

BUS TOUR OF THE ISLAND

Morning or afternoon tour of the island with guide and stop-offs at points of cultural or natural interest. Duration: about 3 hours.

TOUR OF THE ISLAND BY MOTORBOAT

Afternoon tour of the island by sea with departure from the port of Ischia and stop-off for about 1 hour at the fishermen's village of S. Angelo for shopping. Duration: about 3 hours.

BOAT TOUR OF THE ISLAND (full day)

Departure from the hotel at about 11.00 a.m., leaving the harbour of Lacco Ameno. First stop off for a swim at the lovers' grotto (Lacco Almeno), proceeding to the bay of S. Montano, S. Francesco beach (Fonio) and stopping off at the bay of Citara in front of the thermal gardens "Poseidon". Proceeding to the "Sorgeto" spring with a swim in thermal sea water. Snack on board before proceeding to the old fishermen's village of S. Angelo. Stop-off for approx. 2 hrs. with the opportunity to go shopping in the village's boutiques. Continuation to the "Maronti" beach (the largest on the island), the bay of S. Pancrazio with a further stop-off for swimming. Visit to the Mago (the magician's) grotto. Return to the port of Ischia (5.30 p.m. approx.) skirting the Aragonese castle and the old village of Ischia Ponte.

STROLL IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE

Guided visit to the Aragonese Castle, to the churches of Ischia Ponte and the old fishermen's dwellings.

(Entrance to the castle included)

TRIP TO THE ISLAND OF PROCIDA

Pick up at hotel by minicab. Embarkation on motorboat and 20 minutes sea travel. Disembarkment in Procida and guided tour of the island by taxi.

CAPRI AND ANACAPRI

Any Vacation in Ischia would not be the same without visiting the Isle of Capri, easily reachable by ferry. A mandatory stop will be the famous villa in Anacapri of Axel Munthe the Swedish Doctor, who wrote the best seller "Story of Saint Michael", based on his visit of Capri. After visiting the gorgeous villa in Anacapri, we will come back to the centre of the Capri, in the main square "Piazza Umbero I", well known as "Piazzetta", hot spot of Capri of the rich and the famous, where we can admire the characteristic of the white Church, many other Caffès, and the theatre of the Glamour life on the Island. From "Piazzetta" there will be a walk throughout the typical narrow streets of Capri, dated at Middle Age, where it will be possible to spend time to do some shopping, either in the typical product shops or in the Haute Couture Boutiques. A mandatory visit to the colourful Augustus Gardens, yet amazing terrace on Faraglioni, and Marina Piccola should be made. Free time to spend swimming in the clear and blue sea or visiting the most famous Blue Grotto.

NATIONAL MUSEUM IN NAPLES AND THE CAMPI FLEGREI

Tour of Naples and guided visit of about 2 hours to the National Museum. Afternoon visit to Solfatara and the Flavio amphitheatre at Pozzuoli.

SORRENTO, POSITANO, AMALFI, RAVELLO WITH BUS

From Naples to Castellammare along the motorway and from Castellammare to Sorrento along the panoramic coastal route. Visit of Sorrento (ca. 30 minutes). Departure for Positano and Amalfi. Visit of Amalfi and lunch break. In the afternoon visit to Villa Rufolo in Ravello. –

EXCURSION TO POMPEI EXCAVATIONS

This excursion will take us to discover the archaeological excavations of Pompeii, by those who were the ancient splendor of the Roman Empire. The excavations of Pompeii, differ from other archaeological sites because here you can see everything that until now has been recovered from the ashes that buried the Roman city during the eruption in 79 A.C. and, not what is left. Among the ruins of Pompeii, we can admire the ruins of the sumptuous villas with them still clearly visible frescos walls, baths, theater, amphitheater and other forms of architecture as a demonstration of what was once the richest and most prosperous Empire of Europe. Return to Ischia enjoying the magnificent landscape and sunset.

