

Visit Naples and the surrounding area in 3 or 4 days, our itinerary and tips



## Visit Naples and the surrounding area in 3 or 4 days, our itinerary and tips

By Floriane

We explored Naples and the surrounding area twice, and yes, when you love it, you don't count! Each time, we found a plane ticket to **Naples** at an unbeatable price.

It's a beautiful region with lots **to see and do**: the authentic city of **Naples**, the Bay of Naples and its islands, including **Capri**, the archaeological sites of **Pompeii** and **Herculaneum**, **Vesuvius** and the **Amalfi Coast**. We spent 4 days there and then came back for a weekend.

We love Italy, as I'm sure you know, and Naples and the surrounding region go straight into our top 3. Below, we detail our **7 must-do** activities in Naples and the surrounding area (and it wasn't easy to choose!) as well as our **4 to 7-day itinerary**, all of course accompanied by our invaluable tips and maps to help you get your bearings!

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## Naples in brief

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### Must-see

- Explore the historic center
- Taste Neapolitan pizza
- [San Gennaro catacombs](#)
- [Pompeii archaeological site](#)
- [Herculaneum archaeological site](#)
- [Bay of Naples cruise](#)
- Explore Mount Vesuvius

For Pompeii, we recommend taking a **guided tour in French**. It's not much more expensive, but you'll get a lot more information and anecdotes about the ruins.

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### Our hotel

♥ [Garibaldi Rooms](#): the location is ideal, close to the **main railway station** and right in the historic center, so you can **do** everything **on foot**. We stayed here for 3 nights in a quiet location.

### Sommaire détaillé

- [What to do in Naples our 7 must-haves](#)
  - [1. Explore the historic center of Naples on foot](#)
  - [2. Taste the typical Neapolitan pizza](#)
  - [3. Discover the secret city](#)
  - [4. Must-see archaeological sites](#)
  - [5. Go boating in the Bay of Naples](#)
  - [6. Climbing to the top of Vesuvius](#)
  - [7. The jewel of Italy: the Amalfi Coast](#)
- [Our 4-day itinerary for visiting Naples and the surrounding area](#)
  - [Day 1: The authentic city of Naples](#)
  - [Day 2: The island of Capri \(it's fiiiii!\)](#)
  - [Day 3: Vesuvius and the archaeological site of Herculaneum](#)

Visit Naples and the surrounding area in 3 or 4 days, our itinerary and tips

- [Day 4: The must-see: Pompeii](#)
- [Our additional 5, 6 and 7 day itinerary ideas](#)
- [The best things to do in and around Naples](#)
- [Practical information \(plane, car and hotels\)](#)
  - [How to get to Naples?](#)
  - [Getting around Naples](#)
  - [Where to sleep?](#)
- [Map of our stay in Naples](#)

## What to do in Naples our 7 must-haves

### 1. Explore the historic center of Naples on foot

Of course, one of the best ways to discover **Naples** is to stroll through the historic center, with its authentic alleys full of history.

It is one of the **oldest European cities**, with many historical buildings, **narrow** and **colorful** streets, a large number of churches and lively squares filled with Neapolitans at the terraces of cafes.

Don't miss the famous **veiled Christ** at the **Chapelle Sansevero**, located in the historic center, impressively realistic, and the main square " **Piazza del Plebiscito** " surrounded by some of Italy's most beautiful Baroque buildings, including the Palazzo Reale, with its remarkable 18th-century architecture, especially from here you'll have a superb view of the **Bay of Naples!**

In short, the historic center of Naples is a must-see for lovers of art and architecture, and if you'd like more explanations we've written an article about our itinerary for not missing anything in [Naples in 1 day on foot](#).

The best things to do in Naples

If you'd like to learn more about the city's **history** and Neapolitan culture, and gain a deeper understanding of its **architecture** , we recommend booking a guided tour with a local guide!

➔ Book your [combined guided tour of the historic center and the famous veiled](#)

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itinerary and tips

[Christ](#) at the **Sansevero Chapel**. For **2h30**, your guide will tell you all about the history and architecture of Naples. The city will hold no secrets for you!

