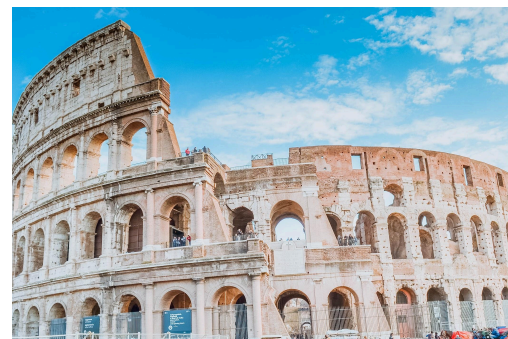




Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte
Discover the Beauty of the Amalfi Coast
A Unique Blend of Natural and Cultural Wonders



April 26 – May 5, 2024 (10 days)
Optional 2 Day Extension to Rome Available (Return on May 7, 2024)
Itinerary subject to change

All accommodations are 5-star luxury hotels. All breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 6 dinners are included in the cost of the trip. Tour led by a highly qualified tour manager, Wally Zanchetta

Prices for the trip and Rome Extension can be found on Page 14.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$500 is due immediately to secure your seat for the trip.

Full nonrefundable payment is due by Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Space is limited and deposits are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Air scheduling is available on Lufthansa and American/Iberia; therefore, contact Jeff Knight at Knight Travel for airfare quotes at jknight111@hotmail.com.

Please contact Madison NeeSmith at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via [email](#) or call 704-687-7758 if you have questions or need more information about the trip.

Flight from Charlotte Douglas Airport to Naples Airport. **Time appropriate meals served in flight.**

Welcome to beautiful, sun-drenched Southern Italy! After clearing customs and immigration formalities, meet our favorite Italian Tour Guide – Ms. Wally Zanchetta, who will expertly show us the beauty of the area and who led previous excellent WACC tours in Italy.

Depart by private motorcoach from the Naples Airport to our hotel for 4 nights, the elegant 5-star [Parco dei Principi di Sorrento](#), overlooking the sea.

“A small resort with a big reputation, Sorrento is a town of lemons, high-pedigree hotels and plunging cliffs that cut through the heart of the historical core.” - [Lonely Planet](#)

Land of colors, mysteries, traditions and legends, Sorrento charms, amazes, and inspires. According to the Greeks, it may have been the Sirens, lying in its seawaters, that infused Sorrento with such enchantment and charm.

After time to relax and recover from the overnight journey, join the group for a delicious welcome dinner.

Dinner included

Overnight at the elegant 5-star Parco dei Principi di Sorrento



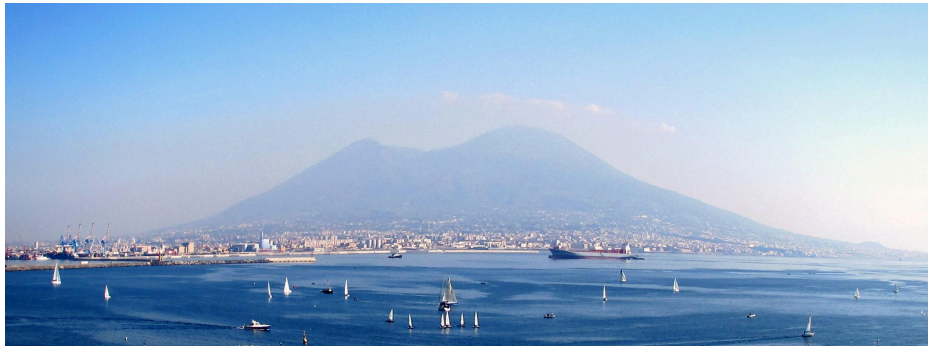
[Sorrento](#)



[Parco dei Principi di Sorrento](#)



[Sorrento Peninsula](#)



Mt. Vesuvius

Breakfast included. After breakfast, drive to [Mt. Vesuvius](#) for a climbing experience up to the edge of the volcano and look straight into the crater. It is a relatively easy hike and a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Lunch included. In the afternoon, history comes alive on a walking tour of [Pompeii](#). In 79 AD, this historic city was victim to an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, and the living metropolis was demolished. To visit these world-renowned ruins is to experience life as it once was, on the shores of the Bay of Naples, in the early Empire.

The streets of Pompeii were alive with purveyors of food, clothing, and slaves. You may visit wine cellars, restaurants, and bars. You can admire the ancient barracks: domain of the gladiators and the infamous red-light district.

No visit to Pompeii would be complete without a stop in the Forum. The awe-inspiring domain of priests and temples, politicians, and public buildings. This was where art, philosophy, theology, and economics of Pompeian culture meld.

After the tour, you will go back to Sorrento for a free evening and independent dinner.

