

The Fury of Vesuvius

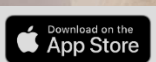
Pompeii and Herculaneum

- Pompeii Lost
- Herculaneum Burned
- Trapped in Stabiae
- Ash Covers Misenum
- Exploring Modern Pompeii



Written by Marian Vermeulen

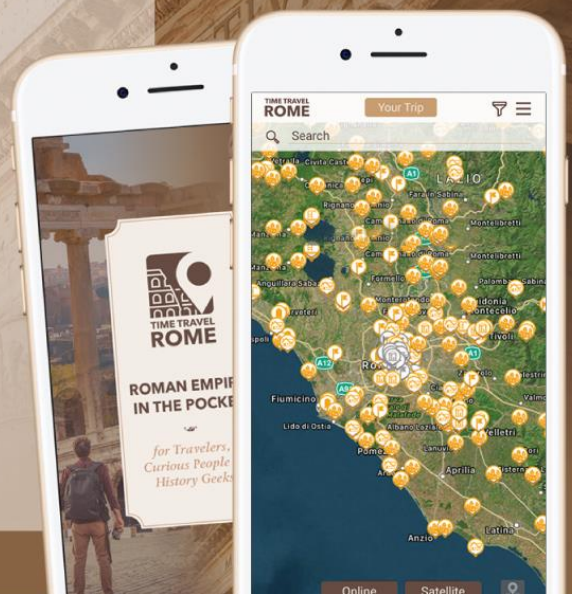
This free Book is offered to you by Timetravelrome - a Mobile App that finds and describes every significant ancient Roman city, fortress, theatre, or sanctuary in Europe, Middle East as well as across North Africa.



www.timetravelrome.com



*Roman Empire
in your pocket*





Part I : Pompeii Lost

Pompeii was one of the Roman cities that enjoyed the volcanic soils of Campania, the region surrounding Vesuvius. Pliny the Elder once called the area one of the loveliest places on earth. Vesuvius had not erupted since the Bronze Age, and the Romans believed that the volcano was dead. Although occasional earthquakes rocked the area, the most violent being in 62 or 63 A.D., the inhabitants did not connect the vibrations to the long silent mountain. On October 24th, 79 A.D.,* catastrophe struck, and Pompeii was lost to the fury of Vesuvius. The poignant stories of the people of Pompeii are heartbreaking, and sometimes difficult to read, but must be told.

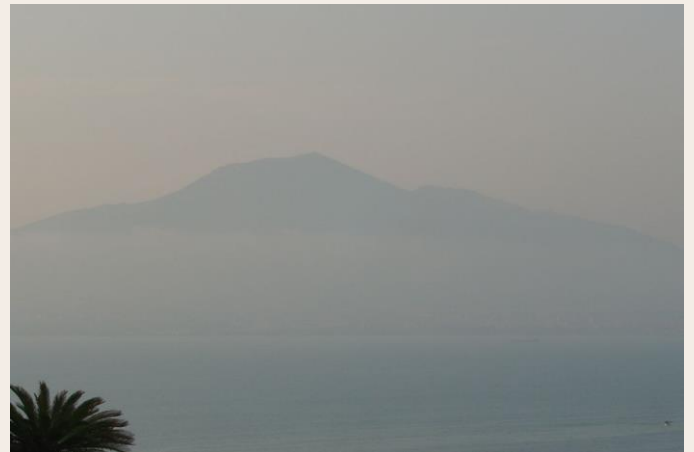
Eruption

During the summer of 79 A.D., the fires built beneath the mountain. Small tremors increased to the point of becoming a normal part of life. The shifting of the earth cut off Pompeii's water supply, and the volcano rumbled and growled. The citizens of Pompeii spent a sleepless night on the 23rd of October, as the shocks grew frequent and violent. When morning dawned, they rose to begin their day as usual. Around midmorning, Vesuvius spat out a cloud of fine dust. Not in the direct path of the wind, Pompeii only received a smattering of dust. The men and women began to hope for an end to the quakes of the night before.

