

Beaches

Tropea

Tropea beach is lovely out of season, but tends to be extremely busy in season and worth avoiding in August!

You can see the beach by walking to the end of the main high street in Tropea. To drive you need to come down the mountain into central Tropea and follow the one way system still heading towards central Tropea. There is a road on the left which is signposted towards the harbour and the marina, just past El Sol restaurant. Follow this road down and to the left very tight bends on the way down! You can park either on the road itself behind the beach or in the many car parks along here.

Santa Domenica

We tend to use this beach most often as it is very beautiful and much quieter!

Turn right out of the road that the apartment is in and right again at the main road to go further up the mountain. Turn right signed towards Brattiro and Capo Vaticano. As you approach Brattiro turn right, signed Tropea and Capo Vaticano. Take sharp right bend (road from village on your left) to take you down the mountain. Stay on this road all the way to the bottom passing through Ciaramitti. where you will end up at a 'T' junction with a shop called Tutti Frutti selling local produce on your left. Go left here you will see a large supermarket on your right. (good for shopping). Second right is entrance, third right is exit and the next right turn will take you to the beach. Take 2nd right turn which is on a bend - there is a yellow sign for camping and a "shrine " at the junction. Parking is in marked bays and you need to buy scratch off tickets from the bar or covered parking which you pay the man at the car park for. We usually do the scratch off tickets - you can buy as many as you want just say number and Parcheggio in bar! You need one per hour 50cents each.

Riaci beach

There is another beach in Santa Domenica which is nice. Follow directions as above, but turn right at 'T' junction and follow one way through Santa Domenica turning right to head back towards Tropea along the coast road. Go over a level crossing and turn left by 'The Old Well' sign and follow road down to beach. Same parking system in operation here.

Useful information:

- The Water is not suitable for drinking - buy bottled water from the supermarket.
- Shops close from 1 - 4pm.
- Insect repellents - buy citronella candles
- There are some recycling facilities just by the market in Tropea (glass, plastic and papers).
- The Villa is located in *Contrada Fazzari*- this might be helpful as you may be asked for an address if you book tickets for boat trips etc.

Local Places of Interest:

Information Centre: Located in the main street just before Piazza Ercole

CATHEDRAL- Located in Largo Duomo - pass the Information Centre on your right and turn right into Via Roma

TROPEA MAR *will only go if sun shining and enough people*

Day trip to Islands. Book tickets at booking agency but shop around as prices and trips vary.

The day trip takes you to several islands - beautiful church on Stromboli. Island of Lipari is nice if you make the effort to walk away from the harbour.

SERRA ST BRUNO - 2 hour drive on the way to Lamnezia up in mountains

Old monastery, pretty town, nice drive

Unfortunately women not allowed inside the Monastery - men can ring bell and gain admission.

PIZZO - nice lunch at La Ruota in main square.

- Best place for Tartufo (fab ice cream).
- Castle - Napoleon's brother-in-law was shot when trying to take over kingdom of 2 Sicily's.
- You arrive in the busy main street and need to find your way down the hill (left) and find somewhere to park. You can then walk down to the square via the many pathways.

REGGIO - (2 hours drive)

- Nice museum - riaci bronzes - 7 foot tall bronze figure found in sea.
- "Most beautiful promenade in Europe"
- "Hotel called "Palace". Very good location. £60 - £80 per night B & B.
- Lots of restaurants.

Possible to visit by train - the journey takes about 1hr 50 mins. The station is situated at the bottom of the hill as you go down to Tropea.(left turn). There is free parking.

Return tickets cost approx. €10 per person and can be purchased from the Bar on the station platform or from "Valentour" a Travel Agent in the main square - Piazza V. Veneto. You can also get a timetable from them.

You need to change at Rosarno and the return train heads for Consenza - again changing at Rosarno and picking up the train to Lamezia.

If you get off at RC Lido (the first RC stop) you are very close to the Museum. If you continue to RC Central (line runs under the promenade) you can go up the hill to get to the main shopping street and walk back to the Museum and then down to the station at RC Lido. We actually got off at RC Lido, enjoyed a walk along the promenade one way and walked back along the shopping street to the Museum.

SCYLLA /SCILLA ("Sheila") - castle and pretty 1½ hour drive

GERACE - Oldest monastery in Calabria - (2 hours) Mountain road drive

JARDINO DELLA ROSE - nice bar Santa Dominica (Shuts end of August)

VIBO VALENZIA - Archaeological museum (½ hour drive)