

DAY 9 Page 1
December 19, 2022

Today I took a bus tour from Rome to Naples and Pompeii. Naples is about 150 miles from Rome and it was a 14 hour round trip. Naples is the regional capital of Campania and the third-largest city of Italy, after Rome & Milan, with a population of 909,048 within the city's administrative limits as of 2022. The traffic in Rome is insane but worse in Naples, the traffic lights are only there for decorations.

Beautiful of the Bay of Naples & Mount Vesuvius.



Pompeii (/pɒmˈpeɪ(i)/, Latin: [pɒmˈpeɪ.i]) was an ancient city located in what is now the *comune* of *Pompei* near *Naples* in the *Campania* region of *Italy*. Pompeii, along with *Herculaneum* and many villas in the surrounding area (e.g. at *Boscotrecase*, *Stabiae*), was buried under 4 to 6 m (13 to 20 ft) of volcanic ash and pumice in the *Eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD*.

Largely preserved under the ash, the excavated city offered a unique snapshot of *Roman life*, frozen at the moment it was buried,^[1] although much of the detailed evidence of the everyday life of its inhabitants was lost in the excavations.^[2] It was a wealthy town, with a population of ca. 11,000 in AD 79,^[3] enjoying many fine public buildings and luxurious private houses with lavish decorations, furnishings and works of art which were the main attractions for the early excavators. Organic remains, including wooden objects and human bodies, were interred in the ash. Over time, they decayed, leaving voids that archaeologists found could be used as *moulds* to make plaster casts of unique, and often gruesome, figures in their final moments of life. The numerous *graffiti* carved on the walls and inside rooms provide a wealth of examples of the largely lost *Vulgar Latin* spoken colloquially at the time, contrasting with the formal language of the classical writers.

Pompeii is a *UNESCO World Heritage Site* and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy, with approximately 2.5 million visitors annually.^[4]

After many excavations prior to 1960 that had uncovered most of the city but left it in decay,^[5] further major excavations were banned or limited to targeted, prioritised areas. In 2018, these led to new discoveries in some previously unexplored areas of the city.^{[6][7][8][9]}





The House of the Faun



Fresco from the Villa dei



Street in Pompeii



The Triangular Forum



The Forum



The Temple of Apollo



The Theatre



Entrance to the Basilica in the Forum



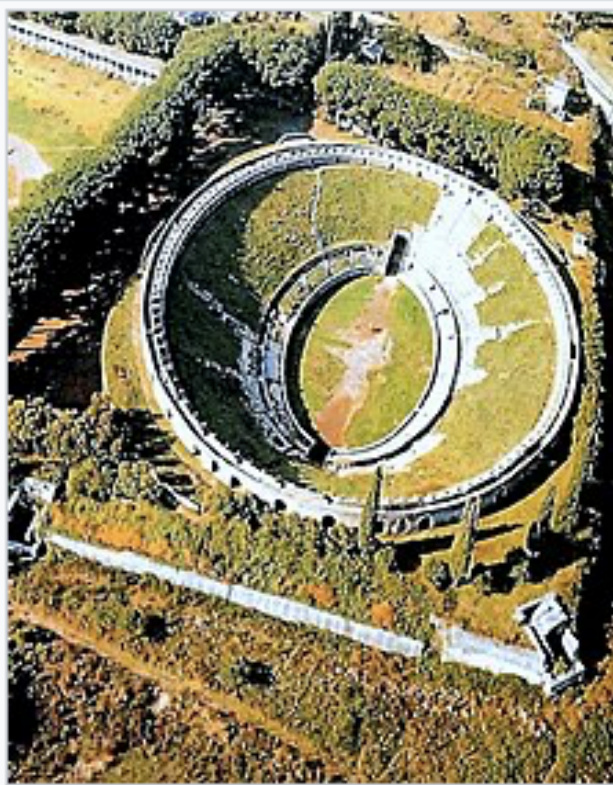
The Basilica



Porta Ercolano



Fresco depicting the fight in the amphitheatre between Pompeians and Nucernians



The Amphitheatre of Pompeii



From the house of Mars and Venus



The Forum of Pompeii with the entrances to the Basilica (left) and Macellum (right), the Temple of Jupiter (front) and Mount Vesuvius in the distance.





City walls



Etruscan Temple of Apollo



The Temple of Jupiter



Thermopolium of Vetutius Placidus
opening directly onto the south side of
the Via dell'Abbondanza



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View of a bakery in Region VIII



Pompeii and other cities affected by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The black cloud represents the general distribution of ash and cinder. Modern coast lines are shown.



The Garden of the Fugitives: plaster casts of victims still *in situ*; many casts are in the Archaeological Museum of Naples.



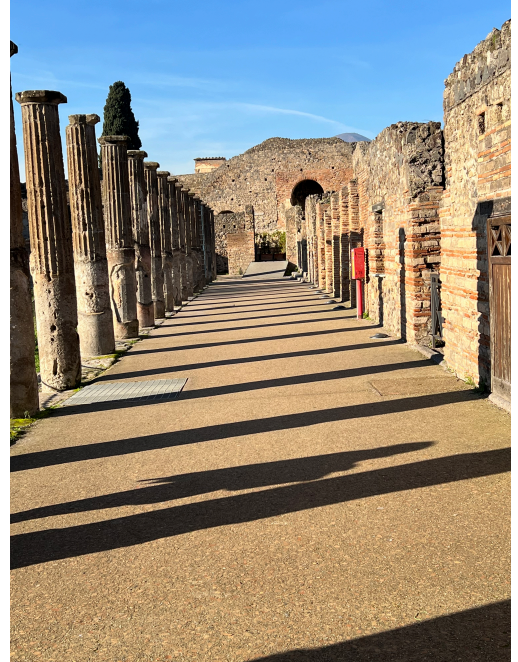
Via dell'Abbondanza, the main street in Pompeii





The buildings on the left show signs of decay due to the infestation of various plants, while the debris accumulating on the footpath indicates erosion of the infrastructure. The footpaths and road have also been worn down by pedestrian activity since excavation.







The **Castel Nuovo**, a.k.a. **Maschio Angioino**, a seat of medieval kings of Naples, Aragon and Spain



A scene featuring the **siren Parthenope**, the mythological founder of Naples^[14]