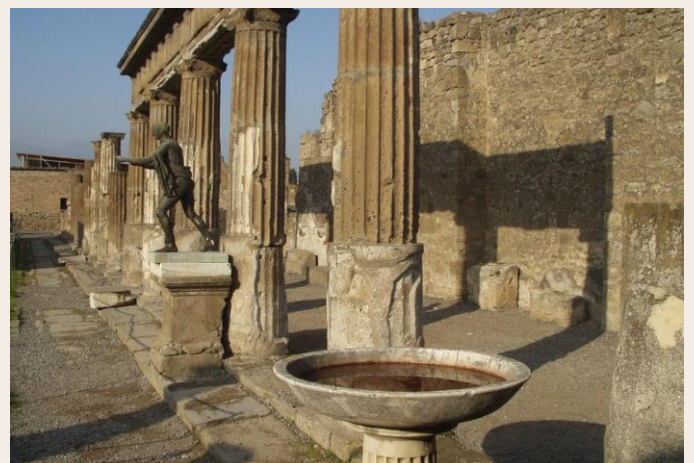
It was midday, as the citizens settled down to lunch, when Vesuvius erupted in earnest. A gigantic cloud of ash and pumice, fifteen kilometers high and containing twenty-two million pounds of debris, exploded into the sky in the shape of an umbrella pine. The earth shook, throwing the terrified citizens to the ground, and a violent cracking and roaring filled the air.

Many chose to flee, abandoning their meals where they lay. A professional baker left with 81 loaves of bread left in his ovens. Those that ran immediately likely escaped, but those that chose to stay would find escape increasingly difficult. Around 1:30 pm, the winds shifted and drove the volcanic cloud toward Pompeii.

Ash, pumice, and large chunks of stone rained into the city, shattering roof tiles and damaging buildings. Any not killed by the maelstrom hurried to take shelter, cutting off their last chance of evacuation.



Pompeii – Vesuvius. Photo by [Time Travel Rome](#).





A Rain of Ash and Stone

Any that hoped to live had to battle to stay above the rising layer of ash. Two women and a child found themselves trapped in the open peristyle courtyard of the Villa of Mysteries. One of the women had to watch as her companions disappeared beneath the ash. She climbed hour after hour to the top of the rising debris; a desperate, but vain attempt to survive.

Those sheltering indoors were in just as much danger. The constant quaking of the earth compromised the structural integrity of buildings, and building roofs sagged beneath the weight of fallen ash and stone. In the House of Queen Caroline, two couples sheltered together. The collapsing building crushed one of the pairs, while the surviving two could only watch helplessly. Trapped by the falling rubble, they died in each other's arms.

On the upper level of the Murecine Building, two woman protected three children, the youngest only four, but they could do nothing against the onslaught of Vesuvius. In a moment of thunderous chaos, the roof above gave way, with enough force to drive all of their bodies through the floor to the level below. Yet still, the worst was yet to come.

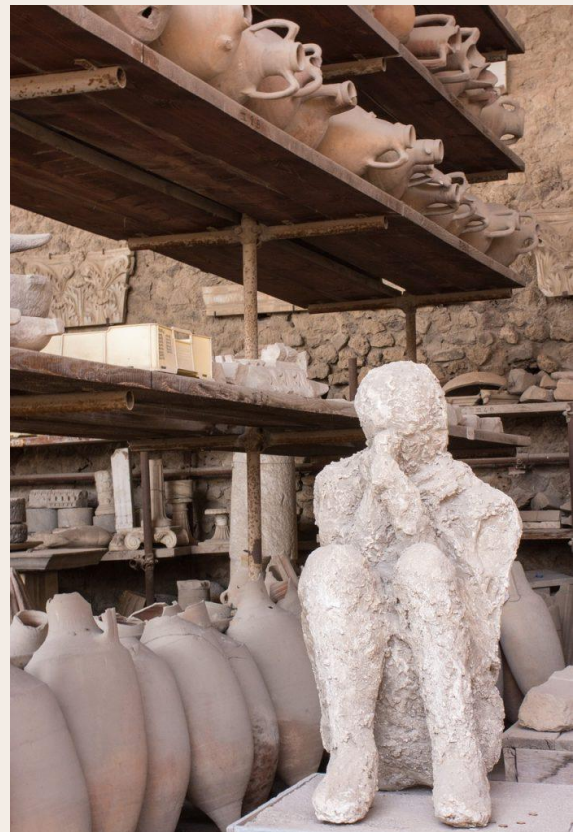
At around 11 pm that night, the volcanic cloud reached its peak height of thirty-three kilometers.

