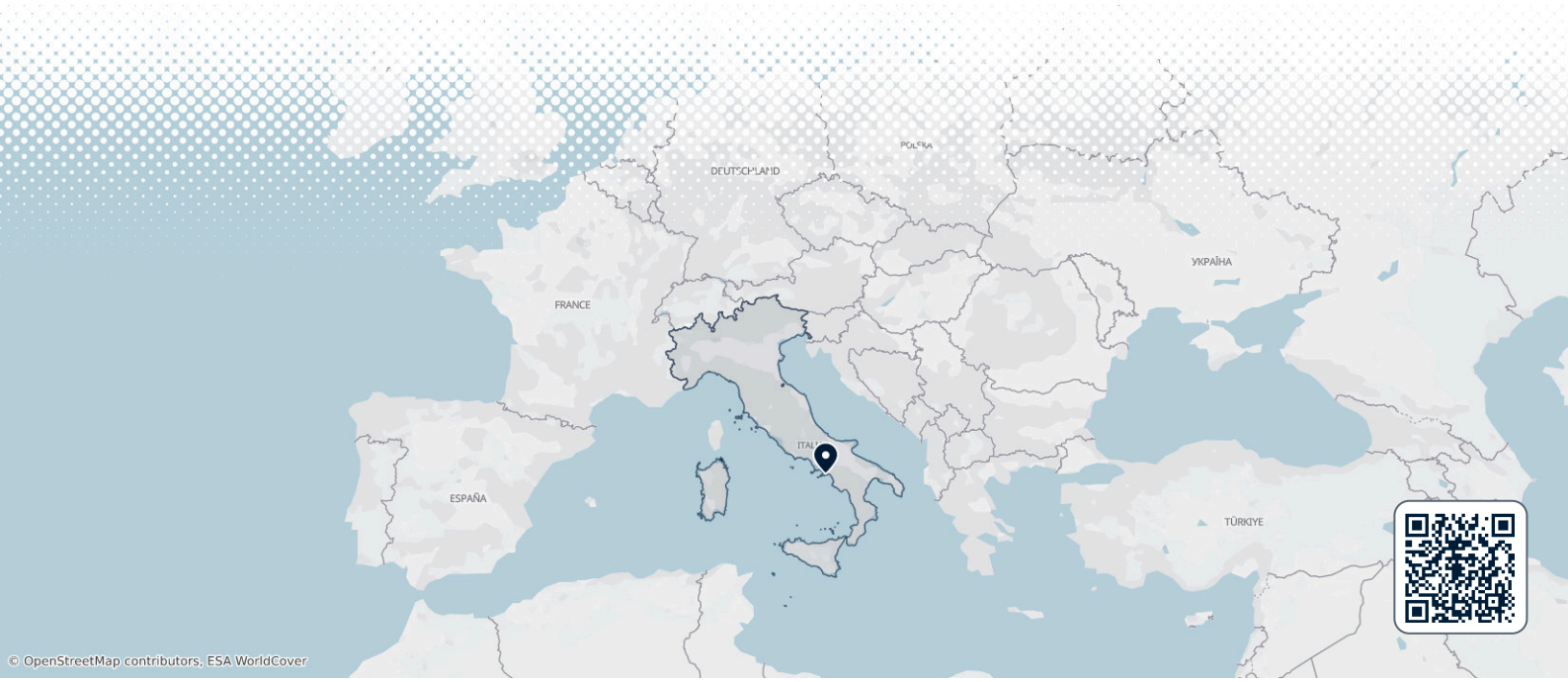


Ravello

Province of Salerno · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Ravello is a small town on a ridge about 350 m above the Amalfi Coast, 7 km by road from Amalfi. In the Middle Ages it was a rich merchant town of the Amalfi republic, and its old palaces, churches and gardens still stand above the sea. The Amalfi Coast, including Ravello, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Ravello feels quieter than the beach towns below. There is no beach in the town itself; people come for the villa gardens, the wide views over the Gulf of Salerno and summer concerts. The composer *Richard Wagner* stayed here in 1880, and the writer *Gore Vidal* lived here for about 30 years. Day visitors fill the centre at midday, so stay overnight if you can: mornings and evenings are calm.

