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Naples and Salerno both make excellent and affordable gateways to the Amalfi Coast. Using these cities as your base allows travelers to enjoy amazing food, scenic ferry rides, historic ruins, hiking, and authentic Italian culture while avoiding many of the transportation headaches along the coast itself.[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row][vc_row type=”in_container” full_screen_row_position=”middle” scene_position=”center” text_color=”dark” text_align=”left” overlay_strength=”0.3″ shape_divider_position=”bottom”][vc_column column_padding=”no-extra-padding” column_padding_position=”all” background_color_opacity=”1″ background_hover_color_opacity=”1″ column_shadow=”none” column_border_radius=”none” width=”2/3″ tablet_text_alignment=”default” phone_text_alignment=”default” column_border_width=”none” column_border_style=”solid”]

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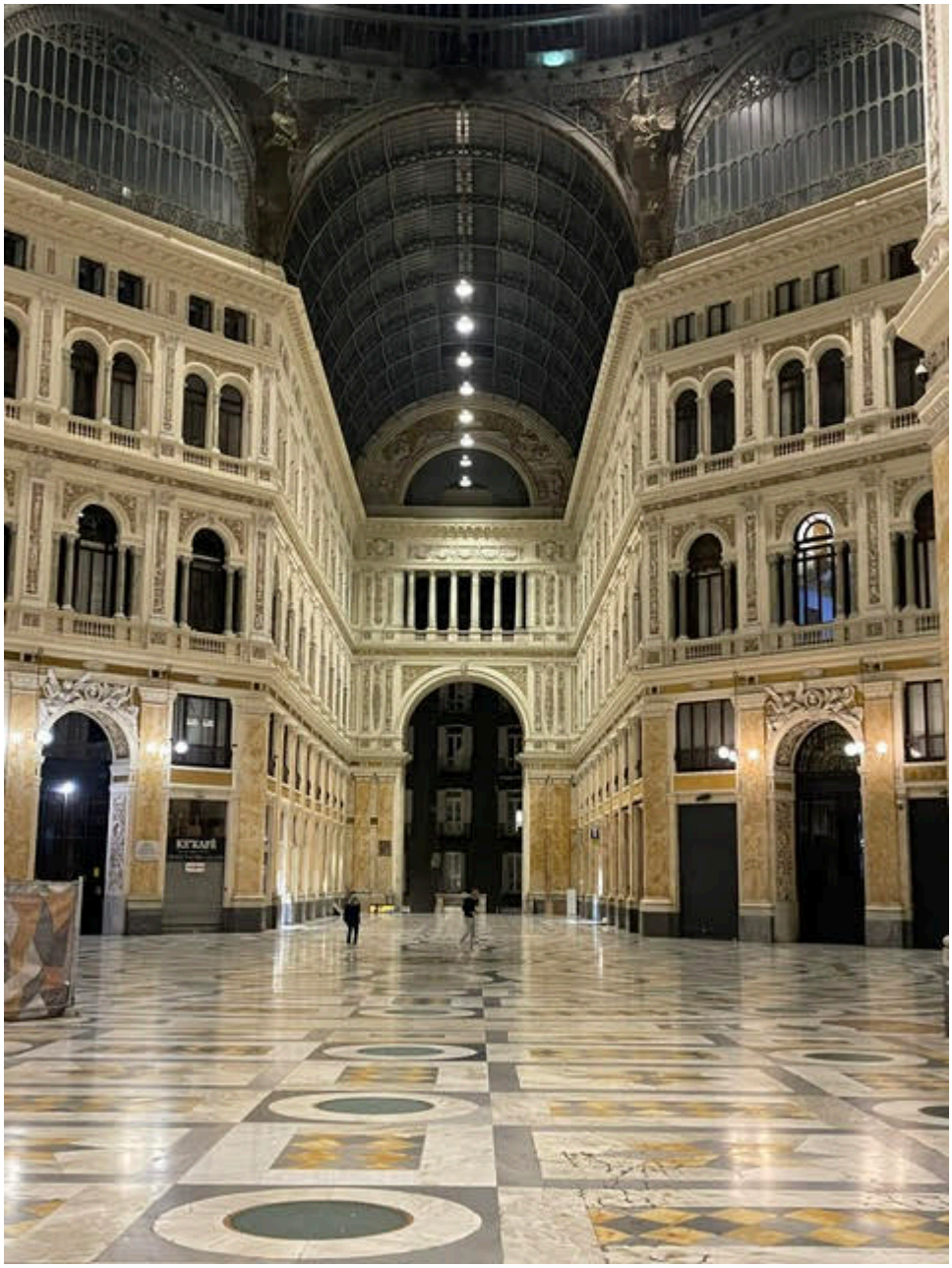
International Airport. Naples is energetic, chaotic, and full of personality. More importantly, it has some of the best food in Italy. Spending a night or two in Naples is one of the smartest ways to begin an Amalfi Coast itinerary.

