But also the hikes are unforgettable. A web of ancient pathways winds along shoreline cliffs, leading from bustling charming coastal towns through rustic woodlands and up to beautiful villages perched atop craggy peaks. We'll walk along the stunning 'Sentiero degli Dei' ('Footpath of the Gods'), one of the world's most stunning trails, and make a wonderful hike into the intriguing Valley of the Mills, location of Europe's first paper mills, almost a 1000 years old. And also our strolls through the spectacular villages of Positano, Atrani and of course beautiful Amalfi itself are all highlights. As has been written, on the day an Amalfitano goes to Paradise, for him it's a day like any other...

On this amazing kayaking & hiking adventure you will discover that with reason the Amalfi Coast has become Italy's most famous coastline, but as well that it takes only a little effort to get 'off the beaten track'. At only a few hundred metres away from the crowds, you will find yourself surrounded by nature. On this tour we take you beyond the crowded beaches, and you'll be lying on isolated beaches and paddling alone with the seagulls.... In short, you'll discover the real Italian paradise.



Please note: this is a moderately easy tour which is suitable for all those who have just some experience with sea kayaking and a good general physical condition. Most of the walks are on good paths, some of them just recently restored by the local authorities. Average walking/ kayaking times: approx 4-5 hours each day.



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DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAMME

Day 0 Arrival in Naples (or Salerno)

Arrival in Naples, Salerno (or Cetara) in case you arrive a day earlier. Naples has an international airport, the closest to the Amalfi Coast. From here you can easily travel by train or bus to Salerno, the meeting point for this trip. From Rome (and many other cities) Salerno can easily be reached by train. There are regular AV (High-Speed), Eurostar and Intercity trains: travel time by High-Speed train is about one hour; cost around € 50,00), by IC-train: about 2 hours; cost around € 25,00). Several hotels can be booked in Naples or Salerno, ranging from 3 to 5-star, either 'downtown' centrally located, or near the harbour or train station.

N.B. If you arrive one day earlier in Naples you have the possibility to pay a visit to the world famous archaeological museum, where all the artefacts from Pompeii and Herculaneum are exposed, and/or the equally wonderful Capodimonte museum. Also is it possible to make a day trip to Pompeii, the Vesuvius, Ischia or Capri.

Day 1 Arrival – Cetara

In the early afternoon you are being picked up from Salerno (optional transfer from Naples) by private car and brought to the charming small fishing harbour at Cetara, one of the most authentic spots on the Amalfi Coast. You settle in your beautiful hotel, just outside the village, overlooking the whole Bay of Salerno and the Amalfi Coast, and at literally a few steps from the beach, where you can already go for a first swim.

Towards the end of the afternoon we meet our tour leader and the rest of the group. After a brief introduction of the tour, we will outfit everyone with paddle and PFD and offer some basic kayaking instruction. Then we go for a short introduction trip, towards the small little town of Cetara itself. Here we go for a short stroll through the colourful streets, soaking up its atmosphere. Then we have our relaxed 'aperitivo' on the beach and slowly peddle back to our hotel. In the evening we eat all together in the nice restaurant of our hotel, overlooking the Mediterranean. *Accommodation: Cetara - Meals included: 1 'aperitivo', 1 dinner*

Day 2 Cetara & Vietri sul Mare

In the morning we will first have a great breakfast overlooking the Mediterranean and then we walk down to our beach. Here we thoroughly check again all our gear, before going for our first kayaking day trip. There are many available options for the day, according to your level of interest, paddling skills, and of course the weather!

We'll start paddling along the amazing coastline in eastern direction today. The coastline here is a stupendous alternating scenery, ranging from impressive bare cliffs, to terraced lemon groves and isolated small beaches. We'll make a first stop on a small beach with a fresh water source, and then continue towards Vietri sul Mare, famous for its ceramics, where we can make a short 'biscuit stop' (a drink and a snack). We'll then paddle around the 'Due Fratelli', two isolated rocky islands which are the symbol of Vietri. Those who want can opt to peddle towards Salerno. We will have a beautiful view on the city & the mountain scenery behind it from the red light house. We can even opt to go ashore at the beach of Santa Teresa, only a few steps away from the beautiful historical centre.

We will have a picnic lunch on a nice beach between Vietri and Cetara and then we paddle slowly back to our hotel, where we still have some time for a swim or a drink on the beach, or just some relaxation. Those who want can go and get their aperitivo in the beautiful small hamlet of Erchie, a favorite among the local kayakers. In the evening we go out for dinner together in a nice restaurant in the medieval town centre of Cetara.

Accommodation: Cetara - Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 picnic lunch, 1 dinner

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Day 3 Cetara – Capo d’Orso – Amalfi

We'll get an early start as the day's sea kayaking will take us along one of the most famous stretches of coastline in Italy, with our final destination being the heart of the Amalfi Coast, the beautiful city of Amalfi itself! We start paddling along the amazing coastline in western direction today.

