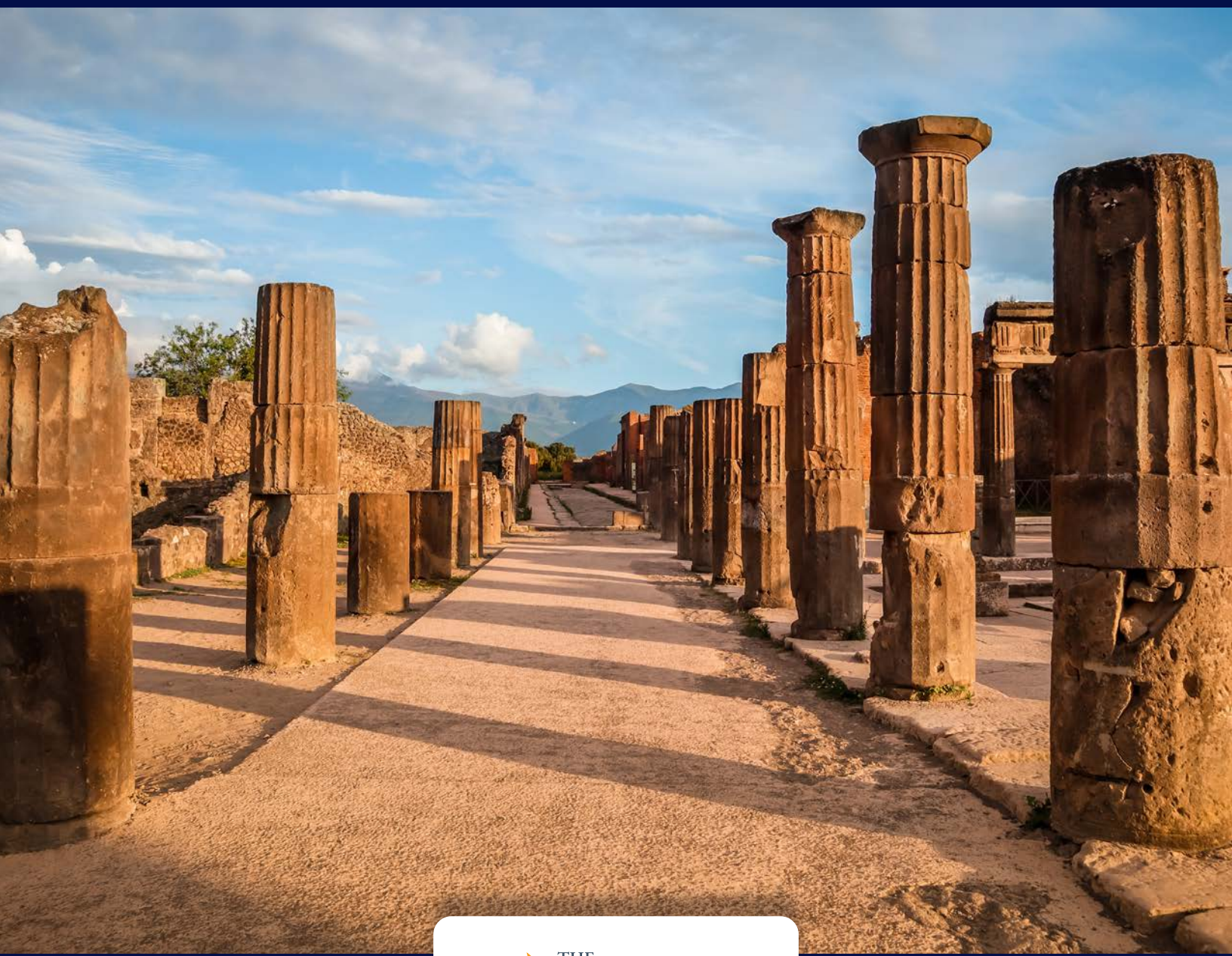


# Exploring Southern Italy's History, Art, and Archeology

*with Dr. Steven L. Tuck (March)  
or Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble (October)*

