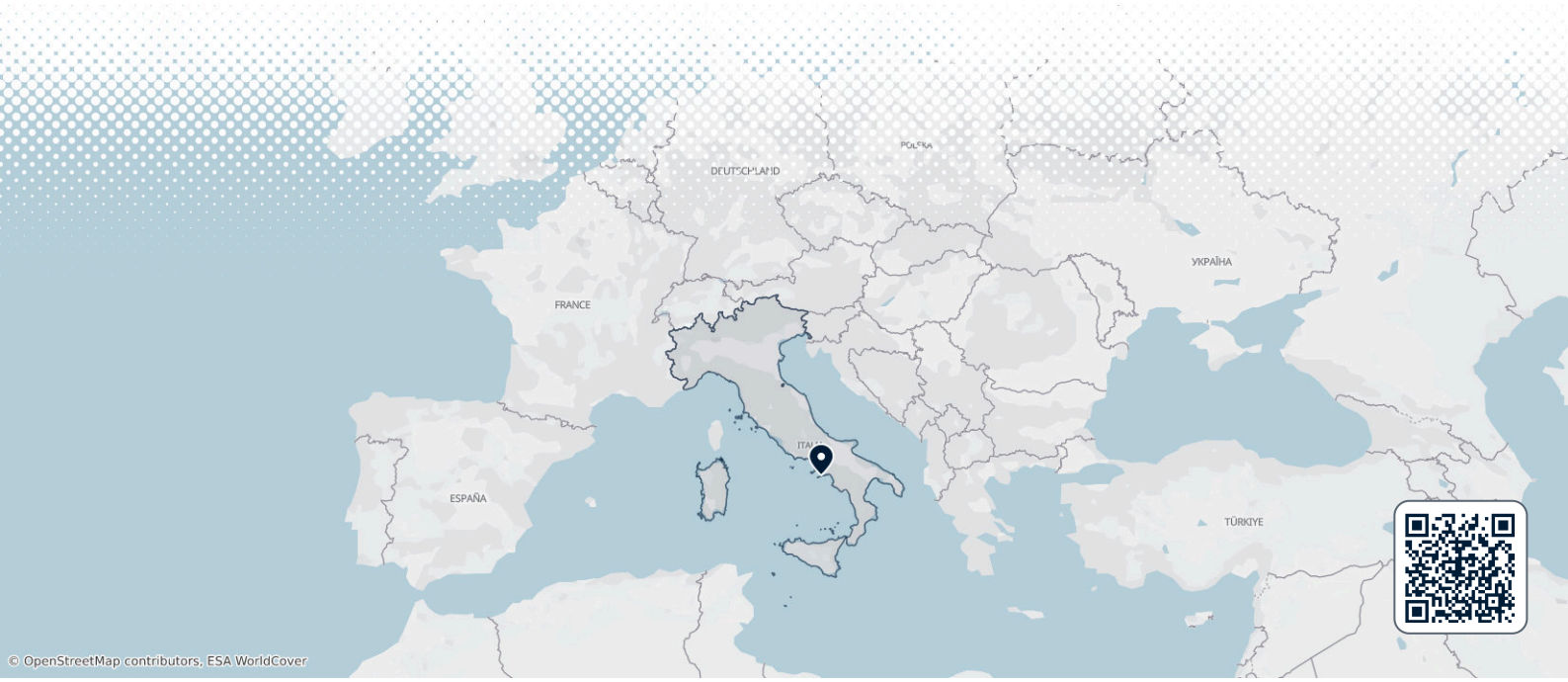


Sorrento

Campania · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Sorrento sits on top of a cliff above the Gulf of Naples, with a direct view across the water to Vesuvius. The old town is small and easy to walk, with narrow lanes, churches, lemon groves and shops selling limoncello and inlaid woodwork.

Its main strength is location. Sorrento is the end of the train line from Naples and the start of the road to the Amalfi Coast, and boats leave its harbour for Capri several times a day in season. Many travellers stay here for a week and visit Pompeii, Capri and Positano on day trips. The town is also a calmer, cheaper base than the Amalfi Coast villages.

When to visit

May, June, September and early October are the best months: warm, mostly dry and good for swimming, with fewer crowds than in high summer. July and August are hot, humid and very busy. From November to March many hotels close, ferries run less often and rain is frequent, especially in November, but prices are low.

The biggest local event is **Holy Week**, in March or April. On Good Friday, hooded members of local brotherhoods walk through the town in two processions: a white one early in the morning and a black one in the evening, with torches and slow band music. Book rooms early for Easter.

