



## **'Italy's sun-kissed south', a private trip for Janis Stahlhut & friends.**

*Itinerary updated 17 March 2021.*

**Trip start:** 6pm, Sunday 18 September 2022, Naples.

**Trip finish:** Midday, Friday 30 September 2022, Naples.

### **Trip highlights:**

- The vibrant city of Naples.
- The ghostly ruins of Pompeii.
- The majestic Amalfi Coast.
- The ancient cave-dwellings of Matera.
- Small villages in the Cilento region.
- The legendary island of Capri.

Thirteen days full of magnificent walking, food and cultural experiences with expert local guides. Special features of the trip include:

- Short and long hikes most days. (Short hikes 3-5 miles. Long hikes: 6-8 miles). More challenging hikes will also be available some days.
- The freedom to opt out of the hikes and spend more time exploring the small towns and villages we'll be staying in.
- Experiences of the best in each region's cuisine.

Several dinners will be pre-arranged for the group and planned to showcase the local culinary style. Italy's cuisine is world-renowned. Perhaps the best way to experience it is to arrive at the table hungry after a day in the fresh air walking through the villages and countryside. You'll enjoy an incredible range of cheeses, breads, pasta, fruit, vegetables, meats, desserts and more, together with excellent local wines.

We'll stay 12 nights in boutique 3- and 4-star hotels, each of them personally inspected and selected by our guides. We'll travel in private buses and spacious vans, and enjoy several short trips by boat or ferry.

Our guides: Dual-citizens of Italy and New Zealand, Marina Mantovani and Anthony Norris have been guiding hiking and cultural tours in Italy since 2002. Together they run their own company Tamarillo Active Travel.

[www.tamarilloactivetravel.com](http://www.tamarilloactivetravel.com)



## More about the destinations:

**Naples.** Italy's third-largest city is one of its oldest, most artistic and most surprising. With its fine culinary traditions, stately buildings and vibrant street-scenes Napoli is an Italian masterpiece - a city of unexpected elegance and style.



**Vesuvius and Pompeii.** The volcano Vesuvius is prominent on Napoli's skyline and looms over the once-bustling town of Pompeii. Buried by an eruption in 79AD Pompeii is now a vast and well-preserved archaeological site where visitors can walk down streets and enter houses, temples, shops and theatres more than 2000 years old.



**The Amalfi Coast.** This southern Italian region is synonymous with sunshine and *la dolce vita*, the good life. From the seaside towns of Amalfi and Positano the hills rise steeply with terraces of gardens, vineyards, lemon and olive trees. An ancient network of trails connects the cultivations and villages, offering hikers grand views over the Tyrrhenian Sea and along the coast.



**Matera.** Further south and inland from the Amalfi Coast lies the truly remarkable town of Matera. Inhabited since the stone-age, over the millennia hundreds of natural caves have been enlarged and shaped to become subterranean dwellings, shrines, churches and stores, many of them still in use today.



**Cilento.** The Cilento region is one of Italy's lesser-known gems. Between its rocky coastline and high mountains sit timeless villages and a beautiful national park. Our base in Cilento will be the small village of Pisciotta, situated on the hillside high above the sea, surrounded by groves of ancient olive trees.

**Capri.** Off the tip of the Amalfi peninsula lies the island of Capri, a beguiling mix of natural beauty and sophisticated charm. Footpaths lead past stylish villas and rustic gardens to breathtaking viewpoints out to other islands and back to the Italian mainland.