March 21–27, 2026 | October 17–23, 2026

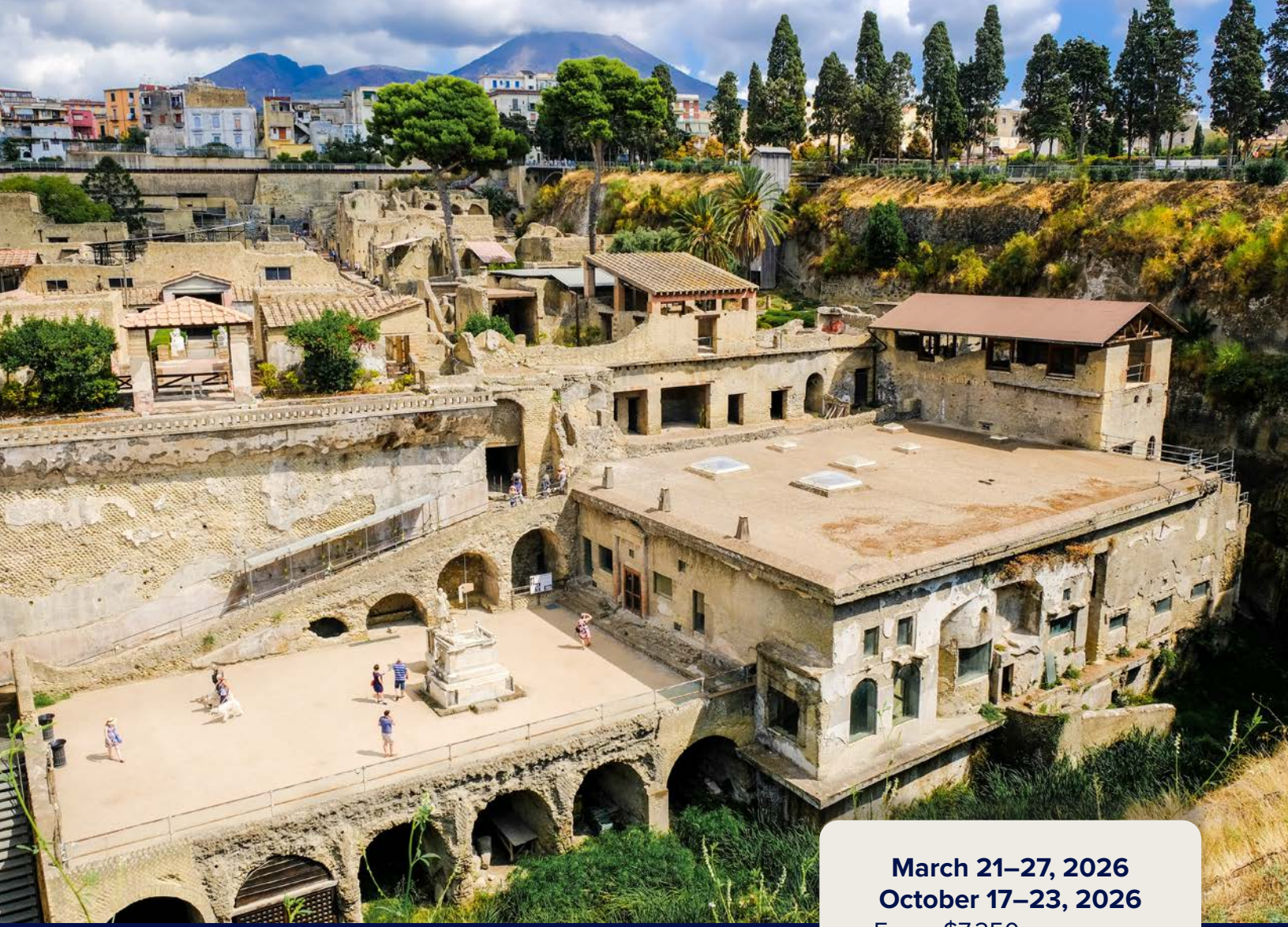


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**March 21–27, 2026**  
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From: \$7,250 per person



## Exploring Southern Italy's History, Art, and Archeology

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**Uncover the rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture of southern Italy on this immersive journey through Campania, guided by Great Courses Expert Dr. Steven L. Tuck, an award-winning professor of Classics and expert in Roman history, art, and archaeology.**

From the bustling streets of Naples to the legendary ruins of Pompeii and the stunning island of Capri, this tour offers a deep dive into the region's fascinating past. Walk in the footsteps of ancient Romans as you explore underground Naples, the volcanic landscapes of the Phlegraean Fields, and the remarkably preserved cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Dr. Tuck's engaging lectures and expert insights bring these ancient sites to life, revealing the daily lives, artistry, and innovations of the Roman world. Along the way, enjoy guided visits, hands-on culinary experiences, and breathtaking coastal views, ensuring an unforgettable journey through one of Italy's most captivating regions.

