



Italy

Part 11

Pompeii

June 21, 2015



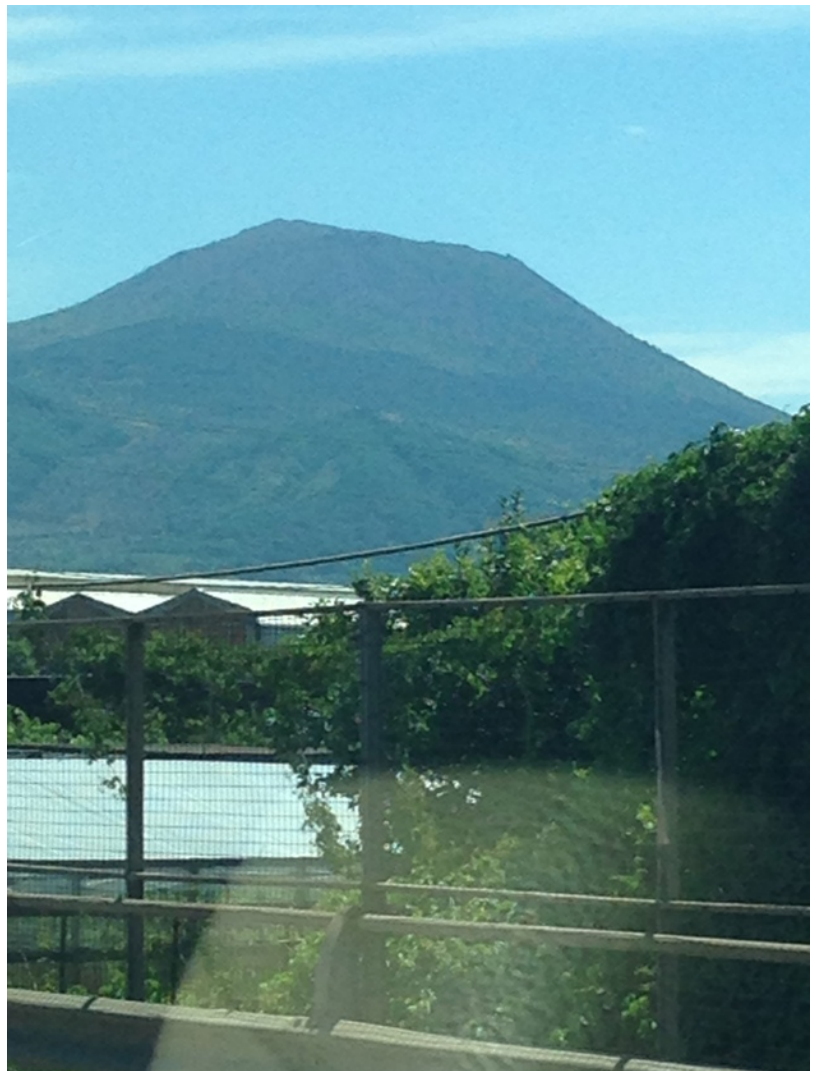
June 21, 2015 - On our last morning in Rome, our private driver showed up at our hotel to transport us to the train station. We caught the Italo high speed bullet train to Naples.

View of the Italian countryside from the train window.





We were met at the Naples train station by another private driver. He drove us to Pompeii. Along the way we saw the volcano Mt. Vesuvius that was responsible for the destruction of Pompeii.





We met our tour guide of Pompeii, and she took us on an in depth tour of the ruins. On the left Anna and I standing on one of the original stone roads of Pompeii.

At the ruins of Pompeii that's Mt. Vesuvius in the distance. In 79 A.D. Pompeii was within minutes covered with volcanic ash by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. It was the fumes and gases that instantly killed the people. Archeologists dug out the site from the ash that turned solid and hard over time.







This was an ancient sauna and bath house. Our guide explained how the water was heated by fire and run through pipes in the walls.









A beautiful mosaic tile floor above and wall art below.





Our guide explained that the word "fresco" means fresh. Paint would be applied to fresh, wet stucco to create the wall art, and that's how they got the name fresco.







Some parts are gated off due to ongoing archeological work and also danger to tourists.









This was once an outdoor market area. Our guide explained that they know this because the pictures in the frescos on the walls depicted fish and produce being sold.







This area was a place where wine was sold or served.





There were a lot of houses unearthed in the archeological dig. But our guide took us through this one because it had a lot of features. The mosaic tile of the dog in the front door foyer area may have been to represent that they had a watch dog.





Above would have been the larger living area that led into rooms on either side that would have been bedrooms. It opened to this inner courtyard.





On the left a very narrow room that would have been the kitchen. A fire would have been lit in that opening and food heated on top.

More mosaic tile on a floor.





Frescos on the walls of the rooms.





This reveals the different layers
of how the columns were
constructed first from brick and
two other layers on top.





Our guide pointed out these grooves in the stone roads and explained they were made by the many chariots or wagon wheels passing over the Pompeii city streets.





On the left are
varying shaped bins
where they measured
out grain.

Most of the artifacts uncovered
at Pompeii are in a museum in
Naples. They do have a caged
in area on the premises of
Pompeii of some of the things,
as seen in the photo on the







Below is a plaster cast of an animal that died instantly in the volcanic ash.





The archeologists discovered that there were hollowed out areas from bodies of animals and people that deteriorated but left the empty shell of the shape of the original victims. They got the idea to fill the hollowed areas with plaster to reveal the shapes of the people and animals at their instant of death. The one on the right appears that the man was possibly trying to cover his mouth from the fumes. Below is the tiny form of a child.





Our tour ended here, and we walked back to the entrance to meet our driver who would then drive us to Positano.