POMPEI AND VESUVIUS

Pompeii holds an intense fascination for visitors today. The eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, buried the town of Pompeii, which was forgotten for many years. Today, the city has become one of the most famous and beautiful in the world. The excavations, began in the eighteenth, and are still in progress, have brought to light what was the city of Pompeii before and during the tragic eruption. We'll be guided through the ancient streets of Pompeii where we can see Baths, holes, villas, where he held the lives of wealthy Romans in 79 AD before the eruption, then leave at the time of what was cause of much pain and death: Mount Vesuvius.

Vesuvius, which dominates the Bay of Naples, is the only volcano still active on the European mainland. The slopes of the volcano are covered with vegetation once covered with vineyards and woods, and in 1995 all are of the Vesuvius was declared a national park to preserve and conserve the natural resources of the area. We will reach to 1000 meters. bus, after which walk among the dense vegetation to the crater, from which we can admire the entire Bay of Naples and a wisp of smoke rising from the blackened crater, to remind us that the volcano is not extinguished but only asleep.

POMPEI AND HERCULANEUM

This excursion takes us to discover the most famous archaeological excavation: Pompeii and Herculaneum. During the Vesuvius eruption in 79 A.C., Pompeii was buried by ash and lapilli, Herculaneum was covered by a torrent of mud and ash. Thanks to the excavations started in XVIII century and, still in progress, Pompeii offers the ancient scenery of the old streets, the thermae and, rich Roman's Villa. Today is still possible to admire the frescos in the typical red "Pompeian", adorning the walls and the floors of the villas. Because the torrent of mud that flooded it, Herculaneum kept intact many objects and many parts of the houses in wood, which are well admirable today.

Anyway most part of the old city is still buried and, many treasures yet to be discovered. In the afternoon we came back to Ischia.

AMALFI EXCURSION BY BUS

This excursion will take you to discover all the beauty of the Amalfi Coast which have always inspired actors, musicians, directors, poets and writers. From Naples we pass by Sorrento by GT bus and we stopped at "Madonna" in Positano, a little panoramic terrace with a gorgeous view on Positano and all over Amalfi Coast. After the stop in Positano we will continue crossing the State Road SS 163, throughout Praiano and then Amalfi, which was the first Sea Republic. From Piazza Duomo in Amalfi we will visit the Cathedral dedicated to Saint Andrew and dated at VI century A.C. The Cathedral of Amalfi is also famous both for its majestic staircase, where is celebrated the Procession in Honor of Saint Andrew on November 30th and, for the Cloister named "del Paradiso", where we can admire glimpses of Moorish art due to the Saracen invasions of the XIII century A.C., when the Cloister was built. We left Amalfi and go to discover Ravello, which is a nice village at 350 mt. above the sea level. In Ravello we can visit Villa Rufolo, a villa overlooks the sea and Amalfi Coast, where many composers were inspired for their operas. Here, the famous composer Richard Wagner was inspired for his famous opera: The Parsifal.

THE ROYAL PALACE OF CASERTA AND CASSINO ABBEY

Caserta with its Royal Palace built under Charles of Bourbon in XVIII century, is also known as "Versailles of Naples". The Royal Palace of Caserta, with its 1200 rooms, is considered one of the richest in Italy. Everything reminded to the magic and the luxury of the Bourbon Age. The Royal Palace is surrounded by marvellous gardens with fountains and waterfalls. The most imposing waterfall at 3 km from the building and, a height of 75 mt. is well visible from the Palace. The Tour goes from Royal Palace beauties to Cassino, to visit the famous Abbey founded by St. Benedict in 529. The Abbey was destroyed by the air bombing during the Second World War. After the reconstruction, the Abbey is returned to its original state.

VOLCANOLOGICAL EXCURSION TO ISCHIA ISLAND

The bibliography is reported in the general section on Ischia.