Pyroclastic Surges Begin

As the force of Vesuvius's eruption lessened, the upward pressure was no longer enough to support it.

The cloud collapsed on itself, sending a mass of hot ash and gases, over 815 degrees Celsius, down the sides of the mountain at between 62 and 100 miles per hour. The scorching wave of gas, called a pyroclastic surge, was only the first of six.

The first and second blasts didn't reach Pompeii, though they careened through the neighboring city of Herculaneum. In the lessening ash fall, many of those still alive began to creep out of their shelter. In the early hours of the morning of the 25th, with a deafening roar, the third pyroclastic surge barreled down the mountainside and hit the northern edges of Pompeii.



Pompeii – Vesuvius. Picture by [Time Travel Rome](https://www.timetravelrome.com).



A mother, father, and their three children had been attempting to leave Pompeii, heading out the northern city gate. Hearing the thunder from the mountain, they hid among the tombs, unaware of the new danger approaching. The heat was so intense it caused instant fourth degree burns, overheating the blood running to the brain, and causing cardiac and respiratory arrest. One wealthy family, mother father and two children, climbed to the roof of their home, the House of the Golden Bracelet, to consider their next move, only to be caught in the blast. In the Villa of Mysteries, a doorkeeper died in his office, and three women succumbed in their rooms. A young girl was standing at the entrance when the deadly cloud of gas slammed into the building.

The Final End

The inhabitants of the Villa of Diomedes had hidden in the wine cellar during the first waves of violence. The house's owner and his steward were standing just outside the cellar door when the blast knocked them over. The lady of the villa died comforting a boy and two young women. Fourteen other members of the household spent their last moments in the cellar. Their bodies were found covering their faces with their tunics, trying to escape the choking Sulphur.

The third surge only reached Pompeii's northern edge, but The fourth and fifth surges rushed through the entire city. In the Villa of Polybius, thirteen people couldn't evacuate because Polybius's eighteen year old daughter was eight months pregnant with her second child. During the collapses under fallen debris, they had been trapped in two isolated rooms. Polybius's wife, her pregnant daughter and her son-in-law were unable to reach Polybius and the young couple's first son, the families separated in their final, horrible moments.

A similar situation occurred in the House of Menander. Here, the separated group had been working frantically to break into the adjoining rooms and rejoin their loved ones. They never made it through. Near the southern walls, the force of the blast knocked down a family heading toward the gate. It came so suddenly that the older woman's clothes remained blown up around her waist.

Another family, a young father and mother with their infant child, were also caught outside when the blast hit. The mother desperately tried to protect her infant, while the father died still struggling to reach his fallen wife and child.

Nothing could have survived the fifth blast, and the sixth surge whipped through a lifeless city.

Sources: Pliny the Younger, The Letters of the Younger Pliny; Cassius Dio, Roman History; Cooley, Alison E., Cooley, M. G. L., Pompeii and Herculaneum: A Sourcebook; Butterworth, Alex, Pompeii: The Living City; Mau, August, Pompeii, Its Life and Art



Pompeii – Villa dei Misteri. Icture by [Time Travel Rome](#)



Pompei – Naples by [Falco](#) licensed under [CC0](#)



Part II : Herculaneum Burned

Despite close proximity to Mount Vesuvius, many of the citizens of Herculaneum seem to have escaped the volcano's devastation. Being so close may well have saved them. A smaller, seaside resort town, the city lay directly under the shadow of the volcano. Early rumbles and growls convinced most to flee.

For years, historians and archeologists believed all the citizens had successfully evacuated, but later excavations made a gruesome discovery. They found the skeletons of over three hundred people near the shoreline, many bones charred like the city above. As ash and rock covered the surrounding countryside, Herculaneum burned.

