

# La Torre dello Ziro

An ancient watch tower, halfway between Ravello and Amalfi and which, according to local legend, was the theater for the most sinister of events.



This pleasant and easy walk leads to one of the landmarks of the Amalfi Coast: the walls of the **Dukedom of Amalfi** and the **Torre dello Ziro**, one of the many towers dotted along the coastline which was used to spot the approach of Saracen ships.

Departure point: **Pontone**  
Arrival point: **Atrani**  
Duration: **2-3 hours**  
Kilometers: **4-5**  
Level of difficulty: **easy**

## How to get to the Torre dello Ziro

This itinerary, like that through the Valle delle Ferriere, commences in **Pontone**, a fraction of **Scala**. Follow signs to the **Torre dello Ziro** past the pretty little chapel of **Santa Maria del Carmine**, which is set right at the edge of the hamlet overlooking the valley leading down to **Atrani**. The rocky pathway and many stairs follow the valley above Atrani, and along the way there are **plenty of spots** to stop and enjoy the views of the town of Ravello across the valley. You will even spot the sheer drop from the beautiful **Terrace of Infinity at the Villa Cimbrone** gardens in Ravello. On the way to the Torre dello Ziro, look down and you will see Atrani and the beautiful **Collegiata di Santa Maria Maddalena** with its distinctive black and white 16th-century bell tower. A series of ascents and descent will eventually bring you to the ruins of the tower from where you can enjoy dramatic views of Amalfi, Atrani and the stunning coastline. After visiting the tower, you can retrace your steps and then head down to the **delightful coastal village of Atrani**, with its rabbit warren of alleys and a fine church.



## The history of the Tower

The tower was built as a watchtower to guard against attack by **Saracen pirates**. In the early 16th century, **Giovanna D'Aragona**, the Duchess of Amalfi, and her children were locked up in the tower. Giovanna was accused of having an affair with the court butler, soon after her husband, **Alfonso Piccolmini**, Duke of Amalfi, died. The relationship caused such a scandal that the Duchess's brothers decided to imprison their **sister** and her **children** in the tower, where they were murdered.

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