When to visit

May, June, September and early October are the best months: warm, sunny and good for walking. July and August are hot and humid, and the buses and the coast road are crowded. Ravello is a few degrees cooler than the towns by the sea. Winter is mild but wet, and some hotels and restaurants close from November to March.

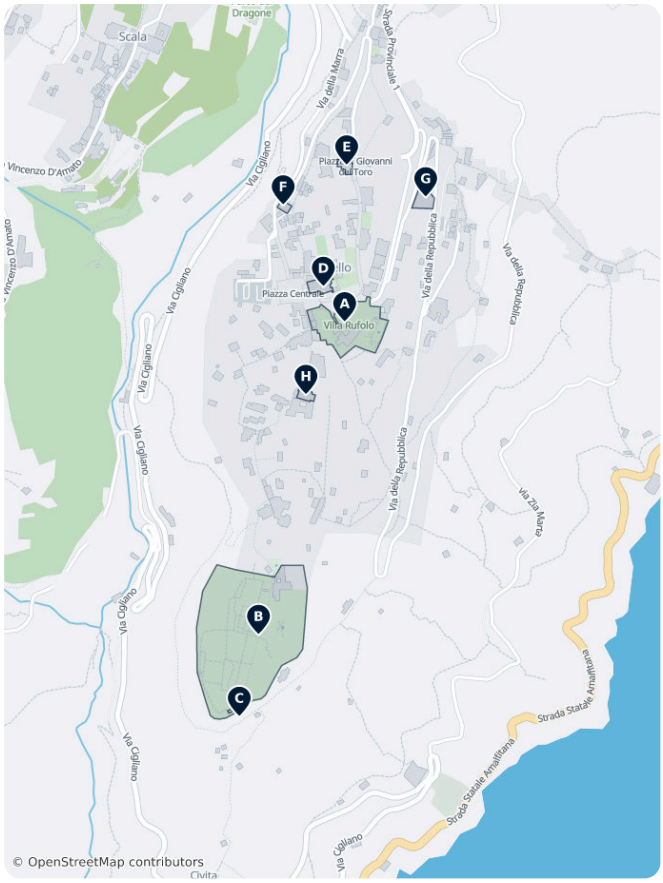
The main event is the **Ravello Festival**, held every summer, mainly in July and August. Its best-known concerts take place on a stage on the belvedere of Villa Rufolo, with the coast behind the orchestra. Book tickets and rooms early for festival evenings.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	11° / 14° Feels like 7°	7° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for hiking	11° / 15° Feels like 7°	7° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Good Good for hiking	13° / 17° Feels like 10°	8° / 4°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	16° / 20°	10° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	14° / 11°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28°	18° / 14°	24 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 30°	21° / 18°	28 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 30°	21° / 19°	27 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27°	18° / 15°	Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	15° / 11°	Calm winds
November	Fair Fair for hiking	16° / 20°	12° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 16° Feels like 9°	8° / 4°	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



A Villa Rufolo is a medieval palace of the Rufolo merchant family, next to the main square. Its terraced gardens and Moorish-style cloister look down over the coast, and its belvedere is the main stage of the Ravello Festival.

B Villa Cimbrone sits at the tip of the ridge, a 10–15 minute walk from the square along a quiet lane. An English lord rebuilt the estate in the early 20th century and laid out its large gardens. The villa is now a hotel, but the gardens are open to visitors.

C Terrazza dell'Infinito is the belvedere at the far end of the Villa Cimbrone gardens. Marble busts line the railing, and the view drops straight down to the sea and along the coast.

D Duomo di Ravello faces the main square, Piazza Duomo. It was founded in 1086 and has 12th-century bronze doors by *Barisano da Trani* and a mosaic pulpit carried by six lions. A small museum in the crypt shows medieval sculpture and church treasures.