The first small village we pass is Erchie, a small hamlet of just a few houses dominated by a medieval watchtower, and a beautiful beach, perfect for a short biscuit stop and a swim. We then continue along the rocky shore, exploring many sea grottos and land on isolated beaches. High above us we'll notice the sanctuary of the Madonna dell'Avvocata, while we approach one of the most pristine areas of the Amalfi Coast, the amazing headland of Capo d'Orso. This area will surprise you with its many sea grotto's and small waterfalls. We round the cape and then have lunch on the beautiful beach of Cavallo Morto. After that we can visit the Pandora grotto sea grotto and have a coffee on a beautiful small beach. Now we enter the real 'Heart' of the Amalfi Coast, with a number of beautiful coastal villages and Ravello and its beautiful 'hanging' gardens high above the coast.

We paddle past Maiori and we can go ashore in the beautiful small town of Minori, where we can taste it's famous 'Delizia al Limone'. Here we have some time to stroll through its narrow streets and have a drink on its wonderful town square. Before landing at Amalfi we can perhaps make a last stop in Atrani, perhaps the best preserved village of the Amalfi Coast. From here Amalfi is only a mile away. Arriving in Amalfi we dock our kayaks and can enjoy some relaxation in our centrally located hotel, in the heart of the historical centre, and at literally two steps from the beach. You could also opt to go for a short stroll through the colourful streets, or maybe make another dive into the sea. In the evening we eat all together in a nice restaurant in the medieval town centre, close to our hotel. *Accommodation: Amalfi – Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 picnic lunch, 1 dinner*

Day 4 Amalfi, Pontone & the Valle dei Mulini Amalfi – Fiord of Furore – Praiano – Positano

In the morning we will first pay a short visit to the beautiful medieval town with its wonderful 'Duomo' and the Paradise cloister. Amalfi once was an important naval power, like Venice and its past glory still shows. Every street hides a charming square, and it's a real pleasure to wander through the labyrinth of white-washed alleys. We'll pass through the Piazza dei Dogi and along the Antichi Arsenali. Another street takes us to the Vagliendola quarter, with its tower houses and the famous Hotel dei Cappuccini – once a monastery called San Pietro della Canonica, founded in the 13th century. Then we walk up (optional bus) to the charming little village of Pontone, once a defensive stronghold for the Republic of Amalfi. Here we walk up onto the narrow ridge that contains part of this medieval defence system, in a park-like landscape, past shady pine trees and through fields of wildflowers, and enjoy stunning views across the Valle del Dragone to the gardens and villas of Ravello. A series of ascents and descent eventually brings us to the ruins of the Torre dello Zirro, known from the play 'The Duchess of Malfi'. From here we enjoy dramatic views of both Amalfi and Atrani, and the stunning coastline. We retrace our steps to Pontone, where we'll enjoy a great lunch in the shade of the lemon trees.

Then we walk down into the intriguing 'Valle dei Mulini', the valley of the watermills, with its ruins of Europe's most ancient paper fabrics, dating back to the 11th century. The path takes us deep into the valley, to the entrance of the nature reserve, with its lush vegetation and waterfalls. From here it's about an hour's walk back down to Amalfi, passing through the charming little back streets of the town centre. We'll now also have the option to visit the fascinating paper museum, the Museo della Carta. Back in Amalfi there is still some time for a swim or an 'aperitivo'. In the evening we then all join for a great evening meal. We are picked up by private boat and brought to a nice restaurant located in a beautiful little bay nearby. After dinner we travel back to our hotel, gliding by boat over the glorious Mediterranean.

Accommodation: Amalfi - Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 picnic lunch, 1 dinner



Day 5 Along the 'Sentiero degli Dei' to Positano – back by boat to Amalfi

Today we'll walk the famous 'Sentiero degli Dei', considered to be one of the world's best walks! In the morning we take the local bus for a very scenic drive to the small village of Bomerano, high above the coast, where we can take a coffee and buy some sandwiches. Then we start walking through an amazing scenery of terraced vineyards to one of the most beautiful viewpoints you've ever been to, Colle Serra. Here we make a first biscuit stop, admiring the views reaching out to Positano, Capri and the islands of the Sirens. Then we continue our walk along the 'Footpath of the Gods'. This path really lives up to its name here, suspended as it is between the sky and the Mediterranean. It winds through unique scenery, with unrivalled views over the coast and sea. A few hours we will be walking along some of the most spectacular scenery of the whole Amalfi Coast, until we reach the charming small hamlet of Nocelle. Here we can have a good lunch in a nice restaurant, with amazing views over Positano and the Amalfi Coast (or we could opt for a picnic in a stunning spot along the path).