→**En bus**: if you prefer, you can opt to visit the city by hop-on, hop-off **bus** .

The system is simple: you can get off to visit a monument that interests you and then get on the next bus to continue your visit. There are two lines, A and B, serving 23 stops! Line B is the most interesting, as it runs along the coast. To reserve your tickets, [click here](#).

You can reserve [your tickets](#) by selecting the day of your visit (French audio guide included).

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## 2. Taste the typical Neapolitan pizza

There are **pizzerias** on every street corner, so you're bound to find what you're looking for for just **a few euros**, and you're sure to put on a few pounds during your stay!

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You'll recognize Neapolitan pizza by its **thin, crispy dough**, which is usually generously topped. The best way to enjoy it is in a local pizzeria, such as the famous **Sorbillo**.

We also recommend that you try the **deep-fried**, filled and folded **pizzas** at **Pizzeria 400 Gradi**- this is no time to start dieting! It makes us hungry, just to write these few lines!

Where to eat it?

→ **Gino e Toto Sorbillo**: a **real institution** where you can eat an excellent **pizza** with fresh ingredients from €4 + €1.5, in short the **perfect place** right in the historic center! We advise you to arrive early, as soon as it opens, if you are on the waiting list, there are many bars around to drink a Spritz while waiting! (*historic center*)

→ **Vous** opt for a [guided tour of the city combined with a tasting of the best Neapolitan dishes and drinks](#), pizza, ice cream, limoncello... A bit of culture mixed with excellent cuisine, the **perfect combo**. The tastings will double as a meal!

→ **Vous** can also take advantage of your stay to learn how to cook a real Neapolitan pizza in a restaurant. [Book your 2-hour course](#).

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itinerary and tips

### 3. Discover the secret city

We've discovered that there really is a "hidden" city. Explore the [catacombs of Naples](#), a fascinating underground network bearing witness to the city's history and religious traditions.

The catacombs of **San Gennaro** and **San Gaudioso** are renowned for their architecture and history, and are open to visitors. You can discover the history of the city and its mysteries, while admiring the sculptures and frescoes. The [underground passages of Naples](#) are a unique and interesting place to discover.

Guided tour

In this case, we advise you to book a guided tour, which we guarantee will be packed with information!

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itinerary and tips

We advise you to book [your skip-the-line ticket with a guided tour of Naples' underground passages](#) in advance, as these tours are done in groups and are very popular in high season, even more so on rainy days!

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#### 4. Must-see archaeological sites

A number of **UNESCO** World Heritage archaeological sites are located just a few kilometers from Naples and are a must-see:

- The must-see [Pompeii](#), dating back to Roman times, where you can learn more about the workings of a Roman city (25 kilometers from Naples). Many of the objects and frescoes found in Pompeii are on display at the [National Archaeological Museum of Naples](#).
- The site of [Herculaneum](#), a must-see in our opinion, **the ruins are**

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**even better preserved than Pompeii.** Yes, it's possible! (15 kilometers from Naples)

- If you have time, we also recommend the Greek site of **Paestum**, home to some of the world's best-preserved ancient Greek temples. (90 kilometers from Naples)

Our tips for visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum

→**Billets for the archaeological site Pompeii** is one of the most visited sites in Italy, so we recommend that you buy your tickets in advance online, with a [line-cut ticket to visit Pompeii](#), to save time and avoid queuing for long minutes before being able to enter the site.

→**A**You'll find very little information on site, so most visitors walk the site with a guide.

We therefore advise you either to buy an [audioguide](#) (€8 at the Marina entrance or online) or to [book a guided tour in French](#) (with a guide or archaeologist) before you come.

The story, and above all the anecdotes, of a professional will help you read the site better!

→**Billets for the archeological site of Herculaneum:** to save time, we recommend that you book your ticket in advance, **on the [French reservation site](#)**, to avoid the long queues on site, and add the audioguide as there are very few explanatory panels on site.

