

Chicago Tribune

TRIPS, TIPS & DEALS

Rome to Amalfi Coast

Perillo Tours' nine-day trip to Italy starts in Rome and heads south to scenic towns along the Amalfi Coast. The first four days are spent seeing classic landmarks of the Italian capital: the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica, as well as the city's Jewish ghetto. Then it's off to the coast by coach for a tour of Pompeii by day and a stay at a 12th-century convent turned seaside hotel. Participants sail to Positano and then to Sorrento, all within the shadow of Mount Vesuvius. More stops include Cilento, the Greek temples of Paestum, the Blue Grotto of Capri and even a mozzarella factory. The rate is \$3,490 per person, based on double occupancy. It includes hotels, coach transportation, airport transfers, daily breakfast, some dinners and lunches, and tour guides. International airfare is extra. The discount applies to an Oct. 19 departure. Other tours leave on dates in August through October. Perillo Tours, 800-431-1515, perillotours.com

German Christmas

Spend the Christmas season in Germany with the nine-day German Christmas Market tour from Insight Vacations. The tour takes you to Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, Nuremberg, Rothenburg and Munich. Among the holiday markets you'll visit is the centuries-old Reiterlesmarkt, set amid cobbled streets and medieval buildings in Rothenburg. Guided tours of the cities' major landmarks are included, along with hotel stays, airport transfers, coach transport, admissions to major sites and some meals, capped by a festive dinner in Munich. Prices start at \$1,725 per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra, but expect fares to fall with the temperatures. Tours depart Nov. 26 and Dec. 1, 3, 8, 10 and 15. Insight Vacations, 888-680-1241, insightvacations.com, or contact a travel agent.

Bypass luggage wait

The newest airline service to be offered for an extra fee comes from American Airlines, which will deliver luggage to a home, office or hotel so you can skip the baggage carousel. The service costs \$29.95 for one bag, \$39.95 for two and \$49.95 for three to 10. Passengers order the service when booking a flight and, as usual, drop their luggage at the ticket counter. The fee includes delivery within 40 miles of the destination airport. The airline will charge an extra \$1 per mile for final delivery locations 41 to 100 miles from the airport. Passengers still must pay a baggage-check fee. The service will be offered at about 200 airports across the country. Some international service will be available from certain pre-screened locations.

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A nine-day Italian tour includes a stop here, in Positano, on the Amalfi Coast.