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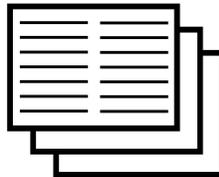
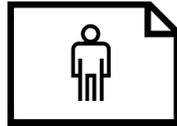
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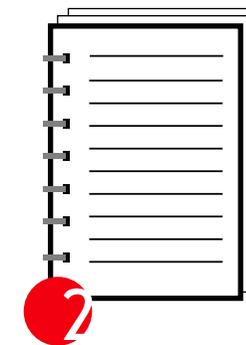
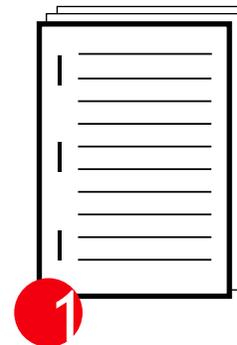
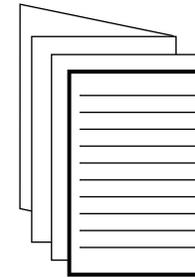
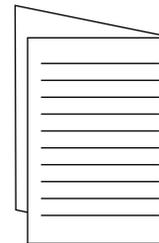
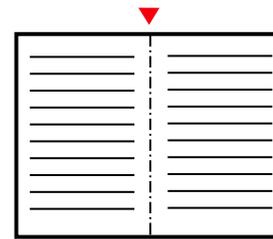
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# assembling the guide



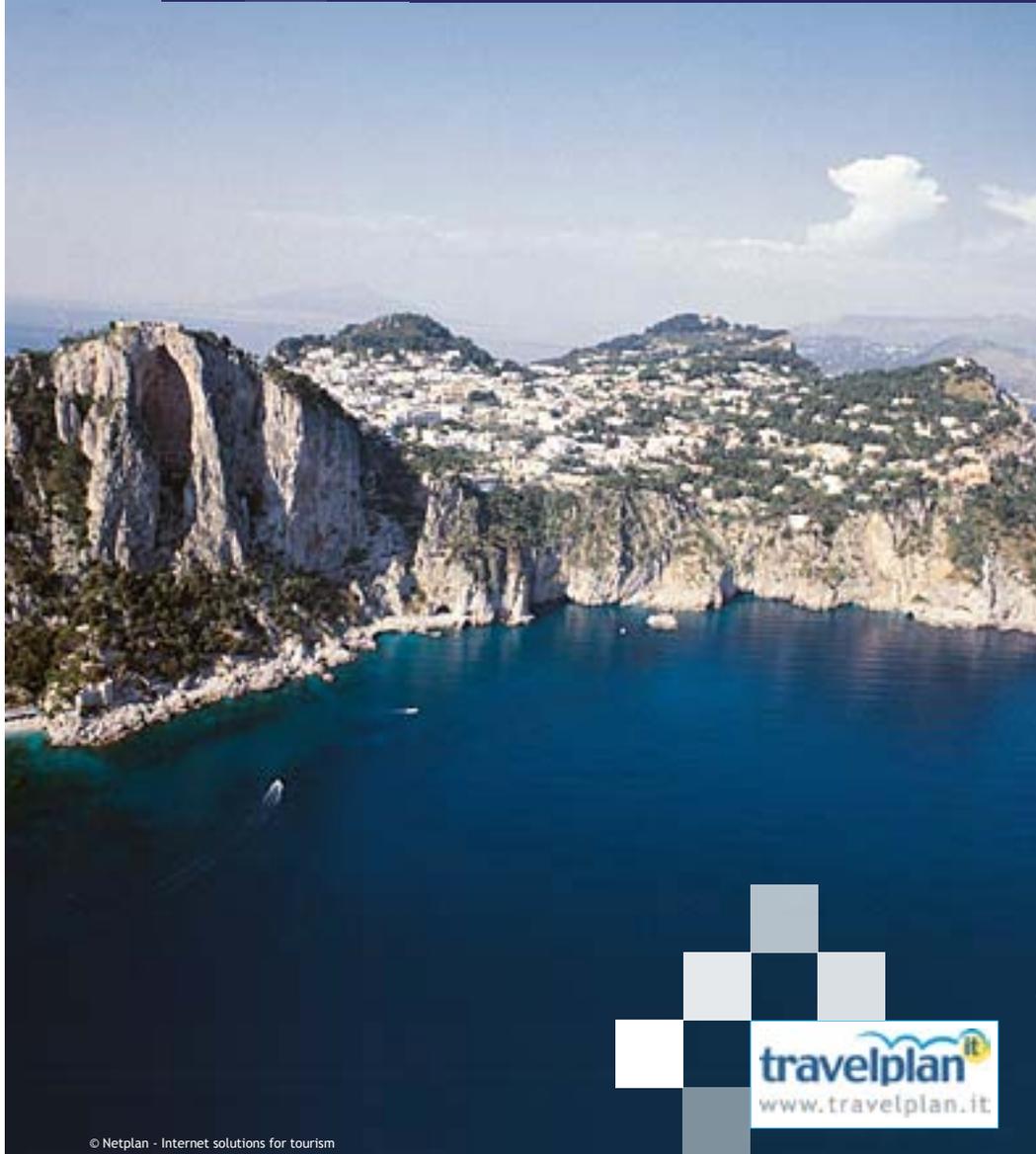
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Congratulations, you are now "EXPERT PUBLISHERS".



