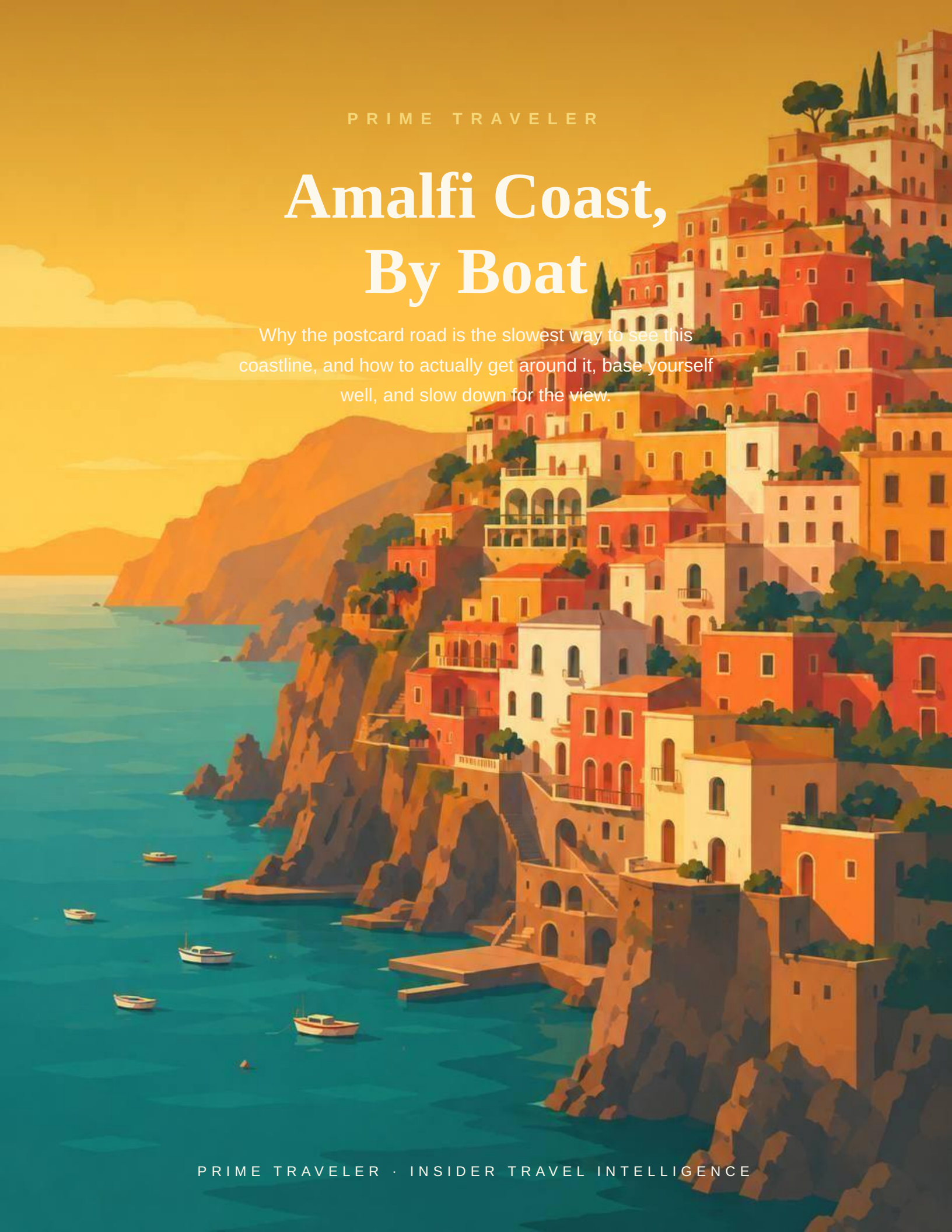




PRIME TRAVELER

Amalfi Coast, By Boat

Why the postcard road is the slowest way to see this coastline, and how to actually get around it, base yourself well, and slow down for the view.

PRIME TRAVELER · INSIDER TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

CONTENTS

01 The Boat vs. the Road

02 Choosing Your Base

03 Lemons, Limoncello, and Terrace Culture

04 Positano's Beach Reality

05 Ravello's Quiet Alternative

06 Capri as a Day Trip

07 Eating on the Coast

08 The Tells That Peg You As a Tourist

09 Quick Reference Cheat Sheet

The Boat vs. the Road

This is the single most important decision in planning an Amalfi Coast trip, and most first-time visitors don't realize it's a decision at all.

The Road Is Famous for a Reason, and Not a Good One

The coastal road connecting the main towns is narrow, cliffside, and genuinely stunning to look at in photos, and also routinely gridlocked in high season, with tour buses, taxis, and rental cars sharing a road never designed for this much traffic. A drive that should take twenty minutes can take well over an hour in August.

The Ferry Is Often the Better Choice

Regular ferries connect the main coastal towns, and for a huge share of trips between them, a ferry is faster, cheaper on time if not always on money, and simply a better experience, open water views instead of a traffic jam against a cliff wall.

The road gets the photographs. The boat gets you there.

When You Actually Need a Car

A car still makes sense for reaching towns without direct ferry service, or for a genuine countryside drive as its own activity rather than pure transportation. For simply getting between the main coastal towns, default to the ferry first and check the road only if there's no water route.

Choosing Your Base

The three best known towns on this coast have genuinely different personalities, and picking the wrong one for your trip style is a common, avoidable regret.

Positano

THE POSTCARD, AND THE CROWDS THAT COME WITH IT

The most photographed town on the coast, dramatic, vertical, and genuinely beautiful, and also the most crowded and most expensive. Built almost entirely on stairs, with limited flat ground anywhere. Best for visitors who want the iconic experience and don't mind paying for it.

Amalfi

THE PRACTICAL HUB

The coast's main town, flatter and easier to move around than Positano, with better ferry and bus connections to everywhere else. A genuinely good, more affordable base for visitors who want easy access over pure postcard drama.

Ravello

THE QUIET ONE, UP IN THE HILLS

Set higher above the coastline with sweeping views and a noticeably calmer pace, home to famous cliff-top gardens and a well regarded summer concert season. A good base for visitors prioritizing quiet and views over nightlife and beach access.

A PRACTICAL NOTE ON STAIRS

Nearly every town on this coast involves significant stairs between the water and where you're actually staying. If mobility is a real concern, check the specific number of steps to your accommodation before booking, not just its general location.