

# **Amalfi Coast Unveiled: Insider Tips and Hidden Gems with Dianne Bortoletto**

**In episode 49 of the Global Travel Planning Podcast, returning guest Dianne Bortoletto**

Tracy: In episode 49 of the Global Travel Planning Podcast, returning guest Dianne Bortoletto shares her insider tips for making the most of a trip to Italy's breathtaking Amalfi coast. Dianne reveals what you really need to know before you go. Now, if you loved her expert advice in episode 42, you won't want to miss this essential guide to one of Italy's most iconic destinations. Hi, and welcome to the Global Travel Planning Podcast. I'm, your host, Tracy Collins, who, with my expert guests will take you on a weekly journey to destiny nations around the globe, providing travel inspiration, itinerary ideas, practical tips, and more to help you plan your next travel adventure.

**Global Travel Planner podcast welcomes Dianne Bortoletto this week**

Diane Bortoletto: Everybody.

Tracy: And welcome to episode 49 of the Global Travel Planner Podcast. This week I am excited to have Dianne Bortoletto. I've pronounced that correctly. He was in Our previous episode 42, Talking All about her, tips for first time visitors to Italy. Now, this week we're talking about the Malfi Coast. But first of all, Dianne would you like to introduce yourself? Tell us where you're from, obviously that Italian heritage of yours,

and about your podcast as well, please.

Diane Bortoletto: Oh, thank you, Tracy, and thank you for having me on your show. my name, yes, Dianne Bortoletto. I'm born in Melbourne, but I have both parents who are Italian. I have an Italian passport. I've lived in Italy and I've traveled to Italy lots and lots of times. It's my second home, if you like. I have a huge passion for everything Italian. and that passion includes Ferrari. And being a Formula one fan, I recently started a podcast called and away We Go F1 podcast, which goes beyond the track limits to talk about travel, food and lifestyle surrounding the sport. And I co host that with another travel writer friend of mine, Monique Ceccato and the weekly episode. So, yeah, if you like Formula one, you can tune in to that as well. Thank you.

Tracy: Oh, no, brilliant as well. I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I used to be a Formula One, fan a long time ago. Kind of brought up with a brother. He was obsessed. so I've enjoyed the episodes and obviously Monique has also been on the podcast to talk about her life in Norway. So it was great to, have you on the podcast.

### **Could you sum up the Amalfi coast in three words**

Last time we talk about Italy, so this time it's all about the Amalfi Coast. And I'm going to ask you, actually the same question I probably started with last time is like, could you sum up the Amalfi coast in three words? For anybody who hasn't been There before.

Diane Bortoletto: Three words would be hilly. Hilly, yeah. beautiful. And. Oh, hilly. Beautiful and unexpected.

Tracy: Lovely. Lovely. And a beautiful part of the world. I totally agree. definitely you have that. That second adjective. Totally.

Diane Bortoletto: Yeah.

## **Let's talk about what makes the Amalfi coast so special**

Tracy: Let's. Let's talk about what makes the Amalfi, coast so special. Should we actually just explain to our listeners where the Amalfi coast is located in Italy? That's probably a good start, actually.

Diane Bortoletto: Yeah. So it's in what they call south of Italy. So pretty much, if you. South of Rome is southern Italy, but the Amalfi coast is south of Naples. about an hour from Naples by train is Sorrento, and that's the gateway from the Amalfi coast. And then it stretches along the coast there in the. In the region of Campania.

Tracy: And what makes it so special?

Diane Bortoletto: Well, it's just beautiful. It's where the mountains meet the sea and that you just feel like you're standing in a postcard the whole time. I mean, there's a reason why that iconic seaside shot of Italy that you see everywhere is Positano, because it is just so beautiful. You have colorful houses that seem to somehow just stick out of the side of the mountain, defying gravity. and there's beautiful rocky outcrops, and the sea is just crystal clear and so beautiful. The most beautiful hues of blue. And obviously it's Italy, so the food's amazing and, and the people are vibrant and full of energy, and, it's just a stunning part of the country.