Overnight at the elegant 5-star Parco dei Principi di Sorrento



Ruins at Pompeii



Sculpture by Igor Mitoraj at Pompeii



The Forum at Pompeii



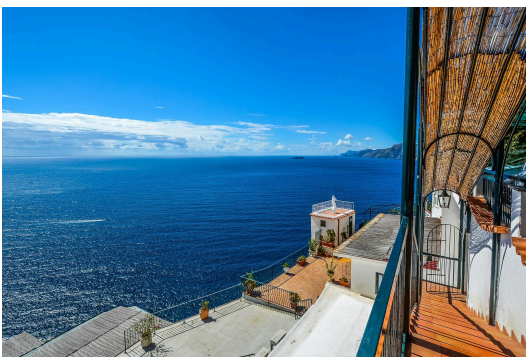
Positano



Limoncello Shop



City Square



Amalfi Resort

Breakfast included at hotel. Experience a day of visual and cultural beauty as you enjoy a private driving tour of the Amalfi Coast, one of the most beautiful routes in Europe, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This 30-mile winding roadway hugs the coast, offering breathtaking views of coastal mountains and sheer cliffs plunging into the sea.

"Italy's Amalfi Coast drive is one of the most stunning coastal roads in Europe... Around every hairpin bend on the sea-side of the winding corniche is a view more spectacular than the one before." - [The Travel Bunny](#)

View the picturesque, terraced cliffs, and clinging whitewashed villas punctuated with colorful towns and villages.

Stop to visit charming Positano: a 16th century hillside town, whose pastel-colored houses were featured in the movie "[Under the Tuscan Sun](#)."

"Dramatic, deluxe and more than a little dashing, Positano... [boasts] vertiginous houses tumbling down to the sea in a cascade of sun-bleached peach, pink and terracotta. No less photo-worthy are its steep streets and steps, flanked by wisteria-draped hotels, smart restaurants and fashionable retailers." - [Lonely Planet](#)

Explore the seaside resort of Amalfi, the largest town on the coast, with a beautiful cathedral and streets lined with quaint shops and cafes.

Due to traffic regulations on the hairpin curves of the Amalfi drive, the group will enjoy the region in 8 passenger minivans, as regular motor coaches are prohibited.

Lunch will be on an independent basis in Amalfi. Sample Limoncello - a local lemon liqueur typically served as an after-dinner digestive.

Arrive back at the hotel late afternoon and join the group for dinner in a local restaurant.

Dinner included

Overnight at the elegant 5-star Parco dei Principi di Sorrento

Day 4: Monday, April 29, 2024

Paestum/Buffalo Farm Experience



[Paestum](#)

Breakfast included at hotel. Embark on a 60 mile journey to Paestum, home to one of Europe's most glorious archaeological zones with three of the world's best-preserved ancient Greek temples. Deemed a World Heritage site by UNESCO, it includes a museum crammed with millennia-old frescoes, ceramics and artifacts. Among these, there is the iconic Tomb of the Diver funerary fresco.



[Tomb of the Diver funerary fresco](#)

Lunch included. Visit the authentic Tenuta di Seliano Buffalo Farm. Here you'll learn how the Italians managed to tame water buffalos who were initially imported from Thailand by the Venetians in the 17th century, and later learned to milk them to make mozzarella, the most typical of all Italian cheeses. Alongside a mozzarella making demo and tasting, you will have a delicious lunch at the farm.



[Tenuta di Seliano Buffalo Farm](#)

"Fresh mozzarella di bufala is a phenomenon of Italian cuisine. Purists say that true mozzarella only comes from the milk of buffalo and cow-milk mozzarella is fior di latte mozzarella. In Italy, buffalo mozzarella has a very thin skin, a delicate flavor, and a soft center. When you cut into the porcelain-white mozzarella, the whey weeps out onto the plate." - [Sushi&Gelato.com](https://www.sushiandgelato.com)

This is followed by returning to Sorrento for a free evening and independent dinner.

Overnight at the elegant 5-star Parco dei Principi di Sorrento

Breakfast included at hotel. Transfer to the marina to board the hydrofoil for the scenic half hour ride to the enchanting Isle of Capri.

Capri has exciting features to explore: the cosmopolitan bustle of the [Piazzetta](#), the quiet elegance of Anacapri, the majestic ruins of the Roman villas, spectacular landscapes, and hypnotic views of the Azure Sea that have inspired countless artists and writers.

Your hotel for the next 3 nights is the extraordinary 5-star [Hotel Scalinatella](#) in the heart of Capri.

After an independent lunch, explore the town streets and plazas of this magical island with your guide.

Dinner included.