E Chiesa di San Giovanni del Toro is a quiet Romanesque church in the upper part of town. It has a mosaic pulpit and a frescoed crypt, and it hosts some festival concerts.

F Chiesa di Santa Maria a Gradillo is a small medieval church just off the main square, known for its square bell tower in Arab-Sicilian style.

G Auditorium Oscar Niemeyer is a white, wave-shaped concert hall by the Brazilian architect *Oscar Niemeyer*, on a terrace below the town centre. Its curved white roof stands out against the green hillside and the sea.

H Chiesa e Convento di San Francesco lies on the lane to Villa Cimbrone. The Franciscan convent keeps a small medieval cloister; the church was rebuilt in the 18th century.

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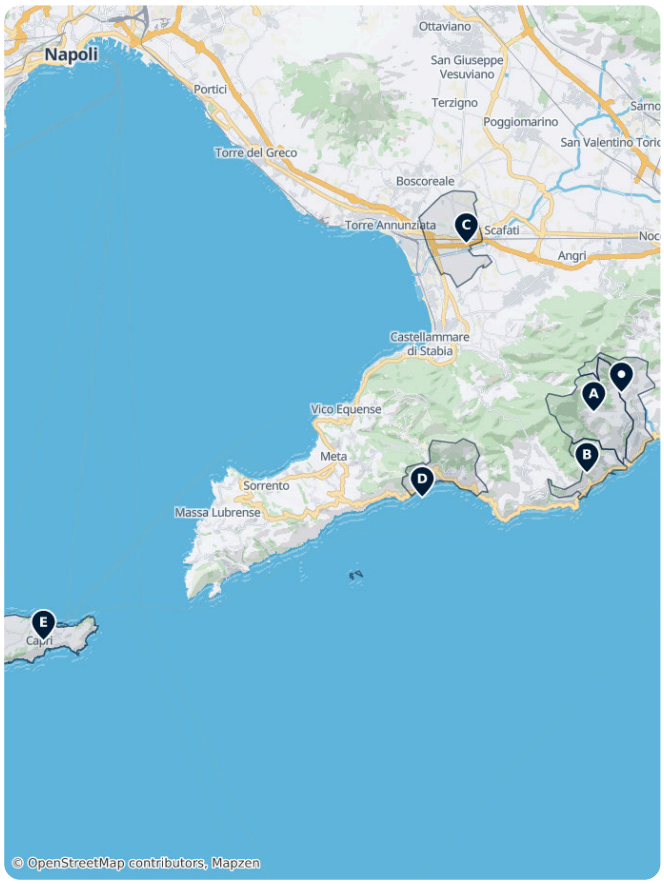
What to experience

Ravello is a town for music, gardens and slow walks.

- Concert at dawn: Once each summer, the Ravello Festival holds a concert on the Villa Rufolo belvedere at sunrise, around 5 am. The orchestra plays as the sun rises over the sea. Tickets sell out early.
- Walk down to the sea: Follow the old stepped mule paths from Ravello through lemon terraces to Atrani or Minori. Have a swim or lunch by the sea, then take the bus back up.
- Feast of Saint Pantaleon: On 27 July the town celebrates its patron saint with a procession through the centre and fireworks over the valley.

Day trips

Ravello is a good base for the whole Amalfi Coast. Buses and ferries reach most places, so a car is not needed.



