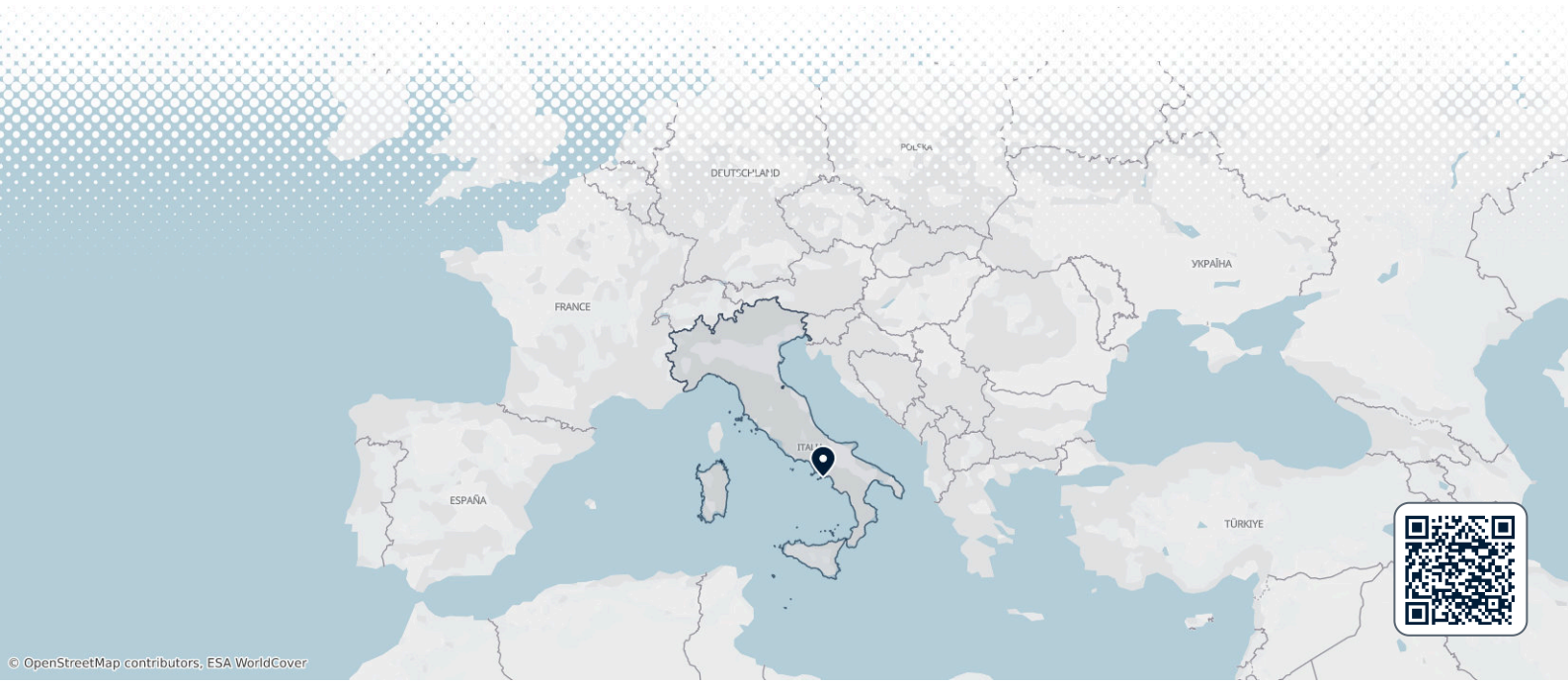


Positano

Campania · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Positano is a small town on the Amalfi Coast, west of Amalfi and south of Naples. Pastel houses are stacked up a steep cliff, from a pebble beach to the coast road far above. There are almost no streets in the old centre. Instead, lanes and long stairways link the hotels, shops and churches.

It is a place for slow days: a swim, a long lunch, a boat ride and the view at sunset. It is also a good base for the Path of the Gods and for boats to Capri and Amalfi. Expect high prices and big crowds in summer, and many steps everywhere. The coast is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

When to visit

May, June and September are the best months: warm days, a warm sea and fewer crowds than in high summer. July and August are hot and very busy, and prices peak. Ferries and most beach clubs run from about April to October. From November to March many hotels and restaurants close and rain is frequent, but the town is quiet.

The biggest event is the feast of the Assumption on **15 August**, with a procession and fireworks over the bay.