Tracy: It is. It was one. It was one of the areas, actually, that I couldn't wait to go to. And I've actually, again, I managed to go there in November, so I was very, very lucky to be able to do that.

## **Diane says people watching on Italian beaches is next level**

now, if somebody's planning to spend time on the Malfi coast, how long would you recommend they stay there for to actually be able to experience it?

Diane Bortoletto: I don't know, about 15 years, perhaps.

Tracy: I wish you could afford the house there, Dianne

Diane Bortoletto: Yeah, exactly, exactly. No, I would say, you know, it would look. Giving yourself a week is. Would be really lovely because then you could see the Amalfi coast with, you know, doing something every day without feeling too rushed. If you can do two weeks and you're just going to have more opportunities for swimming

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Diane Bortoletto: and taking boat trips, and just let, you know, lazing around, enjoying the sun. And, I mean, the people watching on the Italian beaches is next level. Like, you know, people watching in the city is one thing, but on Italian beaches is next level. It's incredible. You will be entertained.

## **Experiencing Amalfi coast on water is something every visitor should do**

Tracy: So in terms of things to experience around, Amalfi coast, because I could talk about places to visit because we obviously know, you know, places like Malfi, obviously. but what should you experience to fully kind of get the Malfi coast kind of spirit? I guess that's the way to see it.

Diane Bortoletto: You definitely need to, you need to experience Amalfi coast on water. So I think taking a boat trip, a boat tour, on the island of Capri, which is a 30 minute ferry ride from, from Sorrento or Positano, you know that that ferry ride itself is stunning. You know, but when you get to Capri, you can take a boat tour to the Blue Grotto, which is just like absolutely incredible. The bluest, most aqua. Iridescent water you'll ever see in your life. And, and that's due to the sunlight hitting the water in a certain way. And it's in a cave and it. A grotto. Yeah. So it's. Yeah, that's just, Experiencing the Amalfi coast on water is something that every visitor should do.

Tracy: So what other things should people do? Should they go for a walk? I'm just thinking about Monique because I know Monique did. She did a hike recently, didn't she, on Amalfi?

Diane Bortoletto: Oh, she did, yeah, she did the, the walk of the gods, I think Monique, which is a pretty, like it's a, it's a fairly strenuous hike. I wouldn't necessarily recommend it for everybody. No. Like, before you go to the Amalfi coast, if that. If you've got your heart set on the Amalfi coast as a holiday, my advice would be take the stairs, ditch the lift, ditch the elevator, take the stairs and train. Honestly, you will thank me for it later. But there's the stairs in Positano, M. Sorrento, and even the hills in Amalfi and Capri,

are just the next level. Like, you will get thigh burn every day going up and down those stairs. Yeah, it's true. So I used to say, I used.

Tracy: To send my husband down to the, down to the shop because we, we rented a villa in, I think we're in minority or mayori, one of, one of the smaller towns. And, and I used to send him the shop to go and get the supplies because the steps down were crazy. I was like, no, you can do that.

Diane Bortoletto: Yeah. So a tip. If you are visiting the Amalfi coast, especially if you're staying in places like Sorrento or, well, particularly Positano, because There's one road in Positano. Like, one road. and then all the rest of the roads are laneways and not. You can't take a vehicle down there. So. But there's porters. So you can pay a guy and he'll put your luggage either in a big, like a wheelbarrow, a trolley, and take it to your accommodation, or they'll just carry it for a fee. And, you know, we. Last time I went to Positano, I thought, nope, I had a backpack. I was traveling with a. Ah, back because we were going to lots of different places in Italy and I didn't want to drag my suitcase over cobbled stones. Thought, I'm taking my trusty old backpack. And I thought, no, I can walk up these stairs to our villa. We rented a villa, in Positano. And oh, my goodness, let me tell you, carrying 17 kilos on my back and going up 97 steps.

Tracy: Oh, no.

