



# Naples

POP 3,100,000

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Palazzo Petrucci (p78)
- » Da Bruno (p81)
- » Ristorante dell'Avvocato (p81)
- » Pizzeria Starita (p83)
- » Gay-odin (p79)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Casa D'Anna (p199)
- » La Ciliegina Lifestyle Hotel (p197)
- » Cerasiello B&B (p199)
- » Hotel Piazza Bellini (p195)

## Why Go?

Many visitors see Naples as little more than an unruly port-hole to destinations like Capri and the Amalfi Coast. Big mistake. Italy's third largest city is one of its oldest, most artistic and most delicious. Its *centro storico* (historic centre) is a Unesco World Heritage Site, its museums boast some of Europe's finest archaeology and art, and its swag of royal palaces and castles make Rome look positively provincial. Then there's the food: Naples is one of Italy's culinary heavyweights, serving up the country's best pizza, pasta and coffee.

Certainly, Naples can feel anarchic, tattered and unloved. But look beyond the grime and graffiti and you'll uncover a city of breathtaking frescoes, sculptures and panoramas, of bewitching street life, of spontaneous conversations and profound humanity. Welcome to Italy's most unlikely masterpiece.

## Road Distance (KM)

Pompeii	24			
Ercolano	08	16		
Vesuvius	20	24	11	
Castellammare di Stabia	28	05	19	29
	Naples	Pompeii	Ercolano	Vesuvius

## Accommodation

The *centro storico* is studded with churches and sights, artisan studios and student-packed bars. Seafront Santa Lucia delivers grand hotels, while Chiaia is best for fashionable shops and *aperitivo* bars. The laundry-strung Quartieri Spagnoli is within walking distance of all three neighbourhoods. For more information, see the Accommodation chapter (p194).

### THREE PERFECT DAYS

#### Day 1 Cloisters, Classics & Evening Camparis

Start with a burst of colour in the cloister of the Basilica di Santa Chiara (p39) before ambling down Via Benedetto Croce and Via San Biagio dei Librai (Spaccanapoli) to explore their densely packed *palazzi* and churches. Relish Lanfranco's dome fresco at the duomo (p39) and a Caravaggio canvas at Pio Monte della Misericordia (p44). After lunch, don't miss the astounding *Cristo velato* (Veiled Christ) in the Cappella Sansevero (p38), then travel even further back in time at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale (p49). Round off the day with fine dining at Palazzo Petrucci (p78) and drinks on Piazza Bellini (p45).

#### Day 2 Produce, Art and Seaside Dolce Vita

Savour a morning stroll through La Pignasecca (p54) before viewing superlative art at the Palazzo Reale di Capodimonte (p61) or the Certosa e Museo di San Martino (p65). Either way, head down to the shore in the afternoon, taking a lazy stroll along the Lungomare (p59) and catching the sweeping views from atop the Castel dell'Ovo (p60). From here, it's an easy walk to Chiaia's chi-chi boutiques. Wardrobe revamped, sip and mingle with an *aperitivo* at Nais (p85) or Enoteca Belledonne (p85) before dinner at Ristorantino dell'Avvocato (p81) or Da Bruno (p81).

#### Day 3 Volcanic Views and Victims

Head into the suburbs and up Mt Vesuvius (p102) for dizzying views and a face-to-face with its deceptively peaceful crater. Back down the slope, walk the ghostly streets of ancient Pompeii (p93) or Herculaneum (p90) before heading back to town in time for a (pre-booked) performance at the Teatro San Carlo (p86).

### DON'T MISS

Exploring Naples' subterranean other-world of ancient aqueducts, shrines and catacombs. Among the best are the Catacomba di San Gennaro, the Cimitero delle Fontanelle, and the Complesso Monumentale di San Lorenzo.

### Best Roman Ruins

- » Ruins of Pompeii (p93)
- » Ruins of Herculaneum (p90)
- » Villa Oplontis (p101)
- » Parco Archeologico di Baia (p73)
- » Anfiteatro Flavio (p70)

### Best Offbeat Sites

- » Cimitero delle Fontanelle (p66)
- » Catacomba di San Gaudioso (p67)
- » Complesso Museale di Santa Maria delle Anime del Purgatorio ad Arco (p43)
- » Casa e Chiesa di Santa Maria Francesca delle Cinque Piaghe (p54)
- » Museo Nitsch (p55)

## Getting Around

Bus route R2 connects Stazione Centrale to Piazza Municipio (near the ferry terminal). Metro line 1 connects Vomero (Vanvitelli) to Via Toledo (Toledo) and Piazza Borsa (Università). Its extension (expected to open late 2013) will reach Piazza Municipio, Via Duomo and Stazione Centrale. Line 2 connects Stazione Centrale (Piazza Garibaldi) to the *centro storico* (Piazza Cavour), Chiaia, Mergellina, Fuorigrotta and Pozzuoli. Funiculars reach Vomero from Via Toledo, Montesanto and Piazza Amedeo. Circumvesuviana trains reach Ercolano (Herculaneum) and Pompeii. Cumana trains go to Pozzuoli and Campi Flegrei.