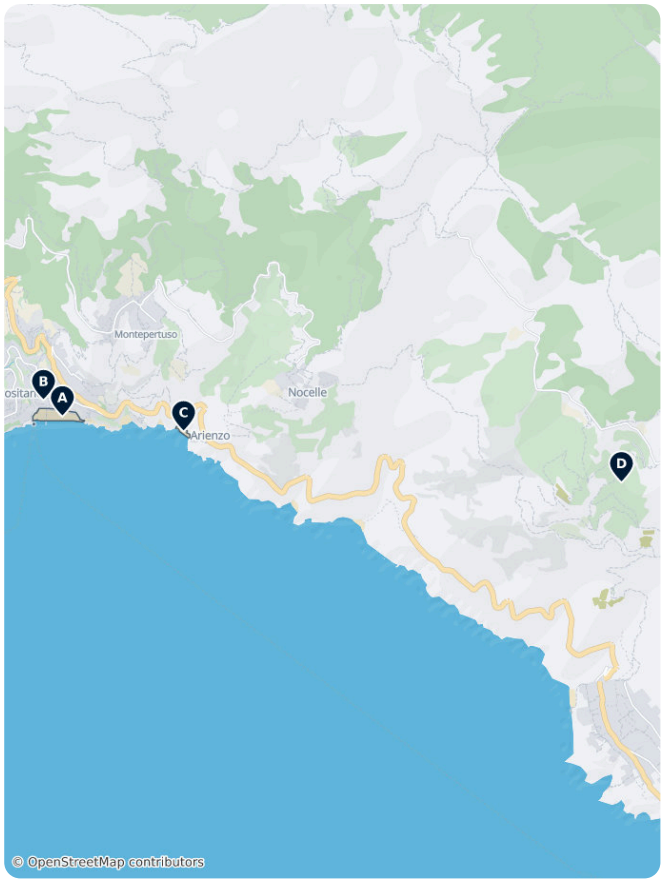
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 16° Feels like 8°	9° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for hiking	13° / 16° Feels like 9°	8° / 4°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	14° / 18° Feels like 11°	10° / 5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	17° / 21°	12° / 8°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 25°	16° / 12°	Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29°	20° / 16°	24 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	27° / 30°	22° / 20°	28 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	28° / 31°	23° / 20°	27 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	20° / 16°	Humid air · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 24°	17° / 13°	
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	17° / 21°	13° / 8°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 17° Feels like 10°	10° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

Most sights sit around the main beach, at the bottom of the town. Allow time for the stairs between them.



- A Spiaggia Grande is the town's main beach and its arrival point by sea. Ferries and boats leave from its small pier. Part of the beach is free, and the rest is beach clubs with sunbeds and umbrellas.
- B Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta stands just above the beach. Its dome of yellow, green and blue tiles is the symbol of Positano. Inside, a Byzantine icon of the Madonna hangs above the high altar. Entry is free.
- The MAR, the Roman Archaeological Museum, lies under the same church. It shows the frescoed dining room of a Roman seaside villa buried by Vesuvius in 79 AD, and the old crypts of the church. Visits are short guided tours; book a slot ahead in summer.
- Fornillo beach is a short walk west on a cliff path. It is smaller and quieter than the main beach, with a free section and a few simple beach clubs.
- C Spiaggia d'Arienzo is a small beach of sand and pebbles east of the centre. It is known for its long staircase, so many people arrive by the boat shuttle from the main pier. It keeps the sun later than the other beaches.
- D Sentiero degli Dei is the coast's most famous hike, an old mule track high above the sea. It ends at Nocelle, a hamlet on the hill above Positano. Most people start at Bomerano in Agerola and walk down towards Positano.

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What to experience

These are the local traditions and activities worth planning around.

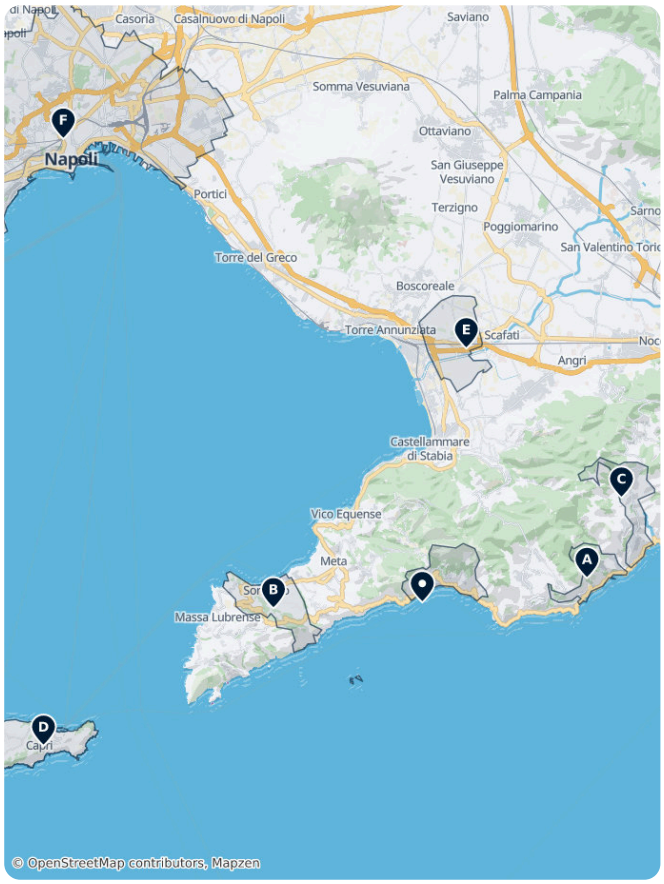
- **The feast of the Assumption** (15 August): after evening Mass, the statue of the Madonna is carried through the lanes to the beach. At midnight, fireworks are set off from the sea and light up the tiled dome.
- **A boat trip along the coast**: rent a small boat or join a group trip from the main pier. You see the town from the water and can swim in coves. Many trips pass the Li Galli islands, linked in legend with the sirens of Homer's Odyssey.
- **Walking down from Nocelle**: after the Path of the Gods, or on its own, take the local bus up to Nocelle and walk down about 1,500 steps through terraces. The views over the town are excellent. The steps end on the coast road near Arienzo; take the bus back to the centre from there, or take care on the short stretch of road.
- **The feast at Montepertuso** (2 July): the hamlet above the town honours the Madonna delle Grazie. Local legend says the Virgin made the hole in the mountain that gives Montepertuso its name.
- **Sunset over the town**: watch from the beach, from the path to Fornillo or from a terrace on Via Cristoforo Colombo, when the houses turn orange.