Diane Bortoletto: Wow. I made it. I did it. But I only did it once and I paid somebody to take my luggage back. Yep.

Tracy: Yeah, don't blame me. I guess one thing is that you can justify eating all that lovely food when you do all the steps.

Diane Bortoletto: That's right. And that's exactly what you should do in, in the Amalfi coast, because the food there is absolutely glorious. But getting back to other things you should do, like visiting the other towns is like, it's just. It's a must. Like Sorrento, Positano, Capri that we've mentioned, and Malfi that we've mentioned. And going away from the sea up the hill to Ravello is beautiful. Ravello is so gorgeous. It's, You just have these uninterrupted vistas of the sea and the coastline and the rocky outcrops. But there's also beautiful villas and gardens there that you can, you can visit. And the ceramics in the Amalfi coast as well. Like, they're really well known for their ceramics and their particular design on their ceramics. So another tip I'd love to give your listeners is to if you love it, buy it. Like, we bought a salad bowl, from when we were in Positano. We actually bought it from Ravello when we were visiting there. And this other platter that had all these sort of mini dishes that fitted inside the platter. The platter we never use, but the salad bowl, we use that four or five times a week. And, you know, you can. You can customize it as well. So I think I changed the color of something

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Diane Bortoletto: or I wanted it. And they, you know, the painter signed it underneath with our, with our name, you know, and the year that we. That we bought it. And they shipped that straight to Australia. Like, yes, it costs. It's probably the most expensive salad bowl I'll ever own. But, you know, every time I pick that up, I'm reminded of our time in Positano and on the Amalfi coast. And it's. I think they've. And it's lasted, but I bought that in. It was 2010, so, yeah, 15 years ago.

Tracy: Wow, what a great souvenir. That's it. You're actually still using it and as you say, you can ship it back. I did, I did buy a whole lot of things. I remember actually, when I was in Sorrento, which are now at my friend's house, which I've got to get back to

Australia somehow, because I didn't ship it back. I bought little things, actually. but yeah, I mean, there's some. There's some amazing things to, to see and do and buy, that's for sure. And being able to ship it back makes things a lot easier.

### **People do especially. Especially everyday items like, you know, the fancy tray that I bought**

So if thinking I'm going to be going and I really want to buy this stuff, don't worry, you can ship it and they will, they will do that for you.

Diane Bortoletto: Yeah, definitely. so that's something I would recommend that people, People do especially. Especially everyday items like, you know, the fancy tray that I bought, you know, that was so expensive and I never get it out. It's just too big. And there's only. My husband and I, we don't, you know, have people around every. Every weekend or whatever.

### **My number one tip for visiting Pompeii is to do a tour**

So anyway, another thing that people might consider doing when they're on the Amalfi coast, if they have time, is a day trip to Pompeii, which is really easy to do from the Amalfi Coast. It's only about an hour away. And Pompeii is just one of the marvels of the world. And for any history buff, or even if you're not a history buff. And my number one tip for visiting Pompeii is to do a tour. I've done it several times, once on my own, and I'll never do that again because you just don't get enough out of it. You don't really know



what you're looking at. There's only so much reading of the, you know, interpretive signs that you can do, you know, and avoid going if it's going to be like 38 degrees because it's really hot.

Tracy: There's no shade.

Diane Bortoletto: No shade. None at all. But so fascinating and so interesting. And those Romans, gosh, they were a clever bunch, weren't they?

Tracy: Oh, it's a, it's a, it's an amazing destination. I was there in November and had a historian guide which was like you. I think the first time I went, we just wandered around ourselves, in the heat and, and didn't kind of, you know, you take it in, but you don't really understand or know anything about anything really about it. You just go, okay, it's Pompeii. I know, I know. There was a. I know. The volcano went off and covered it over. And these are the, you know, the bodies that they've recovered because you can see the casts and stuff like that. So you know that, but you don't really get it. Whereas this last trip I did particularly was with the historian who'd been involved, I think, in the digs as well. It was just amazing. It was fabulous. so, absolutely 100%. I was actually just talking to a friend of mine who's travelling to Amalfi and I said, you have to do a tour. You have to do a tour of Pompeii. Don't just go, because it is just. And they keep discovering new things. And also I think this time as well, I'm far more interested in keeping up on what's happening there. because, you know, they're discovering, you know, unearthing new parts of it. So it was fascinating.