INTRODUCTION

The morphology of the island is dominated in the central part by the Monte Epomeo, 785 m asl high, around which are located numerous other reliefs of volcanic nature. The flat part of the island is located between Casamicciola, Barano and Ischia Ponte.

The recent volcanic activity of the Island is subdivided into 5 phases. The first two (old cycle) occurred before the emission of the Green Tuff forming much of Monte Epomeo. The last three (younger cycle) are younger than the Green Tuff.

Phase 1 - older than 150.000 years ago (prevailing explosive activity (picture in Italian): Formation of Carrozza; Lower and Upper Formations of Scarrupata di Barano)

Phase 2 - between 150.000 - 75.000 years ago (prevailing effusive activity (picture in Italian): lava domes of Punta Imperatore, Capo Negro, Punta Chiarito, Sant'Angelo, Punta della Signora, Capo Grosso, La Guardiola, Monte Vezzi, Castello d'Ischia, Monte Vico). After this phase there is a period of quiescence

Phase 3 - between 55.000 - 33.000 years ago: (Pignatiello Formation, Green Tuff of Monte Epomeo, Citara Formation)

Phase 4 - between 28.500 - 18.000 years ago (Lava dome of Grotta del Mavone; lava flows of Pilaro; explosive products of Scarrupata di Panza and lower formation of Cava Pelara; effusive activity of Schiappa and Pomiceone. A quiescence follows this activity. The activity starts again with the explosive eruptions of Punta Imperatore, Upper Formation of Cava Pelara and volcano of Campotese. Scoria cone (picture in Italian) of Ciglio, Cava Petrella, Monte Cotto, Monte Vezzi and Grotta di Terra.

Phase 5 - after 10.000 years ago until 1302 AD (scoria cone of Punta della Cannuccia; volcano of Zaro; Formation of Piano Liguori; volcanic complexes of Monte Rotaro and Montagnone-Monte Maschiatta; eruptive centers of Porto d'Ischia, Vateliero-Molara-Cava Nocelle; Arso volcano).

EXCURSION

The excursion can be made by private car or public transportation in one or (preferably) two days. The different stops can be reached from the main road around the island.

PORTO D'ISCHIA

The present port was, until the last century, a lake (Lago del Bagno), separated from the sea by a small piece of land that was cutted in 1853-54. The circular structure has a diameter of 400 m and is the remains of a crater formed around the III century BC. The products erupted in this eruption are mostly black scoria and lavas visible on the hill of S. Pietro and at S. Alessandro to the back of Spiaggia degli Inglesi. On S. Pietro hill, archeological findings dated at the VI and V century BC were found; they testify the presence of a settlement possibly destroyed by the eruption. From Porto d' Ischia take the road toward Casamicciola. After about 700 m stop at S. Alessandro, park your car and go down to Spiaggia degli Inglesi following a small road. At the beach reach the rocks along the sea and go toward Cafiero beach.

CAFIERO BEACH

Marine erosion evidenced a volcanic conduit filled with lava on the cliff facing the beach. A lava flow, 3.5 m thick with a massive interior bounded by two scoria levels, originated from this conduit. Some deposits at Cafiero are of sedimentary origin and contain marine fossils. The sedimentary strata have a green color and are made of reworked ash. In the top part of the cliff there is an hanging beach (the original sea level was higher than the present one, or the ground uplifted) in which were found artifacts of Bronze age.

Go back to the main road and go toward Casamicciola. 100 meters after the Spa of Castiglione, on the left along the main road, there is small road toward the soccer field of Casamicciola.

SOCCER FIELD (Campo sportivo) OF CASAMICCIOLA

Rotaro Crater is visible in the background of the soccer field . Rotaro emitted a lava flow presently covered by pine trees. Recent datings obtained for this eruption a date around the III century AC. The lava flow is 650 m long and ends into the sea at Punta la Scrofa.

