

Daily Completo

1. Departure by bus from Naples
2. Aragonese Castle of Baia and Archaeological Museum of the Phlegraean Fields
3. Archaeological Park of Baia
4. Tasting of typical products
5. Sibilla's Cave and Acropolis of Cuma

Departure by bus from Naples to Baia 08:30

The itinerary begins with a visit to the **Aragonese Castle of Baia**. The construction of the fortress began in 1495, along with other fortifications in the Kingdom of Naples, on the occasion of the imminent invasion by the King of France Charles VIII. The Castle of Baia was part of a defensive system to control the approach of enemy fleets and the landing of troops that could have attacked Naples with a bypass maneuver. In 1531 the Spanish viceroy Pedro de Toledo renovated and radically enlarged the fortress and after the eruption of Monte Nuovo in 1538, restoration work began which continued until 1550 with a complex of works that gave the castle its current appearance.

In 1544 the Castle was able to reject the attack of the corsair Barbarossa coming from a raid carried out in Ischia

with 150 vessels and 4 ships. Exemplary was the strategy of the men of the fortress, who first approached the enemy boats under the Castle and then sank them with the cannons that they had hidden in the fort existing on the beach. During the last world war, the fortress was occupied first by the Germans and then by the Allies. In 1984 it was delivered to the Archaeological Superintendency of Naples for the construction of the **Archaeological Museum of the Phlegraean Fields**. The museum collects numerous and precious testimonies from all over the Phlegraean area exhibited in multiple rooms. Particularly beautiful and evocative are the reconstructions with original finds recovered from the submerged Roman city of the Imperial Nymphaeum of Punta Epitaffio in Baia and of the Sacello degli Augustali in Miseno (currently closed to the public). Among the other objects, the fragments of the plaster casts of Baia are displayed, which document the rare masterpieces of Greek statuary. The itinerary continues with a visit to the **Archaeological Park** called **Terme Romane di Baia**, probably the largest and most majestic spa complex in ancient Italy, a spa town with sweat baths, swimming pools and lookout points, it was among the works that earned the imperial town of Baia, the nickname of "Pusilla Roma" (the little Rome). Seneca, obsessed and dazzled by the dazzling and glittering life of Baia, describes it as the boom of holidays and the dolce vita, a carousel of loves, adventures, follies and conspiracies, a place of pleasure and mourning. A contrast that lives in the numerous poets, who praised its beauty and charm. Horace proclaimed "the bay of Baia the most splendid in the world" (Ep. I, 1, 83), for Propertius he was the enemy of chaste girls and for Martial the golden beach of Venus. The women of Baia are part of the legend: Cinzia, Lesbia, Messalina, Levina, Poppea up to Fiammetta di Boccaccio in the Middle Ages.

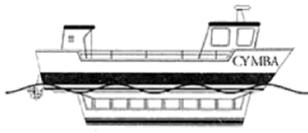
Here the great emperor Adriano died in the summer of 138 AD. In Baia the politicians and VIPs of civil society had built luxurious villas there. The same did the emperors Caligola, Claudio, Domitiano, Alessandro Severo... in a forest of marble and bronze, statues and columns, gold busts and frescoes amidst the green of the myrtles and the rarest plants. Everything was incorporated into the **Imperial Palatium** (palace). Suggestive is the so-called "**Temple of Mercury**" with its bold dome, the diameter of which is half that of the Pantheon in Rome and the internal pond full of life. Certainly to photograph, in the previous environment, the curious **fig upside down**.

Lunch: Tasting of typical products



Daily





The most famous and mysterious itinerary of all the Phlegraean Fields follows: **Cuma and the Sibyl's Cave**.

It was in the mid-eighth century BC. that the Greeks landed on our beaches after a short stop in Pithecuse (i.e., Ischia) and founded Cuma, mother of the Phlegrean people and of Naples. Cuma was the first polis, that is, the first organized state in the West with strong institutions and adequate civil and military structures. Power and opulence were the basis of his fortune in Italy. With the Greeks of Euboea they came to the West: classical religion, the first temple (of Apollo) attributed to the legendary Daedalus, crafts, industry, gastronomy, coinage, gold, fashion.

Cuma's greatest pride is in having forged the Euboic-Latin alphabet and propagated in the West and beyond, thus allowing to read the translations of the songs and narratives of the Greek bishops, which made known what happened, at the dawn of Mediterranean history, in the small city of Troy in the East, burnt and destroyed after ten years of war.

Through a tree-lined avenue you reach the famous **Antro della Sibilla**. Legend tells that the Sibyl was a thousand-year-old fortune-teller who arrived in Cuma where she prophesied near the temple of Apollo. Virgil, reconnecting to the ancient tradition, entrusts to his vaticinii the premonitions about the future fate of Rome. According to the beliefs, the Sibyl announced the same birth of Christ. The Cumaean Sibyl used to write her responses on the leaves which the wind, penetrating her cave, dispersed making it difficult to reconstruct her response.

Although remodeled in Hellenistic and Roman times, the so-called Sybil's Cave is in fact not connected to the original oracular cult of Apollo but is a fortification of the city probably built during the naval battles against the Etruscans. It is accessed through a long corridor (dromos) of over 130m. Trapezoidal in shape with a height of about 5 m. Continuing we arrive in the heart of the archaeological park of Cuma.

In the Park today it is possible to admire various sites including: **the Temple of Apollo** which, according to the story of Virgil in the Aeneid, was built by Daedalus after escaping from the labyrinth of Knossos and the **Temple of Jupiter**, located on the upper part of the Acropolis .

16:30 Departure for return to Naples

△- Al fine di ottimizzare l'organizzazione, ci riserviamo di gestire la sequenza delle visite a nostra discrezione.

* In caso di scarsa visibilità dei fondali sarà proposto un itinerario alternativo.