# THE CAPRI CITY GUIDE





# Summary



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## History and culture



Capri: Emperor Tiberius

The island of Capri is located in the southern part of the **Bay of Naples** and consists of two plateaus, separated by a fertile plain.

The island has been inhabited since the VIII century B.C., when the Greeks and Phoenicians settled there. However, the first person to really appreciate Capri was the Emperor **Tiberius**, the man who took control of Rome after Augustus. In around 30 A.D., Tiberius had 12 sumptuous villas built for him on the island, including the Villa Jovis, naming each building after a god.

From the fall of the Roman Empire (476 A.D.) until the end of the Early Middle Ages (1000), Capri was under the control of **Naples**, without however being influenced by the political changes that occurred in the ruling city due to the alternation of various dynasties, from the Angevins to the Aragonese. In the meantime, Capri had to deal with its own very different problems that continued to plague it for centuries: it was continuously subjected to pirate raids and left to fend for itself by Naples, meaning that the population had to move away from

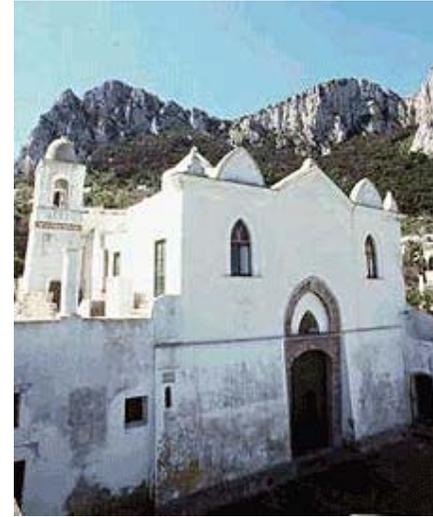
the coast, seeking refuge on the plateaus that rise up in the center of the island. This caused a sort of crash in the island's economy, which primarily relied on fishing, but also led to the creation of the two urban settlements of **Capri** and **Anacapri** (1200).

Between 1200 and 1500, the island came under the control of the Normans and then the Swabians, passing into Spanish hands and then, until the fall of Napoleon, into French hands.

The island's cultural reawakening began in around 1800 thanks to a lively, growing interest from European artists and intellectuals. Attracted by the wonderful climate, the island's location and its natural wonders, the island was subjected to a peaceful invasion by the English, Americans and Germans and consequently began to equip itself with tourist facilities.

In the early 20th century, the island took in some political refugees, including the Russian writer Maxim Gorki and Lenin, followed by the famous Chilean poet **Pablo Neruda** in the 1950s, who lived in exile on the island for several years.

## Churches, Palaces and Monuments



Capri: Church of San Costanzo

The villas built by the Emperor Tiberius, the Charterhouse of San Giacomo, the Phoenician Steps...