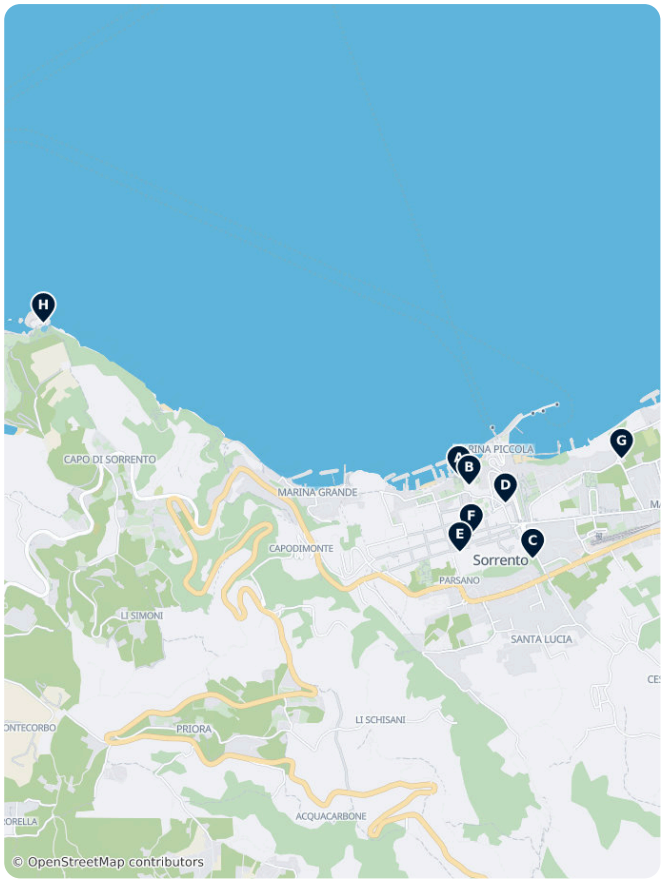
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	12° / 16° Feels like 8°	9° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	12° / 16° Feels like 8°	8° / 4°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 17° Feels like 11°	10° / 5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 21°	12° / 8°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	15° / 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° / 19°	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	24° / 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 sightseeing	14° / 17° Feels like 10°	10° / 5°	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

Sorrento's sights are close together. You can see most of them in a day on foot, with time left for the sea.



- **A** Villa Comunale Viewpoint is a clifftop terrace in a small park with the town's classic view across the Gulf of Naples to Vesuvius. It is free to visit.
- **B** Chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi stands next to the park. Its 14th-century cloister, with Gothic arches around a quiet courtyard, hosts concerts and exhibitions in summer.
- **C** Vallone dei Mulini is a deep green gorge right behind Piazza Tasso. You look down from the street onto the ruins of an old flour mill, covered in ferns.
- **D** Basilica of Sant'Antonino is built over the tomb of the town's patron saint. Visit the crypt with its ex-votos, and look for the whale bones in the porch.
- **E** Sorrento Cathedral has doors and choir stalls decorated with local inlaid wood. *Torquato Tasso* was baptised here.
- **F** Sedil Dominova is a 14th-century open loggia with a tiled dome and frescoed walls, once a meeting place for local nobles. It is in the middle of the old town.
- **G** Museo Correale di Terranova is the town's main museum, in a family villa. It has Neapolitan paintings, porcelain and inlaid wood, and a garden that ends at a terrace over the sea.
- **H** Bagni della Regina Giovanna are the ruins of a Roman villa on the Capo di Sorrento headland, about 30 minutes on foot from the centre.

Below the old town, the fishing quarter of Marina Grande has small boats, colourful houses and seafood restaurants on the water.

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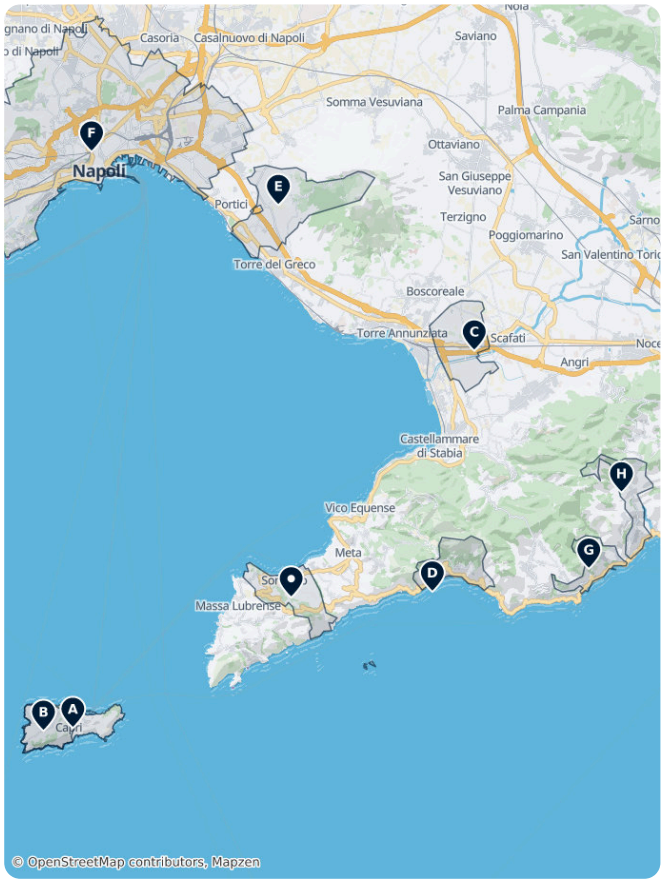
What to experience