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# Your Journey Expert



**Dr. Steven L. Tuck (March)** is a distinguished Professor of Classics and History at Miami University, specializing in Roman history, art, and archaeology. He earned his B.A. in History and Classics from Indiana University and his Ph.D. in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan. A celebrated educator, Dr. Tuck has received numerous teaching accolades, including the E. Phillips Knox Teaching Award and the Archaeological Institute of America's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. His expertise extends beyond the

classroom, with extensive archaeological fieldwork in Italy, Greece, England, and Egypt. He has led over 20 study tours focused on Rome and the Bay of Naples, bringing the ancient world to life for students and travelers alike. A prolific scholar and engaging lecturer, Dr. Tuck is also the creator of five acclaimed Great Courses series, making him the perfect expert guide for this immersive journey through ancient Campania.



**Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble (October)** is Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. His passion for the Classical worlds of ancient Greece and Rome has led him to lead numerous tours throughout the region for decades. Professor Noble received his MA in History and Latin and PhD in Medieval History from Michigan State University. He is a widely published scholar, and is the author, coauthor, or editor of 12 books, including the coauthored textbook, *Western Civilization: The Continuing Experiment*, now in its 7th edition. Professor Noble produced 4 Great Courses, including all-time

customer favorite *Foundations of Western Civilization*, plus *Popes and the Papacy: A History*, and *The World of Late Antiquity: Crisis and Transformation*.

## Highlights

- Discover the hidden layers beneath Naples, from ancient reservoirs to eerie catacombs, revealing centuries of history beneath the bustling streets.
- Walk through the remarkably intact ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum Roman cities, buried by Vesuvius in 79 AD, offering an unparalleled glimpse into daily life in antiquity.
- Explore volcanic craters, the legendary Lake Avernus, and the Cave of the Sibyl, landscapes once believed to be gateways to the underworld.
- Sail to the stunning island of Capri, visit the cliffside retreat of Emperor Tiberius, and enjoy breathtaking Mediterranean views.
- Indulge in regional specialties, from a hands-on pizza-making experience to a seafood feast in Sorrento, savoring the flavors of southern Italy.

# Exploring Southern Italy's History, Art, and Archeology

## Itinerary



### Day 1: Arrival in Naples

Arrive in Naples, a city rich in history, culture, and breathtaking coastal views. Transfer to the elegant San Francesco al Monte hotel, a former 16<sup>th</sup>-century monastery offering stunning vistas of the Bay of Naples, Professor Tuck's favorite hotel in Naples. Settle into the hotel and then gather with your fellow travelers and Great Courses Expert Steven Tuck for introductions and an overview of the journey ahead. Then, enjoy a delightful welcome dinner at the hotel's restaurant.

**Included Meal:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Francesco al Monte Hotel



### Day 2: Beneath the Surface—Exploring Underground Naples

Begin the day with an engaging lecture by your expert to gain insights into Naples' rich history. Then, venture beneath the city to explore a labyrinth of ancient reservoirs, catacombs, and tunnels that have shaped Naples over centuries. Back above ground, stroll through the historic center for a guided visit to the stunning 14<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic Duomo. After lunch, visit the renowned National Archaeological Museum, home to an extraordinary collection of artifacts from Pompeii, Herculaneum, and beyond—the most important archaeological museum in Europe, according to Professor Tuck. The evening is yours to explore and dine at leisure.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** San Francesco al Monte Hotel