Diane Bortoletto: Amazing.

Tracy: And it's an easy day trip as well.

Diane Bortoletto: Oh, yeah. And just how they, you know, from the library, where the husbands would trot off to the bye bye wife, I'm going to the library. And there was an underground tunnel to the brothel, do you know, so they could. Other things like that. You're like, what? That's, you know, I know, and the aqueducts and you know how they had the world's first sewage system and all, all of that. It's just, it sounds disgusting. Sewage system, but it was, you know, innovative. Yeah, yeah.

Tracy: But I love, you know, just seeing that you can see the tracks on the road where the carts went and the way that they have that the, where you can, you can walk over the, the actual roads because they've got that. Because it was so disgusted in them with the actual things you can stand on to go across. But you can see the, where the carts were going, you know, and this is thousands, couple thousand years ago. And you're like, wow, this is. This is amazing. I, know. And that the sea.

Diane Bortoletto: And that the sea used to lap. Yeah. And now the sea's two kilometers away. Like, to me, that's just.

Tracy: Oh, it just shows you how. How big that. That volcanic eruption was. Because that's what they say. We were standing there and said, actually the sea was here, this was a port. But you can see from the eruption now how far the sea is away. And that was due to the amount of, stuff that came out the volcano, which is just crazy.

## **Sorrento is the biggest town on the Amalfi coast**

Diane Bortoletto: And Mount Vesuvius is such an imposing site as well. And, you know, you get views of Mount Vesuvius from Sorrento as well. Like, often everywhere in

Sorrento is pretty easy to spot Mount Vesuvius. yeah. So Sorrento would be the biggest town, I suppose, on the Amalfi coast and the gateway. As I said, it's

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Diane Bortoletto: pretty. Pretty touristy. Actually. The whole of the Amalfi coast is quite touristy. so if you can go in May or June or even April, like, after Easter is better than, like, July and August, like, when it's so hot as well and packed, and everything, of course, will be more expensive. yeah. So with Sorrento, I would say. I would say treat yourself and go to the Excelsior Hotel for a drink, because they've got a beautiful terrace there, and it's expensive, but very posh, but very, like, I don't know, it's a little bit of glamour, a little bit of Hollywood for me. I just. I just, you know, I loved it there. I just felt really, it was just a special moment, to treat myself there.

Tracy: I wish I'd spoken to you before November, Dan. I wasn't. I wasn't Sorrento. I could have done. I could have done with that tip.

Diane Bortoletto: Next time you just have to go back. Yes, exactly. And in Positano, I would say if you can stay there, like visiting Positano during the day, you're going to be one of a gazillion day trippers that go to Positano. It's at night and also early in the morning when Positano just. It's calmer. Ah, it's quieter. the laneways, they're all quite narrow. They're just not, you know, thrumming with a gazillion tourists. It's, you know, just watching the sunset and the sky change color and the light start to come on in Positano, it's. It's so beautiful. I think Positano is most magical at night. So that's. That would be another tip of mine. A lot of people, I think, who go to the Amalfi coast for the first time, and I did as well as a backpacker. I just stayed in Sorrento and day tripped. But I think, even though Positano is only about an hour away from Sorrento, I think it's. I

think it's worth staying, there at a couple of nights at least. So. Yeah.

## **Anything with lemon in it, as I said, anything seafood**

Tracy: Okay, so you've set the scene. You set the scene, Dianne I can. I can imagine myself. So I'm sitting in Positano. It's the. The. The lights are up. You know, it's a warm, balmy evening. What am I holding my hand to drink? What am I drinking?