A few things that make a stay in Sorrento special:

- **Watch the sunset over the Gulf**: go to Villa Comunale Viewpoint in the early evening, when the light softens over Vesuvius and the lights come on around the bay.
- **Swim in the natural pool**: walk out along the headland to Bagni della Regina Giovanna and swim in the rock pool beside the Roman ruins. Go early or late in the day in summer.
- **Take a boat along the coast**: in summer, small boats leave Sorrento Marina Piccola for trips around the tip of the peninsula and Capri, with stops to swim.
- **Browse the inlaid-wood workshops**: Sorrento is known for *tarsia*, pictures made from small pieces of coloured wood. Old-town workshops sell boxes, trays and music boxes made this way.
- **Join the feast of the patron saint**: on 14 February, Sorrento celebrates Sant'Antonino with a procession of his silver statue, street lights and fireworks.

Day trips

Sorrento is one of the best bases in the region. Most trips need no car. They are listed from closest to farthest.



- A Capri is 20–30 minutes by fast ferry from Marina Piccola. Take a bus or taxi up to B Anacapri for quieter streets and the chairlift to Monte Solaro.
- C Pompeii is about 30 minutes by Circumvesuviana train. The Pompei Scavi station is next to the main entrance to the ruins.
- Massa Lubrense and the bay of Nerano, at the tip of the peninsula, have quiet coves and footpaths. They are about 30–40 minutes by local bus or car.
- D Positano is about 40 minutes by SITA bus along the coast road. In summer there are also ferries.
- E Ercolano has the ruins of Herculaneum, smaller and better preserved than Pompeii. The Circumvesuviana takes about 50 minutes.
- F Naples is about 1 hour 10 minutes by train, or 35–45 minutes by hydrofoil, with fewer sailings in winter.
- G Amalfi is about 1.5 hours by bus, and in summer also by ferry. From there, a bus climbs to H Ravello and its villa gardens.

Where to explore

Sorrento is in Campania, and many of the region's best-known places are within easy reach.

- **The islands**: Capri and Anacapri are a short boat ride away. Ischia and Procida are larger and quieter, with thermal spas and fishing villages.
- **The Amalfi Coast**: Positano, Amalfi and Ravello line the coast road east of the peninsula.
- **Around Vesuvius**: Naples, Pompeii and Ercolano are all on the Circumvesuviana line.

Getting there

Most visitors fly into Naples and continue by bus, train or boat.

Getting around

The centre is compact, and most visitors walk everywhere.

- **By air**: Naples International Airport is the nearest airport. The Curreri bus runs direct from the airport to Sorrento station several times a day and takes about 75–90 minutes. Buy tickets at the airport desk, online, or from the driver when the desk is closed.
- **By train**: high-speed trains reach Naples Centrale from Rome, Florence and Milan. Trenitalia From the underground Napoli Garibaldi station below Naples Centrale, the Circumvesuviana line runs to Sorrento in about 1 hour 10 minutes, with stops at Herculaneum and Pompeii. Buy tickets at the station, in the EAV app, or tap a contactless bank card at the gates where this is offered. EAV Circumvesuviana
- **By boat**: hydrofoils link the Molo Beverello port in Naples with Sorrento's Marina Piccola in 35–45 minutes all year, with fewer sailings in winter. Boats also run to Capri all year, and from spring to autumn to Positano, Amalfi and Ischia.
- **By bus**: SITA buses link Sorrento with Positano and Amalfi along the coast road. The stop is next to the train station.