Pleas for Assistance

The early morning expulsion of ash from Vesuvius did not reach Pompeii. The winds carried it mainly down the eastern slopes onto scattered farms and villas. Being directly at the base of the volcano, the citizens of Herculaneum felt intense tremors from the early warning. Utterly terrified, Lady Rectina of Herculaneum immediately sent messengers to plead for assistance from her friend, Pliny the Elder. A portly scholar of naturalism, he was also the admiral of the Roman fleet in the Bay of Naples. Pliny was staying at his seaside villa, also in Misenum, with his sister and her son, Pliny the Younger. The messengers desperately raced up the coast, but it was a trip of several hours. They did not arrive until just after Vesuvius erupted in force. Pliny wondered at the unusual cloud, shaped like an umbrella pine, and alternating between shades of white and gray. Not yet fully aware of the dangers, and willing to incur some risk, he decided to sail closer to inspect it. He invited his nephew to join him, but Pliny the Younger, though tempted, decided to remain with his studies.

Just before Pliny the Elder set sail, Rectina's messengers arrived and delivered her letter, explaining that escape from sea was her only option and imploring him to help. He changed his plans, and rather than sailing closer out of scientific curiosity, he mobilized the navy and bravely set sail for the mountain, intending to rescue not only Rectina, but as many as he could.

Historical Note

The traditional dating of the eruption of Vesuvius has been August 24th, 79 A.D.. This came from the writings of Pliny the Younger. Yet there has long been question regarding this date. Archaeologists found preserved fruits on trees that grow later in the season and many braziers for warming fires. In October of 2018, excavators working in new areas of Pompeii discovered writing with a date of October 17th. Written in charcoal, it is unlikely that the message could have survived from the previous year. Therefore a date of October 24th is more likely, though it is still difficult to pinpoint the exact day. Historians consider the 24th likely, again based on Pliny's work. The discrepancy in dates in Pliny's work could be due to a previous mis-translation or mistake in reprint. No contemporary copies of Pliny's works exist today.



Herculaneum Mosaic by [Graham-H](#) is licensed under [CCO](#)



Statue Herculaneum by [lieber5](#) is licensed under [CCO](#)



Unfortunately, they were never able to assist. “Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker as the ships drew near, followed by bits of pumice and blackened stones, charred and cracked by the flames; then suddenly they were in shallow water, and the shore was blocked by the debris from the mountain” (Letters of Pliny the Younger). The admiral reluctantly gave the order to abandon their attempt, and to make for Stabiae, to the house of his friend, Pomponianus. No more ships could get in to help the trapped victims. Rectina’s fate remains unknown.

The Death of Herculaneum

In the early evening, the final remaining citizens filed down to the seaside, but there was no escape left. Over three hundred people remained on the shore in Herculaneum, men, women and children. They huddled together in the archways of the boathouses, sheltering from the falling ash, still hoping for rescue by sea. A rich woman wore all her rings to the water’s edge. A doctor had left his home with only his bag of medical instruments, a valiant effort to help the injured to the very end. Another was a soldier, perhaps keeping order, comforting the fearful, or maybe just sheltering with all the rest in hopes of survival.

About twelve hours after the eruption, the cloud of ash and gas above Vesuvius collapsed. A deadly pyroclastic surge raced down the mountainside. The first never reached Pompeii, but it barreled through the empty streets of Herculaneum to the shore. Some had ventured out of the boathouses to stand near the water’s edge, staring out in search of rescue. The surge hit them full blast and knocked them off their feet. The force was lessened some in the boathouses, but the thermal shock was so great that it killed every man, woman and child. Their deaths were mercifully quick. They didn’t even have time to cover their faces. The first and second surges set most of the town on fire. By the time the third surge hit, the first to reach Pompeii, Herculaneum was a lifeless city. Subsequent surges left it buried beneath twenty-three meters of volcanic material.

Pliny the Elder and his fleet made it safely to Stabiae, but their perils were far from over.

What to see Here

Often unfairly overlooked in favour of the more well-known Pompeii, Herculaneum is nevertheless recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the remains of ancient life that can be found here are almost unmatched anywhere else in the world. The pyroclastic flows which surged down from Vesuvius in 79 A.D. and buried the town and its inhabitants have helped preserve a snapshot of life in the Roman Empire.