- Atrani – about 45 minutes on foot down old stepped paths, or by the bus to Amalfi. A tiny fishing village with a small square and beach, right next to Amalfi.
- Ⓐ Scala – about 30–40 minutes on foot across the valley, or a short bus ride. One of the oldest villages on the coast, with a cathedral and quiet paths. From its hamlet of Pontone, a trail leads into the Valle delle Ferriere nature reserve with its waterfalls.
- Minori and Maiori – about 40 minutes on foot down to Minori, or by bus. Minori has the ruins of a Roman seaside villa; Maiori has a long sandy beach.
- Ⓑ Amalfi – about 25–30 minutes by bus. The main town of the coast, with its cathedral, harbour and ferries to other towns.
- Ⓒ Pompeii – about 45 minutes to 1 hour by car over the mountains. The Roman city buried by Vesuvius in AD 79. By public transport it takes about 2–2.5 hours via Salerno.
- Ⓓ Positano – about 1.5 hours by bus or by bus and ferry via Amalfi. Pastel houses stacked on a steep slope above a beach.
- Ⓔ Capri – the ferry from Amalfi takes over an hour, plus the bus down from Ravello; boats run mostly from spring to autumn. Plan a full day for the island.
- Paestum – about 1.5 hours by car, or by ferry or bus to Salerno and then by train. Three large and well-preserved Greek temples.

Where to explore

Ravello is one of the towns of the Amalfi Coast in Campania.

Neighbouring towns on the coast:

- Amalfi, the main town and transport hub below Ravello.
- Scala, the village on the other side of the valley.
- Positano, farther west along the coast.

Farther afield in the Bay of Naples:

- Sorrento and the island of Capri.
- Pompeii and its Roman ruins.
- Naples, the regional capital and the main gateway by air and rail.

Getting there

Ravello has no train station. Most visitors arrive through Amalfi or Salerno and finish the trip by bus.

- By air: Naples International Airport is the main gateway, about 60 km away. A private transfer or car takes 1–1.5 hours. By public transport, go to Napoli Centrale and take a train to Salerno, then continue by bus or ferry. Salerno Costa d'Amalfi Airport is closer but has few flights, mostly in summer. Naples Airport
- By train: The nearest station is Salerno. Trains from Naples take about 35–40 minutes by high-speed train or about an hour by regional train, and there are direct trains from Rome. Trenitalia
- By bus: From Salerno, SITA Sud buses run along the coast road to Amalfi in about 1 hour 15 minutes. From Amalfi, a separate bus climbs to Ravello in about 25–30 minutes. SITA Sud
- By boat: Ferries link Salerno, Positano, Sorrento and Capri with Amalfi, mostly from April to October. The trip from Salerno takes about 35 minutes and avoids the coast road traffic. Then take the bus up to Ravello.

Getting around

- On foot: The centre is small and car-free around Piazza Duomo. The lanes to Villa Cimbrone and the upper town are steep and have many steps.
- Bus: SITA Sud buses connect Ravello with Amalfi and Scala. Buy tickets before boarding at tobacconists, bars and newsstands, or in the Unico Campania app. A 24-hour Costiera ticket covers the coast towns. In summer, buses are often full, so allow extra time. SITA Sud
- Walking paths: Old stepped paths lead down to Atrani, Amalfi and Minori in 40–60 minutes. Going down is easy, but the climb back up is hard, so most people return by bus.
- Taxi: Taxis are expensive but useful late in the evening, when buses stop running. Book ahead in summer.
- Cycling: Not practical. The roads are narrow, steep and busy.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The car-free centre is small and easy to explore, but lanes and paths are steep, with many steps.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Roads are narrow, steep and busy, with no cycling infrastructure.

Driving

- Is a car worth it?: Not for a stay in Ravello. The coast road is narrow and jammed in summer, and parking is scarce. Buses and ferries are easier, but a car helps for trips inland, such as to Pompeii or Paestum.
- Access: A narrow road climbs about 7 km from the coast road between Atrani and Minori; another crosses the mountains from the north via the Chiunzi pass.
- Parking: There are a few paid car parks at the edge of the centre. They are small, expensive and full on summer days. Many hotels offer parking; ask when you book.
- Restrictions: The centre around Piazza Duomo is closed to cars. On busy days around Easter and in summer, an odd-even number-plate rule limits cars on the coast road between 10:00 and 18:00. Residents are exempt. Hotel guests with a booking may drive only to arrive and leave. Self-drive rental cars are not exempt, so check the dates before you travel.

