



Naples in winter: What to do? Our tips for preparing your trip

By Floriane

Are you wondering what you **can't miss in Naples in winter**? Are the **archaeological** site **of Pompeii** or **Vesuvius**, Naples' volcano, accessible in winter?

Visiting Naples in winter is an excellent idea for those wishing to explore the capital of Campania without the stifling heat of summer. What's more, with a mild Mediterranean climate, it's perfectly possible to enjoy the pleasures of the outdoors even in the middle of December or January.

In this article, we answer all your questions about **winter activities** in Naples. We'll also tell you what you need to pack to make the most of your outdoor activities.

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Why come to Naples in winter?

- **Fewer tourists:** In winter, Naples is less crowded, so you can enjoy must-see sites like the [archaeological site of Pompeii](#), Vesuvius, the volcano of Naples or the historic center in a quieter atmosphere.
- **Mild climate:** With winter temperatures hovering between 10 and 15 degrees, it's pleasant to walk outdoors without the heat of summer.
- **Attractive prices:** With winter out of the tourist season, hotel and airfare prices are often more affordable.
- **Enchanting Christmas markets:** The famous markets of San Gregorio Armeno and the decorations all over the city create a unique festive atmosphere.
- **Winter culinary specialties:** Winter is the best time to enjoy comfort foods like pizza frita, struffoli or freshly baked sfogliatella.

Naples in winter combines culture, relaxation and cuisine for an authentic experience full of surprises!

Naples in winter temperature

In winter, Naples enjoys a mild Mediterranean climate, making it a pleasant destination for those who prefer to avoid the summer heat.

December

Pleasant temperatures for the season.

- average: 12°C
- max: 15°C
- min: 8°C

Ideal time to stroll around in just a light jacket.

January

Coldest month of the year

- average: 9°C
- max: 13°C
- min: 5°C

Clear, sunny days.
Bring a warm layer for excursions.

February

slight rise in temperatures

- average: 10°C
- max: 14°C
- min: 6°C

Days are getting longer.
A light coat will suffice.

What to do in Naples in winter

We love to go to Southern Italy in winter, because just a few hours by plane or train brings milder temperatures and plenty of outdoor activities.

Here is a list of the main **things to do in Naples in winter**:

- Christmas markets
- Catacombs of Naples
- Pompeii archaeological site
- Naples National Archaeological Museum
- Mount Vesuvius

- Neapolitan cuisine
- Royal Palace of Naples
- Tour of the historic center
- Gulf of Naples Islands

The magic of Neapolitan Christmas markets

In December, Naples lights up with Christmas decorations, and it's the perfect opportunity to discover the **Christmas markets**, especially in the **San Gregorio Armeno** district. This little street is world-famous for its artisans who handcraft Christmas cribs. In winter, the alley is transformed into a veritable fairytale market, where you can admire – and even buy – handcrafted figurines depicting the Nativity, as well as unusual characters.

Neapolitan Christmas markets are not limited to San Gregorio Armeno. Throughout the city, you'll find colorful stalls selling local produce, traditional pastries and

handicrafts. A stroll through these markets is an unmissable experience, allowing you to feel the festive atmosphere while sampling Neapolitan delicacies such as **struffoli**, small balls of fried dough topped with honey.

Naples catacombs: the perfect winter visit

The **catacombs of San Gennaro** and **San Gaudioso** stand out among the must-see sites in Naples in winter. These catacombs, less well-known than those in Rome, offer a fascinating insight into Neapolitan Christian history and culture. In winter, it's a perfect activity, as they're indoors, sheltered from the elements, with a constant, pleasant temperature.

Ces vastes [réseaux souterrains à Naples](#), étaient utilisés comme lieux de sépulture à l'époque romaine et témoignent de l'importance religieuse de Naples à travers les siècles.

The **Catacombs of San Gennaro**, the largest in the city, are particularly impressive with their large galleries and religious artworks.

→ *Informations practical information on the catacombs of **San Gennaro**.*

Visit the center of Naples on foot

Exploring Naples ' **historic center** on foot is undoubtedly the best way to discover the soul of the city. Strolling along its narrow, winding streets allows you to immerse yourself directly in Neapolitan culture, where every corner reveals a Baroque church, a lively piazza or a small local café. Start your stroll on the famous **Spaccanapoli** artery, which runs through the heart of the city, and let yourself be carried to the **San Gregorio Armeno** district, famous for its nativity scene artisans. Along the way, you'll discover architectural gems such as the **Duomo of Naples**, the **Complesso Monumentale di Santa Chiara** and the **Castel dell'Ovo** on the seafront.