Day trips

From about April to October, ferries are the easiest way to explore the coast. Buses run all year but are slow and crowded in summer.

Close by

- Praiano (about 15 minutes by bus): a quieter village to the east, with a small beach and good sunset views.
- A Amalfi (about 20 minutes by ferry, or about 40–50 minutes by bus): the old capital of a sea republic, with its cathedral and the main bus and ferry hub of the coast.
- B Sorrento (about 30 minutes by ferry, or about 50 minutes by bus): a larger town on cliffs above the sea, with shops and a railway to Naples and Pompeii.
- C Ravello (about 1–1.5 hours by bus, changing in Amalfi): a hilltop town with villas and gardens high above the sea.



Islands and further afield

- D Capri (about 40–50 minutes by ferry, April to October): the island of the Faraglioni rocks and the Blue Grotto. Leave early and take an afternoon boat back.
- E Pompeii (about 2 hours by bus to Sorrento, then train): the Roman city buried by Vesuvius in 79 AD. Allow a full day.
- F Naples (about 1.5 hours by car, longer by bus and train): a large city with an important archaeological museum and the home of pizza.

Where to explore

Positano is one of several bases on the coast and the Sorrento peninsula.

- Amalfi lies further east along the same coast, with Ravello and Scala on the hills above it.
- Sorrento is the gateway from Naples, at the end of the coast road and the railway.
- Capri and Anacapri share the island across the water, reached by ferry in season.
- Campania is the wider region, with Naples, Pompeii and Vesuvius.

Getting there

Positano has no railway and no real port, only a small pier. Most visitors arrive through Naples and continue by road or ferry.

- **By air**: Naples International Airport is the main gateway, about 1.5 hours away by car. By public transport, take the airport coach to Sorrento, then the SITA bus to Positano; allow about 3 hours. A private transfer is much easier with luggage.
- **By train**: take a train to Naples, then the Circumvesuviana local train to Sorrento and the SITA bus to Positano. Another option is a high-speed train to Salerno, then a ferry in season. Trenitalia
- **By ferry**: from about April to October, ferries link Positano with Amalfi, Sorrento, Capri and Salerno. They leave from the pier on the main beach. Sailings stop in rough seas, and there are no ferries in winter.
- **By bus**: SITA SUD buses run along the coast road between Sorrento (about 50 minutes) and Amalfi (about 40–50 minutes). They stop at Chiesa Nuova and Sponda on the main road above the town.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the town is built on a steep slope. One main road winds down through it, but most routes are stairways. Pack light, and expect to climb a lot.
- **Local bus**: small orange buses of Mobility Amalfi Coast loop through the town and climb to the hamlets of Montepertuso and Nocelle. **Buy tickets before you board**, at tobacconists, bars and newsstands, and validate them on the bus.
- **SITA buses**: for other towns, take the SITA SUD bus from the main road. Tickets are not sold on board. The 24-hour coast ticket covering both SITA and the local buses is good value. SITA SUD
- **Boats**: in season, small boat shuttles run from the main pier to Arienzo, Laurito and other beaches.
- **Taxi**: taxis are expensive. Agree the fare before you start.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The town is compact and mostly car-free, but almost every route is a steep stairway.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep stairways and the narrow, busy coast road make cycling impractical.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not for a stay in town. The coast road is narrow and winding, very busy in summer, and parking is scarce and expensive. Buses and ferries reach everything a first-time visitor needs.
- **Parking**: the main car parks are on the road down into town, near Piazza dei Mulini. Expect high hourly rates in season. Many hotels offer paid parking or valet service; ask when you book.
- **Restrictions**: on peak days, only cars with odd or even plate numbers may use the coast road (SS163) between Positano and Vietri sul Mare, on alternate days, from about 10:00 to 18:00. This applies around Easter and spring holidays, in summer and on some autumn weekends. Hotel guests with a booking are exempt only on their arrival and departure trips. The dates are set each year, so check them before you drive.