The volcanic complex of Monte Rotaro is made up of different vents aligned along a euptie fracture. The volcanic activity moved from south to north. The older vent is Bosco della Maddalena, a regular cone approximately 200 m high and 800 m wide on top of which is Fondo d'Oglio. The northern side of the crater has been breeched by the eruption that formed the lava dome of Monte Rotaro 175 m high and 500-600 m wide. In the northern part at the base of Monte Rotaro there are some lava flows 30 m thick. The oldest flow is the one of Punta della Scrofa. The other flows ends in the vicinity of the cemetery of Casamicciola and are separated each other by some scoria levels.

Go back onto the main road and proceed toward Lacco Ameno, in the port of Lacco Ameno there is a rock eroded in the form of a mushroom. During clear days it is possible to see the italian coast from Monte di Procida to Circeo.l

THE MUSHROOM OF LACCOAMENO

Is made up of the Green Tuff of Epomeo eroded by the action of the sea.

Stop in the center of Lacco Ameno in the square of the church of S. Restituta. Below the church there is the Archeological Museum.

CHURCH AND ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The church of S. Restituta, has been rebuilt after the earthquake of 1883, it has a nice policrome marble altar originally belonging to the church of Rosario, destroyed by the same earthquake. Below the church there is the Archeological Museum made by an ancient settlement which included furnaces and tumbs discovered in the '50. The archeological items belong to findings in the Site of Santa Restituta and from other excavations in the locality of Monte Vico near Lacco Ameno. This site was inhabited since XV century BC. In the VIII century BC, it became the site of the Greek colony named Pithekoussa (island of monkeys); this name was subsequently given to the all island. The necropolis and part of the acropolis (Locality Mazzola) were excavated during the years '20 by the archeologist Giorgio Buchner and Don Pietro Monti. The thermal springs named Isabella, Romana and Greca are located on the coast in the front of the church. The flow rate totals 74 m3/day and the water temperature are comprised between 50 and 70°C. The Greca thermal spring is mildly radioactive.

Proceed in the direction of Forio till to the deviation to Punta Caruso. Along this road you may notice the lava dome from which was emitted the lava flow of Zaro. The road is in a bad condition and it is better to proceed without car.

PUNTA CARUSO

The volcanic center of Zaro is one of the few center of activity of the recent cycle in the north-western part of Ischia. The last activity produced some lava domes (Monte Marecocco and Caccaviello) and the viscous lava flow of Zaro, dated at about 10000 years before present. The lava flow has a surface of 1.2 km2 is 800-1000 m wide and 100 m thick. The base of the flow and the underlaying level of pumice deposit (pertaining to the same eruption) are visible in the east side of the beach of S.Montano. Large white crystals of sanidine are visible within the lava flow.

Go back to the main road and proceed to Forio. Along this road you may notice the steepest flank of Mt Epomeo. Forio is the area with the highest number of thermal springs. At Citara there are the Spa "Terme di Poseidon" and at Sant'Angelo those named "Afrodite". Numerous fumaroles are found in the locality "Il Cuotto". From Forio go toward Panza. From here follow the road signals to "Baia di Sorgeto".

BAIA DI SORGETO

In this locality there are several fumaroles heating marine water. The products of Citara formation have here a thickness of 40 m. They were emitted during eruptions occurred in the South-Western part of the island. The deposits alternate pumice fall levels and surge levels. At Sorgeto there are breccia layers with pumice bombs, and lithic blocks as big as 1 m with impact sags (deformation of the underlaying ground caused by the impact).

From Panza go to Sant'Angelo

PENINSULA OF SANT'ANGELO

The peninsula of S. Angelo extends for about 400 meters toward the south, it is 104 m high and is bounded to Ischia by a narrow isthmus. The base of Sant'Angelo is made up by a lava dome, approximately 50 m thick. The lava is compact with columnar jointings of a dark grey colour. A deposit , formed by two levels of pumice and litified tuffs, covers the lava dome and fills the fractures of its surface. Black welded scorias for a thickness of about 2-3 m are visible in the eastern part. The products of Sant'Angelo are covered by the deposits of the green Tuff of Monte Epomeo. The presence of the lava dome at the base of Sant'Angelo, made it difficult the marine erosion giving to the peninsula its peculiar form.