## Itinerary.

<b>Day 1:</b> Sunday 18 Sept	<b>Napoli (Naples).</b> Individual group members can check in to their hotel rooms anytime from 2pm onward. The official start-time for the trip is 6pm. We'll rendezvous at the hotel for pre-dinner drinks and introductions followed by a stroll to the venue of a special 'Welcome to Italy' dinner.  Accommodation: Decumani Hotel de Charme (4-star), Naples. <i>www.decumani.com/en/</i> Meals included: dinner.
<b>Day 2:</b> Monday 19 Sept	<b>Napoli to Pompeii to the Amalfi Coast.</b> From Naples we'll drive (45 minutes) to near the summit of the dormant volcano Vesuvius. Guided by a volcanologist we'll hike a trail not open to the public around the crater, learning about Vesuvius explosive past. From the crater-trail spectacular views extend in every direction.  From Vesuvius we'll drive (35 minutes) to Pompeii, stopping along the way for lunch at the winery <i>Cantina del Vesuvius</i> . Pompeii is one of Europe's most compelling archaeological sites. Here we'll be guided around by an archaeologist on a private tour (2 hours 30).  Around 7pm we'll reach the seaside town of Amalfi. The evening is free and the guides will provide a list of recommended eateries nearby.  Accommodation: Hotel Residence (4-star), Amalfi. <i>www.residencehotel-amalfi.it/en/index</i> Meals included: breakfast, lunch.



*Amalfi.*

<p><b>Day 3:</b> Tuesday 20 Sept</p>	<p><b>The Amalfi Coast.</b> A short and scenic drive leads from Amalfi up to the cliff-top town of Ravello, famous for its beautiful gardens and stupendous views.</p> <p>From Ravello we'll walk down through the Val di Ferriere nature reserve back to Amalfi, with a self-catered picnic en-route. In the late-afternoon you might like to head to the beach for a swim, and/or to walk on to Amalfi's smaller neighbor, Atrani. In the evening we'll enjoy an al fresco dinner together in one of Amalfi's small piazza's (squares).</p> <p>Accommodation: 2<sup>nd</sup> night at the 4-star Hotel Residence, Amalfi. Meals included: breakfast, dinner.</p>
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<p><b>Day 4:</b> Wed 21 Sept</p>	<p><b>The Amalfi Coast.</b> Short and long hikes along the stunning <i>Sentiero degli Dei</i>, 'Pathway of the Gods'. This trail starts high up in the hillside town of Bomerano and descends gradually down to Positano on the coast.</p> <p>The afternoon is free to enjoy Positano, where colorful, sun-bleached houses sit in tiers on the hillside above the sea. The town's lanes are lined with wisteria, bougainvillea and palms; small fishing boats sit on the pebbly beach or at anchor in the harbor. Ferries run regularly along the Amalfi Coast. You'll be provided with a timetable and a ticket so you can make your own way from Positano back to our accommodation in Amalfi whenever it suits. (Ferry trip duration: 20 minutes).</p> <p>Accommodation: 3<sup>rd</sup> night at the 4-star Hotel Residence, Amalfi. Meals included: breakfast.</p>
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*'Pathway of the Gods', Amalfi Coast.*

<p><b>Day 5:</b> Thurs 22 Sept</p>	<p><b>Amalfi to Matera.</b> At 9am we'll travel by ferry (35 minutes) along the Amalfi Coast to the town of Salerno. From there we'll drive (2 hours 30) to Matera, stopping en-route a couple of times for the chance to buy snacks, drinks, etc.</p> <p>At 4pm an historian-guide will lead us around a part of nearby Murgia National Park known as <i>La Belvedere</i> (translation: beautiful view). The area is notable for the many shrines and shelters carved into caves and decorated with ornate frescoes. A deep, narrow ravine divides La Belvedere from Matera making it an ideal spot from where to view and photograph the ancient town, and to begin to understand why it is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>At 7pm we'll re-gather for a stroll through the heart of Matera to dinner.</p> <p>Accommodation: Basiliani hotel (3-star), Matera. <a href="http://www.basilianihotel.com">www.basilianihotel.com</a> Meals included: breakfast, dinner.</p>
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<p><b>Day 6:</b> Friday 23 Sept</p>	<p><b>Matera.</b> This morning's hike is a guided walk through Matera. Continuously inhabited for more than 9000 years, the town holds layer upon layer of human history. The walk ends in the city center with various lunch options available all around. The afternoon is free to explore Matera at your own pace.</p> <p>Accommodation: 2<sup>nd</sup> night in Basiliani hotel, Matera. Meals included: breakfast.</p>
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<p><b>Day 7:</b> Saturday 24 Sept</p>	<p><b>Matera to Cilento.</b> At 9am we'll drive (3 hours 45) to our base for the next 3 nights, Pisciotta. Along the way we'll take a break to stretch our legs with a hike around the Palinuro peninsula (2 miles, 1 hour 15).</p> <p>On arrival in Pisciotta our guides will lead a short walk around the small town. This will serve the dual purpose of introducing the local history and helping folks get familiar with the town's labyrinthine lay-out. After settling in to our accommodation we'll head out to a nearby restaurant for dinner.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Marulivo (3-star), in Pisciotta, Cilento. <a href="http://www.marulivohotel.it/eng/index.htm">www.marulivohotel.it/eng/index.htm</a> Meals included: breakfast, dinner.</p>
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*Pisciotta village, Cilento.*