Passing another spectacular valley we then arrive in the little village of Montepertuso. After Montepertuso it's only a short walk downstairs to Positano itself, one of the most charming villages of the Coast. We stroll through its small, almost oriental alleys, and perhaps have a swim or a drink on one of its many pleasant terraces, before taking the boat back to Amalfi. This gives you the opportunity to already check out some parts of the coast, which tomorrow you will discover by kayak. Dinner tonight will be on your own as you are free to explore Amalfi's fantastic selection of trattorie and pizzerie, ranging from simple pizzeria's to exclusive restaurants. Your tour leader can advise you about the many nice restaurants in town.

Accommodation: Amalfi – Meals included: 1 breakfast

Day 6 Paddling along the famous coast: Amalfi – Fjord of Furore – Praiano – Positano

Today's sea kayaking will take us along one of the most famous stretches of coastline in Italy, with our final destination being the enchanting city of Positano! Our first destination will be the colourful village of Conca dei Marina, dominated by the impressive monastery of Santa Rosa, high above it.

We paddle along an amazing coastline with lemon groves & vineyards, and beautiful little villages, suspended halfway the water and the sky. Past the villa of Sofia Loren we reach a beautiful beach for some relax. Then we paddle around the headland of Conca, with its medieval 'Saracen' watch tower. Our next destination is the amazing 'Fjord' of Furore, where we will enjoy a coffee break, in between the coloured fishing boats. Those who want can take a short walk, to discover the small hamlet (which has been the set for several movies) and the amazing scenery of the fjord.

Then we continue along the coast in western direction. Some short stops will be enjoyed at some of the many water access ports along the coast, like Marina di Praia or the beautiful, isolated, beaches between Praiano and Positano, places where the likes of Liz Taylor and Jackie Kennedy had a good time back in the sixties. We'll have lunch at one of the nice restaurants along the way. Arriving in the elegant and cosmopolitan Positano, we will dock our kayaks on the large beach underneath our hotel. You will now have the time for a swim or some relaxation in our comfortable hotel. Or you can take the chance to explore the steep city streets and wander up into the hillside grabbing a bird's eye view of the water below. Tonight we'll celebrate our accomplishments with another wonderful dinner experience, on the premises of our hotel, overlooking the Mediterranean.

Accommodation: Positano - Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

Day 7 Positano & its many beaches

Today we'll discover the amazing coastline west of Positano. Although Positano has become one of the most sought-after resorts in Italy, due to its geography it has maintained a larger number of 'hidden treasures', like a number of wonderful small isolated beaches, which can only be reached on foot or by water. There have been counted about 20 of these small beaches, which we can virtually have for ourselves. We'll paddle in western direction, past the beautiful watchtower of Clavel, towards the headland of Punta Germano, where we'll paddle

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into a number of beautiful grottos. In front of us we'll see the rocky islands of the Sirens, with the backdrop of Capri. Experienced kayakers, who wish to make a paddling loop around these wonderful islands, can take the opportunity. While in Greek times the islands were believed to be the home of the Sirens, until recently they belonged to the late Russian ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev.


Those who wish can take the opportunity to continue peddling towards the little inlet of Marina di Crapolla, where it is believed that Saint Peter embarked on its way to Rome. Its small pebbly beach with crystal clear water, the remains of the old fishing village, the small chapel and the Roman Villa just above it, make it a unique spot for a short break. Others might wish to relax some time on one of the beaches. We can have a picnic lunch on the beautiful beach of Tordigliano. Or we can opt to return earlier to Positano and have a great (fish) lunch in one of the beach restaurants. Back in Positano, we will have some time to stroll through its narrow 'Moresque' streets, do some shopping, or just have a drink on its sea front boulevard. In the evening we then all join for a great last evening meal and raise our glasses to perhaps our best kayaking adventure ever. After dinner we might decide to make a last short stroll along the amazing coastline and go for a drink together.

Accommodation: Positano - Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner

Day 8 Positano

The tour ends in Positano after breakfast today (unless you booked an extension – extra days available upon request). You can easily make your own way from Positano to Salerno or Naples, either by boat or bus. A taxi transfer can be arranged on request.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

| Day | Itinerary & Activities |  Distance | Distance |
|-----|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Arrival in Cetara. Introduction trip | Cetara | 3-6 km. |
| 2 | Paddling between Cetara, Vietri sul Mare & Salerno (round trip) | Cetara | 6 - 16 km. (many options possible) |
| 3 | Paddling from Cetara to Amalfi, along Maiori & Minori | Amalfi | 16 km. |
| 4 | Roundwalk into the Valle dei Mulini / Valle delle Ferriere | Amalfi | 8-10 km. (500 m. ↑ & ↓) |
| 5 | 'Footpath of the Gods' – walk from Bomerano to Positano | Amalfi | 9 km. (100 m.↑ & 750 m. ↓) |
| 6 | Paddling from Amalfi to Positano, along Furore & Praiano | Positano | 14 km. |
| 7 | Paddling along Positano's great coastline (round trip) | Positano | 10 - 16 km. (many options possible) |
| 8 | Departure from Positano | | |



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TOUR DETAILS

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

All nights are spent in beautiful, characteristic hotels, mostly historical buildings (generally 3/4-star; 4/5-star on some departure dates). All rooms have en-suite facilities.