### Charterhouse of San Giacomo

The Charterhouse of San Giacomo is a splendid example of Capri-style architecture and was built in the 14th century by Count Giacomo Arcucci, adviser to the queen of Naples, Joan I of Anjou. In the mid 17th century, the Charterhouse was expanded and restored with Baroque elements.

The Charterhouse has two beautiful cloisters, a larger one dating back to the 15th century extension and the smaller, original cloisters from the 14th century.

Today this majestic architectural complex houses a museum, a library and a school.

### Church of San Costanzo

This pretty little Byzantine style church was probably built before the year 1000 and is dedicated to the Patron Saint of Capri, Costanzo.

The church is painted in white throughout

and is located near Marina Grande, in a very attractive setting.

### Villa Jovis

This is the most imposing of the 12 villas built on the island by Emperor Tiberius in around 30 A.D. Villa Jovis overlooks the sea from the top of Monte Tiberio, with a truly spectacular view that embraces the entire Bay of Naples. The Villa covers around 7000 m<sup>2</sup> and has several floors. The enormous cisterns, located at the center of the complex, are considerable and were used supply the emperor and his following with rainwater for drinking and bathing.

### Castello Barbarossa

Of Byzantine origin, the castle became famous in around 1500 because of Barbarossa, the Saracen pirate responsible for violently sacking the island. The castle stands at around 400 meters above sea level.

### Phoenician Steps

Until 1874, this was the only link between Capri and Anacapri. The steps start from Marina Grande di Capri and climb up over the rocks to 200 meters above sea level, until reaching Capodimonte Cliff in Anacapri.

## Places and charm



Capri: the Faraglioni

All the most and spectacular spots on Capri, from the Faraglioni to the Blue Grotto...

### The Blue Grotto

This is a spectacular marine grotto of over 50 meters long and 30 meters wide, where the water takes on a beautiful deep blue colour because of the unique reflections and plays of light created by the sunlight that filters through the mouth of the cave.

### The Faraglioni

Capri's three world famous Faraglioni rise up, majestic and solitary, from the sea to the south-east of the island.

The largest rock, connected to the coast by a thin isthmus of land, is known as "Stella" (star) and is 109 meters high, while the other two, "Faraglione di mezzo" (middle stack) and "Scopolo" (rock), are 81 and 104 meters high respectively.

The only inhabitants of the Faraglioni are a colony of blue lizards, an extremely rare variety of blue reptiles.

### The Natural Arch

This natural arch-shaped attraction was once a cave. Its original structure changed over the centuries due to telluric movements and wind and rain erosion. The Natural Arch is 200 meters high and stands to the east of the island, not far from the coast and its caves.

### Punta Carena

This spot is located at the westernmost tip of the island and is home to a lighthouse, the second most important lighthouse in Italy after that in Genoa. The jagged rocks overhanging the sea, the luxuriant Mediterranean vegetation and the lighthouse itself make Carena Point one of the most beautiful spots on the island.

### The Piazzetta

The scene of 1950s and 1960s Dolce Vita and a setting for love affairs, betrayal, scandals and Hollywood scoops, Piazza Umberto I still maintains its role as the very heart of society life on the island today. Sitting at one of the open air cafe tables beneath the Clock Tower is a ritual that no visitor should miss out on.

## Eating and Drinking



Capri: Capri's cuisine

Capri's cuisine offers a wide range of lively, tasty, healthy and great smelling dishes. The sea that laps the island's shores is full of fish and provides the basis for lots of fish-based recipes, such as grilled scampi and other crustaceans flavored with aromatic herbs. We should also mention the famous **stuffed calamari**, a delicious traditional recipe from Capri with humble origins and a flavor that is appreciated in Capri's most luxurious **restaurants** today.

One of the most well known first courses is **Capri style ravioli**: a thin sheet of homemade pasta that encloses a caciotta cheese, parmesan and marjoram filling, served in a tomato and fresh basil sauce. The latter two ingredients also feature in another famous traditional recipe from the island: **caprese salad**. This unique, light but extremely tasty dish is made from sliced tomatoes and fiordilatte (typical Campanian mozzarella), whole fresh basil leaves and a trickle of excellent extra virgin olive oil.