<p><b>Day 8:</b> Sunday 25 Sept</p>	<p><b>Cilento.</b> Cilento National Park is the 2<sup>nd</sup>-largest National Park in Italy, an area of rich cultural and natural history. Today's short and long hikes follow quiet trails through wilderness and olive groves linking ancient villages.</p> <p>In the evening you are most welcome to join the guides for dinner at renowned sea-food restaurant <i>Ristorante Angiolina</i>. Alternatively, there are other dining options within walking distance of our hotel.</p> <p>Accommodation: 2<sup>nd</sup> night at Hotel Marulivo, Pisciotta. Meals included: breakfast.</p>
<p><b>Day 9:</b> Monday 26 Sept</p>	<p><b>Cilento.</b> From Pisciotta a scenic drive (45 minutes) leads the seaside village of Marina di Camerota. From here we'll hike a coastal trail (4 miles, 2 hours 30) to isolated Punta Infreschi beach for a self-catered picnic and the opportunity for a swim. We'll return to Marina di Camerota by boat along a beautiful, sparsely-populated coastline.</p> <p>At 6pm we'll meet at our hotel for a 30-minute stroll in the sunset (with the option of traveling by vehicle) to dinner at <i>Perbacco</i>, owned by Vito Puglia, one of the founders of the Slow Food movement. Vito will talk briefly on the 'slow food' philosophy (nothing to do with slow service) and serve a meal highlighting Cilento's traditional cuisine.</p> <p>Accommodation: 3<sup>rd</sup> night at Hotel Marulivo, Pisciotta. Meals included: breakfast.</p>

<p><b>Day 10:</b> Tuesday 27 Sept</p>	<p><b>Cilento to Capri.</b> At 9am we'll drive (1 hour 30) to the Temples of Paestum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site for a guided walk through some of the best-preserved monuments of Magna Graecia, the ancient Greek colony that once covered much of southern Italy. From there we'll drive (1 hour 30) to Naples to board the high-speed ferry to the island of Capri. (Ferry duration: 50 minutes). Upon arrival we'll travel by private bus (15 minutes) to Anacapri, for a walk through the quieter, more understated of Capri's two main centers. The evening is free; you'll be provided with a map and a short-list of recommended eateries around Anacapri.</p> <p>Accommodation: Villa Ceselle boutique hotel (3-star), Anacapri, Capri. <a href="http://www.villaceselle.com/">www.villaceselle.com/</a> Meals included: breakfast.</p>
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*Monte Solaro, Capri.*

