

Napoli: Rags to Riches



Wed 8 Apr – Sun 12 April 2026

5 days / 4 nights

*v5 outline; details are being refined
by Ivano and Alberto (in Parma)*



Naples: Rags to Riches

Wed 8 – Sun 12 April 2026 (5 days; 4 nights)

Accompanied by Wasfi, Jack, Ivano Ruggeri

We'll have a specialised escort and qualified guides (using *whisper* ear pieces) for individual visits.

This trip is only suitable for good walkers.

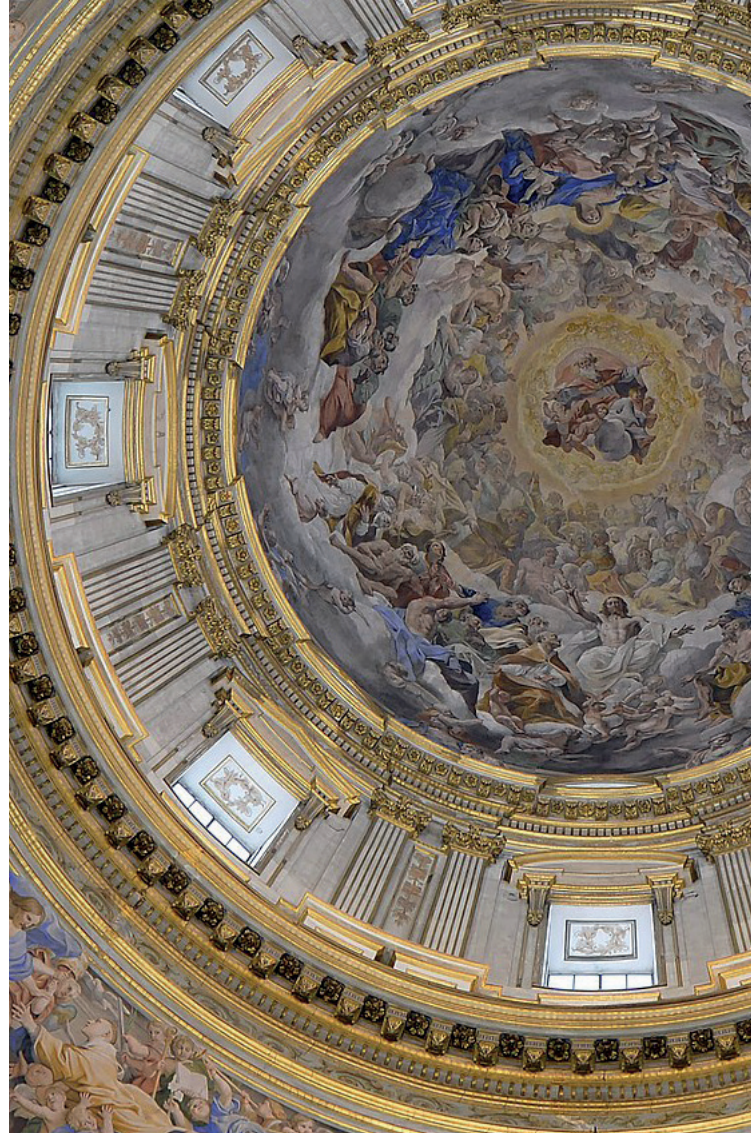
How is your Duolingo going?

We all know about the explosion of 79 AD ...

We're *not* going to show you Pompeii and we're *not* taking you to the great Capodimonte art gallery... but instead we'll show you fascinating nooks and crannies ..

- Lesser known Roman painted villas
- The 16thc music schools which conserved the lives of abandoned children ... hence the term *conservatory*
- An 18thc palace with 1,742 windows, cascades, fountains and a little theatre
- plus the opera at *Teatro San Carlo*.

We have deluxe sea-view rooms in wonderful 4* Grand Hotel Santa Lucia. It is a short walk to the *centro storico della città*.



Day 1 Wed 8 April 2026

Naples introduction

Arrive Naples in the early afternoon. Check in at the hotel. You may decide just to relax in the hotel until dinner. Or take a one hour walk with Ivano covering *highlights only* history of Naples and



sauntering to the Piazza Plebescito (*above*), popping into the UNESCO world heritage Galleria Umberto I (*left*), and the Gran Caffè Gambrinus close to the opera house.

Dinner is in a restaurant.



Day 2 Thu 9 Apr 2026

South of Naples

Breakfast at the hotel.

Very few visitors stop off at the Poppea's *Villa Oplontis*. It is beyond spectacular – and only half of it has been excavated.

The architectural frescoes are unique and unparalleled. The ornate column (*pictured*) is not a fantasy, it is an actual representation of a wealthy Roman's house. More later . . .

We want to take you down the rickety stairs leading to the (now) underground theatre at Herculaneum.

We are most keen to show you a villa or two at Stabiae including villa San Marco.

Between all that, a light lunch is taken and, in the evening, dinner is in a restaurant.