There are a significant number of sites to be seen in Herculaneum. Of the larger public buildings to be seen, there is the forum, the basilica, and the baths. Some of the most notable remains at Herculaneum however, just as at Pompeii, are the domestic structures. Nearby, there is the magnificent Villa dei Papiri. Dated to the mid-1st century B.C., and believed to have belonged to Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus, the father in law of Julius Caesar.

Sources: Pliny the Younger, The Letters of the Younger Pliny; Cassius Dio, Roman History; Cooley, Alison E.; Cooley, M. G. L., Pompeii and Herculaneum: A Sourcebook; Capasso, Luigi, The Lancet, Department of medical history: “Herculaneum victims of the volcanic eruptions of Vesuvius in 79 AD.”





Part III : Trapped in Stabiae

Falling rock and blocked shallows had forced Pliny the Elder and his navy from the shore at Herculaneum. Skirting the edge of the rock fall, they made their way down the coast to Stabiae, which lay south even of Pompeii.

An area of numerous ornate villas, both for leisure and farm estates, it lay at the base of the peninsula. The blast from Vesuvius covered their best escape route, leaving the wealthy inhabitants terrified and trapped in Stabiae. Worse still, the wind direction stopped boats from leaving the city. It blew favorably on Pliny, however, as he arrived at the house of his friend, Pomponianus.

The House of Pomponianus

Pliny disembarked on shore and embraced Pomponianus heartily. Determined to go bravely about his normal routine in order to reassure his old friend, he asked to bathe. A little later they dined together. Pliny remained cheerful, at least outwardly, as night fell and sheets of fire were visible, leaping up from the slopes of Vesuvius. Pliny once again tried to calm his companions, insisting they were seeing abandoned campfires, or at the very least, houses already evacuated that had caught on fire. With this final assurance, he bid them all goodnight, and apparently fell into a deep sleep, for they could hear his snores through the door.

The rest of the house remained awake and restless, despite Pliny's attempts to comfort them. Sometime in the earliest hours of the coming day, the ash had accumulated so high in the courtyard that it forced them to rouse Pliny, or risk him becoming trapped in his room. As they discussed their next move, the earth began to tremble and shake.

Even the solid structure of the villa seemed to sway back and forth as it shook violently. The discussion changed from plan of action to merely whether it was safest in the building or out of it.

Outside the ash and pumice stones continued to rain down, but inside seemed likely to collapse around them.



Stabiae Villa San Marco Peristyl Natatio by [AlMare](#) is licensed under [CC3.0](#)



Perseus in Villa San Marco Stabiae by [Luiclemens](#) is licensed under [CC3.0](#)



To the Shore

They made the decision to go outside, and tied pillows on their heads with strips of cloth. They needed their hands free to carry lanterns. Dawn should have been breaking, but the world was still encased in the blackness of an artificial night.

Pliny led the villa residents back down toward the sea, hoping to be able to sail back to safety. Unfortunately, the waves were still high, and the wind blowing directly against them. By this time, despite his cheerful façade, Pliny was beginning to struggle. He was a stout man, and out of shape, and he struggled to breathe in the thickening air. His friend Pomponianus called for a sheet to spread on the ground, and Pliny lay down, asking frequently for cold water.

Stabiae was relatively lucky, far enough away to escape almost all of the pyroclastic surges. Only the very edge of the sixth blast reached the city, and its heat and noxious fumes were no longer enough to kill all in its path instantly. Pliny and his companions smelled Sulphur as it approached. With the premonition that something terrible was approaching, they pulled Pliny to his feet and tried to help him to flee with them.

The End of an Icon

Two of the household slaves supported him as they ran, but it was too much for him. His windpipe had been weak for years, prone to inflammation under the best of circumstances. He choked suddenly on the fumes and utterly collapsed. The household, even Pomponianus, could only run, suffused by guilt at having to abandon their friend and would-be savior. A full day and more after, the darkness dissipated, and they were able to return. They found Pliny's body, untouched and uninjured, and appearing as if he were merely sleeping. Pliny had enjoyed an illustrious career as a politician and an eminent scholar. His book, *Natural History*, became a template for future encyclopedias. Sadly, many of his works, including large segments of his *Natural History*, remain lost.

On that terrible day in 79 A.D., back in Misenum, Pliny's family remained unaware of his fate. His sister and nephew refused for a long time to escape without him, despite the pleas of friends, and they almost lost their own lives to the tragedy because of it.

