

# SORRENTO



The final optional weekend tour of the semester will take us down to (hopefully) sunny Sorrento. This beach side town on Italy's southwest coast is in one of the most beautiful and stunning locations, thanks to the commanding presence of Mt. Vesuvius, the volcano that caused Pompeii's destruction (read on to find out more...). Nowhere will you find such a mix of relaxed Italian life, dramatic views and fascinating history.

Below is a sample itinerary;

## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**PM** After class depart Florence by Train to Naples followed by Coach Transfer to Sorrento. Arrive in Sorrento and check in to our hotel.

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**AM/PM** Full Day excursion to the beautiful Island of Capri. It's a short hop by ferry to this fabulous place. We will explore the Island, firstly taking a boat tour, then by private minibus.



## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**AM** Optional Excursions available for Amalfi Coast Sightseeing or excursion to Mount Vesuvius, weather and conditions permitting. (Extra Cost maybe involved).

**PM** Freetime to explore Sorrento at your leisure



## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**AM** Check out of hotel. Transfer to Pompeii for a privately guided tour of the ruins of this amazing Roman city.

**PM** Transfer to Naples with a quick stop off for final pictures and souvenirs. Return to Florence by train. We aim to arrive back in Florence by late evening.

The weekend tour to Sorrento includes; 3 night's accommodation in a tourist class hotel on a bed and breakfast basis, round trip transportation from Florence to Sorrento including other transfers where specified, entrances and privately guided tours where specified, the services of an AIFS Tour Manager who will be with the group for the entire weekend.

Meals others than those detailed above will be at the student's expense.

The cost of this tour is approximately **€325** based on an enrolment of 25 students. Limited spaces.

Please note the above itinerary is subject to change.

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## Things to See and Do...

The wonders of Sorrento and this area of Italy are numerous, however below is a brief outline of some of the things you will see on this tour and other places you might want to check out.

## Capri and the Blue Grotto

“Chic” and “exclusive” are words that spring to mind when thinking of Capri. Shop and restaurant owners adorn their windows with the photographs of many a Hollywood star to draw the crowds. Capri was also home to the Roman Emperor Tiberius and it is still possible to see his villa. Capri town is reached by a panoramic cable car ride or a steep but pleasant and winding walk up a sequence of alleys. Make sure you try the local dish – a simple yet delicious combination of mozzarella, tomatoes and basil. The Blue Grotto is a small cave accessible only by boat. It gets its name as sunlight, passing through an underwater cavity and shining through the seawater, creates a blue reflection that illuminates the cavern. It is a wonder to see with many legends surrounding it. There are a few statues inside as well, each with its own history.



## Pompeii

The city of Pompeii came to notoriety in 79 AD when the nearby volcano, Vesuvius erupted and engulfed the city in ash, killing everything and everyone who had not evacuated. Today you can wander around the ruins and, due to preservation by the ash, get a real feel for what Roman life was like when the eruption hit. Visiting Pompeii is like stepping back in time – an amazing insight in to history.



## Vesuvius



As soon as you arrive you will notice this huge Volcano towering over the peninsula. Vesuvius sets a dramatic backdrop to the breathtaking views you will see whilst you are in Sorrento. Officially classified as ‘dormant’ the volcano has been sleeping since 1944, with volcanologists keeping a watchful eye for any signs of activity. For the brave and fearless among you, you can actually climb to the summit and look down in to the crater; you will sometimes see some faint wisps of smoke – a small sign of the huge power of this sleeping giant.