Food & drink

Positano's cooking is based on fish and lemons. Try *scialatielli*, a short fresh pasta, with seafood, and the fresh fish of the day. Finish with cold *limoncello* or a *delizia al limone*, a small sponge cake filled with lemon cream.

The best places to eat cluster around the main beach and along Via Pasitea and Via Cristoforo Colombo. Restaurants with a sea view are expensive, so book ahead in summer. For simpler and cheaper food, take the local bus up to Montepertuso or Nocelle, or eat at the beach restaurants on Fornillo. A cover charge (*coperto*) per person is normal on the bill.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Pizza Margherita
Thin-crust pizza topped with tomato, mozzarella, and basil, invented in Naples and still best there.

DINNER

Spaghetti alla Carbonara
Pasta with egg, cured pork cheek (guanciale), pecorino cheese, and black pepper, a Roman classic.

Risotto alla Milanese
Creamy saffron-infused rice dish from Milan, often served alongside braised veal shank.

Lasagna · Lasagne al Forno
Layered baked pasta with ragu, bechamel, and cheese, a staple of Emilia-Romagna cooking.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Prosciutto and Cheese · Prosciutto e Formaggio
Cured ham paired with regional cheeses, a common antipasto plate found nationwide.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Gelato
Dense, slow-churned Italian ice cream, traditionally lower in fat and air than American-style ice cream.

Tiramisu · Tiramisù
Layered dessert of coffee-soaked ladyfingers and mascarpone cream, dusted with cocoa.

DRINKS

Espresso · Caffè
A short, strong shot of coffee drunk quickly, usually standing at a bar counter.

Wine · Vino
Italy is one of the world's largest wine producers, with regional styles from Piedmont's Barolo to Tuscany's Chianti.

Aperol Spritz
A bittersweet orange aperitif mixed with prosecco and soda water, a staple of the early-evening aperitivo.

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Safety & health

Positano is very safe. Petty theft is rare, but watch your bags on crowded buses and on the beach.

- **Stairs and heat**: the town is mostly steps. Wear good shoes, carry water and rest in the shade on hot days. Travellers with limited mobility should choose a hotel close to the main road.
- **The coast road**: much of it has no pavement. Avoid walking along it between towns.
- **Hiking**: paths are steep and slippery after rain. Start early in summer, and carry plenty of water.
- **Sea**: ferries and boat trips stop in rough seas. Keep some flexibility before a flight or train.

History

Rich Romans built seaside villas here. One of them was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, and its painted dining room can be seen today in the museum under Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta.

In the Middle Ages, Positano was a port of the Republic of Amalfi. It grew rich from sea trade in the 16th and 17th centuries. The church gets its icon from a legend: a ship carrying a picture of the Madonna was stuck off the coast in a storm. A voice said "Posa, posa!" ("Put it down!"), and the storm ended when the sailors brought the icon ashore.

In the 19th century the town declined, and more than half of its people emigrated, mostly to America. Positano was a poor fishing village when artists and writers began to arrive. A famous essay by *John Steinbeck* in 1953 helped make it a fashionable resort, and it has stayed one since.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Italy at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