Diane Bortoletto: You're drinking a spritz, of course. Like, or. Or if you don't like alcohol, or if it's a bit earlier in the day, perhaps you're watching the sunrise or just earlier in the. A lemon granita. The lemon granitas are beautiful, like the lemon on the Amalfi coast. It's famous. Limoncello. That's where it comes from. and lemons are renowned in that part of Italy. And they're less bitter. They're almost like they have the tang. The lemon tang. But they're not. They're not sour bitter. They. You can actually eat them. M. Eat wedges of lemon. it's quite something. So, yeah, anything with lemon. Highly recommend. Lemon gelato. Lemon granita. Yeah, all of it.

Tracy: Well, my daughter was 11 when we took her to the Maficos. And she still talks about the, the drink that the lovely lady at the cafe we used to go to every day would make. And it was, lemon and orange. And she just. That, she just loved it. And she. She still talks about it every day. She'd have one of those. And of course, limoncello. Who. I mean, you know, I. I would be. I'd be sitting with my limoncello, definitely. So what about food? What I'm eating food.

Diane Bortoletto: spaghetti a la vongole, which is clams. Spaghetti with clams. That's renowned on the Amalfi coast. So that's what you would eat, as well as seafood.

Anything seafood. anything with lemon in it, as I said, yeah, I think I had vongolu pretty much every day. Like, it's one of my favorite dishes. So it's. Yeah. Seafood pasta. Yeah.

Tracy: Now, being awkward because I don't like tiramisu, which we talked about on the last episode. I also don't Like. I also don't particularly like seafood, Dianne I'm not good, am I?

Diane Bortoletto: Oh, my goodness.

Tracy: So what. What, what. What could I eat instead?

Diane Bortoletto: you could have. I'm just trying to think of, oh, buffalo mozzarella. Like the mozzarella di buffalo, which is buffalo mozzarella, made from buffalo milk, comes from Campania, the region where the Amalfi coast is. And it is divine. And you. You know, it's a. You can get it around the world now. it's frozen and exported, but having it in Italy, next level, See, a Caprese salad, named after the Isle of Capri, is a tomato mozzarella, fresh buffalo mozzarella and basil salad in the colors of the Italian flag in the white, you know, green, white, red, with olive oil, salt, pepper. So simple, so delicious. With great bread. Oh, yeah.

Tracy: You know what? I'm closing my eyes right now. I'm actually there. I'm about to eat that and drink that. Even though I'm sitting in a room in Edinburgh right now. I'm actually in my head.

**Diane says her favorite memory of Amalfi Coast is a villa**

I'm on the Amalfi coast. Dianne so you've obviously been there quite a few. Few times.  
So what's your favorite story

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or memory of being on Amalfi Coast? When I said Amalfi coast to you, what's the first thing that you kind of think of or remember?

Diane Bortoletto: Look, the first thing is the villa we stayed in in Positano. It was. There was 10 of us traveling, two families, like my side of the family, or my mum and dad, my husband and I and his family, including his sister and their triplet boys, who at the time were 11 years old. So there was. There was 10 of us. So we hired a villa that could fit all of us, and that. The dome in Positano that is famous in all of the photos, literally, if my arm was twice the length, I could have just about touched it. Like, we were the terror. From the terrace of this villa and just waking up there. And, the terrace was just. The villa, sorry, was beautifully furnished. And just waking up every morning and just going out on the terrace and just looking at that view. Oh, my God. Like, my shoulders just drop, and I just feel more relaxed just even just thinking about that, you know, and that villa was like, I'm not gonna lie, it was hugely expensive. But we. Because we were splitting it between, you know, all of us, it wasn't. It was. We could manage it. But there's a few other places in Positano like, that I've stayed at before. That are a much, more reasonable. And one of them that I'll give a shout out to because it's a little family run pensione and it's called Pensione Maria Luisa. And most of their rooms also have a little terrace. Not a big grand terrace like a villa, but a little terrace with views. With those views of Positano. it's just as beautiful, you know, like. And the price. Oh my God, the prices are so accessible there. And it's just run by a little family. You can't. You have to carry your luggage there. There's no. I don't know whether the porters serve. It's at the.