- **On foot**: the old town, Piazza Tasso and the Villa Comunale are all within a few minutes of each other. Marina Piccola and Marina Grande are at sea level, down steep lanes and steps.
- **Lift**: a small lift runs from the Villa Comunale park down to the seafront near Marina Piccola.
- **Local buses**: EAV buses and small minibuses from Piazza Tasso link the centre with Marina Piccola, Marina Grande and the Capo di Sorrento area. Minibus tickets to the harbours can usually be bought on board; for EAV buses, buy tickets at tobacconists, newsstands or in the EAV app.
- **SITA buses**: for Positano and Amalfi. Tickets are **not sold on board**; buy them at the ticket office in Sorrento station or at tobacconists, and validate them when you get on.
- **Taxis**: taxis wait at Piazza Tasso and at the station. They are expensive, so agree the fare first for longer trips.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact centre is easy to walk, but the harbours are down steep lanes and steps, and roads outside the centre often lack pavements.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep hills, narrow streets and heavy summer traffic make cycling impractical.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: no, for a stay in Sorrento itself. Trains, buses and boats reach the main day trips, and parking is hard and expensive. A car helps only for exploring the quiet villages at the tip of the peninsula.
- **Restricted zone**: the historic centre is a **ZTL** (limited traffic zone) checked by cameras. Driving in without a permit brings a fine by post. If your hotel is inside the zone, ask it to register your plate before you arrive.
- **Parking**: use one of the paid garages near the centre. On the street, blue lines are paid at the meter, white lines are free but rarely available, and yellow lines are reserved for residents or disabled drivers.
- **Coast road**: the road to Positano and Amalfi is narrow and very busy in summer. On busy days from spring to autumn, traffic east of Positano is often limited by number plate, so check the current rules before you drive.

Food & drink

Sorrento is known for its lemons, which grow in terraced groves all around the town. They go into **limoncello**, a sweet lemon liqueur served cold after dinner, and into *delizia al limone*, a small sponge cake filled with lemon cream. Local dishes to try include *gnocchi alla sorrentina*, baked with tomato and mozzarella, fresh fish, and cheeses from the hills such as fior di latte and provolone.

For eating out, the lanes of the old town around Piazza Tasso and Corso Italia have many trattorias and pizzerias. For seafood with a sea view, walk down to Marina Grande, where restaurants sit on the old fishing quay. The hill village of Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi, above the town, is home to Don Alfonso 1890, one of the most famous fine-dining restaurants in southern Italy.

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

Sorrento is a safe town with little crime. The main risks are small ones:

- **Pickpockets**: take care on the crowded Circumvesuviana trains and at busy bus stops, especially in summer.
- **Traffic**: many streets outside the centre are narrow and have no pavement. Walk carefully, especially on the roads to the beaches and to Capo di Sorrento.
- **Steep steps**: the walk down to the harbours is steep and slippery when wet. Wear good shoes.
- **Sun and heat**: in July and August, avoid long walks in the middle of the day and carry water.

History

Sorrento began as a Greek and then a Roman town called Surrentum. Rich Romans built villas on the cliffs, and the ruins at Bagni della Regina Giovanna belonged to one of them. Local legend says that Queen *Giovanna II* of Naples later swam in the natural pool there, which gave the site its name.

The town's patron saint, the abbot *Antoninus*, died here in the 7th century. His tomb is in the crypt of Basilica of Sant'Antonino. In the Middle Ages the town was protected by deep gorges on two sides, like the one at Vallone dei Mulini, and by walls on the land side. In 1558 an Ottoman fleet attacked Sorrento and took many people as slaves, and new walls were built afterwards.

The poet *Torquato Tasso* was born here in 1544. From the 18th century, Sorrento became a stop on the Grand Tour, and writers such as *Goethe*, *Byron*, *Dickens* and *Ibsen* stayed here. The famous Neapolitan song *Torna a Surriento*, from the early 20th century, made the town's name known around the world.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Italy at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