When it comes to meat, first place clearly goes to the **wild quail**, prepared with a sauce

made from wine, unsalted pancetta and peas fried in the white wine.

As far as regards dessert, we recommend trying the traditional **caprese cake**, made from chocolate and almonds.

Let's conclude this quick journey through Capri's food and wine culture by taking a look at the island's wine. The most famous wine is the **Capri bianco**, made from Falanghina, Greco and Biancolella grapes, and excellent for accompanying crustaceans.

## Shopping



Capri: Via Camerelle street

Capri is a place where you can buy everything and more from the various **artisanal workshops** and **luxury boutiques**. The first category includes numerous wine shops, delicatessens and craft shops where you can buy typical souvenirs such as a bottle of **white wine** made from the island's grapes and a bottled of prized extra virgin olive oil, the famous colorful and creative **Capri sandals** and the equally famous **canvas and cord shoes**. You can also buy wonderful silk and wool fabrics, hand woven using traditional techniques, and great smelling **perfumes**: natural essences enclosed in characteristic ceramic phials. "Carthusia" is a kind of institution. It is the oldest and most famous essence laboratory on the island and has been winning over fashion icons since the 1940s, including Grace Kelly, Jackie Kennedy and modern stars such as Halle Berry, Naomi Campbell and Madonna. This small laboratory creates perfumes using herbs and spices that grow naturally on the island, such as rosemary and wild jasmine, using the same techniques adopted by the Carthusian monks

## Hotels and lodgings



Capri: view of Capri

A wide range of different solutions is available if you are planning a trip to Capri.

The island offers lots of different kinds of accommodation, catering for all requirements and all budgets. Capri's range from five star luxury hotels to two or even one stars, offering varying degrees of comfort and service.

If you want to stay on the island for a longer period of time, we recommend renting one of Capri's splendid villas, available for two or more people. These are ideal for a relaxing family holiday. If your budget will not stretch this far, you could opt to stay at one of **Capri's bed & breakfasts**, where the accessible price is accompanied by a good standard of service and comfort. The more adventurous and least demanding of you could even decide to camp in a tent or caravan.

## Events



Capri: International folklore festival

From April to the end of the summer, the island also comes to life from an artistic and cultural point of view. Concerts are organized almost every evening in the squares or the splendid villas built by Tiberius, as well as painting and sculpture exhibitions, plays and dance performances. Our **Capri Guide** proposes a small selection of unmissable events should you find yourself on the island or nearby.

Throughout the summer season it is best to book your hotel on Capri plenty of time in advance. This wonderful island is a destination that attracts visitors of all nationalities!

### **Festival of Sant'Antonio - July 4th**

On July 4th every year, the patron saint of the town of Anacapri is celebrated with a large rustic festival.

### **Festival of San Costantino - July 30th**

On July 30th every year, the patron saint of the town of Capri, San Costantino, is celebrated.

### **International Folklore Festival - August**

During the 1st week of August, Anacapri plays host to a range of events in its squares, featuring musical bands and folk dance companies.

### **Settembrata Anacaprese - September**

A large rustic festival for celebrating the grape harvest: 10 days of celebration dedicated to the island's typical produce, including shows, competitions and games.

### **Capri Film Festival - December**

Every December since 1991, Capri has hosted an international festival dedicated to the cinema. The event attracts Italian artistes, Hollywood stars and independent filmmakers keen to present their works in this exclusive location.

## La Dolce Vita



Capri: Clock Tower

Since the 1950s, Capri has been one of the favorite destinations for film stars, assuming the role of "society island" par excellence. During those years, the small charming Piazza Umberto I, affectionately known as the "piazzetta", was the setting for illustrious love affairs and summer betrayals, immediately immortalized by the visiting paparazzi. Many of the most influential fashion icons, from Audrey Hepburn to Jackie Onassis, spent long periods on the island, turning heads and launching fashions, such as the recently undusted Capri pants and canvas and cord sandals. During that period **Hollywood stars** became an integral part of the environment and it was almost no longer surprising to see Liz Taylor and Lana Turner, Jack Lemmon and Kirk Douglas walk through Capri's sunny, picturesque little streets. Capri still preserves this elitist society characteristic, so much so that nothing seems to have changed when you sit down to sip an aperitif in one of the cages beneath the **Clock Tower** in the Piazzetta, adding to Capri's

