The Bay of Naples was always one of the most important centers of Classical culture and part of the European Grand Tour of the 18th & 19th centuries. It entered Western Literature as the site of Odysseus’ encounter with the Sirens in Homer’s *Odyssey* and later was the place where Aeneas consulted the Sibyl of Cumae and descended to the Underworld in Vergil’s *Aeneid*. This was the historic foothold of the colonizing Greeks when they established their cities at Pithecussai (Ischia) and Cumae; the Greek alphabet that they brought with them became the basis of the Latin, and later the English, alphabet. Here was a series of decisive moments in the Punic, Social, and Slave Wars of the Roman Republic: both Hannibal and Spartacus fought battles here. The eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD made this the graveyard of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and hundreds of lavish Roman villas. Celebrated here were the famous estates of the Roman elite, the aqueduct of Augustus, the real extravagances of Nero, and the fictional eccentricities of Petronius. Greeks, Etruscans, Samnites, Lucanians, and Romans lived here. We will visit the archaeological sites and the several museums which preserve the artefacts from two millennia of Greco-Roman culture.

Sites will include Terracina, Sperlonga, Posillipo, Cumae, Lake Avernus, Lake Fucinus, La Solfatara, Pompeii, Naples, Paestum, Pozzuoli, Herculaneum, Oplontis (Torre Annunziata), Stabiae, Capri, Ischia, Baia, Bacoli, Miseno, San Gennaro Catacombs, Capua, Benevento.

Especially if you wish to visit sites that we won’t see during our course, I recommend that participants get to Rome a few days ahead of our meeting on January 12. This will help you get over jet lag and will ensure that you are in Rome when we depart for Cuma—and you won’t be left behind. You may also wish to remain in Rome, or travel elsewhere from Rome, when we go to the airport on January 23.

**Daily Itinerary**

**Tuesday, January 12**

**Morning, 9:00 a.m.:** Assemble in Rome. Departure for the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma. En route, visit to two important Roman coastal sites. **Terracina** 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. 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.

**Afternoon:** Lunch in Sperlonga. 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. 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 Miseno** has the form of a tumulus which the poet Vergil described at the tomb of Misenus, the helmsman of Aeneas who was knocked overboard by the god Sleep while sailing past this location. **Lake Avernus**, entrance to the Underworld in Greco-Roman mythology and later part of port and training harbor for the Roman navy under Augustus.

**Wednesday, January 13**

**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. **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.

**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. 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 Miseno** has the form of a tumulus which the poet Vergil described at the tomb of Misenus, the helmsman of Aeneas who was knocked overboard by the god Sleep while sailing past this location. **Lake Avernus**, entrance to the Underworld in Greco-Roman mythology and later part of port and training harbor for the Roman navy under Augustus.

**Thursday, January 14**

**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, the businesses (fulleries, bakeries, brothel) along the Via Abbondanza, as well
as the Amphitheater, Theaters, and Triangular Forum.

Afternoon: Lunch in Pompeii. Sites include a number of houses, the bath complexes, the ancient cemeteries, the circuit of the city walls, and the Villa of the Mysteries outside the Herculaneum Gate.

Friday, January 15

Morning: Day trip to 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.

Afternoon: Lunch, and then visit to the onsite 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.

Saturday, January 16

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. Visit to nearby Villa Regina (Boscoreale) and the villa perhaps owned by Nero’s wife Poppaea at Oplontis (Torre Annunziata).

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.

Sunday, January 17

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 life and businesses.

Afternoon: Lunch in Naples, followed by visit to the Catacombs of San Gennaro, extensive early Christian underground burial chambers.

Monday, January 18

Morning: Harbor and Macellum (“Temple of Serapis”) of Pozzuoli (ancient Puteoli). Dramatic evidence for bradyseism, the cyclical uplift and sinking of ground level caused by underground volcanic activity. Visit to the Amphitheater built under Nero and the Flavian emperors.

Afternoon: Lunch at Capua. Visit to the Augustan era Amphitheater, and gladiator Museum Capua, Etruscan foothold in Campania and later training ground for gladiators. At Capua was the gladiator school where Spartacus trained and began his revolt. Visit to the Mithraeum, underground shrine for the meetings of the cult of Mithras, a cult imported from Persia and popular with soldiers in the Roman Imperial army.

Tuesday, January 19

Morning: Visit to Benevento, largest city of the Sannites, who occupied the towns of the Bay of Naples starting at the beginning of the 4th Century BC, and whom the Romans fought in a series of wars for the next three centuries. Visit to the Flavian Theater.

Afternoon: Lunch in Benevento. Visit to the Museum of the Samnites in Benevento. Visit to the Arch of Trajan.

Wednesday, January 20

Morning: Ferry to the island of Capri. 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”.

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. Free afternoon in Capri.

Thursday, January 21

Morning: Visit to the Solfatara, the volcanic crater with fumaroles and geysers still active. View of the island of Nisida, attached by causeway to Posillipo. It was in a villa on this dramatic bowl-shaped island that Brutus and Cassius plotted to assassinate Julius Caesar in 44 BC. Visit to the promontory of Posillipo (ancient Pausilypon). The large Parco Virgilio on one of the most beautiful peninsulas in Italy contains the “Tomb of Vergil” and extensive remains of a large imperial Roman villa. The Crypta Neapolitana, a long tunnel for road traffic excavated during the Augustan era, wide enough for two chariots to pass, was the longest structure of its kind in the Roman world, and
enabled troops and supplies to get to the port at Misenum much more quickly than the winding overland road.

**Afternoon:** Lunch at Posillipo.

**Friday, January 22**

**Morning:** Ferry trip from the harbor of Pozzuoli to the island of Ischia (the ancient Pithecussai) 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. The Museum in Lago Ameno houses the material from the excavations.

**Afternoon:** Lunch on Ischia. Free afternoon on Ischia.

**Saturday, January 23**

**Early Morning:** Departure for Rome airport