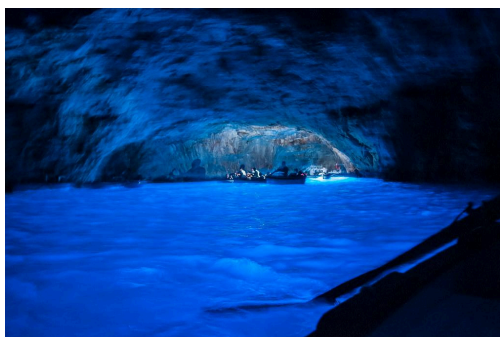
Overnight at the extraordinary 5-star Hotel Scalinatella



Hydrofoil boat



Isle of Capri



Blue Grotto

Breakfast included at hotel. Board a small boat for a tour around the isle. This is a unique chance to experience the beauty of Capri from the water.

Visit the world famous and stunning [Blue Grotto](#), an ethereal, sapphire-blue underwater cave emblematic of the island.

"These photos have not been retouched: inside, the water is exactly as you see here, a crystalline blue with silver reflections." - [Capri.com](#)

The cave was hidden for centuries, then rediscovered in 1826 and is believed to have magical healing powers. Today, visitors are lured here to see the dazzling interplay of light and water in this striking natural phenomenon (weather permitting).



[Hotel Scalinatella](#)

The rest of the day is yours to leisurely explore Capri on your own – perhaps Capri’s tiny but exclusive shops.

Overnight at the extraordinary 5-star Hotel Scalinatella

Day 7: Thursday, May 2, 2024

Anacapri

Breakfast included at hotel. Reach [Anacapri](#) by private mini-buses. Inhabited since Roman times, as evidenced by the many ruins, Anacapri has long been a coveted retreat for the rulers of Rome and the literati of Europe.

Your guide will take you to explore the highlights of this part of the island. See the [Villa San Michele](#), immortalized in Axel Munthe’s 19th century autobiography, “*The Story of Anacapri.*” Munthe, a Swedish doctor, discovered the dilapidated remains of an ancient chapel dedicated to San Michele after climbing the Phoenician stairs, which connect Capri to Anacapri.

During the chapel’s restoration, the remains of an ancient Roman Villa came to light in the adjacent vineyard. Munthe devoted several years to renovating the villa into his home. The San Michele is now a museum housing several ancient artifacts unearthed during the villa’s reconstruction.

Enjoy spectacular views over the entire island from the chairlift connecting Anacapri to the summit of [Monte Solaro](#): the highest point on the island, offering a



Anacapri



Villa San Michele

panoramic view of the island and the Sorrentine Peninsula.

The afternoon is free to explore Anacapri or go back down to the town.

Dinner will be in a local restaurant with the group.

Dinner included

Overnight at the extraordinary 5-star Hotel Scalinatella



View from Monte Solaro



Phoenician Stairs

Day 8: Friday, May 3 2024

Capri/Naples



Centro Storico

Have **an included breakfast** in the hotel this morning before proceeding to the marina and taking the hydrofoil to visit the busy and beautiful city of Naples. Naples is Italy's 3rd largest city and one of its oldest.

[Centro Storico](#), the downtown district, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is known for its epicurean delights and urban sprawl.

"[Centro Storico] is a unique and beautiful area to explore. It is the perfect place to spot old churches, sift through small shops, and observe locals going about their daily life. Prepare to be amazed and enthralled by the narrow streets filled with locals chatting, street musicians, artists workshops and much more.

The highlight of the historic center is Spaccanapoli, a street that cuts the city of Naples in two. This is the most Italian and enchanting area of Naples which will make you feel like you've fallen into an Italian daydream." -

BroganAbroad.com



Spaccanapoli



[Grand Hotel Vesuvio](#)

After an introductory tour of Spaccanapoli, experience a unique underground exploration by visiting the twenty-five centuries old tunnels under the center of town. From the Ancient Greeks to WWII shelters, it is a journey through history in just under an hour.

Check in to your hotel for 2 nights, the majestic [Grand Hotel Vesuvio](#). This stately hotel has been a landmark in Naples since 1882 and is located on the seafront.

Tonight, enjoy a special treat as we dine on the premier Neapolitan delight – pizza! It is rumored to have originated here and no one does it better.

Dinner included

Overnight at the majestic 5-star Grand Hotel Vesuvio

Day 9: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Naples

Start with **breakfast** in the hotel. Then head to the [Archeological Museum](#) for a guided tour of the Farnese family's endless haul of ancient Greco-Roman art and artifacts. The core of the collection is housed in a vast, 17th century former university building.

Although the labeling is almost non-existent and the lighting is dim, nothing can distract from showstoppers like the colossal Farnese Bull, the pumping iron Hercules, and the pair of tyrant killers – all Roman copies of early Greek sculptures. Of the collections on the upper floors, the best are the exquisite mosaics from Pompeii and Herculaneum and the saucy ancient erotica in the Gabinetto Segreto. Additionally, the bronzes from Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, among which are five female dancers and a pair of lean athletes, poised for flight, are standouts.