charm. If you are looking for fun you won't be disappointed: Capri and Anacapri are home to numerous restaurants, **wine bars**, **lounge bars** and other night spots where you can spend the evening and night. The most famous and popular spots include "Anema e Core", a famous night spot located in Via Sella Orta, the "O Guarracino" tavern where you can listen to some great Neapolitan music and the "Lanterna Verde", an elegant wine bar in Anacapri.

## Walks on Capri



Capri: Villa Jovis

In order to discover the island's countless architectural and natural attractions, our **Capri Guide** suggests three short itineraries on the trail of enchanting spots and fascinating monuments. All the trips start from Piazzetta Umberto I, in the heart of the town of Capri, and can be traveled by bicycle, moped, car or on foot, although the latter solution can be very tiring in certain cases.

In order to visit Villa Jovis, the splendid residence of the Emperor Tiberius, start from Piazzetta Umberto I and turn into Via delle Botteghe, continuing straight on through Via Fuorlovido, Via Croce and, finally, Via Tiberio. After visiting the villa, you could dedicate some time to other attractions in the vicinity, such as the Church of Santa Maria del Soccorso, the Cave of Tiberius and the Lighthouse Tower.

The walk that leads towards **Marina Piccola** from the Piazzetta is extremely beautiful. You can get to the beach by following Via Vittorio Emanuele until coming to Via

Matteotti, which joins up with the famous **Via Krupp** after a series of hairpin bends. This road takes its name from the German industrialist who owns some land on the island and is considered "almost a work of art" because of its splendid views and unusual shape. By following Via Matteotti, you will have the chance to stop off at the wonderful Charterhouse of San Giacomo, an attractive ex Carthusian monastery.

The **Belvedere Tragara** is another spot that is well worth a visit. Take Via Vittorio Emanuele from the Piazzetta until coming to via Camerelle: continue straight on until coming to the Evangelical Church and take Via Tragara that comes to an end at the Belvedere. After admiring the wonderful view of the Faraglioni you could visit some of the beautiful caves located in the vicinity: the Grotta di Forca and the Grotta di Porto Tragara.

## Visiting the island by boat



Capri: Blue Grotto

**Travelplan.it** has prepared a nature itinerary in order to enable to discover and experience all Capri's attractions. The best thing is to rent a motor boat and travel right around the island, stopping here and there at the spots that interest you most. Please bear in mind that this trip requires a whole day, from dawn (or almost) to dusk. Starting from the port of Marina Grande, where you will find lots of boats and motorboats for hire, skirt the island, starting from the western side. You will pass some beaches and, after passing Punta Grandola, you will come to the splendid Blue Grotto.

Continue in the same direction, passing Cala del Rio and Cala di Limmo until coming to Punta Carena and the lighthouse of the same name.

After stopping at this beautiful, timeless spot, continue on and you will soon come to the point in the coastline that is home to the greatest concentration of natural caves: Grotta Vela, Grotta dei Santi, Grotta dell'Insurro and then, heading towards Cala San Costanzo, Grotta Rossa, Grotta Verde

and Grotta Ruffolo. Once you have passed Marina Piccola, you will find yourself face to face with the majestic and highly emotive spectacle of the Faraglioni, the symbol of Capri.

On the eastern side of the island, we recommend visiting the Grotta Bianca and the Grotta Meravigliosa. The former is accessible from the sea, while the other is accessible by climbing some steps (which can be accessed from a landing).



## Capri web sites

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- Chianti, Valdelsa, Valdarno
- Comacchio's Beaches
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- Courmayeur Monte Bianco
- Filba & Capraia
- Florence
- Garda Lake - Eastern Side
- Ischia
- Jesolo & Frazione
- Lucca & Garfagnana
- Madonna di Campiglio
- Pinzola, Val Rendena
- Merano
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