### Day 3: The Ancient World of the Phlegraean Fields

Journey to the Phlegraean Fields, a landscape of volcanic craters, steaming fumaroles, and bubbling mud pools that fascinated ancient Romans, who believed this region to be the entrance to the underworld. Explore Solfatara, a dormant volcano known for its otherworldly terrain and mythological significance. Continue to Pozzuoli to visit its impressive 1<sup>st</sup>-century AD amphitheater, one of the largest in Italy, where gladiators once battled for the entertainment of Roman spectators. According to Professor Tuck, visiting the subterranean passages here introduces you to one of the great unspoiled spaces in all of Roman Italy. After lunch at your leisure, stop at Lake Avernus, a volcanic crater lake once considered the gateway to Hades, before exploring the ancient





ruins of Cumae, home to the legendary Cave of the Sibyl. Return to Naples for a special evening of Neapolitan culture with a hands-on pizza-making demonstration and dinner, savoring the city's most famous culinary tradition.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** San Francesco al Monte Hotel

## Day 4: From Ruins to the Riviera—Herculaneum and Sorrento

Depart Naples and journey to Herculaneum, an ancient Roman city famously buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Unlike Pompeii, Herculaneum was covered in volcanic mud, preserving wooden structures, frescoes, and even household items in remarkable detail. Professor Tuck will encourage the group to look for ancient graffiti on the walls as we walk through the city. Explore the city's well-preserved houses, baths, and streets, offering an intimate glimpse into Roman daily life. Continue to Castellammare di Stabia and check in at the elegant Hotel La Medusa. This afternoon, prepare for tomorrow's explorations of Pompeii with a fascinating lecture by Professor Tuck about a city frozen in time. Later, travel to Sorrento and visit the Cathedral, known for its stunning frescoes and Romanesque architecture. Then, enjoy free time to explore this charming coastal town. Conclude the day with a seafood feast before returning to Castellammare di Stabia for a restful night.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel La Medusa

## Day 5: Pompeii—A City Frozen in Time

Step back into the ancient world with a visit to Pompeii, a Roman city frozen in time during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Wander through remarkably intact streets, temples, and homes, gaining insight into daily life in this once-thriving metropolis. Marvel at intricate frescoes and mosaics that adorn private villas, offering glimpses into Roman art and culture. After a group lunch at Ristorante Sgambati, explore the Villa of Mysteries, renowned for its enigmatic frescoes depicting Dionysian rites. Enjoy free time to further explore the vast archaeological park before returning to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel La Medusa







## Day 6: From Roman Luxury to Island Splendor

Begin the day with a guided visit to Villa San Marco in Stabiae, a lavish Roman villa that once belonged to the elite of the ancient world. Overlooking the Bay of Naples, this UNESCO World Heritage Site features stunning frescoes, grand courtyards, and thermal baths, reflecting the opulence of Roman aristocracy. Then, board a public ferry to the enchanting island of Capri. Visit the Villa of Tiberius, the secluded imperial retreat of the Roman emperor, perched atop dramatic cliffs with breathtaking views of the sea, where Professor Tuck tells stories about Tiberius and the U.S. Navy. Afterward, enjoy free time to explore Capri's charming piazzas, designer boutiques, and picturesque coastal paths. In the evening, return to Castellammare di Stabia and gather for a memorable farewell dinner along the seafront to celebrate an unforgettable journey.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

