

Capri – The Capital of Chic

Capri's two pale limestone-dolomite massifs, Monte Tiberio and Monte Solaro, dominate the island. On the saddle of green land between them lies Capri Town, the fashionable principal town. In its main square, La Piazzetta, and along its myriad of leafy panoramic walks and cobbled lanes are a wealth of designer boutiques and chic restaurants, interspersed with gentrified, pastel coloured residences. The town is flanked by two stylish marinas, where ostentatious yachts and sailboats are moored. The second town of the island is Anacapri, which sits higher up on Monte Solaro. Equally as pretty, but much more residential than Capri Town, Anacapri is closer to the spectacular natural environment of the island.

Its greenery plays host to an abundance of rare wildlife, as well as plants and flowers, many of which cling to the tiny fissures of the rock face. In the environs of Anacapri, on the quiet, narrow lanes of its countryside, you will find the real Capri, free from tourists. We highly recommend the walk along Via Migliara (40 minutes on foot), which begins in the centre of Anacapri and runs along the slopes of Monte Solaro to a stunning lookout point. From here, the cliffs plunge down to the spectacularly turquoise water hundreds of feet below and there is a wonderful view of the coastline to the lighthouse at Punta Carena and beyond. The best places for sunbathing are the rocky private lidos dotted around the coastline.

One of the best known natural phenomena of Capri is the Blue Grotto ("Grotta Azzurra"), one of many sea caves in the cliff walls, which was once believed to have been inhabited by witches and monsters. The grotto is spectacularly illuminated with blue light, refracted through an underwater opening. It is thought to have once been decorated with Roman statues, which must have shimmered eerily in the blue reflections. Getting around Capri is easy without a car. Many taxis and small buses link the island's main sites via the impossibly narrow cliff roads. An alternative to the bus between the Marina Piccola and the Augustus Gardens is Via Krupp, the spectacular twisting walkway which clings to the mountain side.

You can also take a funicular from the Marina Grande (where the hydrofoil arrives from Naples) up to Capri Town. From the main square in Anacapri, a chair lift up to the peak of Monte Solaro offers the less faint hearted a fantastic 360 degree panorama of the island.

Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to Naples with Easyjet, BA, Alitalia or BMI and then take the ferry (40mins) to Capri Island.

Combine With

Stays on the mainland on the Amalfi Coast, or Rome and Tuscany to the north or sleepy Puglia on the East coast

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Capri is the capital of chic. The beautiful rocky island which rises from the Tyrrhenian Sea is just 3 miles south of the tip of the Sorrento peninsula, yet it has a style and ambiance all of its own. The quality of its air and light, its craggy beauty and its astonishing emerald waters have inspired artists, poets and writers to eulogise about it. The most celebrated of its attractions is the astounding Blue Grotto, the sea cave illuminated with limpid blue light, where the Romans are said to have conducted their orgies. Among its illustrious visitors have been D.H. Lawrence, George Bernard Shaw and Graham Greene and it is still a favourite with the glitterati of today. In Roman times Augustus and later Tiberius made it their home, the latter finding time in his debauched existence to erect 12 luxurious villas (dedicated to the 12 divinities of Olympus), whose ruins can still be seen today.

Our Recommended Hotels on Capri

The Capri Boutique Hotel
The Residence
The Little Mill