The University of Massachusetts, Boston
Classics 278: The Cities of Vesuvius: Ancient Greeks & Romans on the Bay of Naples
2019 Winter Study Abroad: Villa Vergiliana, Cuma, Italy
Dr. Randall Colaizzi

Daily Itinerary and Schedule
(Subject to change according to weather and site closings.)

Day 1: Thursday, January 10. Terracina & Sperlonga
Morning, 9:00 am.: Departure from Leonardo da Vinci airport, Rome, for the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma. En route, visit to two important Roman coastal sites.

First is Terracina which included the sanctuary attributed to Jupiter Anxur but now thought to be dedicated to Venus. Famous for its barrel-vault construction in the late Republican period, the platform for the sanctuary sits on a promontory nearly 1000 feet above the sea—with spectacular views.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMmxj9PPBSw

Afternoon: Lunch in Terracina. Next comes a visit to the site and museum of the Grotto of the Emperor Tiberius at Sperlonga. In this seaside cave, developed as an elaborate dining room with imported Greek statuary and reflecting seawater pool, Tiberius was nearly killed by a cave-in and rescued by Sejanus, head of the Praetorian Guard, his private police force.

http://www.theglobaldispatches.com/articles/tiberius-and-his-villa-at-sperlonga
http://madamepickwickartblog.com/2012/06/cave-of-tiberius-getaway-grotto/

Arrival at the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma for dinner.
http://www.vergil.clarku.edu/villa.htm

Day 2: Friday, January 11. Cumae, Baiae, Misenum, Avernus
Morning: The acropolis of ancient Cumae, the first mainland colony of Greeks settled from the island of Pithecussai (modern Ischia). Visit includes the Temple of Apollo and the “Grotto of the Sibyl”, said to be the site of oracle and prophetess. The Greek alphabet introduced to Italy from these colonists became the basis of the written alphabet used by the Romans, and the basis for the alphabet that we use in English. At the height of its power, after defeating attacks by both Carthaginians and Etruscans, Cumae controlled the entire Bay of Naples.

http://www.italythisway.com/places/articles/cuma-history.php
http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Cumae

Baiae was the infamous pleasure resort of the Bay of Naples; the archaeological site includes a bath complex, a theater- nymphaeum, and a villa attributed to Julius Caesar.

https://roadrunnersguidetotheancientworld.com/baiae/

Afternoon: Lunch at Baia. Visit to the Museum of the Phlegraean Fields in the Aragonese Castle at Baia. This houses the finds from the sites on the Western Bay, including many statues and inscriptions.

http://see-phlegraean-fields.blogspot.com/2008/10/in-this-collection-is-bronze-statue-of.html
At Bacoli we will visit the **Piscina Mirabilis**, the end-point of the vast Aqua Augusta aqueduct which has the dimensions of an underground cathedral and served the headquarters of the Roman navy at Misenum. The end of the peninsula, **Capo Misenos** has the form of a tumulus which the poet Vergil described at the tomb of Misenum, the helmsman of Aeneas who was knocked overboard by the god Sleep while sailing past this location. [http://www-wow.com/wiki/Capo_Misenos](http://www-wow.com/wiki/Capo_Misenos)

**Lake Avernus**, entrance to the Underworld in Greco-Roman mythology and later part of port and training harbor for the Roman navy under the emperor Augustus.

**Day 3: Saturday, January 12. Naples**  
**Morning:** The **Archaeological Museum** in Naples, which holds the finds from Pompeii, Herculaneum, Naples, and many of the Roman villas excavated around the Bay. Exhibits include inscriptions, coins, wall paintings, mosaics, statues, and objects from daily home life and businesses. [http://www.museoarcheologiconapoli.it/en/3598-2/](http://www.museoarcheologiconapoli.it/en/3598-2/)


**Day 4: Sunday, January 13. Pozzuoli, La Solfatara, Capua**  

Visit to the **Solfatara**, the volcanic crater with fumaroles and geysers still active, evidence of the volcanic nature of the Phlegrean Fields (“Fields of Fire”) [http://www.vulcanosolfatara.it/en/](http://www.vulcanosolfatara.it/en/). View of the island of Nisida, attached by causeway to Pozzillo. It was in a villa on this dramatic bowl-shaped island that Brutus and Cassius plotted to assassinate Julius Caesar in 44 BC.

**Afternoon:** Lunch at Capua. Visit to the Augustan era **Amphitheater**, and the gladiator Museum. **Capua** was an Etruscan foothold in Campania and a later training ground for gladiators; here was the gladiatorial school where Spartacus trained and began his revolt. Visit to the **Mithraeum**, underground shrine for the meetings of the cult of Mithras, imported from Persia and popular with soldiers in the Roman Imperial army. [http://www.ancientcapua.com/](http://www.ancientcapua.com/)

Visit to the **Mithraeum**, underground shrine to the Eastern god popular with the Roman army in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. [http://romeitalymission.blogspot.com/2015/10/mithraeum-of-capua.html](http://romeitalymission.blogspot.com/2015/10/mithraeum-of-capua.html)

Visit to the **Provincial Museum of Campania** in Capua, called by Amedeo Maiuri, the famous excavator of Pompeii, "The most significant museum of ancient Italian civilization in Campania". [http://www.provincia.caserta.it/museocampano/museocampano.asp?lang=en](http://www.provincia.caserta.it/museocampano/museocampano.asp?lang=en)

