

Sample itinerary: Art Incontro Napoli

This sample itinerary illustrates the range of activities which are included in a typical week of the Art Incontro Napoli program. To receive the complete 18 day itinerary, current prices and booking conditions, email lucia@artincontro.com.au

Day 5 PROCIDA - NAPOLI

MORNING: BOOKMAKING WORKSHOP

Lucia will demonstrate a number of simple book constructions and bookbinding techniques. In this workshop, each participant will produce a simple folded or concertina book and will also begin to make their journal. We will leave the journal unbound at this stage, so we can continue to use the loose-leaf pages in the drawing sessions. The pages can then be edited and stitched together at the end of the two weeks. (All bookmaking materials will be provided.)

AFTERNOON: ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

After lunch, we visit the National Archaeological Museum in Napoli. This superb museum houses arguably the world's most important archaeological collection from Pompeii, Ercolano (Herculaneum) and other Campanian cities. The collection includes a splendid arrangement of Pompeian frescos and mosaics, remarkable for their aesthetic elegance and technical sophistication. These qualities are also evident in the many domestic items exhibited on the first floor of the museum. Among the exhibits is an exquisite blue wine vessel decorated with a glass-cameo effect and engraved with delicate decorative motifs.

EVENING: PIAZZA BELLINI

One of the liveliest squares in old Napoli, Piazza Bellini is an ideal spot to relax with a drink. Close to the university, art school and music conservatorium, we'll find a number of alternative galleries, music and bookshops. Intra Moenia, a small independent publishing house, sells art publications and postcards. Next door, Evaluna, a woman's bookshop, is a focus for the promotion of cultural events, including literary readings, classes, performances, and tarot readings using *carte Napoletane*. Dinner at Trattoria Da Carmela in Napoli is recommended.

Day 6 PROCIDA

MORNING: GUIDED WALK OF PROCIDA WITH THE ELSA MORANTE LITERARY PARK

Elsa Morante, the novelist, short-story writer and poet, was exiled to Procida during the Second World War for her anti-fascist activity. Her novel, *Arturo's Island*, is a coming of age story which is set on Procida and beautifully evokes its landscape and people. Using Morante's text and accompanied by local musicians, our guides will lead us through hidden passage-ways and ancient squares to provide a fascinating account of this unique island: its architecture, history, geology and popular customs. The walk begins in Piazza dei Martiri, an ancient square overlooking the bay, and famous for its revolutionary past. (An excerpt from *Arturo's Island* is included in the Art Incontro Napoli Anthology, which you will receive before departure).

AFTERNOON: FOURTH DRAWING SESSION

Using the folded books from our bookmaking workshop, we will compile a series of layered frottage drawings (rubblings), exploring and mapping the varied textures and surfaces of old Procida. We will experiment with graphite and wax resist techniques to obtain different effects. Alternatively, you can continue your own self directed project in drawing, painting or any other creative activity.

Day 7 ISCHIA

MORNING: CASTELLO ARAGONESE

Just five miles from Procida, the island of Ischia is renowned for its green landscape and for its hot spring baths, which draw many visitors each year. Our destination in the morning is Castello Aragonese, built on a tiny island and linked to the mainland by a causeway. Inside the fortified walls of the island-castle, we find the imposing Angevin cathedral of Assunta and the small hexagonal church of San Pietro a Pantaniello; both now used as contemporary art spaces. Nearby, in the haunting Convento delle Clarisse, the bodies of deceased nuns were once left to decompose, in order to remind the sisters who mourned them of their own mortality. Lunch on the terrace of Trattoria Aragonese, at the foot of the castle and with a view of Ponte Ischia, is recommended.

AFTERNOON: FREE TIME

After lunch, you are free to explore Ischia at your leisure. You might choose to visit La Mortella, the luscious garden of English composer, William Walton and his wife, Susana. The garden covers 1.5

square kilometres and contains 180 plant varieties, including native flora as well as exotic specimens from South America, New Zealand and China.

Day 8 PROCIDA

MORNING: EXPLORING PROCIDA BY SEA

Our boat trip departs from the bay of Corricella, following the rugged cliff face until the coastline draws back to form the soft bay of the fishing village, Chiaiolella. We skirt the nature reserve of Vivara, a tiny island linked to Procida by a pedestrian bridge. At Punta Serra, an ancient crater is a reminder of the island's volcanic origins. We moor at Pozzo Vecchio, where we can enjoy a swim at the beach made famous by the film *Il Postino* or simply enjoy the beautiful view offered by the cliff of Fiumicello with its numerous little grottos. The next stop is Procida's lively and busy harbour, Marina di Sancio Cattolico. After rounding the harbour, we will see a series of natural formations including the fortified rise of Terra Murata, before returning home to Corricella.