The southern end of Positano. So I'm not sure that the porters serve that area. yeah, but. Yeah.

Tracy: Oh, it sounds amazing. It sounds amazing. Now I'm.

## **John Renren shares a funny story about travelling in Italy by bus**

So when I went to Amalfi coast and it's a while ago now, as in to stay there, I was there in November, but only unfortunately for a day trip. we. We got around by bus. So we went to Salerno and then got a bus to I can't remember if it's Maori or Minori. We stayed in, which was an interesting coach trip. I have a very good story of my daughter. We decided to go to Pompeii. I have to say, I have to share this in this. She's gonna kill me. But we decided we'd go to Pompeii. So obviously we jumped on the local bus to Salerno to get the train up to Pompeii. And she decided that morning she'd have a milkshake for breakfast, as you do when you're 11 years of age and about to go on the most windy coach trip ever. We literally got about a kilometer, not even maybe a kilometer from the train station. She turned green and she said, mum, I think I'm going to be. So what I did is I put my hand with a tissue over her mouth just as she was sick, which then the sick proceeded to kind of bounce off my hand and the tissue and spray the people sitting on the bus behind us with a lovely, sour banana milkshake in the heat of August. Aha. Uh-huh. So luckily, luckily now the Italians, thank God the Italians love children because, nobody had went mad. Nobody said anything. I just cleaned her up. I had to go and clean her up in the, in the train, station. But everybody was lovely and just, you know, considering she just paid them with sick. So that was our experience. My sister who is 23 years younger than me, so she's a bit more adventurous when it comes to her transportation methods. She went around the southern part of the Mafia

coast and probably on a motorbike with a boyfriend. Now I probably would not do that either. Now how do you get around when you go there?

Diane Bortoletto: I have done hired a Vespa and cruised at you know, I used to own a Vespa in Perth. So you know, I feel quite confident riding and in fact I felt safer riding a Vespa along the Amalfi coast than I did sitting in a car when I've been there with somebody else driving in the past because as you know, those roads are really, really narrow. I wouldn't recommend a Vespa for anybody. Like everybody, you need to be confident on two wheels. If you're not confident on two wheels, the local bus is cheap, rely, you know, frequent and you get incredible views of the coastline and you'll have stories to tell everybody when you get back home because you're going to think, you'll think you're going to die about 15 times.

Tracy: Oh my God.

Diane Bortoletto: Going over the side of the cliff are going, oh no. But they don't, they, they're very, very skillful drivers, those bus drivers. I don't know how they do it. But your story, Tracy, just reminded me of another story. On this trip with two families. There was 10 of us staying in this beautiful villa to get to Positano. we had arranged a private transfer because there was 10 of us. So we had a

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Diane Bortoletto: private transfer that, that took us from Rome to Positano. And one of my nephews, one of the 11 year old triplets on that road after Sorrento, on the way to Positano, he turns to his mum, he's like, mum, I need the toilet. And she's like, there's just nowhere to stop. Like the both sides of that very narrow road are full of parked cars.



There's blind corners everywhere. You just, you, you, you can't stop. So, and he was just like in agony, dying of pain, needing to go to the toilet. And at one point my brother in law said, oh, here's an empty bottle. And my sister in law was like, he's absolutely not gonna go in an empty bottle in the back of this Mercedes transfer van. Like, oh, the poor kid, he was just looking at me like, artie, die, help me. Like it was like, John, you're gonna have to hang on. And he kept whinging and whinging about Needing the toilet that my sister in law ended up saying to him, john, you're ruining my serenity. I'm trying to enjoy the Amalfi coast. Like, you're just gonna have to wait. There's nothing else you can do. And as soon as we pulled in to a garage where they dropped us off on the Impositano, he was buckled over, in pain, and, you know, made it to where's the bathroom? And went straight there. It was fine. There was no accidents. It was totally fine. But that's just a, His big eyes looking at me like, help me. Like, help me.