After independent lunch, attend a Nativity Scene, or Presepio making workshop. Presepi are a time-honored



National Archaeological Museum of Naples



tradition in Naples credited with the idea of bringing the Nativity into mainstream life in Italy. The origin of the Neapolitan presepio can trace its beginnings to 1025, but it is thanks to the local 15th century artists that the city established itself as Italy's creche capital.

Mr. Ferrigno, a member of one of the only five families that have officially carried the tradition for six centuries, will personally make a few figurines while explaining how this folk art is performed.

This evening, join the group and enjoy Naples' fabulous restaurant scene for a farewell dinner.

Dinner included

Overnight at the majestic 5-star Grand Hotel Vesuvio

Sculpture in the National Archaeological Museum of Naples



Sculpture in the National Archaeological Museum of Naples

Day 10: Sunday, May 5, 2024

Naples/Munich/Charlotte

The day begins early as you take a **pre-prepared breakfast** with you to the Naples Airport. **Time appropriate meals will be served in flight.**

Welcome home!

Optional 2 Night Extension in Rome

Day 10: Sunday, May 5, 2024

Naples/Monte Cassino/Nettuno/Rome



After **breakfast** in the hotel this morning, depart for Rome. The group will visit 2 very interesting stops enroute, with great significance to World War II.

The first is a visit to the Abbey of Montecassino founded by St. Benedict of Nursia dating back to 529, site of the Battle of Montecassino, also known as the Battle of Rome. This mountain top Abbey offered an incredible vista of Southern Italy and was crucial in the campaign to recapture Southern Italy and in fact, Rome.

The Allies ultimately bombed and assaulted the Abbey at a great cost of life on both sides. After the war, the Abbey was restored to its original glory and is an interesting visit.

Lunch is included at a local restaurant before continuing to the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno. In this beautiful and tranquil setting lay the graves of 7845 Americans who died largely in the liberation of Sicily, Salerno, and the landings at Anzio.



Abbey of Montecassino

Continue to the Eternal City Rome arriving in the late afternoon and check in to your hotel for 2 nights, the beautiful [Hotel Ponte Sisto](#), in a central location near restaurants and shops.

The famous Piazza Navona and Campo de Fiori are just a short walk from the hotel.

Spend the evening leisurely exploring and enjoying Rome.

Overnight at the beautiful Hotel Ponte Sisto

Day 11: Monday, May 6, 2024

Rome



Ancient Rome

After an **included breakfast** at the hotel, embark on a half day guided sightseeing tour of Ancient Rome.

The tour offers a panoramic drive around the beautiful city and a visit to the Roman Forum and Colosseum.

Lunch and dinner on an independent basis. Walk to the Pantheon Square and enjoy outdoor dining.

Overnight at the beautiful Hotel Ponte Sisto

Day 12: Tuesday May 7, 2024

Rome/Charlotte

Take a **pre-prepared breakfast** with you on your early morning departure from the hotel this morning as you transfer to Fiumicino Airport for flights back to the U.S.

Time appropriate meals will be served in flight.

Welcome home!



Hotel Ponte Sisto

LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY*

Single occupancy rate available for \$3,450.00

Price includes 10 days of 5-star luxury accommodations, all breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners, local transportation, several tours, and a highly qualified tour manager, Ms. Wally Zanchetta, who led previous excellent WACC tours in Italy.

Min. 20 Travelers

\$8,730.00

Min. 25 Travelers

\$8,095.00

Min. 30 Travelers

\$7,680.00

AIR TRAVEL:

Please contact Knight Travel for individualized air travel pricing at jknight111@hotmail.com.

ROME EXTENSION - PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Itinerary subject to change

Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$325

Min. 10 Travelers

\$1,565.00

Min. 15 Travelers

\$1,385.00

Min. 20 Travelers

\$1,195.00

Travelers must be members in good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact mneesmit@charlotte.edu or call 704-687-7758. [Click here](#) for information on WACC memberships. Please note WACC memberships are fully tax-deductible.

- **Deposits are due ASAP to fully secure your seat for this fabulous trip.**
- **Final trip payments are due by Thursday, February 22, 2024.**
- If you are traveling alone but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible and we will do our best on matching you with a roommate.
- Business or First Class air travel is available. Please contact Jeff Knight (jknight111@hotmail.com) as soon as possible for flight information.
- Please note that an approx. 3% processing charge will be added to your payment if you choose to pay by credit card due to travel agency requirements. Processing charge is considered a tax-deductible donation. **No additional charge if you pay by check.**