<p><b>Day 11:</b> Wed 28 Sept</p>	<p><b>Capri.</b> From Capri's town-square narrow footpaths lead out past elegant villas and well-tended gardens to lookouts over dramatic escarpments. During the guided walk we'll learn about the island's history and some of the interesting characters that have made it their home over the centuries. We'll be back in the center of Capri by 1pm. After a break for lunch you can choose to head back to Anacapri by bus or to set off on a hike along the rugged <i>Passatiello</i> trail, once upon a time the main route connecting the island's two main centres. Another option is to circumnavigate Capri by boat, and to enjoy close-up views of sea-caves and sea-cliffs.</p> <p>Accommodation: 2<sup>nd</sup> night in Villa Ceselle hotel, Anacapri, Capri. Meals included: breakfast.</p>
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<p><b>Day 12:</b> Thursday 29 Sept</p>	<p><b>Capri.</b> A free morning to stroll along Anacapri's car-free lanes and to visit its museum, churches, boutique stores, villas and public gardens. After lunch we'll walk up Monte Solaro, the highest point on the island (1932 feet). Anyone not wanting to hike the uphill stretch can take the chair-lift.</p> <p>From the summit of Monte Solaro views extend over Capri and out across the Tyrrhenian Sea to other islands, the Amalfi Coast and the volcano Vesuvius. The walk continues down the escarpment trail to Punta Carena, the south-west point of the island.</p> <p>At 7pm we'll rendezvous for the last meal of the tour, at the famed island restaurant, <i>la Gelsomina</i>.</p> <p>Accommodation: 3<sup>rd</sup> night in Villa Ceselle hotel, Anacapri, Capri. Meals included: breakfast, dinner.</p>
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<p><b>Day 13:</b> Friday 30 Sept</p>	<p><b>Capri to Napoli (Naples).</b> At 10am we'll travel by private bus (15 minutes) to Capri's ferry terminal to board the 11am ferry to Naples. The tour officially ends at midday at Naples' ferry terminal. For onward travel taxis will be available to transfer people to Naples International Airport or central railway station (15 minutes; station name: <i>Napoli Centrale</i>).</p> <p>Accommodation: none Meals included: breakfast.</p>
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## **Italy's sun-kissed south, September 2022, for Janis Stahlhut & friends: price, payment and cancellation details.**

*Itinerary updated 17 March 2021.*

Tamarillo Active Travel offers trips in Italy, New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. Being based in New Zealand, their on-line payment system processes transactions in NZ dollars. This is why the tour is priced in NZ dollars. Currency converter: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

### **Tour price:**

- For twin/double rooms throughout: NZ\$5500 per person, equivalent to US\$3956 at today's exchange rate.
- For single rooms with private bathrooms each night of the tour add NZ\$875 to the tour price, equivalent to US\$630 at today's exchange rate.

This price is based on a minimum group size of 10 people. The price will be reconfirmed in March 2022, and includes:

- 12 nights accommodation, (4 nights in 4-star hotels, 8 nights in 3-star hotels).
- Tamarillo Active Travel's Marina Mantovani and Anthony Norris traveling with the group throughout as tour managers, interpreters, drivers and guides.
- Additional local guides, access & admission fees for the following experiences:
  - The hike around the crater of Vesuvius led by a volcanologist-guide (day 2).
  - The expert-guided tour of Pompeii's archaeological site (day 2).
  - The walk around Murgia National Park, Matera, led by an historian-guide (day 5).
  - The guided walk through Matera (day 6).
  - The visit to the Temples of Paestum, led by an historian-guide (day 10).
- All vehicle transfers and support from the group's departure from Naples on day 2 through to the group's return to Naples on day 13.
- Ferry travel along the Amalfi Coast (days 4 and 5).
- Water-taxi travel from Punta Infreschi to Marina di Camerota (day 9).
- Round-trip fast-ferry travel between Napoli and Capri (days 10 and 13).
- 12 x breakfasts (ie: each day of the tour).
- 1 x lunch.
- 6 x three-course dinners including wine, water, coffee and tea.
- Marina and Anthony's assistance, advice and support with any travel that group members may be doing in Italy before and after the tour.

### **Payment process:**

1. An initial deposit of NZ\$250 per person is needed to confirm your place on the trip, or NZ\$350 per person for those joining the pre-trip *48 Hours in Naples* add-on.
2. A second deposit of NZ\$750 is required 6 months out from the trip start-date, or NZ\$900 per person for those joining the pre-trip *48 Hours in Naples* add-on.
3. The final balance is due 2 months in advance of the trip start date.

**Booking conditions:** All cancellations following confirmed bookings will be charged at 25% of the amount due at that point in the payment process. Cancellations within 1 week of the trip start-date will be charged at 90%. Cancellations once the trip is underway will be charged at 100%.

All participants on a Tamarillo Active Travel tour must arrange their own travel insurance. This should include cover for the cancellation charges noted above, personal injury, emergency medical treatment and transport costs, itinerary changes, delays, interruptions, and loss of or damage to personal items.

Changing ground costs and exchange rates may affect the tour price. Tamarillo Active Travel reserves the right to alter the tour price if necessary, but will only do so in the case of significant and unexpected increases in costs.