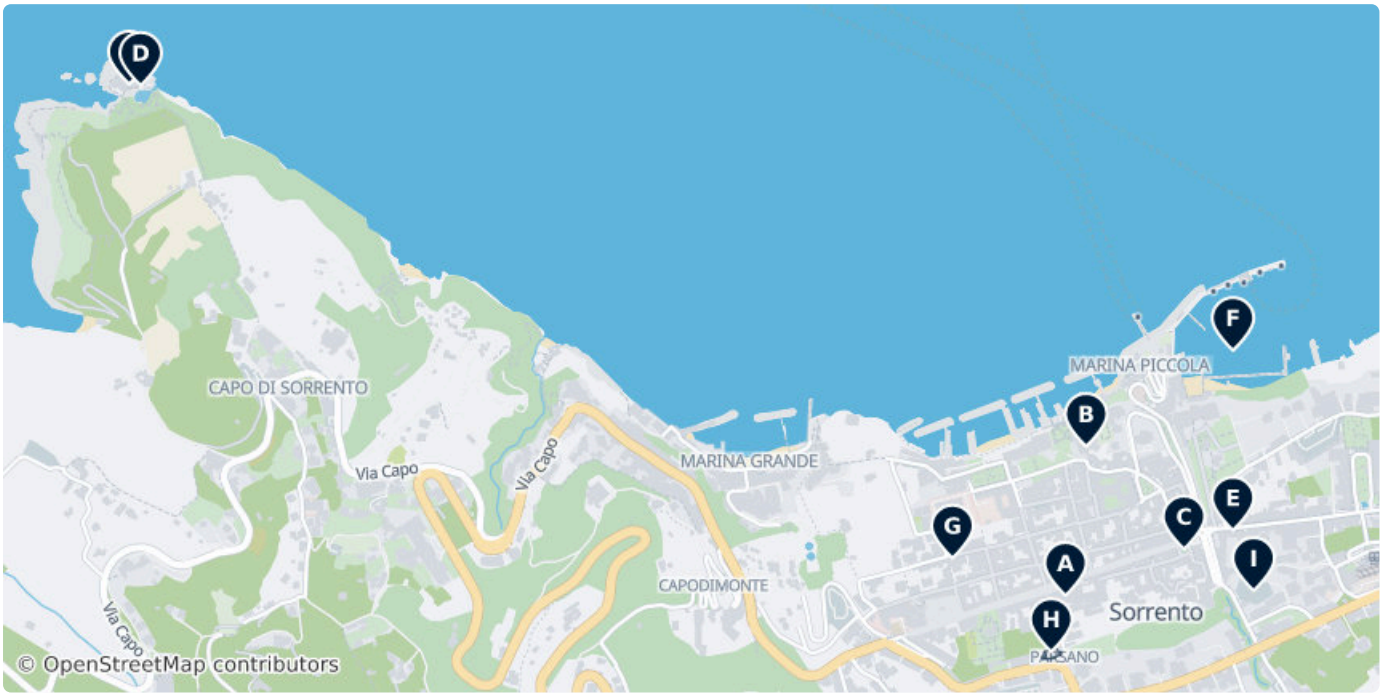
Type C / Type F / Type L
230 V · 50 Hz

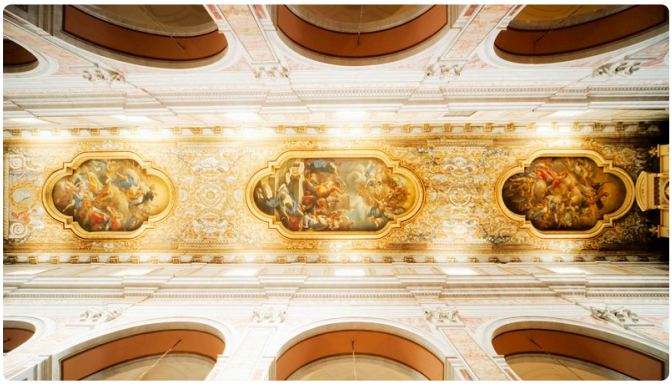
LANGUAGES
Italian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Sorrento's Unmissable Gems

Sorrento’s landscape is defined by its dramatic cliffs and deep volcanic gorges, most notably the lush Vallone dei Mulini. This collection highlights the town's historical layers, from 1st-century BC Roman maritime ruins at Regina Giovanna to the 16th-century Bastione di Parsano fortifications. Cultural landmarks include the 14th-century San Francesco cloister and the Museobottega della Tarsialignea, which preserves the local tradition of inlaid wood. Centered around the bustling Piazza Tasso, these sites offer a direct connection to Sorrento’s maritime heritage and architectural evolution.





A Sorrento Cathedral

The Cathedral of Saints Philip and James, commonly known as the Sorrento Cathedral, is a Roman Catholic cathedral located on Via Santa...

68 Corso Italia, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62521, 14.37279)



B Sorrento Franciscan Church

14th-century church featuring a cloister with crossed tuff arches in late-Arabic style. It is a frequent venue for classical concerts and art exhibitions.

Piazza Francesco Saverio Gargiulo, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62777, 14.37326)

fondazionesorrento.com/it/chiostro-di-s--francesco.php



C Torquato Tasso

A 19th-century white marble statue dedicated to the celebrated Renaissance poet Torquato Tasso, who was born in Sorrento in 1544.

Piazza Tasso, Sorrento (40.62601, 14.37547)



D Bagni della Regina Giovanna

Archaeological remains of a 1st-century BC Roman villa, Pollio Felice, located on a coastal promontory featuring a natural seawater lagoon.

80067, Italy (40.63397, 14.35186)



E Piazza Tasso

The town's primary square, built over a ravine. It contains statues of Torquato Tasso and Saint Antoninus and serves as the central hub for local buses.