What to see Here

Like the other Roman settlements that fell victim to Vesuvius's eruption, Stabiae has been remarkably well preserved. Since excavations started in 1749, it has been internationally renowned for its many villas. Particularly worth seeing is the enormous Villa San Marco, a colonnaded Augustan era villa resplendent with wall paintings and paintings. At 11,000 square meters, it is one of the largest in Campania. Villa Arianna, which derives its name from one of its frescoes depicting Dionysus rescuing the demigoddess Ariadne, is also home to some phenomenal artworks, including the stunning Spring fresco.

As you will notice, the villas have been stripped of their objects. These can be found, however, at Naples's National Archaeological Museum.

Sources: Pliny the Younger, *The Letters of the Younger Pliny*, 6.16





Part IV : Ash Covers Misenum

*"Though my mind shrinks from remembering, I will begin."
- Pliny the Younger quoting Virgil's Aeneid*

Pliny the Younger and his mother, Plinia Marcella, watched with trepidation as the Roman navy sailed away from Misenum. Plinia was a widow. Her brother had taken her in and adopted his seventeen-year-old nephew as his son and heir. Now, the man of the household was heading into unknown peril. Yet his family back in their villa would also face great danger, as they watched ash cover Misenum and debris rain over the countryside.

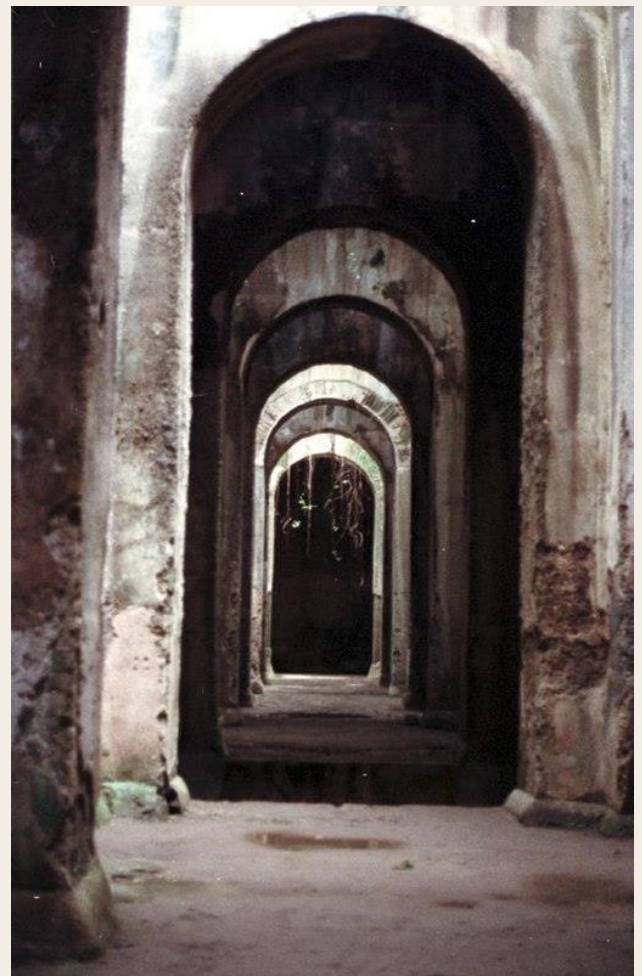
Early Evening

Immediately following his uncle's departure, Pliny tried to go about his regular routine. It may have been the believed indestructibility of a teenager or it may have been to allay his fears. He spent the remainder of the day studying his books. In the evening, he bathed, dined, and went to sleep as usual. Violent shocks and tremors woke him as the eruption worsened, and he decided to wake his mother. He met her in the hall, coming to fetch him for the same reason. They went to sit in the forecourt of the house. Pliny called for a copy of his book on Livy, and settled down to continue his reading. He says himself that he does not know whether it was due to "courage or folly."

A friend of his uncle's reproached them both, but they did not stir until the house began to rock so violently that they feared it would collapse. They decided then to leave town for safety, pressed behind by the panicked household who followed their lead.

As they came out of the city, they were shocked to see that the sea had been sucked back by the volcanic activity. It had happened so suddenly that a large number of sea creatures lay stranded on the sand.

