

Exploring Southern Italy's History, Art, and Archeology

with Dr. Robert Garland

October 16–22, 2027



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From: \$7,825 per person

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Uncover the rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture of southern Italy on this immersive journey through Campania, guided by a Great Courses expert to learn about the history, art, and archaeology of the region.

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. From engaging lectures and expert insights these ancient sites are brought 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.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Robert Garland (October 2027) Robert Garland is the Roy D. and Margaret B. Wooster Emeritus Professor of the Classics at Colgate University. He received his B.A. from the University of Manchester, where he graduated with first class honors, his M.A. from McMaster University, and his Ph.D. from University College London. He was the recipient of the George Grote Prize in Ancient History, a Fulbright Scholar, Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC, Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, Benjamin Meaker Visiting Distinguished Professor at the University of Bristol, and Visiting Fellow

at Clare Hall, Cambridge. Before beginning his Ph.D., he trained professionally as an actor at Mountview Theatre School in London and worked as a gardener on an estate in Hampshire.

He has written 18 books, most recently *What to Expect When You're Dead: An Ancient Tour of Death and the Afterlife* (Princeton UP) and recorded six courses for The Great Courses. He has featured in The History Channel's *The True Story of Troy* and served as a consultant for educational film companies. He has a son and a daughter, is a practicing artist, and lives in Brooklyn.



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—which offer 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 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.

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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 16th-century monastery offering stunning vistas of the Bay of Naples. Settle into the hotel and then gather with your fellow travelers and Great Courses expert 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 14th-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. 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 1st-century AD amphitheater,



“I love sharing my knowledge of and enthusiasm for a part of the world that is exquisitely beautiful and endlessly fascinating.”

—Tom Noble



one of the largest in Italy, where gladiators once battled for the entertainment of Roman spectators. 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.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: San Francesco al Monte Hotel

Day 4: From Ruins to the Riviera—Herculaneum & 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 household items in remarkable detail—even ancient graffiti still lingers on the walls throughout 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. 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 lunch, 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. 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, a four-star hotel in a former monastery, overlooks the Gulf of Naples from a serene hillside. Guest rooms offer sea views, while the rooftop offers an outdoor pool and garden with sweeping vistas of the city. Stroll through historic monk-tended vegetable gardens with pergolas and walkways for a truly unique experience above Naples' lively streets. **(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	
October 16–22, 2027	\$7,825	\$9,420	\$650	BOOK NOW

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