172 Corso Italia, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62633, 14.37658)



F Sorrento Marina Piccola

The main harbor for passenger ferries and hydrofoils connecting Sorrento to Capri, Ischia, and Naples, situated at the base of the town's cliffs.

Napoli - Sorrento, Italy (40.62942, 14.37658)

G Museobottega della Tarsialignea - Inlaid Wood Museum

Museum located in an 18th-century palace showcasing 'intarsia,' the traditional local craft of inlaid wood, through a collection of furniture and historical tools.

Via San Nicola 28 (40.62585, 14.37023)

Mo–Su	10:00–18:30

museomuta.it, +39 081 877 19 42

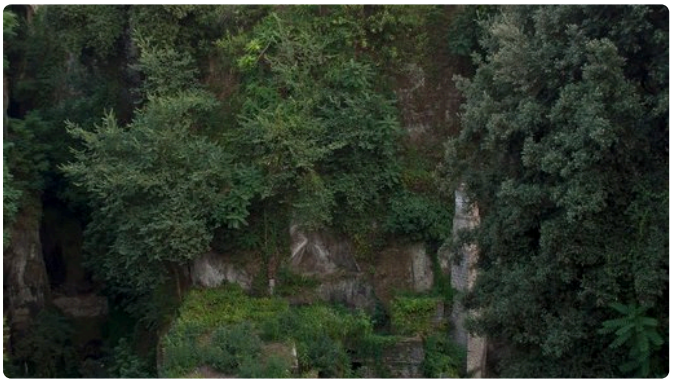


H Bastione di Parsano

A well-preserved section of the 16th-century Spanish defensive walls, built to protect the city from pirate raids. Visitors can walk along the restored ramparts.

25b Via degli Aranci, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62425, 14.37247)

Apr-May Mo–Su	10:00–13:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–13:00, 19:00–22:00
Sep Mo–Su	10:00–13:00, 18:00–20:00
Oct Mo–Su	10:00–13:00



I Vallone dei Mulini Car Park

A deep volcanic crevice containing the ruins of a 13th-century stone flour mill and sawmill, now overgrown with rare ferns and Mediterranean vegetation.