Accommodation is on **B&B** basis, in all accommodations. **All evening meals** are included, for which we have selected the best available restaurants.

Almost all (picnic) lunches are included in the tour price. Only on two days (Vietri & Positano) you are free to have your own lunch. Here you have the option to have your lunch in a nice restaurant, or purchase your supplies for a picnic lunch.

Nights 1 & 2: The first two nights are spent in a beautiful 4-star hotel, just outside the charming fishing village of Cetara, in a beautiful position, overlooking the whole Bay of Salerno: the hotel has its own beach.

Night 3, 4 & 5: These nights are spent in Amalfi, the ancient capital of the Amalfi Coast. Our recently renovated 4-star hotel is located in a great position, right in the historical heart of the city at only a few metres from the sea shore and all major monuments.

Nights 6 & 7: The last two nights you stay in the romantic & fashionable little village of Positano, with its characteristic houses built onto the steep slopes of the mountains. You stay either in a comfortable 3-star hotel, right on the beach, or in a bigger 4-star hotel. Both hotels are centrally located, at walking distance from the seashore, shops and all main monuments.

INCLUSIONS

On our **GUIDED TOURS** we include almost everything :

- Private English speaking tour leader for 8 days
- Professional guiding service for each activity
- Accommodation: 2 nights Cetara, 3 nights Amalfi, 2 nights Positano in good ***/**** hotels
- Local tourist taxes
- Meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 dinners, 4 lunches
- All private & public transfers as indicated throughout the entire itinerary
- Rental of high-quality sea kayaks
- Group equipment and technical gear for each activity
- Entrance fees of all sites along the itinerary
- Special activities as outlined in the day by day itinerary
- 24/24 h local assistance
- Luggage transport
- All gratuities for baggage, porters & hotel service

Not Included

- Departure taxes
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Drinks and meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional additional tours or activities
- Tips
- Items of a personal nature



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY / REQUIRED SKILLS

Moderate (level 2):

This tour is suitable for those who have some basic experience with sea kayaking. Our very helpful guides/instructors will work with you to help you expand your skills and take on new challenges. You'll encounter a few short open water crossings, but the waters of the Mediterranean at Amalfi are usually calm. On most days shorter options are available (as well as occasional extensions for the more experienced sea kayakers).

Fitness: High standard of fitness is not necessary but you should be able to paddle for up to 4-5 hours.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Arrival: The tour starts in CETARA. The nearest city with an international airport is NAPLES. The nearest big city is SALERNO, very well connected with Rome and all other major Italian cities by a frequent (high speed) train service. A taxi pick-up service can be arranged either from Salerno, or Naples airport or train station.

Departure: The tour ends after breakfast on day 8 in POSITANO. A frequent boat or bus service can bring you to either Sorrento or Salerno, from where you travel to your next destination (Naples and Rome can easily be reached by train). Several taxi services are available to bring you directly to your next destination.

EXTRA NIGHTS

It is possible to include extra nights at the beginning or the end of the tour. The tour can easily be extended with a few days in Naples or Salerno, or on the Amalfi Coast or a few days on the island of Capri (see below).

TOUR VARIATIONS

It is possible to include some extra nights before or after your tour, in any of the accommodations 'en route'. For those who love hiking too, a few days in Amalfi are strongly recommended. Two of the world's most famous walks, including the 'Footpath of the Gods' can be done from here.

At the beginning or the end of the tour there is also the opportunity to visit Naples (a unique city and a good base for visiting Pompeii). The tour can easily be extended with a few days here. The tour can also be extended with a few days on the island of Capri or in SALERNO (a nice city and a good base for visiting Paestum), or ROME several good accommodations are available. Details & prices on request.

UPGRADE

On our 'standard tours' we provide accommodation in very good, mostly 3-to 4-star hotels, with the best possible price/quality ration. On some dates however it is possible to book an upgraded version of this tour, staying in luxurious 4- or 5-star hotels. For this tour also a 'budget version' is available. Please ask us for details.

SHORTER & LONGER VERSIONS

A shorter, 6-day 'only kayaking' version of this tour is also available, as well as longer tours. This tour can be extended to the very western tip of the peninsula - and from there make the crossing to Capri! Especially recommended for experienced sea kayakers! See also our other Kayaking tours.

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