

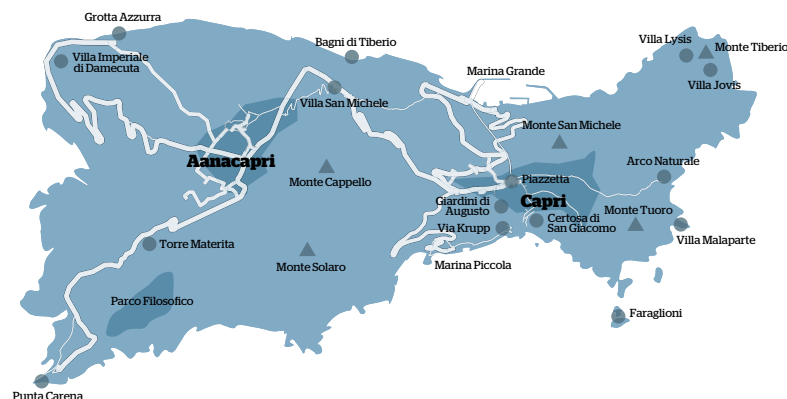
Captivating and charismatic, the island of Capri has been luring visitors to its seductive shores for centuries. This is super-smart, glitzy-glam Italy at its best

Island of plenty

Do

There is much to do and see on Capri; from the sun-filled squares with their chic boutiques, restaurants and bars, to the water-based activities at the Blue Grotto, Natural Arch and surrounding waters. The bustling capital Capri Town to the east of the island has a tempting mix of galleries and boutique-lined cobbled streets. After a relaxing stroll taking in the heady scents of expensive perfume spilling out of elegant doorways, take a seat at one of the many cafes that line Piazza Umberto. The open-air square is the place to see and be seen on the island.

Designer-shopping and celebrity spotting aside, Capri's history is rich and long. Back in the 1st century AD the Emperor Tiberius took refuge on the island and his arrival marked the beginning of the island's tradition of extravagance. The ruins of his main residence, Villa Jovis, still stand on the northeastern side of the island. Centuries later Capri entered the tourist destination limelight with young aristocrats coming to visit the iridescent Blue Grotto during the Grand Tour - an 18th-century globetrotting



—
by Miriam Cain

Sample Capri during a charter along the Amalfi Coast. Contact your nearest Camper & Nicholsons charter broker for a selection of yachts cruising the area and a detailed itinerary.

Right

Capri's history is rich and long, with a tradition of beauty and extravagance

rite-of-passage. Today no longer a well-kept secret, the grotto attracts crowds to view the daily show of light illumination created by sunlight passing through an underwater cavity and reflecting off the cave walls. Go for a swim during the late afternoon when the day-trippers have gone back to the mainland.

Although there are no beaches as such, Capri has some wonderful walks along shoulder-width paths bordering pretty gardens or wild terrain. The ascent to Monte Solaro winds along a clearly marked path and boasts spectacular views across the Bay of Naples and, on a clear day, the cone of Vesuvius. Here you will find the quieter town of Anacapri, noted for its understated charm and spectacular views. For an easier hike,

there is a trail from Capri to Marina Piccola bay, and for something even more demanding, the Phoenician Steps are a steep climb.

Sleep

When not berthed in Capri on board your own yacht, the island's most interesting hotel to visit is the Grand Hotel Quisisana. Formerly a 19th-century sanatorium, the hotel has a reputation as the place to be if you wish to take in the Capri scene - so much so that it is often surrounded by paparazzi during the peak summer months. Alternatively, the Capri Palace and Spa has fabulous views over the Bay of Naples, a Michelin-starred restaurant and a jazz bar. Encompassing the essence of Capri's timeless beauty, the boutique hotel Punta Tragara is just

a short walk from the Piazzetta and boasts enchanting views over the Faraglioni rocks.

Eat + drink

Join the A-list on the terrace of Quisi at the Grand Hotel Quisisana and take in the island's glamorous social scene before retiring for dinner at the hotel's fashionable restaurant RendezVous.

Capri absolutely sparkles after dark, with the Piazzetta at the heart of the island's glamorous nightlife. People-watch from one of the café-bars, which stay open until the early hours (Al Piccolo is the oldest). The best-known club is Anema e Core (Heart and Soul), located just around the corner from the square. For a quieter ambiance, the wine bar at the La Capannina restaurant is ideal for a night-cap or quiet conversation.

Shop

The island is home to many local shops of the Italian fashion houses, including Dolce & Gabbana and Roberto Cavalli. La Parisienne is the best place for Capri pants - you can order a made-to-measure pair and have them delivered to your yacht the next day.