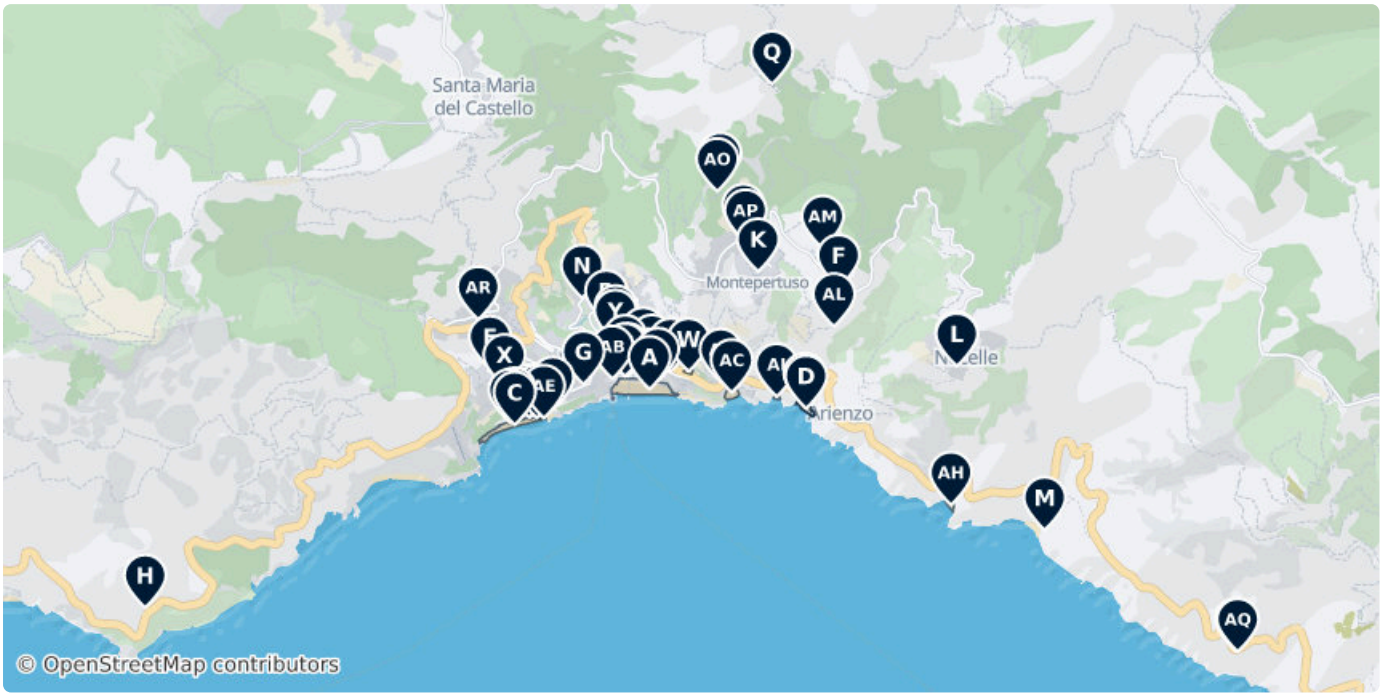
Type C / Type F / Type L
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Italian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Positano Unmissables

Positano is defined by its vertical architecture, with houses cascading down steep cliffs toward the Spiaggia Grande. This selection highlights the town's core, from the 12th-century majolica dome of Santa Maria Assunta to the secluded shores of Fornillo and Arienzo. It includes historic landmarks like the 18th-century Palazzo Murat and the rugged trails of Montepertuso, offering a look at the local gastronomy and geological features like the natural hole in Monte Gambera.





A Positano Beach

The beach has both sand and pebbles, so everyone can choose what they like. The temperature doesn't get too high thanks to the cliffs.

21 Via del Brigantino, Positano 84017, Italy
(40.62756, 14.48816)



B Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta

A 12th-century church featuring a famous majolica-tiled dome and a Byzantine icon of the Black Madonna.

17 Via del Brigantino, Positano 84017, Italy
(40.62834, 14.48696)

C Spiaggia Fornillo

A quieter pebble beach accessible from the main harbor via a scenic coastal path.

(40.62623, 14.48153)



D Spiaggia d'Arienzo

Known as the 'beach of 300 steps' due to the long stone staircase descending from the main road.

84017, Italy (40.62684, 14.49585)



E Grotta di fornillo

A small natural grotto located along the coastal walkway near Fornillo.

Via Pasitea, 84017 Arienzo SA, Italy (40.62831, 14.48032)

F Fattoria La Tagliata

A family-run restaurant in the hills of Montepertuso featuring organic gardens and panoramic terrace seating.

(40.63133, 14.49745)

latagliata.com, +39 089 875872

G Da Vincenzo 1958

Established in 1958, this family-operated restaurant specializes in traditional Campanian seafood and pasta.

Via Pasitea, 84017 Positano SA, Italy (40.62774, 14.48491)

davincenzo.it, +39089875128

H Grotta Acquata

A coastal cave accessible by boat, characterized by its clear turquoise water.

(40.61941, 14.46338)

I Da Ferdinando

A beach club and bar located directly on the pebbles of Fornillo Beach.

(40.62638, 14.48153)

J Ristorante Lo Guarracino

Seafood restaurant situated on the cliffside path between the harbor and Fornillo Beach.

(40.62678, 14.48341)

K Chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie

Historic place of worship located in the upper hamlet of Montepertuso.

39 Via Pestella, Montepertuso 84017, Italy (40.63193, 14.49348)

L Belvedere di Santa Croce

A roadside viewpoint on the SS163 offering views of Positano and the Li Galli islands.

(40.62841, 14.50324)

M De Adolfo Restaurant

Remote beachfront restaurant at Laurito beach, reachable via a shuttle boat from the Positano pier.

(40.62231, 14.50756)

N Agip

Viale Pasitea, Positano 84017, Italy (40.63096, 14.48484)



O L'Incanto

Beachfront establishment on Spiaggia Grande offering a restaurant and sunbed rentals.

111 Via Cristoforo Colombo, Positano 84017, Italy (40.62786, 14.48857)

P L'Ancora

Terrace restaurant overlooking the main beach, specializing in regional seafood dishes.