**Morning:** Ferry trip from the harbor of Pozzuoli to the island of **Ischia** (the ancient Pithecusai) where Greek colonists first established a base in Italy in the mid-8th century BC. Extensive excavations of the 8th century cemeteries and commercial quarters confirmed that this was the oldest Greek settlement in the west. [http://www.ischiareview.com/things-to-see-in-ischia.html](http://www.ischiareview.com/things-to-see-in-ischia.html)

[https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/pithekoussai/](https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/pithekoussai/)

**Afternoon:** Lunch on Ischia. Free afternoon on Ischia.
Day 6: Tuesday, January 15. Herculaneum, Oplontis, Mt. Vesuvius, Stabiae
   Morning: Visit to Herculaneum, the other city buried by Vesuvius: houses, shops, palaestra, bath complexes. Wood shelving, doors, and other organic objects (bread, nuts, rope) were preserved by the pyroclastic flow which buried Herculaneum under 80 feet of hardened material. Extensive mosaics and wall paintings remain. https://sites.google.com/site/ad79eruption/herculaneum-1. Visit to the villa thought to have been owned by Nero’s wife Poppaea at Oplontis (Torre Annunziata). http://www.oplontisproject.org/
   Afternoon: Lunch at Kona restaurant on the slope of Mt Vesuvius. Visit to the summit of Mount Vesuvius and the path around the rim of the crater. http://www.vesuvioinrete.it/e_parco.htm. Visit to the villas at ancient Stabiae. This group of villas, on a cliff overlooking the bay, have beautiful and exceptionally well-preserved wall paintings: http://www.napoliunplugged.com/Dont-Miss-the-Stabian-Villas.html
   Transfer to Villa Crawford in Sorrento: http://www.villacrawford.it/en/

Day 7: Wednesday, January 16. Pompeii
   Morning: Pompeii, the famous city buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. Sites include the Porta Marina, the ancient Forum and temples, houses, the bath complexes, the ancient cemeteries, the businesses (fulleries, bakeries, brothel) along the Via Abbondanza, as well as the Amphitheater, Theaters, and Triangular Forum. http://www.pompeisisites.org/index.jsp?idProgetto=2
   Afternoon: Lunch in Pompeii at Ristorante Bacco e Arianna. Visit to the Villa of the Mysteries outside the Herculaneum Gate.

Day 8: Thursday, January 17. From Sorrento to Vico Equense
   Morning: Walks in and around Sorrento, the ancient Roman town of Surrentum, named after the Sirens of Homer’s Odyssey and the site of a Greek temple to the Sirens. Since the 18th century, Sorrento has been famous for its production of marquetry (inlaid wood furniture and objects). Walking tour of Punta del Capo on the shoreline of Sorrento, site of an ancient Roman Villa of Pollio Felix, including the rock pool called the Baths of Queen Joan: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BHlyncd7Qo https://www.inspirock.com/italy/sorrento/villa-di-pollio-felice-bagni-della-regina-giovanna-a4165170079
   Afternoon: Lunch in Sorrento. Visit to three small local museums with Greek, Etruscan, Samnite, and Roman artifacts from local excavations: Museum of Wooden Marquetry (http://www.alessandrofiorentinocollection.it/afc/index.html) and Correale Museum, Sorrento; Villa Fondi, Piano di Sorrento; and the Antiquarium Silio Italico in Vico Equense.

Day 9: Friday, January 18. Capri
   Morning: Ferry ride to the island of Capri. http://www.capri.net/en/what-to-see
   Visit to the Villa Jovis where the Emperor Tiberius spent the last decade of his life. He and his adoptive father, the Emperor Augustus, built a series of villas on this beautiful island off the coast of Sorrento. Augustus called Capri “Apragopolis” or “Lazy town”. http://www.capri.net/en/s/villa-jovis-mount-tiberio.
   Afternoon: Lunch at Bar Jovis near the Villa Jovis. Visit to Villa San Michele. Early in the 20th century Dr. Axel Munthe built a villa & museum on the ruins of a Roman villa on Anacapri, the opposite end of the island from the Villa Jovis. Villa San Michele on Capri island | Villa San Michele
   Free afternoon in Capri.
Day 10: Saturday, January 19. Paestum

Morning: Day trip to site of Paestum (ancient Poseidonia). Another Greek colony founded after Cumae, Paestum has three well-preserved Greek temples, a complete city wall circuit, and the extra-urban sanctuary of Hera. After the Greeks, the town was controlled in succession by Lucanians (Oscan-speaking Italic people from the nearby mountains) and then the Romans, who built their own forum, temples, and amphitheater. [http://www.paestum.org.uk/](http://www.paestum.org.uk/)

Visit to the on site Paestum museum. The finds here include sculpture from the Sanctuary of Hera, ancient armor, coins, and grave goods. Also on exhibit are many examples of painted tombs from the Lucanians and the unique painted Greek Tomb of the Diver.

Afternoon: Lunch at Caseificio Barlotti. This complex, with farm, hotel, and restaurant, features a herd of the “buffalo” cows which produce the local buffalo mozzarella. [https://www.deliciousitaly.com/campania-naples-food/buffalo-mozzarella-production-near-paestum](https://www.deliciousitaly.com/campania-naples-food/buffalo-mozzarella-production-near-paestum).

Day 11: Sunday, January 20. Departure

Morning, 6:00 AM: departure for Leonardo da Vinci Airport, Rome; arrival before noon. Students are reminded not to book return flights from Rome that leave before 2:00 PM.