Food & drink

Ravello follows the kitchen of the Amalfi Coast: fresh fish, *scialatielli* pasta with seafood, lemons used in pasta, desserts and *limoncello*, and *delizia al limone*, a small lemon-cream sponge cake. The hillside also grows grapes, and local white and red wines are sold under the Costa d'Amalfi name with "Ravello" on the label.

Restaurants with terraces cluster around Piazza Duomo and the lanes towards Villa Cimbrone. Prices on the main square are high. The luxury hotels have elegant terrace restaurants for a special dinner. For simpler and cheaper meals, eat in Minori, Maiori or Amalfi by the sea.

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

Ravello is very safe, and serious crime is rare. The main risks are practical:

- Steps and heat: Lanes and paths are steep and have many steps, with little shade. Carry water in summer and wear good shoes.
- Walking on the road: The roads to Scala and down to the coast are narrow and have no pavement in places. Use the old stepped paths where you can.
- Crowded buses: Summer buses to and from Amalfi are packed. Keep an eye on bags and phones, and check the time of the last bus.
- Prices: Check menu prices before you sit down at a café on the main square.

History

Ravello was founded in the early Middle Ages as a refuge in the hills. It grew rich as part of the sea-trading republic of Amalfi. In 1086 it became the seat of its own bishop, and work began on Duomo di Ravello. Merchant families such as the Rufolo built palaces with gardens and Arab-style courtyards. Villa Rufolo is the best surviving example.

The town declined after Pisa attacked the Amalfi coast in the 12th century and trade moved elsewhere. Many families left for Naples, and Ravello became a quiet farming village.

Travellers rediscovered it in the 19th century. *Richard Wagner* visited in 1880 and found in the gardens of Villa Rufolo the image of the magic garden for *Parsifal*. In the early 20th century an English lord rebuilt Villa Cimbrone, and writers, artists and film stars followed. The Ravello Festival began in 1953 in honour of Wagner, and in 1997 the Amalfi Coast became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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

Ravello's Must-See Treasures

Ravello sits on a ridge high above the Amalfi Coast. Its highlights are the gardens of Villa Rufolo and Villa Cimbrone, with the Terrace of Infinity at the cliff edge, the Romanesque cathedral on the main square, the medieval church of San Giovanni del Toro and Oscar Niemeyer's white concert hall.





A Villa Rufolo

Medieval palace of the Rufolo family with terraced gardens over the sea. Its gardens inspired Wagner, and its belvedere hosts summer concerts of the Ravello Festival.

Piazza Duomo, 84010 Ravello (40.64873, 14.61257)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

villarufolo.com, +39 089 857 621



B Villa Cimbrone

Historic estate at the tip of the Ravello ridge, rebuilt in the early 20th century by Lord Grimthorpe. Its large gardens lead to the famous Terrace of Infinity.

(Unnamed Road), 84010, Italy (40.64338, 14.61063)

9.00 am - 4.30pm

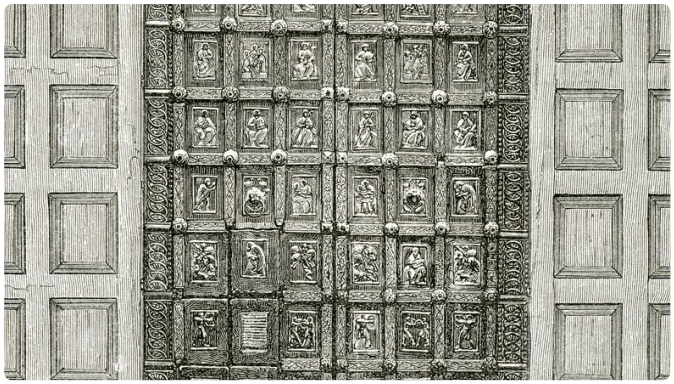
hotelvillacimbrone.com



C Villa Cimbrone

Belvedere lined with marble busts at the cliff edge of the Villa Cimbrone gardens, with a sweeping view over the Gulf of Salerno.