14 Via Fuorimura, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62529, 14.37705)



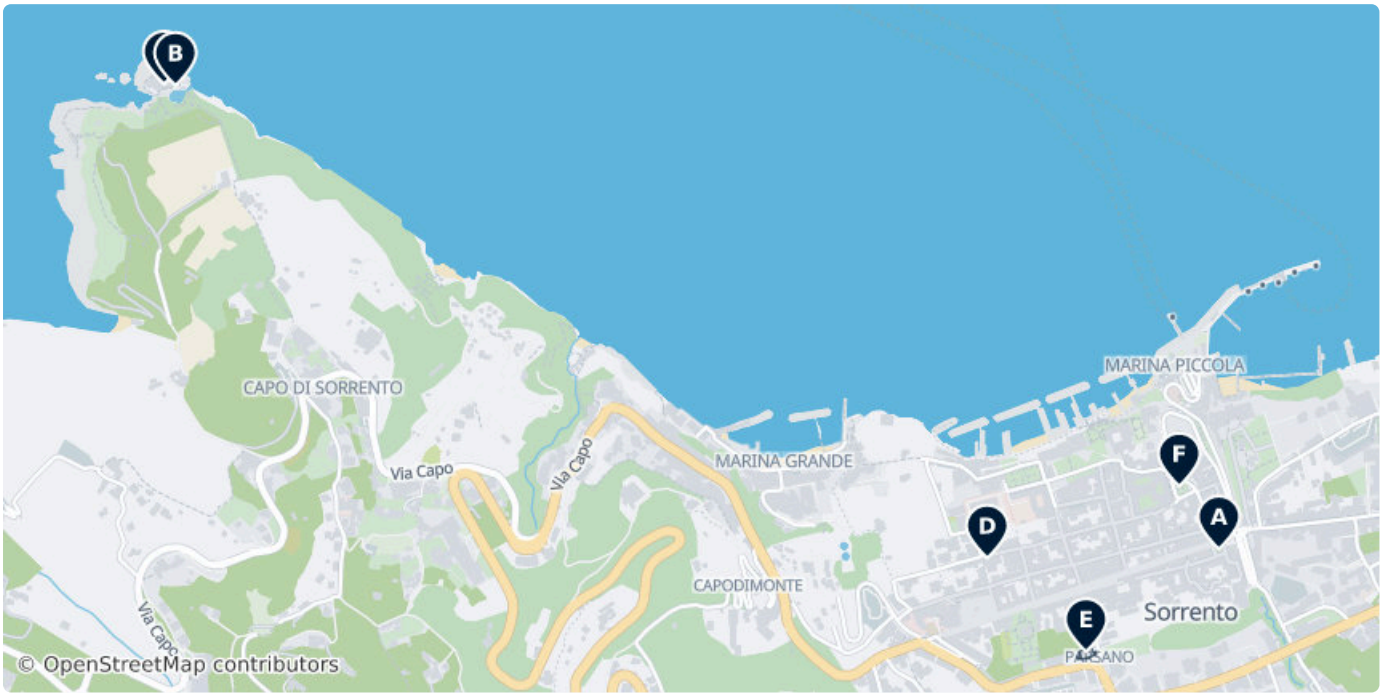
J "Regina Giovanna Castel" Roman Ruins

Coastal archaeological site featuring the foundations of a Roman maritime villa and a natural pool used by Queen Joanna II of Naples in the 14th century.

80067, Italy (40.63399, 14.35160)

Sorrento's Historical Treasures

Sorrento's historical landscape spans from Roman maritime architecture to 16th-century defensive fortifications. This collection highlights the archaeological remains of the Villa Pollio Felice at Capo di Sorrento and the preserved Bastione di Parsano, part of the city's Spanish-era defensive walls. Cultural heritage is further explored through the Museobottega della Tarsialignea, which preserves the local tradition of inlaid wood, and monuments dedicated to the poet Torquato Tasso and the city's patron saint, Antonino Abate.





A Torquato Tasso

A 19th-century white marble monument dedicated to Sorrento's most famous literary figure, the 16th-century poet Torquato Tasso. It stands in the central square that bears his name.

Piazza Tasso, Sorrento (40.62601, 14.37547)



B Bagni della Regina Giovanna

Archaeological remains of the 1st-century BC Roman Villa Pollio Felice. Located on the rocky headland of Capo di Sorrento, the site includes a natural lagoon and maritime ruins.

80067, Italy (40.63397, 14.35186)



C "Regina Giovanna Castel" Roman Ruins

Excavated structural remains of a sprawling 1st-century BC maritime villa. The site features foundations overlooking the sea and a natural swimming pool connected to the Mediterranean.

80067, Italy (40.63399, 14.35160)

D Museobottega della Tarsialignea - Inlaid Wood Museum

Housed in an 18th-century palace, this museum displays a collection of 19th-century inlaid wood furniture, tools, and artworks, documenting Sorrento's historical craftsmanship.

Via San Nicola 28 (40.62585, 14.37023)

Mo–Su	10:00–18:30

museomuta.it, +39 081 877 19 42



E Bastione di Parsano

A restored section of Sorrento's 16th-century defensive walls. Built during the Spanish vice-royalty to protect against Saracen attacks, the site reveals layers of Greek and Roman foundations.

25b Via degli Aranci, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62425, 14.37247)

Apr-May Mo–Su	10:00–13:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–13:00, 19:00–22:00
Sep Mo–Su	10:00–13:00, 18:00–20:00
Oct Mo–Su	10:00–13:00



