





Southern Italy

NATURE ITSELF SEEMS A LITTLE WILDER IN SOUTHERN ITALY,

where a single landscape can encompass smoking volcanoes, fertile green valleys, steep sea cliffs and cobalt seas. Italy's greatest hits may lie further to north, but the south may actually tug harder at the heartstrings, with its friendly and voluble people, piquant culinary traditions, wild backcountry and splendid, palm-fanned cities.

With the exception of Naples' notorious traffic, this is also perfect driving country. Naples, Vesuvius and the Amalfi Coast are Grand Tour musts. But lesser-known routes reward for their pure surprise factor, from Cilento's pristine coast to the ski slopes of Sicily's Madonie Mountains.

Aeolian Islands Views across cobalt seas from Lipari to Vulcano (Trip 35)
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Southern Italy



Classic Trip

25 Shadow of Vesuvius 2–3 Days

Head from Naples' tumult to Pompeii's long-buried mysteries. (p273)

26 Southern Larder 3–4 Days

Pair raw beauty with exuberant cuisine on Campania's coast. (p283)

Classic Trip

27 Amalfi Coast 7 Days

A stunning coastline of vertical landscapes and chic resort towns. (p291)

28 Cilento Coastal Trail 4–5 Days

A rugged peninsula where mountains meet the pristine sea. (p301)

29 Puglia's Pilgrim Trail 4 Days

Northern Puglia's castles, dazzling coastline and deep cultural roots. (p309)

30 Salento Surprises 5–7 Days

From sunny beaches to Lecce's madcap baroque in Italy's heel. (p317)

31 Across the Lucanian Appennines 5–7 Days

From idyllic Maratea, cross Basilicata's mountains to otherworldly Matera. (p325)

32 The Calabrian Wilderness 8–10 Days

Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Italy's least-explored region. (p333)

Classic Trip

33 Wonders of Ancient Sicily 12–14 Days

Sicily's age-old appeal, from Arab roots to Greek splendours. (p343)



DON'T MISS

Vietri sul Mare

Bring back a piece of the Amalfi Coast from this seaside idyll, renowned for its bright-hued ceramics, on Trip [27](#)

Capo Palinuro

Hike this rocky promontory for gorgeous views of the Cilento coast, followed by a snorkel in its cobalt waters, on Trip [28](#)

Matera

Visit Matera, where ancient cave dwellings are transformed into wine bars and boutique sleeps, on Trip [31](#)

Hotel Ristorante Pomieri

At this lonely inn, mountain-grown ingredients are transmuted into unforgettable meals, on Trip [34](#)

Monte Fossa delle Felci

Pack a picnic starring the prized local Malvasia wine, then climb Salina's highest peak for dazzling views on Trip [35](#)

[34](#) Into the Madonie Mountains 3–5 Days

Escape from Sicily's coast into this hiker's rugged paradise. (p357)

[35](#) Sicilian Island Hop 7 Days

After climbing smouldering Etna, strike out for the Aeolian's volcanic mysteries. (p365)

[36](#) Sicilian Baroque 5 Days

Gawk at the sumptuous cities and towns of Sicily's scenic southeast. (p373)

[37](#) Emerald Coast 5–7 Days

See why the Aga Khan bet his fortune on this splendid stretch of Sardinia. (p381)

[38](#) Historic Sardinia 7 Days

Cross Sardinia's wild interior in search of the island's Bronze Age past. (p389)