A Naples food tour is a perfect introduction to the region because it combines history, culture, and incredible local dishes. Travelers can sample authentic Neapolitan pizza, fried seafood, pastries, espresso, and famous street food while exploring the historic center. In addition, Naples cooking classes continue to grow in popularity among visitors seeking a more immersive experience. Sometimes the best plan is simply to wander through the narrow streets and discover hidden restaurants, bakeries, wine bars, and local markets on your own.[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row][vc_row type="in_container" full_screen_row_position="middle" scene_position="center" text_color="dark" text_align="left" overlay_strength="0.3" shape_divider_position="bottom"][vc_column column_padding="no-extra-padding" column_padding_position="all" background_color_opacity="1" background_hover_color_opacity="1" column_shadow="none" column_border_radius="none" width="1/2" tablet_text_alignment="default" phone_text_alignment="default" column_border_width="none" column_border_style="solid"]



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From Naples, travelers can quickly reach Salerno by train. Salerno is often overlooked, but it may be one of the best bases near the Amalfi Coast. Hotels are usually far less expensive than those in Positano or Amalfi, and the city has a beautiful waterfront promenade along with excellent transportation connections.

One of the biggest advantages of staying in Salerno is the ferry system. Instead of fighting traffic on narrow cliffside roads, travelers can explore the Amalfi Coast by water. Ferries connect Salerno with Amalfi, Positano, Minori, Maiori, and several other coastal towns. In addition, the views from the sea are absolutely spectacular.

Sorrento also works well as an optional extension. While technically outside the Amalfi Coast region, Sorrento remains one of the most convenient and enjoyable destinations in southern Italy. The town offers walkable streets, excellent restaurants, beautiful scenery, and easy transportation connections. Furthermore, Sorrento provides quick access to Capri and Pompeii.

[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row][vc_row type=”in_container” full_screen_row_position=”middle” scene_position=”center” text_color=”dark” text_align=”left” overlay_strength=”0.3″ shape_divider_position=”bottom”][vc_column column_padding=”no-extra-padding” column_padding_position=”all” background_color_opacity=”1″ background_hover_color_opacity=”1″ column_shadow=”none” column_border_radius=”none” width=”1/1″ tablet_text_alignment=”default” phone_text_alignment=”default” column_border_width=”none” column_border_style=”solid”]

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History lovers will also find plenty to explore near Naples and Salerno. Pompeii and Herculaneum are both easy day trips by train. These ancient Roman cities were buried during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Today, visitors can walk through preserved

homes, shops, streets, and public buildings that provide an incredible glimpse into Roman life.[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row][vc_row type=”in_container” full_screen_row_position=”middle” scene_position=”center” text_color=”dark” text_align=”left” overlay_strength=”0.3″ shape_divider_position=”bottom”][vc_column column_padding=”no-extra-padding” column_padding_position=”all” background_color_opacity=”1″ background_hover_color_opacity=”1″ column_shadow=”none” column_border_radius=”none” width=”1/2″ tablet_text_alignment=”default” phone_text_alignment=”default” column_border_width=”none” column_border_style=”solid”]

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Vesuvius itself. The volcano towers above the Bay of Naples and remains one of Italy's most famous natural landmarks. Fortunately, the hike to the crater is manageable for most visitors, and the panoramic views are well worth the effort.

Capri is another classic addition to an Amalfi Coast itinerary. Ferries connect Naples and Sorrento with the island throughout much of the year. Capri is famous for dramatic cliffs, beautiful water, upscale shopping, and the Blue Grotto. However, the island also offers quieter corners and scenic walking paths away from the busiest tourist areas.

Travelers staying in Salerno should also consider taking the train south to Paestum. This underrated destination contains some of the best-preserved Greek temples in Italy. In addition, the surrounding countryside is known for buffalo mozzarella production. Several local farms offer tours and tastings where visitors can watch fresh mozzarella di bufala being made by hand.[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row][vc_row type="in_container" full_screen_row_position="middle" scene_position="center" text_color="dark" text_align="left" overlay_strength="0.3" shape_divider_position="bottom"][vc_column column_padding="no-extra-padding" column_padding_position="all" background_color_opacity="1" background_hover_color_opacity="1" column_shadow="none" column_border_radius="none" width="1/3" tablet_text_alignment="default" phone_text_alignment="default" column_border_width="none" column_border_style="solid"]

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For travelers searching for scenic ferry rides, amazing food, historic ruins, hiking, and authentic Italian experiences, the Amalfi Coast delivers far more than just beautiful postcard views.[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row]