AFTERNOON: FIFTH DRAWING SESSION

Using found objects, we will compile a series of drawings using pen and ink. Alternatively, you can continue your own self directed project in drawing, painting or any other creative activity.

Day 9 NAPOLI

MORNING: SIXTH DRAWING SESSION

In this session, we will experiment with mono-printing techniques, using the forms and colours of the local architecture. Alternatively, you can continue your own self directed project in drawing, painting or any other creative activity.

AFTERNOON: EXPLORING SPACCANAPOLI

The long narrow street called Spaccanapoli has been classified as an open-air museum because of its extraordinarily rich array of churches, squares and historic buildings. In this street, various epochs and architectural styles can be traced. Spaccanapoli is also one of the most culturally vibrant, atmospheric and chaotic quarters in Napoli. We begin with lunch at Di Matteo, a popular eating spot renowned for classic Margarita pizzas as well as *pizza fritta* (deep-fried pizza). After lunch, we visit the enchanting workshop of Giuseppe and Marco Ferrigno. This father and son team mould and paint terracotta figurines for nativity scenes, following a Neapolitan tradition that dates back to medieval times. Our exploration of Spaccanapoli continues with a visit to the beautifully austere Monastery of Santa Chiara. This religious site is one of the finest examples of Neapolitan Gothic and famous for its magnificent majolica-tiled cloister.

Day 10 CUMA

MORNING: SEVENTH DRAWING SESSION

This morning, we will experiment with water-colour, using the forms and colours of Corricella fishing harbour. Alternatively, you can continue your own self directed project in drawing, painting or any other creative activity.

AFTERNOON: THE SOLFATARA VOLCANO AND CUMA

On our second trip to Pozzuoli we visit the Solfatara, a volcanic crater which was once an obligatory stop for those making the Grand Tour. The volcano is now dormant, but mud still bubbles from the clay bed. Nearby, a shrine marks the place where Saint Gennaro, the protector of Napoli, is said to have been martyred. Travelling along the coast road, we'll stop at Lake Averno, in ancient times considered the entrance to the underworld. Our next stop is Cuma. Founded in 800 BC, this ancient settlement was the oldest colony in Magna Grecia. We will visit the acropolis area, to find the Temples of Apollo and Jupiter. At the foot of the acropolis, is the haunting L'Antro della Sibilla (the Sibyl's Cave), a tufa passageway, illuminated by narrow fissures and ending in a vaulted chamber. According to myth, this was the ancient site of the Cumaean oracle, the priestess consulted by Aeneas.

Day 11 PROCIDA

FREE DAY AT YOUR LEISURE

Day 12 NAPOLI

MORNING: FESTA DI SAN GENNARO

We return to Napoli for the second annual celebration of the miracle of the blood of Saint Gennaro. The procession starts off at the Duomo (cathedral) with the statue of the patron saint of Napoli, being carried from the church. This ceremony, in which the congealed blood of the saint becomes liquid, has been performed since 1300 and is almost the equivalent of an oracle: if the miracle does not happen, catastrophes are imminent. The procession is known as the *inghirlandata* (garlanding) because it was once accompanied by flowered decorations and the faithful would throw rose petals

over the statue of the saint. Today the Festa di San Gennaro incorporates market stalls selling nougat, souvenirs and toys.

AFTERNOON: CAPODIMONTE GALLERY AND PARK

The National Museum of Capodimonte, once the royal palace of the Bourbon king Charles III, is today one of Europe's most important art museums, representing the major schools of Italian and European painting from 1300 to 1700, as well as an impressive collection of drawings, prints and decorative art objects. The 17th century, an era when Napoli was considered the art capital of Italy, is particularly well represented. Caravaggio's key work *The Flagellation* and Artemisia Gentileschi's unforgettable image of *Judith Slaying Holofernes* are among the highlights in a collection which also includes Renaissance artists such as Masaccio, Bellini, Botticelli and Titian. In the realm of the decorative arts, Maria Amalia's Porcelain Parlour, a room in which the walls and ceiling are tiled with about 3,000 pieces of the finest Capodimonte porcelain, should not be missed.

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