Their friend once again begged them to run, but Pliny and Plinia insisted they would not leave until they knew the fate of Pliny the Elder. He pleaded with them again. "If your brother, if your uncle is still alive he will want you both to be saved; if he is dead, he would want you to survive him – why put off your escape?"





Thoughts of Escape

Seeing that he could not convince them, he finally fled himself. Pliny and his mother remained on the outskirts of Misenum, watching carriages move inexplicably as the ground rocked, and bursts of flame flash through the black cloud over Vesuvius.

The cloud eventually fell and spread, covering the sea and crawling towards them. Plinia finally grew truly afraid, though in true Roman style, not for herself. She begged her son to leave her behind and to run. She was older and unfit, and would only slow his progress. She “could die in peace as long as she had not been the cause of [his] death too.” A loyal son, Pliny flatly refused. He took his mother’s hand, urging her along and helping her to speed up her pace.

Ashes began to sprinkle down, and the dense cloud, black as night, was approaching. Fearful that, in the darkness, the panicked crowds would knock them down and trample on them, they sat down alongside the road. Moments later the blackness engulfed them, as suddenly and totally as switching off a light. “You could hear the shrieks of women, the wailing of infants, and the shouting of men: some were calling their parents, others their children or wives, trying to recognize them by their voices. People bewailed their own fate or that of their relatives, and there were some who prayed for death in their terror of dying. Many besought the aid of the gods, but still more imagined there were no gods left, and that the universe was plunged into eternal darkness forevermore.”

Morning Comes

Pliny and Plinia remained by the road, standing on occasion so that the falling ash wouldn’t bury them. Finally, just as Pliny had decided it was the end of the world, the darkness began to lift. A dim, yellowed sun spread light on a changed landscape. Ash covered every surface, piling like snowdrifts. Pliny and Plinia returned to the villa at Misenum. The following day and night consisted of dreadful fear and moments of hope. Earthquakes continued and some hysterical individuals predicted still greater doom. Pliny and his mother still stayed, unwilling to leave without news of Pliny the Elder. It was at least two days from the eruption before searchers found his body, and they learned of his tragic death.

Pliny went on to be among the most famous individuals of Roman history. His published letters have given incredible insight to generations of historians. Some twenty-five years after the eruption, Pliny’s friend Tacitus, the Roman historian, asked him for the details of his ordeal. The two letters that he wrote are an incredible treasure, an eyewitness account of the tragedy.

The type of eruption he described is still known as a Plinian Eruption. It is characterized by a huge column of gas and volcanic debris that shoots powerfully upward as high as the stratosphere.

What to see Here

It may have a rich, intriguing history, but time has not been kind to Misenum. Little of its ancient past remains except its remarkable Piscina Mirabile. But for those interested in the wondrous feats of Roman engineering this site is worth visiting just for this. Built during the Augustan Age, it constitutes the largest cistern in antiquity, which long served the fleet at Misenum.

Source and all quotations: Pliny the Younger, *The Letters of the Younger Pliny*, 6.20



[Pliny the Younger and his Mother at Misenum, 79 A.D., by Angelica Kauffmann, English, 1785, oil on canvas – Princeton University Art Museum](#) by [Daderot](#) is licensed under [CC0](#)



Part V : Exploring Modern Pompeii

Pompeii is an amazing park. It plunges the visitor into a vision of Roman life, and also brings its human tragedy into sharp focus. Yet years of digging, poor early oversight, and improper protection of the site have forced frequent rebuilding. Many buildings are not ancient, but reconstructions meant to return the city to some semblance of its former glory. It doesn't detract from the experience, but knowing some history of the park is helpful when exploring modern Pompeii.

Early Work

The very first digging occurred shortly after the disaster that buried the city. Residents who had escaped returned and dug into their villas for precious items. Some profiteers also tunneled into the city, seeking articles to sell. However, the dangers put them off. Unstable tunnels often collapsed, and pockets of poisonous gas killed some unwary visitors. After an initial return, Romans forgot the city, and it passed into legend for centuries.