(Unnamed Road), 84010, Italy (40.64198, 14.61019)



D Duomo di Ravello

Cathedral founded in 1086 on the main square, with 12th-century bronze doors by Barisano da Trani, a mosaic pulpit from 1272 and a small museum.

6 Via Roma, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.64934, 14.61209)

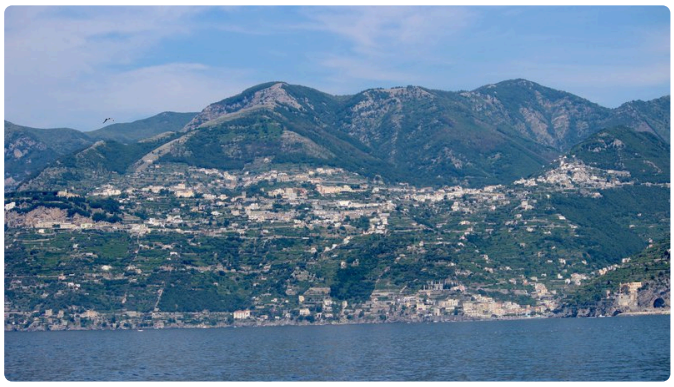
Mo–Su 09:00–10:30, 17:00–20:30

duomoravello.it, 089 858029

E San Giovanni del Toro

Quiet Romanesque church in the upper town with a mosaic pulpit and a frescoed crypt.

Piazza San Giovanni del Toro, 84011 Ravello SA, Italy (40.65142, 14.61261)



F Ravello Auditorium

White, wave-shaped concert hall by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, set on a terrace below the town centre.

2 Via della Repubblica, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.65087, 14.61439)

auditoriumoscarniemeyer.it

G Belvedere Principessa di Piemonte

Small free public garden near the main square with views down to Minori and Maiori.

via San Giovanni del Toro, 84011 Ravello SA, Italy (40.65045, 14.61316)