To make the most of your day and make sure you don't miss any of the must-sees, we invite you to read our detailed article on [a day in Naples](#).

You'll find practical tips, our itinerary on our map and recommendations for planning your day.

The archaeological site of Pompeii: a must-see near Naples

Visiting **Pompeii** is an unforgettable experience (about 30 minutes from Naples), especially in winter, when the summer crowds have disappeared and you can explore this iconic site in peace and quiet. Only a short distance from Naples, Pompeii, buried under the ashes of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, offers a fascinating journey through Roman history. Strolling along the cobbled streets of this ancient city, visiting the luxurious houses, thermal baths and well-preserved frescoes, allows you to immerse yourself in the daily life of the era.

If you're planning to [visit Pompeii](#) during your stay in Naples, we've put

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together a **detailed article** with all our practical tips for visiting this exceptional archaeological site.

You'll find tips on the best times to visit, tickets, local must-sees and much more.

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Explore the National Archaeological Museum of Naples

Naples ' **National Archaeological Museum** is one of Italy's most prestigious museums, and a must-see for history and culture lovers.

Located in the heart of the city, this museum houses an exceptional collection of objects from the archaeological sites of **Pompeii**, **Herculaneum** and other ancient cities buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Here you'll find sumptuous mosaics, majestic sculptures and perfectly preserved frescoes, offering a unique insight into daily life in the Roman Empire.

Among the highlights, don't miss the famous Farnese collection, with its imposing statues, and the Pompeii treasures, which include meticulously preserved objets d'art and domestic artifacts.

Further information on the official website of the [National Archaeological Museum of Naples](#)

Winter Neapolitan cuisine

Naples is a true gourmet's paradise, and winter is the perfect time to discover its comforting culinary specialties. Not to be missed

- **Pizza frita** is a typical cold-weather dish. This deep-fried version of the Neapolitan pizza, crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, is a real delight to eat in the city streets.
- **Struffoli**, small balls of fried dough coated in honey, are traditionally prepared for Christmas and are one of Neapolitans' favorite winter desserts.
- **Sfogliatella**, a flaky pastry filled with sweet ricotta, is perfect for warming up during a coffee break in a local patisserie.

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For a taste of these delights, addresses such as [Gino e Toto Sorbillo](#) and [Antichi Sapori Partenopei](#) are a must.

Climb to the summit of Vesuvius

In winter, hiking to the crater of **Vesuvius** offers a unique, more tranquil experience, far removed from the summer crowds. Although access is restricted until 3pm, the climb to the volcano is accessible and the path is perfectly suited to a winter excursion. Once at the top, the panoramic view over the Bay of Naples, the city itself and the surrounding islands is nothing short of spectacular.

Read our detailed article on how to plan your [visit to Vesuvius](#) with ease

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and peace of mind.

Discover the Royal Palace of Naples

The [royal palace of Naples](#) located in the majestic Piazza del Plebiscito, is a fascinating dive into the history of the city and its ancient kings. This sumptuous palace houses richly decorated rooms, impressive frescoes and period furnishings, bearing witness to the greatness of Naples over the centuries. The **royal apartments**, which are open to visitors, feature unique works of art and provide an insight into the lives of the Neapolitan monarchs. Don't miss the **Palatine Chapel** and the monumental staircase, two of the highlights of the visit.

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Islands near Naples: Capri, Ischia, Procida...

Even in winter, the [islands of the Bay of Naples](#) are charming destinations, ideal for a day's getaway.

- [Capri](#) the most famous, reveals its timeless charm without the usual crowds.
- **Ischia**, famous for its natural thermal springs.
- The picturesque island of [Procida](#) is smaller and more authentic, with its colorful houses and quiet streets.

In winter, these islands offer raw beauty and incomparable tranquility, far from the hustle and bustle of summer tourism.

What to pack in your suitcase

As for your luggage, pack warm but light clothing, as temperatures fluctuate between 10 and 15 degrees. A good pair of shoes is essential, especially if you plan to explore the cobbled streets of the historic center, survey the archaeological site of Pompeii or take an excursion to Mount Vesuvius.

Our best addresses on our interactive map

Use our **interactive map** to find all our recommendations for activities, restaurants and accommodation in and around Naples.

All in all, **Naples in winter** is a destination full of charm and activity!

And if you're looking for other destination ideas in Italy, why not extend your stay

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by visiting [Lake Como in winter](#), or set off to discover [Puglia](#), another fascinating and little-known region?

Feel free to leave us a **quick note** or **5 stars** below, to tell us if you're planning this trip, to ask any questions you may have, here or on [Instagram](#), we'll get back to you with great pleasure.

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