Back to the road, go to Serrara Fontana. During clear days it is possible to see the Pontine Island (Ponza and Ventotene). At the Belvedere you may stop to rest (and eventually to have lunch). Proceed to Barano. Park your car about 500 m after the fraction of Buonopane in correspondance of a white road that goes to the Spa of Nitrodi.

TERME DI NITRODI

The Nitrodi spa is renowned for the therapeutic effects of its water. The first historical references go back from the I century BC to the III century AC. In the Archeological Museum of Naples there are bas-relief dedicated to the Ninphs of Nitrodi.

After Barano, proceed to Testaccio from where you can reach the beach of Maronti.

10 - Maronti.

The beach is 2 km wide, and is affected by an intese geothermal activity. The thermal springs of Olmitello and Cava Scura have temperatures of 65°C and 72° C and are the springs exploited since longer time in the island. Above the beach there are loose materials of the landslides that affect this side of Monte Epomeo. An hanging beach is at about 10-20 m above sea level.

From Maronti go back to Testaccio and then proceed to the volcanic center of Vateliero. From the square of Testaccio

it is possible to see the crater of Fondo del Vateliero dated at about 2000 years ago. From Testaccio take the road toward Monte Barano where you park and walk along the trail to Scarrupata di Barano. The trail is difficult. The way back may be difficult during sunny day. You may spend an halfday in this place including swimming.

SCARRUPATA DI BARANO

The area goes from Punta S. Pancrazio to Capo Grosso. With the back to the sea, you may see, to the right, the lavas of Monte Vezzi covered by the explosive products of the eruption of Pignatiello and the Green Tuff of Epomeo. Above the deposits of the Green tuff there are the products of a younger eruption.

The products outcropping along the Scarrupata have been subdivided into lower Formation and Upeer Formation. The lower one belongs to the first cycle of activity of Ischia. There are the products of at least three different explosive eruptions separated by paleosols and erosional surfaces. The upper formation is 85 m thick (up to 200 m on Monte Vezzi) and is made of layers of pumice fall deposits, and stratified breccia and scoria deposits. In correspondance of Monte vezzi there are also lava flows.

Proceed to Fiaiano above Porto d'Ischia on the lava flow of Arso,

LAVA FLOW OF ARSO

This lava flow was emitted during the last eruption on Ischia in 1302. It destroyed the middle age village of Geronda. The crater is to the east of Fiaiano and it is surrounded by black and red scoriae. The lava flow is 2.7 km long , and 1 km wide in its largest point near Punta Molina. In this point it is 15-17 m high. The lava flow is presently covered by pine trees planted between 1853-1855.

From Fiaiano you can take the road to Cretaio. At the end of this road there is a two-lane road circling for 500 m the crater of Fondo Ferraro. At the left there is the volcanic edifice of Posta Lubrano and then Bosco della Maddalena, Moschiata and the top of Montangone. Following the road it is possible to reach the crater of Fondo d'Oglio. Park where possible, and proceed by walking.

FONDO D'OGLIO CRATER

The crater of Fondo d'Oglio belongs to the volcanic complex of Monte Rotaro. At about 30 m from the entrance on the left there are some fumaroles. Continue walking and after an enlargement of the road you find Fondo d'Oglio, erupted about 2300 years ago

RENTAL

Garden & Villas Resort is proud to be able to find the most appropriate car, scooter, boat , yacht where you will be offered the 5 star service that you should naturally expect.

Discovery and have a fun around the Island by your own:

BICICLES:

Prices on request

CAR:

Various model from small to medium size

Prices on request

SCOOTER:

Various model from 50 CC to 250 CC

Prices on request

ALL THE PRICES ARE ON REQUEST.