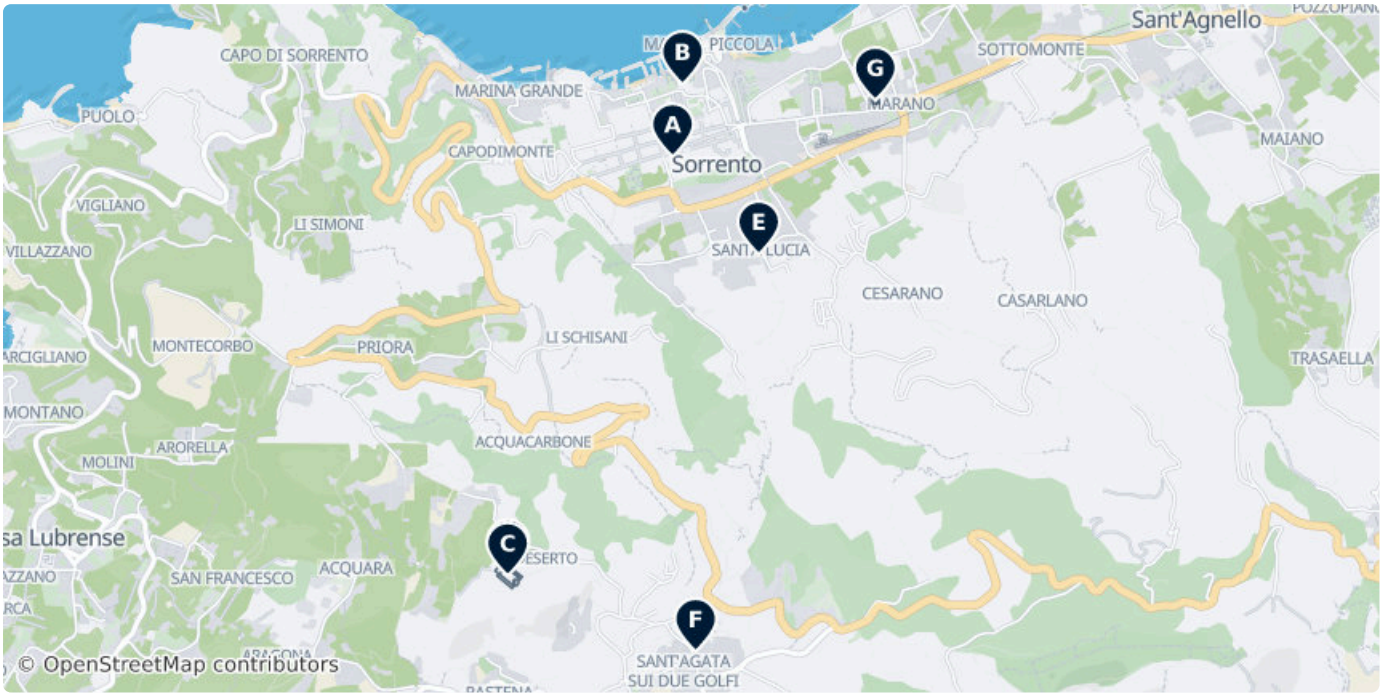
F Sant'Antonino Abate

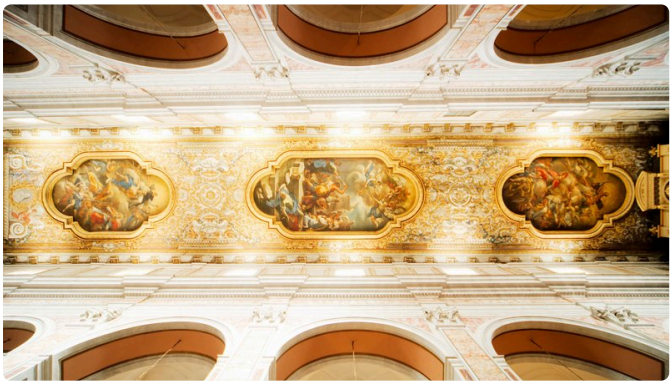
Statue of Sorrento's patron saint. According to local legend, the 7th-century monk performed numerous miracles, including rescuing a child from the belly of a whale.

5 Piazza Sant'Antonino, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62709, 14.37458)

Sorrento's Sacred Sites

Sorrento's religious architecture spans centuries, from the 11th-century Sorrento Cathedral with its 15th-century facade to the 14th-century Franciscan monastery. This collection includes urban churches featuring Baroque and Romanesque elements, as well as hilltop monastic sites like San Paolo al Deserto in Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi, which offers panoramic views of the Gulfs of Naples and Salerno. These sites house significant artworks, including intricate marble marquetry and historic cloisters.





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The Cathedral of Saints Philip and James, commonly known as the Sorrento Cathedral, is a Roman Catholic cathedral located on Via Santa...

68 Corso Italia, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62521, 14.37279)



B Sorrento Franciscan Church

14th-century church featuring a mix of architectural styles and an adjacent 13th-century cloister. The cloister is notable for its intertwined pointed arches of Moorish influence and serves as a venue for art exhibitions and concerts.

Piazza Francesco Saverio Gargiulo, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62777, 14.37326)

fondazionesorrento.com/it/chiostro-di-s--francesco.php

C Monastero di San Paolo al Deserto

16th-century monastery situated at the highest point of Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi. The site is known for its belvedere offering views across the Sorrento Peninsula toward the islands of Ischia and Capri.

23 Via Deserto, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi 80061, Italy (40.61044, 14.36513)

D Il Deserto

Hilltop religious site and viewpoint in Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi. Historically a Carmelite retreat, it provides a 360-degree vantage point over the Gulf of Naples and the Gulf of Salerno.

23 Via Deserto, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi 80061, Italy (40.61056, 14.36515)

E Chiesa Santa Lucia

Traditional Roman Catholic parish church located in the historic district of Sorrento, dedicated to Saint Lucy.

23 Via Santa Lucia, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62178, 14.37680)

F Sant'Agata

Parish church in Sant'Agata sui Due Golfi, notable for its 16th-century high altar. The altar is a masterpiece of Florentine school craftsmanship, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, lapis lazuli, and rare marbles.

4a Via Termine, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi 80061, Italy (40.60777, 14.37387)

G Chiesa N.S.Lourdes

Modern Catholic church located near the Sorrento train station, serving the local residential community with contemporary liturgical spaces.

305 Corso Italia, Sorrento 80067, Italy (40.62720, 14.38221)

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