(40.62836, 14.48828)

Q Caserma Forestale

Forestry outpost located along the mountain hiking trails above the town.

84017, Italy (40.63892, 14.49417)

R Collina Positano Bakery

Local bakery and cafe known for traditional pastries, gelato, and espresso.

(40.63001, 14.48603)

collinabakery.it, +39 089 875 433

S Ristorante Bruno

Terrace restaurant located on the main road with views of the town's cascading houses.

Via Cristoforo Colombo, 84017 Arienzo SA, Italy
(40.62822, 14.48918)

brunopositano.it, +39 089 875392

T Chez Black

Iconic beachfront restaurant established in 1949, known for its ship-themed interior.

(40.62803, 14.48695)

U Franco

Modern cocktail bar featuring an open-air terrace overlooking the Positano bay.

169 Via Cristoforo Colombo, Positano 84017, Italy
(40.62862, 14.48785)

V La Zagara

Pastry shop and bar featuring a garden terrace shaded by lemon trees.

(40.62944, 14.48649)

W Eden Roc

Hotel featuring a panoramic rooftop terrace and an organic garden used for its restaurant.

(40.62822, 14.49007)

edenroc.it, +39 089 875844

X Pensione Casa Guadagno

Family-run hotel located in the quieter Fornillo neighborhood.

(40.62762, 14.48103)

pensionecasaguadagno.it, +39089875042

Y Palazzo Murat

An 18th-century palace and former summer residence of the King of Naples, Gioacchino Murat.

Via Dei Mulini, 84017 Positano SA, Italy
(40.62928, 14.48648)

Z Tre Le Sorelle

Historic restaurant on the beachfront that has been operating since 1953.

Via Del Brigantino, 84017 Positano SA, Italy
(40.62804, 14.48709)

AA il Ritrovo

Restaurant in Montepertuso known for regional cooking classes and locally sourced ingredients.

(40.63322, 14.49276)

AB Covo dei Saraceni

Hotel and restaurant located at the edge of the harbor with views of the Mediterranean.

Via Regina Giovanna, 84017 Positano SA, Italy
(40.62794, 14.48633)

AC La Porta

A small, secluded pebble beach accessible by boat or steep coastal stairs.

52 Via Guglielmo Marconi, Positano 84017, Italy
(40.62743, 14.49220)

AD Grand Hotel Tritone

Cliffside hotel featuring private beach access and views toward the town of Praiano.

(40.61778, 14.51697)

+39 089 874333

AE Spiaggia Bar Ristorante

Casual bar and dining spot located directly on Fornillo Beach.

(40.62648, 14.48297)

AF Casa Mele

Open-kitchen restaurant offering contemporary interpretations of traditional Campanian recipes.

(40.62783, 14.49166)

AG Lemon Point

Roadside stand selling fresh lemon juice and citrus products from local groves.

(40.62846, 14.50324)

AH San Pietro

Exclusive beach area associated with the cliffside San Pietro hotel.

84017, Italy (40.62324, 14.50296)

AI Fiumicello

A small, quiet cove located between the main beach and Arienzo.

Via Arienzo, 84017, Italy (40.62728, 14.49440)

AJ Spiaggia d'Arienzo

Beach featuring a private club, accessible via a 300-step staircase from the SS163 road.

84017, Italy (40.62693, 14.49578)

AK La Marinella

Seafood restaurant located on the rocky shoreline near Fornillo Beach.

(40.62648, 14.48262)

AL Falesia della Selva

Limestone climbing wall offering several technical routes for rock climbers.

(40.62989, 14.49722)

AM Mama Rosa's B&B

Guesthouse located in the high-altitude hamlet of Montepertuso.

(40.63279, 14.49667)

+39 089 875546

AN Monte Gambera

Peak overlooking Positano, notable for the large natural hole in its limestone face.

(40.63514, 14.49163)

AO Picnic Area

Designated outdoor area with tables located along the hiking paths above the village.

(40.63493, 14.49148)

AP Montepertuso

Upper village bus stop, located near the start of several mountain hiking trails.

(40.63301, 14.49288)

AQ La Cala Delle Lampare

Seafood restaurant at the Grand Hotel Tritone, overlooking the Amalfi Coast.

(40.61777, 14.51705)

AR Guardia di Finanza

Local station for the Italian financial police.

(40.63015, 14.47974)

AS F.lli Grassi

Family-run beachfront restaurant located on the sands of Fornillo.

