

by the **Gruppo Battellieri Costa d'Amalfi** (Via Largo Duchi Piccolomini 4, Amalfi; tel. 089/873-446; [www.gruppobattellieriamalfi.com](http://www.gruppobattellieriamalfi.com); Mar.-Nov.; €10 boat plus €5 entrance) with about seven departures daily from 9:20am to 3:20pm.

### Chiesa di San Pancrazio

Via Don Gaetano Amodio 22;

[parrocchieconcadeimarini@yahoo.it](mailto:parrocchieconcadeimarini@yahoo.it)

Follow the narrow road that leads from the Amalfi Coast Road up into the heart of Conca dei Marini, and after a few steep twists and turns you'll find this church surrounded by olive trees. There's a beautiful open space in the front lined with trees and oleander. Inside you'll find a baroque altar with marble inlays, above which is a 16th-century triptych showing the Madonna and Child with San Pancrazio and San Leonardo. Across from the church, follow the walkway leading out to the Punta Vreca overlook, which is marked by a large cross. Here, the view stretches down the coastline all the way to the Faraglioni rocks off of Capri.

## BEACHES

### MARINA DI CONCA

Via Marina di Conca

Unless you know where to stop to peek down over the edge you could easily drive right by one of Conca dei Marini's most appealing spots. Set far below the Amalfi Coast Road, the town's tiny beach and seaside village is often called the Borgo Marinaro, because it is where fishermen once lived. Though their homes near the beach have been transformed into restaurants, the local connection to the sea is still strong, and dining on fresh fish by the sea is a must. The incredibly clear turquoise water and charming atmosphere make this one of the best beaches along the Amalfi Coast. It's well worth the walk down the 300 steps from the Amalfi Coast Road. You'll enjoy panoramic views looking toward Amalfi in the distance. The beach has small pebbles and an easy slope into the sea, where the water is clear and the swimming terrific.

Just before reaching the beach, you'll pass the **Cappella della Madonna delle Neve**, a small chapel with important religious ties for the community. On August 5 a celebration, including a boat procession on the sea, takes place at the chapel.

It was here in the '50s and '60s that the jet set brought fame to this sleepy little fishing village. With visitors like Jacqueline Kennedy and Princess Margaret of Windsor, a touch of glamour arrived on Conca dei Marini's beach and still lingers. Here or on the nearby **Marinella di Conca** and **La Vite** beaches, you still run the chance of spotting a movie star or two.

### CAPO DI CONCA

Via Capo di Conca; tel. 089/831-512; [www.capodiconca.it](http://www.capodiconca.it);

mid-May-Sept.; from €18

Along the Capo di Conca promontory just below the 16th-century watchtower, this is less a beach and more a rocky outcropping and series of terraces that is home to one *stabilimento balneare* that offers the chance to swim in this scenic spot. With a restaurant, bar, sun beds, and umbrellas, you will find everything needed to enjoy a day by the sea, and perhaps stretch that day into the evening with dinner by the water's edge. Climb the steep staircase near the tower for a stunning view in both directions along the coastline.

## SPORTS AND RECREATION

### Boat Tours

#### EXCLUSIVE CRUISES

Via Smeraldo 14; tel. 331/441-4506; [www.exclusivecruisescapri.com](http://www.exclusivecruisescapri.com);

Mar.-Dec.; from €250 for self-drive and €590 for excursions with captain

Experience the natural beauty of the Amalfi Coast up close on a relaxing private boat excursion with an expert local captain at the helm. Discover hidden grottoes and the best swimming spots, and admire the coastline from the sea, away from traffic and crowds. Exclusive Cruises offers a variety of boat options, from classic Sorrentine-style wooden boats to Itama luxury speedboats and larger



yachts that are ideal for groups of family or friends. Smaller boats are also available for self-drive rentals without the need for a license. Boat excursions and transfers are available not only from Conca dei Marini, but also from all of the towns along the Amalfi Coast, Sorrento, Capri, Salerno, and Naples.

## FOOD

### LA TONNARELLA

Via Marina di Conca 5; tel. 089/831-939; [www.ristorantelatonnarella.com](http://www.ristorantelatonnarella.com); 12:30-4pm and 6:30-10pm, closed Sun.-Mon. for dinner and mid-Oct.-mid-Apr.; €40

With a great beachy vibe and very friendly service, this restaurant is an excellent choice, just steps from the sea in the Marina di Conca. Listen to the waves and dine on fresh seafood and a glass of local wine. Here on the beach where Jacqueline Kennedy once enjoyed swimming, the local specialty is named in her honor: The Spaghetti alla Jacqueline is made with zucchini, pancetta, and a generous grating of parmesan cheese. Boat service is available from Amalfi. Reservations are recommended.

### LE BONTÀ DEL CAPO

Via I Maggio 14; tel. 089/831-515; [www.lebontadelcapo.it](http://www.lebontadelcapo.it); 9am-11pm Apr.-Oct.; €6-16

Located in the upper part of Conca dei Marini with a view overlooking the Capo di Conca and its watchtower far below, this restaurant is open all day with lunch served 12:30pm-2:30pm, and dinner 6:30pm-11pm. It's also perfect if you're looking for a relaxing spot for drinks or a sweet place to try out local desserts. Specialties include seafood as well as other delightful options like the ravioli with ricotta and lemon. The chef also offers limoncello and **cooking classes** (from €50 per person).

- 1: the charming Marina di Conca fishing village
- 2: a private boat excursion with Exclusive Cruises
- 3: traditional octopus and potato antipasto
- 4: Capo di Conca with its 16th-century watchtower and beach

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### HOTEL LE TERRAZZE

Via Smeraldo 11; tel. 089/831-290; [www.hotelleterrazze.it](http://www.hotelleterrazze.it);

open mid-Apr.-end of Sept.; €229 d Bright, colorful, and beautiful views characterize this lovely little hotel situated above the Marina di Conca beach. Of the 27 rooms, 23 offer sea views and 4 overlook gardens. All rooms feature balconies, classic Mediterranean colors, and modern design. Relax on the terraces or follow the steps (a little more than 200) down to the charming Borgo Marinaro to enjoy swimming or dining at the local seaside restaurants. No children under 16.

### MONASTERO SANTA ROSA

Via Roma 2; tel. 089/832-1199; [www.monasterosantarosa.com](http://www.monasterosantarosa.com);

open mid-Apr.-end of Oct.; €650 d

Set right at the edge of a cliff in a picturesque spot with impossibly beautiful views, the Monastero Santa Rosa is one of the finest hotel experiences on the coastline. Located in a convent that dates back to the 17th century, this hotel has an air of complete tranquility and lovely rooms that have preserved the essence of the unique architectural heritage of this space. All 20 rooms, ranging from superior rooms to breathtaking suites, have been individually decorated and boast spectacular sea views. The lush gardens dotted with lounge chairs and beautiful landscaping spread out over four terraces and lead down to the heated infinity pool with views you simply have to see to believe. The on-site spa offers luxurious treatments, and the hotel's restaurant, **Il Refettorio**, recently received its first Michelin star. This hotel is ideal for a secluded escape surrounded by the beauty of the Amalfi Coast.

## GETTING THERE AND AROUND

### By Car

Conca dei Marini is situated between the Amalfi Coast Road (SS163) and the SS366 that makes its way up into the mountains