Tracy: There's nothing I can do. There's two great lessons from that, Dianne One, don't let your kid have a banana milkshake before a windy road trip on the Amalfi coast. And make sure they go to the toilet before the next.

Diane Bortoletto: Exactly. Exactly.

## **The best way to get around the Amalfi coast is by ferry**

Now, the other good way to get around Tracy in the Amalfi coast is by boat, like I said. So the ferries. And that's how I would recommend people get there to the Amalfi coast is by ferry. Because there's a couple of ways you can get their private transfer, like I mentioned, which costs the most? The train from Naples, It's a regional train, and it goes through all the outer sub. It's awful. Like, I would not recommend it to anybody.

Like, it's often full of people who look like they've had a really hard, rough life. Maybe drug addicts, maybe homeless people. I always, I've done that train trip several times, and I always feel on edge and uneasy doing it. but from Naples you can catch, like from the train station, if you get a train to Naples or fly into Naples, you can get a taxi to the port and then get a ferry from the port to Sorrento or Positano or wherever you're staying. And that is, is by far the most pleasant way to get to your destination on the Amalfi coast, in my opinion.

Tracy: Ah, that's a really good tip because the, the last time we, we. We went to Salerno rather than, down to Sorrento. And, I must admit, I wasn't, Naples train station itself wasn't. Wasn't something that I particularly enjoyed. And, the, the. Yes, the trains down there, the local trains, as I say, you have to be really careful. not. Not the best experience of the Italian train system.

Diane Bortoletto: No, it's. I mean, they're just, you know, Naples is a city where there's a lot of poverty, a lot of people doing it hard and tough. And that train line services the areas where they live. And, you know, if you're a tourist, Europe, you know, could potentially be an easy target. Look, touch wood. I've never seen anything happen and I've never experienced anything like pickpocketing or anything like that. But, it's just an unpleasant. It's just an unpleasant way to travel when you've got the ferry, which is just the most beautiful way to travel. And Naples train station is like, in my opinion, it's horrendous. Like, my mum's from just near there and I never want to go back. Like, there's way better places in Italy I would rather visit. But, you know, from the chaos of Naples an hour away, you're in paradise. Like in places that you feel like aren't even real, they're so beautiful. So it's. I mean, and that just sums up Italy so beautifully.

Tracy: Oh, it does, absolutely.

## **Diane Sa: One tip for anybody visiting the Amalfi coast**

So what about the one tip that you'd share for anybody visiting the Amalfi coast for the first time?

Diane Bortoletto: pack light. As I said in the last episode, it's so important because there's just stairs, there's just walking. and look, the other thing is, like I said before, just reiterating. I'm not saying two things. I'm just reiterating. What I said before is train is do some exercise and walk up and down as many stairs as possible. Your knees will thank me for it later. Like, when you're there, it's. There's lots of stairs, but, you know, every step is worth it.

Tracy: Oh, brilliant. Dianne thanks again for coming onto the podcast this week. It's been great to chat with you a little bit in depth about the Amalfi coast, obviously one of the most beautiful areas of Italy. And you can't, you can't say that lightly because there are so many wonderful, beautiful places to explore in Italy.

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Tracy: So I'm sure we'll be chatting about a few more, areas in Italy, hopefully soon. But thanks so much for coming on again.

Diane Bortoletto: Oh, my absolute pleasure. Thank you for having me on, Tracy. And whenever you want to talk Italy, you just let me know and I can talk your ear off.

Tracy: Thank you. Thank you for joining us on this episode of the Global Travel Planning Podcast. For more details and links to everything we discussed today, check out the

show notes@globaltravelplanning.com Remember, if you enjoyed the show, please consider leaving us a review on your favorite podcast app, because your feedback helps us reach more travel enthusiasts. Just like you. Anyway, that leaves me to say, as always, happy global travel planning.

Diane Bortoletto: Sa.

00:30:43