(40.62649, 14.48225)

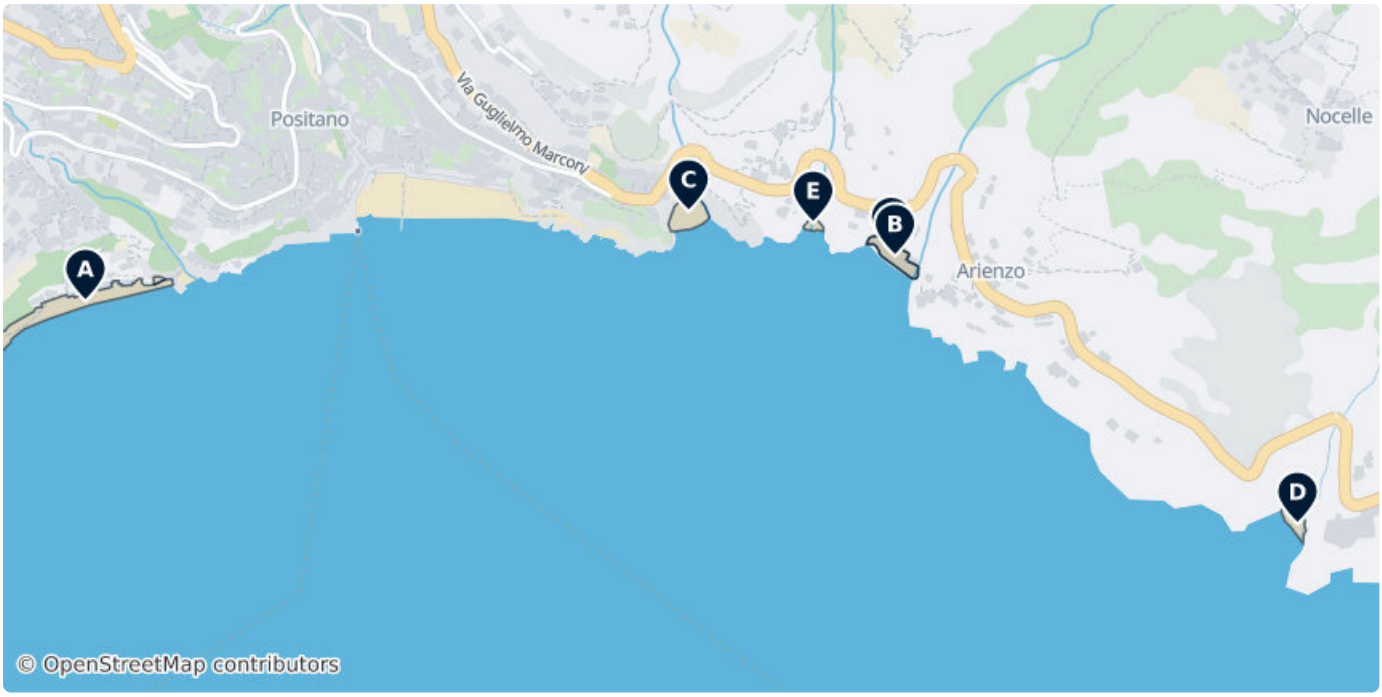
AT Pupetto

Hotel and restaurant located directly on Fornillo Beach.

(40.62632, 14.48128)

Beautiful Beaches

Positano's coastline features a variety of beaches characterized by steep limestone cliffs and clear Tyrrhenian waters. Spiaggia Fornillo offers a quieter alternative to the main harbor, accessible via a scenic coastal path. Spiaggia d'Arienzo is distinguished by its southern orientation, providing longer hours of sunlight, and its famous three-hundred-step descent. Remote coves like La Porta and Fiumicello are primarily reached by boat, offering pebble shores and rocky inlets away from the central town crowds.



A Spiaggia Fornillo

Accessible via a coastal path from Positano's main pier, this pebble beach is situated away from the central harbor. It features several private beach clubs and views of historic Saracen towers.

(40.62623, 14.48153)



B Spiaggia d'Arienzo

Known as the Beach of Three Hundred Steps, this site is reached via a long stone staircase from the main road. Its southern exposure allows for direct sunlight later into the afternoon than other local beaches.

84017, Italy (40.62684, 14.49585)

C La Porta

A small, secluded cove accessible primarily by boat. The beach is named after a nearby natural cave and is characterized by its clear water and rocky surroundings.

52 Via Guglielmo Marconi, Positano 84017, Italy (40.62743, 14.49220)

D San Pietro

A small rocky beach located below the cliffs of the Laurito area. It is characterized by deep clear waters and is typically accessed via boat or private hotel facilities.

84017, Italy (40.62324, 14.50296)

E Fiumicello

A narrow, rocky inlet situated between the main Positano harbor and Arienzo. This quiet spot is mostly accessible by sea and offers a natural setting without commercial facilities.