Architect Domenico Fontana stumbled on the city again between 1594 and 1600 A.D., when was digging a water route. He found two ancient inscriptions, and upon further search, several frescoes. He had little interest, however, and covered them back up. Then, in 1709, local monks digging a new well stumbled upon some relics. Prince d'Elbeuf, an eager collector of ancient items, bought the land, which proved to be the city of Herculaneum. Sadly, his workers dug at random, causing great damage and removing statues and artwork.

Official excavations began in 1738 under the oversight of Spanish engineer Roque Joaquín de Alcubierre. The finding of Pompeii nearby shifted attention away from the seaside resort and back to the major city. Yet poor techniques in the 18th and 19th centuries caused damage and allowed large scale decline in coming years.

Rebuilding Begins

The first organized scientific work in Pompeii began in 1863 under the direction of Giuseppe Fiorelli. Rather than jumping from one promising location to the next, his crew dug layer by layer, street by street. He left most items in situ, an kept detailed notes. He also realized that cavities remained where the ash had buried its victims.

Using plaster poured into the cavity, they were able to preserve the final moments of many people. The process still bears his name, though now uses a clear resin that causes less damage. The plaster casts are iconic symbols of Pompeii, capturing the horror of its final days and humanizing its victims.





In the early 1900s, repair began in earnest as the site prepared to be a tourist attraction. The new director, Amedeo Maiuri, wanted to recreate the atmosphere of the Roman town. They cleared the main road, the Via dell'Abbondanza, and rebuilt almost every excavated building along its length. The large palestra also received heavy work. They did not realize that the tools used, chiefly the alkaline in the cement mixture, worsened erosion and damage.

In 1943, a new threat loomed over the city. Allied bombs falling during World War Two destroyed several houses on the main street. A few years later, an earthquake caused further damage. Work for the rest of the century focused on rebuilding those locations, using much safer supplies. Rebuilt sites included the large palestra, the House of Epidius Rufus, The House of Triptolemus, and the park museum. Ironically, the House of Gladiators, which collapsed in 2010 creating much anger and dispute, was almost entirely a reconstruction.

Modern Efforts

Later rebuilding, took place in the 1980s. Yet even so, by the time of the collapse that took place in 2010, Pompeii was in serious crisis. Only about ten buildings and 14 acres of the 110 visible were open to tourists. Luckily, experts were vocal about their concerns, and in 2012 received funds for emergency intervention and future efforts. The current director, Massimo Osanna, feels excited about the city's future. He and his team are continuing to work on the "Great Pompeii Project." It's an ambition plan, calling for meticulous, cross-disciplinary study as well as improved conservation and restoration. The goal is to revive Pompeii as a living picture of ancient Roman life. The first phase was completed in 2015, and opened another 12,500 m² of area to the public.

With funding to protect the ruins, new work has begun in the 54 or more acres of untouched city. 2018 and 2019 saw amazing new findings. The "street of balconies" contains very expensive villas, some whose second stories were preserved, rare in Pompeii. Team members also found a richly adorned shrine and a garden with preserved plants of intense value to botanists.

Newly found remains include several human and a stable with a number of horses. Pompeii's renaissance will continue to provide new knowledge of history, while still sharing its immersive experience with visitors.

Sources: Butterworth, Alex, Pompeii: The Living City; Mau, August, Pompeii, Its Life and Art; Current World Archaeology, Issue 90, "New Finds from Pompeii;" Frank Viviano, National Geographic, "Bringing the Ghostly City of Pompeii Back to Life."



[Pompeii – ruins](#) by [Bogles](#) F licensed under [CC0](#)



[Pompeii – Italy](#) by [Graham-H](#) licensed under [CC0](#)



TimeTravelRome is the most comprehensive mobile app dedicated to the ancient Roman Empire. TimeTravelRome features:

- 4500 ancient sites and monuments located precisely on the map
- Gallery of 8,000 pictures for 1000 sites and monuments
- Every site described, ranked with a five star system, and offers recommendations for "what to see there"
- All original content comprised of 850,000 words, equivalent to 1,500 pages of text
- Library of 300 ancient texts in English with geographical places indexed and linked to ancient sites

TimeTravelRome is an app made with passion for travelers, history lovers, teachers, students, and anyone fascinated with Ancient Rome.

*Roman Empire
in your pocket*

