



Unusual Naples: experiences off the beaten track

By Floriane

When we think of Naples, we immediately imagine its bustling streets, the backdrop of Vesuvius, pizza fresh from the wood-fired oven or the ancient ruins of Pompeii. But behind this postcard image lies another facet of the city, more mysterious, more raw and sometimes even a little disconcerting. Between forgotten underground passages, committed street art, little-known archaeological sites and unspoilt islands, Naples also reveals itself in the unusual.

So if you're looking for a **different way to visit Naples**, explore **secret places** or experience something **off the beaten track**, follow us on this selection of hidden nuggets, as fascinating as they are unexpected.

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Underground Naples: galleries full of mystery

Beneath the Neapolitan cobblestones lies another world, silent and fascinating. The **Napoli Sotterranea** plunges you 40 meters underground, into a labyrinth dug out since antiquity. You can walk by torchlight through cisterns, Greek tunnels and World War II refuges. A must-see guided tour to understand the city's underground history... and feel the thrill of adventure.

A little further on, the **Bourbon Tunnel** is another surprising immersion. Dug in the 19th century to enable the royal family to escape discreetly in the event of an uprising, this long corridor also served as a hiding place for Neapolitans during the

bombardments. You'll discover vehicles from the 50s, old graffiti and a timeless atmosphere.

To extend the experience with an itinerary designed just for you, discover the [customized travel offers from Comptoir des Voyages](#) specialists in authentic, immersive holidays in Italy.

Street art in Naples: an open-air gallery

[Naples](#) is also a city that expresses itself on its walls. **Street art** is everywhere, and it's in the working-class districts that it really comes into its own. In the **Quartieri Spagnoli** (the Spanish Quarter), giant frescoes rub shoulders with clotheslines, between Maradona posters and poetically painted faces of anonymous people.

Cimetière delle Fontanelle: the strange cult of skulls

You'd never expect to come across a place as astonishing as the **Cimetière delle Fontanelle**. Hidden away in an ancient quarry cut into the rock, this cemetery is home to **thousands of anonymous skulls**, neatly lined up in a row. For centuries, Neapolitans would come here to "adopt" a skull, pray to it and put flowers on it, hoping for protection in return.

The place, at once mystical and disturbing, is imbued with a unique aura. You feel a mixture of respect, popular belief and morbid fascination. An unforgettable experience.

→ The cemetery is **currently closed for renovation**, but should reopen later this year. Please check the opening times before visiting.

Baia Archaeological Park: Neapolitan Atlantis

Just 30 km from Naples, **Baia** will transport you to an almost unreal setting. This ancient Roman town, partly swallowed up by the sea, can be visited by kayak, transparent-bottomed boat or even by diving.

Underwater, you can see **mosaics, columns and** submerged **thermal baths**. Baia was the Saint-Tropez of Roman times. Today, it's a little-visited site to explore in peace and quiet. A must-see if you're staying 1 week in Naples.

Herculaneum: Pompeii's forgotten little sister

Less famous than Pompeii, [Herculaneum](#) is a **true archaeological gem**. More compact, better preserved, the archaeological site offers a more intimate view of daily life in Roman times.

The houses still have their storeys, the frescoes are vibrant, and you're almost walking alone. The site is perfect for those who want to avoid the crowds while experiencing a gripping immersion in history. A pleasant surprise that we recommend with our eyes closed. A great alternative to [Pompeii](#) for archaeology enthusiasts.

Vivara Island: unspoilt nature off the coast of Naples

Linked to [Procida](#) by a footbridge, **Vivara** is a tiny, wild island, classified as a **nature reserve**. You can only go there with permission (or on limited guided tours), which makes it all the more precious.

No cars, no houses: just trails, birds, endemic plants, and incredible sea views. A true corner of paradise for lovers of tranquillity and raw nature.

Discovering **unusual Naples** means letting yourself be surprised around every corner. It's about getting away from the usual itineraries and connecting with a city that's rougher, more mysterious, but just as lively as ever.

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