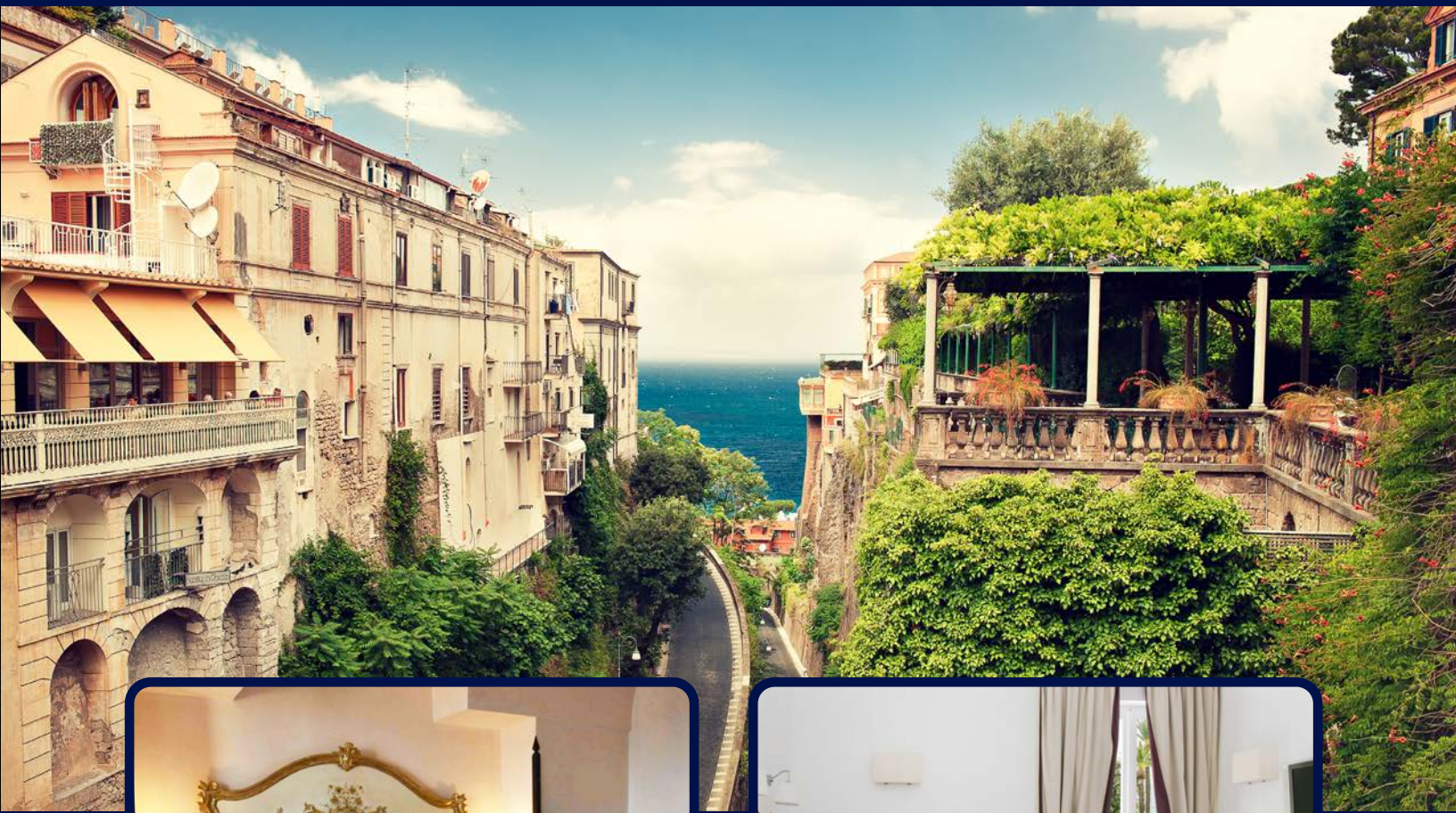
**Accommodation:** Hotel La Medusa

## Day 7: Departure

Depart hotel for Naples Airport and individual flights home.



# Accommodations



## San Francesco al Monte

### *Naples*

San Francesco al Monte is a 4-star hotel in a former monastery with a panoramic view of the Gulf of Naples and above the bustle of this busy city. Guest rooms are on the small side but elegantly furnished and with sea-views. The hotel's top floor is set against the hill of San Martino. Here, there is an outdoor pool and garden offering 360-degree views over the city, the Mediterranean Sea, Vesuvius, and Capri. The garden also includes the ancient vegetable gardens cultivated by the monks, complete with walkways and pergolas. **(3 nights)**



## La Medusa

### *Castellammare di Stabia*

Hotel La Medusa in Castellammare di Stabia, Italy, is a luxurious four-star hotel set in an elegant 18th-century villa surrounded by lush gardens. Overlooking the Bay of Naples, it offers breathtaking views of Mount Vesuvius. The hotel features refined rooms, a spa, an outdoor pool, and a gourmet restaurant serving Mediterranean cuisine. Its historic charm, modern amenities, and proximity to Pompeii, Sorrento, and the Amalfi Coast make it an ideal destination for relaxation and exploration. **(3 nights)**





## Pricing:

Departure	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Deposit	
March 21–27, 2026	\$7,250	\$8,435	\$500	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
October 17–23, 2026	\$7,590	\$8,775	\$500	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>

## What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals, as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of The Great Courses Expert, travel director and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- One group airport transfer upon departure
- Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility and social distancing on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance

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