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December 23, 2022

### Naples & Pompeii

I took a trip back to Pompeii. Pompeii is so large you can not see it all in one tour. Round trip is 14-15 hours depending on traffic. It's about a three hour drive and today the day before Christmas Eve, the traffic was really bad. It was very foggy so I decided to take a nap to help pass the time. I met a couple ( Mr & Mrs. Rich Sandoval ) on the bus from Tucson, Arizona.



Rich Sandoval  
IT Director

rsandoval@saddlebrooke.org  
520.825.3048 ext. 145



64500 E. SaddleBrooke Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85739

[www.saddlebrooke.org](http://www.saddlebrooke.org)



Pompeii is a city in southern Italy's Campania region overlooked by the active volcano at Vesuvius. It's known for its ancient city Pompeii, which was buried by the 79 A.D. eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Ruins here include the frescoed Villa of the Mysteries and the city's amphitheater. In town, the Catholic pilgrimage site of the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Rosary has mosaics and a grand cupola.

## The Alexander Mosaic

The Alexander Mosaic was found during the excavation of Pompeii in 1831 in the "Casa del Fauno" (House of the Faun). Today it is one of the most famous Roman mosaics. Measuring 5.82 x 3.13 m, the mosaic is thought by many to depict the Battle of Issus between Alexander the Great and the Persian king Darius III in the year 333 BC. Others however believe that the tableau shows the battle of Gaugamela in the year 331 BC, where Alexander the Great and Darius clashed once again.

The picture shows Alexander storming in at the head of his troops from the left edge, attempting to engage Darius in battle. But the Persian has already turned to flee, with only his eyes directed towards Alexander.



The Alexander Mosaic, independently of its fitting in the "Casa del Fauno", was created in the 3rd century BC and based on an original no longer in existence. The original may have been the work of Philoxenos of Eretria from the 4th century BC. There is also a belief that a Hellenistic painting was used as the model. The [mosaic](#) shows the magnificence of Greek monumental painting and four-colour painting.

Today, the original Alexander Mosaic is on display in the National Museum of Archaeology in Naples. An exact copy – identical in shape, size, colour and materials used – was created after several years of work by the Scuola Bottega del Mosaico di Ravenna and is now installed in Pompeii.





### Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore

The basilica enshrines the venerated image of Salus Populi Romani, depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary as the health and protectress of the Roman people. This is the largest (Maggiore) of the eight Mary churches in Rome. The church was built in 432 by order of the Pope, and the first church for the Blessed virgin Mary.







Mount Vesuvius is a somma-stratovolcano located on the Gulf of Naples in Campania, Italy, about 9k, east of Naples and a short distance from the shore. It is one of several volcanoes forming the Campanian volcanic arc. Mount Vesuvius is about 1/3 the size now after the explosion.

Mount Vesuvius in the back ground.







