



Naples, Pompeii & Around

POP 3.1 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ L'Ebbrezza di Noè (p79)
- ➔ Eccellenze Campane (p76)
- ➔ President (p104)
- ➔ Pizzeria Starita (p80)
- ➔ La Taverna di Santa Chiara (p77)

Best Ancient Sites

- ➔ Ruins of Pompeii (p98)
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- ➔ Catacomba di San Gennaro (p66)
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Why Go?

Italy's third-largest city is one of its oldest, most artistic and most delicious. Naples' *centro storico* (historic centre) is a Unesco World Heritage Site, its archaeological treasures are among the world's most impressive, and its swag of vain-glorious palaces, castles and churches make Rome look positively provincial.

Then there's the food. Blessed with rich volcanic soils, a bountiful sea and centuries of culinary know-how, the Naples region is one of Italy's epicurean heavyweights, serving up the country's best pizza, pasta and coffee, and many of its most celebrated seafood dishes, street snacks and sweet treats. Certainly, Naples' urban sprawl 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 unexpected elegance, of spontaneous conversations and profound humanity. Welcome to Italy's most unlikely masterpiece.

When to Go

- ➔ May is arguably the best month to visit Naples and the surrounding area. The days are generally warm and the city buzzes with a string of special events. Among these is Wine & The City, a two-week celebration of *vino*, food and the art of living, as well as Maggio dei Monumenti, a month-long festival packed with cultural offerings, from art exhibitions to themed walking tours.
- ➔ June and September are also good bets, with summery days tailor-made for sightseeing and enjoying Naples' inimitable street life.
- ➔ Most Neapolitans take their annual break in the searing heat of August, during which many of the city's restaurants and shops close for two to four weeks.

Naples, Pompeii & Around Highlights

- 1 Marvelling at human ingenuity in the **Cappella Sansevero** (p38).
- 2 Seeing how the ancients lived at **Pompeii** (p98).
- 3 Eyeing up classical interiors and erotica at the **Museo Archeologico Nazionale** (p51).
- 4 Demanding an encore at Italy's grandest opera house, the **Teatro San Carlo** (p83).
- 5 Dabbling with Caravaggio, Warhol and regal excess at the **Palazzo Reale di Capodimonte** (p65).
- 6 Exploring a subterranean otherworld at **Catacomba di San Gennaro** (p66).
- 7 Combining cloisters and carriages with romantic views at **Certosa e Museo di San Martino** (p63).
- 8 Snooping around millennia-old properties at **Herculaneum** (p94).
- 9 Mingling, toasting and flirting at bobo hang-out **Piazza Bellini** (p49).

