



ITALY AT A GLANCE

SIZE: 116,303 square miles, about the size of Florida and Georgia combined.

POPULATION: 57,772,000, about one-fourth the U.S. population.

LANGUAGE: Italian

CAPITAL: Rome

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Republic

CURRENCY: Euro

TIME ZONE: GMT +2

Where Art Steems Vibrant with Life and a Culture Lies Frozen in Time

The sunny Bay of Naples is one of Italy's most beautiful sights, and the gateway to the South.

The isles of Capri and Ischia beckon offshore, as the plumed heights of Mount Vesuvius dominate the skyline.

From Capo Miseno on one side to the lovely Sorrento peninsula on the other, white sands and sapphire waters paint an unforgettable picture.

Naples was founded by Greeks from nearby Cumae, who saw the obvious value of a protected anchorage with almost unlimited capacity. They called it "New City" or Neapolis.

The same New City was conquered by the Romans in the 4th-century B.C., but the Greek language and customs remained strong for the next 800 years.

The ancient Romans never considered Naples and the surrounding region to be very important, but they were still attracted by such obvious natural beauty. The fertile lands and the sunny, mild climate made it ideal for farming. Together with Sicily, the entire Campanian region was a principal breadbasket of the Roman Empire.

Many villas and estates were constructed here for wealthy landowners and prosperous merchants. The rich and famous of the Empire nearly always had houses here, in addition to those in Rome and elsewhere.

During the middle ages, Naples, Amalfi, Sorrento and several other local towns grew wealthy trading with the eastern

Mediterranean. In 892 A.D., Sorrento fought a naval battle against Amalfi over control of trade.

Amalfi later became an important maritime republic, like Venice and Genoa, and played an important role in transporting Crusaders to the Holy Land. Some of the largest and most powerful galleys of that day were built along these shores.

Naples and Sicily were united in a large southern kingdom, which was ruled by a confusing series of German, French and Spanish monarchs. Among the most interesting was Charles I of Anjou, brother of St. Louis of France, who was named king by the Pope in 1268.

His grandson, "Robert the Wise" attracted poets, painters and scholars to Naples, and established one of the most brilliant courts of the medieval period. A large population and flourishing trade helped to assure Neapolitan domination of the central Mediterranean.

In 1504, the great soldier Gonzalo de Cordoba defeated the French and made Naples part of the growing Spanish Empire of Ferdinand and Isabella. For the next two centuries, southern Italy would be tied to the exciting history of Spain, although taxes were more oppressive than ever.

A Neapolitan school of painting developed, with strong influence from Spanish and other Italian artists, like Caravaggio. Magnificent palaces were built during the baroque and rococo periods, especially along the Via Toledo.

ABOUT YOUR PORT GUIDE

This is your guide to Naples, specially prepared by Princess Cruises. This guide is intended to assist you if you are on a shore excursion, touring independently or doing both.

Please note that the information provided is general in nature and is subject to change.

It was not until the 19th-century that Naples lost its reputation as a sophisticated capital city. The last kings were ruthless tyrants, who used repression to maintain their misrule. Ferdinand II was nicknamed “Bomba” because of his cruel bombardment of Messina during the revolution of 1848. Garibaldi finally conquered the entire southern realm in 1860, and united it to the new Kingdom of Italy.

Naples today is a lively and animated city, which preserves the reminders of its past in a fan-shaped halo over the beautiful bay. Lavish mansions and churches nestle among poor districts. The Royal Palace of Capodimonte offers a stunning panorama of the entire city. The National Museum displays unique treasures taken from Pompeii and other ancient sites.

Just offshore is Capri, one of the world’s most beloved islands. The name means “Goat Island,” and Capri is well suited for these sure-footed animals.

Unlike nearby Ischia, which is volcanic, Capri is a mass of limestone which was once a part of the mainland. The Greeks settled there in ancient times, then the Romans.

The Emperor Augustus was so enchanted with Capri that he built a villa for himself, complete with roads and aqueducts. His successor Tiberius added several other villas, then moved here permanently for the last 10 years of his life. He saw nowhere else in the world which could compete with such beauty!

Beyond any doubt, a visit to Pompeii will teach you more about the ancient Romans than most other activities. Pompeii and the neighboring town of Herculaneum were destroyed and buried by a volcanic eruption in 79 A.D. This catastrophe killed 2,000 people, but it also preserved a unique look at their way of life. Vesuvius managed to freeze an entire society at one instant of time, so that we are able to study the lives and customs of 2,000 years ago.

As the playground of the first century’s superstars, Pompeii offers an intimate look at the lives of people so affluent and

powerful that the world was at their feet! Even today, we gasp at their lavish and indulgent lives.

A characteristic Pompeiian house would be rather dull from the outside, with nothing but bare walls visible, and very few windows.

Once through the main entrance, however, you would see a rectangular entry court called an atrium, open to the sky, and lavishly decorated with mosaics, marbles, statues and paintings. There was frequently a basin in the center to catch rain water. Around the court, there were usually small sleeping cubicles for members of the family. They were quite simple, since most day-time activities took place in other rooms.

A large study or reception room for the head of the household was the central hub, where books and money were kept. Dining rooms and larger salons for family activities completed the rectangle.

More elaborate houses could have several other hollow courtyards added, with fish ponds or warm baths common for wealthy families.

A colonnade or elaborate portico was almost taken for granted as a necessary decoration. Even ordinary meals were elaborate affairs with several courses. Guests reclined on large couches covered with pillows, while a great variety of food was served.

Plates and cups could be made of earthenware, metal or glass, and were richly decorated. The dining room was the most highly decorated room of the house.

Shops and stores along the Via dell’Abbondanza present a fascinating glimpse of Pompeii’s commercial life. Most shops are open to the street, sometimes with serving windows for convenience.