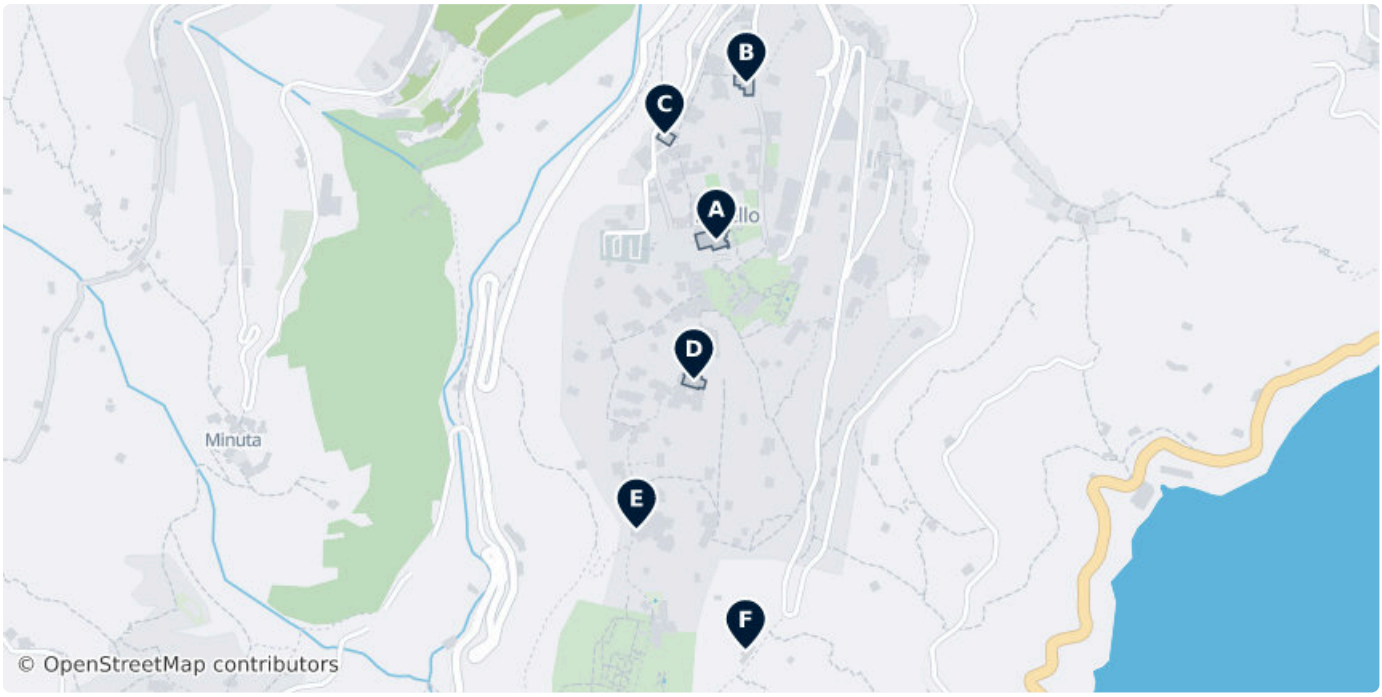
H Museo Duomo

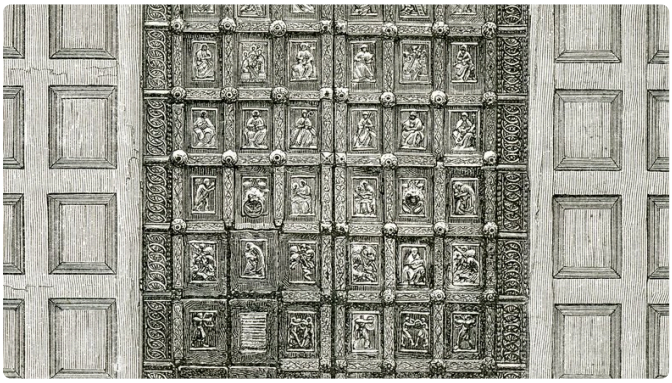
Museum in the crypt of the cathedral with medieval sculpture, mosaics and church silver, including a 13th-century marble bust.

(40.64928, 14.61188)

Historic Religious Sites

Ravello was a rich medieval town and kept many of its churches. Besides the cathedral, look for the mosaic pulpit of San Giovanni del Toro, the Arab-style bell tower of Santa Maria a Gradillo and the Franciscan convent with its cloister.





A Duomo di Ravello

Cathedral founded in 1086, with bronze doors by Barisano da Trani, a pulpit carried by six lions and the chapel of Saint Pantaleon, the town's patron.

6 Via Roma, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.64934, 14.61209)

Mo–Su 09:00–10:30, 17:00–20:30

duomoravello.it, 089 858029

B San Giovanni del Toro

Romanesque church in the upper town with a mosaic pulpit and a frescoed crypt.

Piazza San Giovanni del Toro, 84011 Ravello SA, Italy (40.65142, 14.61261)



C Chiesa di Santa Maria a Gradillo

Small medieval church off the main square, with a square bell tower in Arab-Sicilian style.

11 Via Gradillo, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.65073, 14.61118)



D San Francesco

Franciscan church and convent on the way to Villa Cimbrone, with a small medieval cloister; the church was rebuilt in the 18th century.

9 Via San Francesco, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.64749, 14.61169)

E Monastero di Santa Chiara

Convent of the Poor Clares on the path to Villa Cimbrone, with views over the coast.