Via Arienzo, 84017, Italy (40.62728, 14.49440)

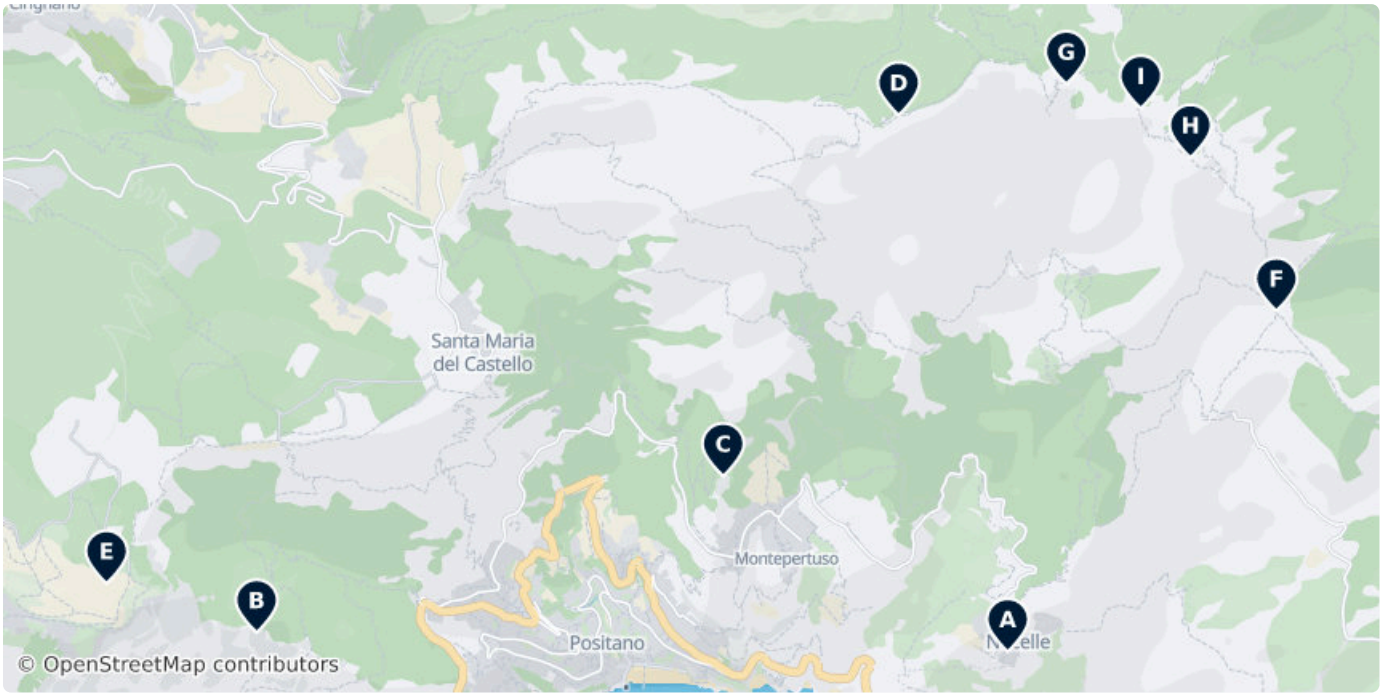
F Spiaggia d'Arienzo

Reached by a staircase of approximately 300 steps from the SS163 road, this south-facing beach is one of the few in the area that retains sunlight until late afternoon.

84017, Italy (40.62693, 14.49578)

Scenic Viewpoints and Peaks

This collection features the prominent summits and observation points of the Lattari Mountains overlooking Positano and the Amalfi Coast. It includes the Sant'Angelo a Tre Pizzi massif, home to Monte San Michele (Molare), the range's highest peak at 1,444 meters. These locations offer vantage points for viewing the Gulf of Naples, the Gulf of Salerno, and the Sorrento Peninsula, following historic hiking routes through limestone ridges and Mediterranean scrub.



A Belvedere di Santa Croce

Scenic overlook located above Positano, providing a direct view of the town's tiered architecture and the coastline.

(40.62841, 14.50324)

B Capo Di Masina

Mountain peak in the Lattari range overlooking the western stretch of the Amalfi Coast.

84017, Italy (40.62904, 14.46999)

C M. Gambera

Limestone peak situated near the village of Montepertuso, forming part of the mountain ridge above Positano.

84017, Italy (40.63429, 14.49065)

D Croce della Conocchia

A 1,383-meter peak offering views of the Amalfi Coast, Capri, and Mount Vesuvius. It is a landmark on the trail toward Monte San Michele.

80069, Italy (40.64641, 14.49842)

E .

80069, Italy (40.63069, 14.46335)

F Capo Muro

Distinctive rock formation and viewpoint at 1,070 meters, accessible via trails from Agerola and Positano.

80051, Italy (40.63984, 14.51514)

G Monte San Michele (Molare)

The highest summit of the Lattari Mountains at 1,444 meters. Its name refers to its molar-like shape.

80050, Italy (40.64745, 14.50584)

H Monte Catello (Caldara)

One of the three main peaks of the Sant'Angelo a Tre Pizzi massif, reaching an elevation of 1,326 meters.

80051, Italy (40.64499, 14.51133)

I Monte di Mezzo (Canino)

The central peak of the Sant'Angelo a Tre Pizzi group, located between Monte San Michele and Monte Catello.

80050, Italy (40.64664, 14.50914)

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