Some shops are equipped with counters holding bins or storage jars built right into them. Business owners often lived in rooms behind the store, or on an upper floor.

Many roads in Pompeii are lined with sidewalks a foot or more above the street level. Stepping stones were placed to allow pedestrians to cross in wet weather, but spaces were still left to allow wheels and horses to get by easily.

After the discovery and excavation of Pompeii (which began in 1748) the findings took Europe by storm. The so-called Pompeiian style of frescoes on a red or black background became an overnight sensation. Royal palaces and country mansions adopted ancient styles of decoration and furnishings, with the subsequent enrichment of the entire civilization. There is so much to learn in Pompeii, and the city itself is a great teacher.



Amalfi coastline

Places of Interest

AMALFI COAST

Beginning shortly after Sorrento and stretching to Salerno, the Amalfi Coast is one of the most spectacular drives on any Italian route.

CAPRI

The most sought-after island in the Bay of Naples. Capri's dramatic cliffbound scenery has attracted visitors throughout history - such as Augustus, Tiberius, D.H. Lawrence and George Bernard Shaw.

CASTEL DELL'OVO - OR "EGG CASTLE"

Legend says that the 12th-century castle was built over an egg placed here by Virgil in Roman times; if the egg breaks then Naples will fall.

CASTEL NUOVO

Known as the "Maschio Angiono", this fortress was erected in 1282 by the Angevins and later rebuilt by the Aragonese rulers who succeeded them. The entrance incorporates an impressive marble triumphal arch.

CASTEL SANT'ELMO

Occupying Naples highest point, this Spanish fortification was built in the 14th century to dominate the port and the old city.

GALLERIA UMBERTO I

The turn-of-the century arcades offer a retreat from the bustling Naples streets.

HERCULANEUM

Ruins of a Roman town buried under the volcanic mud from the gigantic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD.

NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The museum houses one of the greatest collections of antiquities. Mosaics, sculptures and artistic objects unearthed at Pompeii and Herculaneum are found within the museum as well as the colossal Farnese Bull.

PIAZZA PLEBISCITO

Modeled after Bernini's Piazza St. Peter in Rome. Pompeii Ancient Roman resort buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. Royal Palace Dates from the 1600s and has been renovated and remodeled throughout the centuries.

POMPEII

Ancient Roman ruins buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.

SORRENTO

Charming cliff-top resort town.

TEATRO SAN CARLO

The largest opera house in Italy and one of the most distinguished in the world.

THESE SITES CAN BE FOUND ON THE MAP AT THE BACK OF THIS GUIDE

Practical Information

DOCKING

Your Princess ship docks in Naples. The dock is approximately 3/4 of a mile from the city center. Please refer to the Naples City Map for the general location.

SHORE EXCURSION DEPARTURES

Passengers will meet at a specific location for each shore excursion departure. Please refer to your tour ticket and the Princess Patter for the correct place and time. Your Shore Excursion staff will be at that location to assist you.

TAXIS

Taxis are available outside the port gates. Confirm your fare with driver before departing.

TRAINS

Trains are available from Naples to Herculaneum, Pompeii and Sorrento. Local currency will be needed for the fare. For more information about the Circumvesuviana inquire at www.vesuviana.it

HYDROFOILS

Hydrofoil service is available from Naples to Capri and Sorrento. Local currency will be needed for the fare. Please inquire at www.volovianare.it

SHOPPING

Naples and the Amalfi Coast offer a wide variety of merchandise, from top fashions to local handicrafts. You'll find good buys in: Leather: Local factories and vendors offer bags, shoes and clothing Jewelry: Beautiful cameos and coral pieces Embroidery: Table linen and crocheted lace are a regional specialty Intarsia: This wood-inlay art form is a centuries-old tradition Popular shopping areas in Naples are along Via Chiaia, Via Dei Mille, Via Roma, Corso Umberto, and Via Duomo.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Banks: Most banks are open Monday through Friday from 8:20 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. and from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Museums: The National Archaeological Museum is open Monday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; closed on Tuesdays. The Royal Palace Museum is open Monday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; closed on Wednesdays.

Shops: Most stores are open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; closed Sundays and on special holidays.

Post Office: There is a post office within the pier area. Open hours are 8:30am to 12:30pm Monday through Friday.

PROPER ATTIRE

Please wear proper attire ashore when planning to visit churches, cathedrals and other sacred places. Shorts for both men and women are considered improper. Women should also cover their bare shoulders.

LOCAL CUISINE - Food Specialties

The Campania region's cuisine is mostly simple fare, using fresh local ingredients. The tomatoes here are exported around the world, and you can see vines hanging outside almost every home. You'll want to try the pasta, which is usually cooked al dente (chewy rather than soft). Some specialties include:

Spaghetti alle vongole: Made with clam sauce, either white or red

Pizza alla marinara: Simple yet tasty pizza made with tomatoes, garlic and oregano

Insalata Caprese: Slices of fresh mozzarella and ripe red tomatoes, garnished with basil

Melanzane alla parmigiana: Fresh eggplant fried and layered with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese

Drink Specialties - The region produces a number of excellent wines, among them:

Whites: Gragnano, Falerno, Lacrima Cristi, Greco di Tufo

Reds: Aglianico, Taurasi, Falerno

It is always recommended that you drink bottled water while in port.

TIPPING

Suggested tipping is 10 percent for good service.

SOME USEFUL WORDS

Yes Si
No No
Yes, please Si grazie
Thank You Grazie
Excuse me, sorry . . . Scusi
Good Morning . . . Buon giorno
Goodbye Arrivederci

PRINCESS CRUISES AGENTS

In case of emergency while you are ashore, please contact:

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Gymnasium ruins

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