

# BLUE GROTTTO

OF CAPRI ITALY

AN UNOFFICIAL GUIDE  
AND WORKBOOK BY  
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DID YOU KNOW...?

THE GROTTTO WAS USED IN ROMAN  
TIMES AS THE PERSONAL SWIMMING  
"POOL" OF EMPEROR TIBERIUS IN  
ADDITION TO A MARINE TEMPLE.



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The Blue Grotto is on the Island of Capri - a part of Italy that the Rich and Famous like to visit.

It is known for it's incredible shopping, beautiful vistas, and delicious food.

Their most popular dish is called Ravioli Capresi.

It is a simple pasta dough that they fill with Parmigiano and aged caciotta cheese, and marjoram, and then the cooked ravioli are tossed with a fresh tomato and basil sauce.

Yum!



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In 1964, Neptune and Triton statues, Roman sea gods, were discovered and placed at a museum in Anacapri. There were also additional discoveries in 2009 of over seven statue bases, and from all indications, there might be over four more statues laying around.

The cave went through a lot since then, and after the Blue Grotto cave was reconstructed, it turned out a lot of Triton statues were encrypted in the walls. Major environmentalist associations are desiring to restore the Blue Grotto to the original state in early Roman existence.



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CAVE FUN FACTS

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In earlier times, the grotto was popularly called Gradola, named after a landing place nearby. Back in the 18th century, sailors and islanders avoided the grotto as they noted it was riddled with witches and monsters. As time went by, it was rediscovered in 1826 when local fisherman, Angelo Ferraro, took German writer August Kopisch and friend Ernst Fries on tour.

The Blue Grotto gets its blueness when the sunlight reflects the underwater cavity and absorbs the red light, which usually shines forth.

The cave came into existence after limestone rock which held the island of Biševo in position was continually eroded with seawater over the years.

The entrance to the cave is relatively small, and to get in, one has to use a small rowboat and possibly duck at the entrance. It is said the entrance is four feet high and four feet wide.

People don't swim in the tempting blue water.

Source: <https://science.howstuffworks.com>

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## CAVE FUN FACTS

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Speleothems are cave formations caused by deposition of dissolved minerals. Stalactites and stalagmites are examples of speleothems found in Mammoth Cave.

Stalactites are speleothems that hang from the cave ceiling. They form when water containing dissolved calcium bicarbonate from the limestone rock drips from the ceiling of a cave. As the water comes into contact with the air, some of the calcium bicarbonate precipitates back into limestone to form a tiny ring, which gradually elongates to form a stalactite.

Limestone stalactites form less than 10cm every thousand years!

Stalagmites are speleothems that rise from the floor using a similar process.

Sometimes they grow together to form a pillar or column.

One way to remember is that stalactite has a “c” in it, as in “ceiling,” and stalagmite has a “g” in it, as in “ground.”

Source: <https://science.howstuffworks.com>



Blue Grotto

Villa San Michele

Marina Grande

Anacapri

Capri

Marina Piccola

Faraglioni

Island of Capri

# Name three things you learned about Blue Grotto of Italy.

**#1**

**#2**

**#3**

**Why it's called "The Blue Grotto":**

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**3 Things to do at Capri:**

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# HOME WORK *time*

Test your cave knowledge by answering the questions in the boxes below.

What's the difference between stalactites and stalagmites?

List 3 animals found in waters of the Blue Grotto.

Can you walk to the Blue Grotto?

What pasta dish is Capri known for?

Why is the water of the Blue Grotto so blue?

How many staff members are on each boat tour?

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- cave facts
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