Day 3 Fri 10 April 2026

The city and the opera

Breakfast at the hotel. Walking is the only way to negotiate Napoli wiggly streets which enfold wonders including

- *Cappella Sansevero* with the Veiled Christ
- A vast Caravaggio in the *Pio Monte della Misericordia*, a charitable venture founded by seven young aristocrats to help Naples incurables
- Conservatorio *San Pietro a Majella* (near Piazza Bellini) where orphans were taught musical instruments
- *Cappella di San Gennaro*

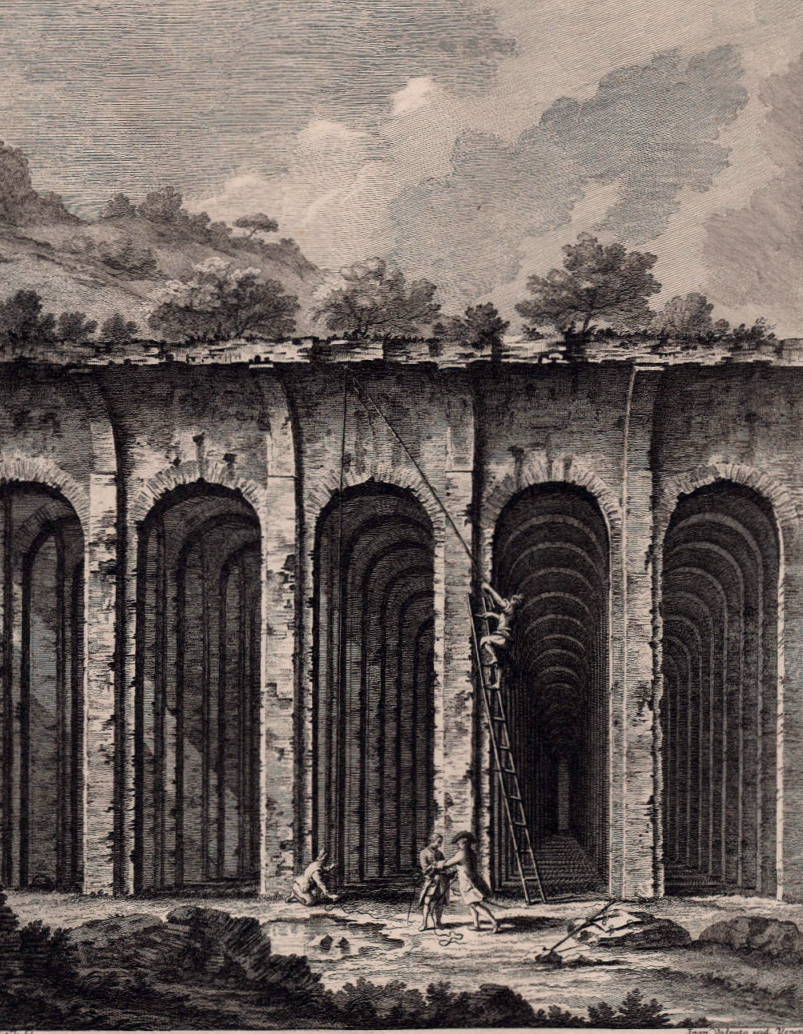
After a light lunch, you can do your own thing or ascend on the Funicolare di Montesanto (1891) to the *Certosa di San*



Martino full of treasures and with stunning views of Naples and Vesuvius.

8pm *La Boheme* at Teatro di San Carlo, built 1737

NOTE You are free to find your own supper before or after the opera.



interiore d'una conserva d'acqua
volgarmente Piscina ammirabile.
Aguarum receptaculi quod vulgo dicitur
Piscina admirabilis interior Prospectus

Day 4 Sat 11 Apr 2025

North of Naples

Piscina mirabilis, Campi Flegrei +++

After breakfast, drive 15 miles north of Naples.

- The *Campi Flegrei* (the Phlegraean Fields) hiss sulphur. Protagonists of Roman literature saw them as the mouth of hell
- The *Piscina Mirabilis* at Misenum stored fresh water for the entire Roman navy (read Robert Harris *Pompeii* ... which is about an aqueduct that carried this vital water supply)
- Views of Baia
- Pozzuoli.

Between all that, a light lunch is taken in a restaurant with sea views.

Gala Dinner at the Palazzo Petrucci.

Day 5 Sun 12 April 2026

Caserta & Homeward

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive 20 miles to the Baroque palace at Caserta, a confection of illusions: interior multidirectional space and Europe's most spectacular fountains and cascades.

There is also a tiny opera house.

After a late lunch we re-join our coach for the transfer to the airport for an evening return flight.



Naples is more popular, therefore expensive, than Palermo

£4,000 per person

£900 single person supplement

includes

4* Grand Hotel Santa Lucia; deluxe sea-view rooms

Private GT coach transportation and guides

Entrance fees, meals & opera tickets

Flights Heathrow – Napoli are *not included*

Flights are cheaper than to Palermo; BA sale to end of September

Wed 8 BA 526 10.20 arr 14.05

Sun 12 BA 527 18.05 arr 19.50