24 Via Santa Chiara, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.64550, 14.61069)

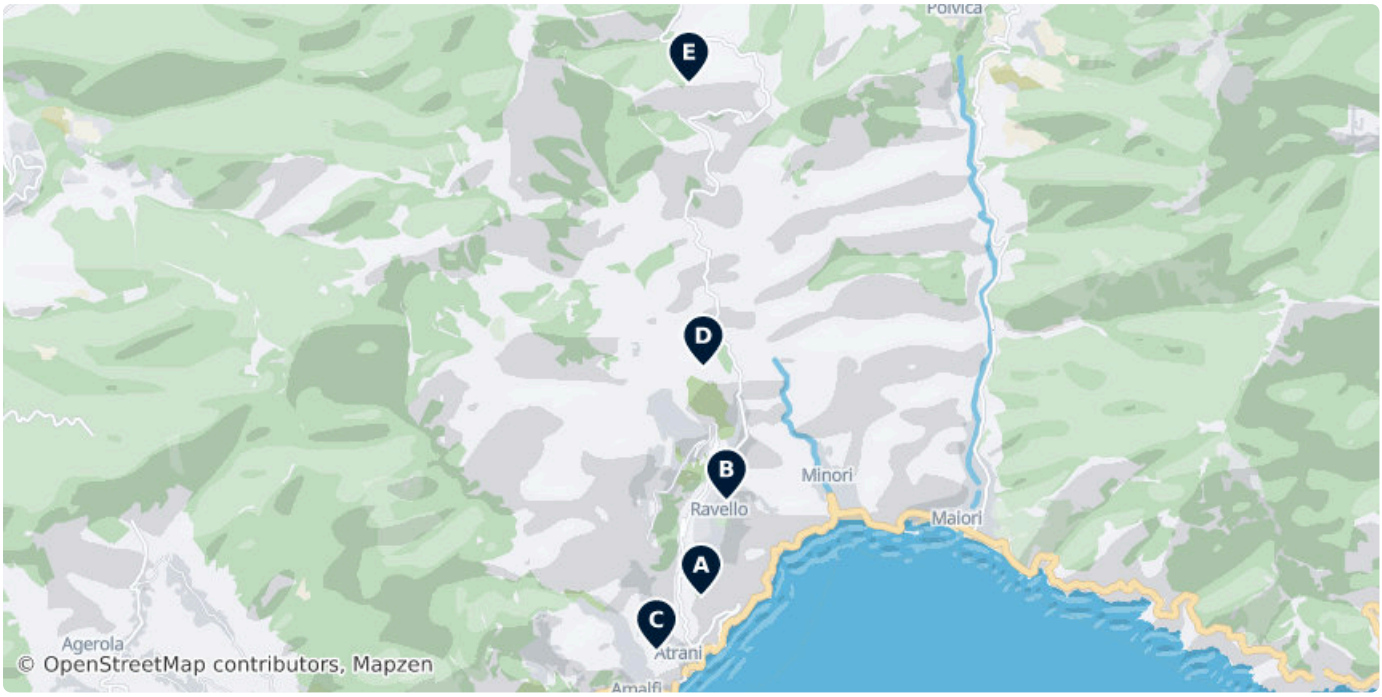
F Santuario dei Santi Cosma e Damiano

Small sanctuary on the hillside below Villa Cimbrone, reached by old stepped paths.

12 Via San Cosma, Ravello 84010, Italy (40.64390, 14.61260)

Scenic Viewpoints and Peaks

Ravello stands about 350 m above the sea, so views are everywhere. The best-known is the Terrace of Infinity at Villa Cimbrone; public belvederes in town are free, and paths climb to the hills of the Lattari Mountains behind.





A Villa Cimbrone

Belvedere with marble busts at the cliff edge of the Villa Cimbrone gardens, looking over the Gulf of Salerno.

(Unnamed Road), 84010, Italy (40.64198, 14.61019)

B Belvedere Principessa di Piemonte

Small free public garden near the main square with views over Minori and Maiori.

via San Giovanni del Toro, 84011 Ravello SA, Italy (40.65045, 14.61316)

C Belvedere

Public lookout on the slope above Atrani with views of the coast and the sea.

(40.63710, 14.60496)

D Monte Brusale

Wooded hill in the Lattari Mountains above the Dragone Valley, reached on hiking paths.

84010, Italy (40.66234, 14.61044)

E Colle San Pietro

Hill above Ravello with wide views over the Amalfi peninsula and the Gulf of Salerno.

84010, Italy (40.68754, 14.60877)

DATA SOURCES

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