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## 5. Go boating in the Bay of Naples

You can explore one of the beautiful islands located in the **Bay of Naples, Capri, Procida** and/or **Ischia**. Located a few kilometers from Naples, you can go there by ferry to discover the small colored houses, the churches and the gardens, the beautiful beaches and especially to get out of the “hubbub” of Naples.

Above all, on [Capri](#) (the most visited island), venture off the beaten track, out of the center, to avoid the crowds and take full advantage of the island’s beauty.

How to get to the islands

→**Vous** take a ferry from the “**Immacolatella Porta Di massa**” stop or speedboats from the “**Gare Maritime**”.

→**Petite** Tip: you can also book your tickets for [a day trip to the island of Capri](#) (6h), in French, with lunch included, so you don’t have to worry about a thing!

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itinerary and tips

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## 6. Climbing to the top of Vesuvius

**Vesuvius**, an active volcano, is an incredible natural site not to be missed during your stay in the Naples area. At the top of the crater, you will have **an unforgettable view** of the bay of Naples.

We advise you to **prepare your visit well** in advance. We're used to organizing our own excursions, so for Vesuvius we had a hard time finding useful and, above all, up-to-date information.

How do I get there?

→**En Car** from Naples: if you have rented a car, you will reach the Vesuvius parking lot in about 40 minutes. We advise you to prepare your visit to [Vesuvius](#) carefully, as information is not always easy to find in southern Italy.

→**Pour** to save time, you can [book a day trip from Naples](#).

→**Comme** most of our readers, you can even combine a [visit to Vesuvius and the archaeological site of Pompeii](#) in the same day.

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## **7. The jewel of Italy: the Amalfi Coast**

The name certainly conjures up images of **picturesque, colourful cliffside villages?**

The Amalfi Coast stretches from **Sorrento to Salerno**, about 1 hour south of Naples. It is one of the most beautiful coasts in Italy, certainly in Europe, a real postcard landscape.

The good news is that you can easily get there from Naples, to explore the famous villages of Positano, Amalfi... and enjoy magnificent views from the “Path of the Gods”.

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## Our 4-day itinerary for visiting Naples and the surrounding area

We came to Naples **twice**, simply because we didn't have time to do everything the first time.

Below, we detail the **4-day** itinerary we followed during our first stay, when we focused on visits/sites in the immediate vicinity of Naples.

Then we came back for a **weekend** to explore the **Amalfi Coast** which we really wanted to visit!

The letters in brackets correspond to the different locations on our map!

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## Day 1: The authentic city of Naples

For this first day, we recommend staying in **Naples** (A) and exploring its historic center and underground passages. We detail our itinerary so you don't miss anything in [Naples in 1 day on foot](#).

Also start by trying the **local specialties**, Neapolitan pizza, fried pizza, ice cream and other Italian pastries. Then we recommend you stay at the Hotel [Garibaldi Rooms](#), ideally located next to the main railway station.

## Day 2: The island of Capri (it's fiiniii!)

We chose to explore the famous island of **Capri** (B). We advise you to leave the center of town and take the small footpaths for beautiful views, and there's no one around!

After a beautiful day, we returned to Naples for the evening and the night (hotel [Garibaldi Rooms](#))

## Day 3: Vesuvius and the archaeological site of Herculaneum

Our third day was a little busier, as we left in the early hours to pick up [our rental car at the airport](#), to avoid driving into the center of Naples.

It takes around 40 minutes to reach the **Vesuvius parking** lot (C) by car, or 1h30. Don't forget to book your [ticket](#) before you arrive on site, as explained in our article, you can't buy tickets on the spot (that's how things are organized in Southern Italy...).

Afterwards, we recommend parking at the pay parking lot near the site of Herculaneum (D) (15 minutes from Vesuvius), then fortifying yourself with an excellent **pizza** at **Pizzeria Ro.Vi**. Located at the foot of the site.

You can then explore the site of **Herculaneum** (allow 2 to 3 hours for the visit). Don't forget to [book your queue-cutting tickets for Herculaneum](#) (Ercolano).

At the end of your visit, we drove back to our hotel in Pompeii for a well-deserved rest!

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## Day 4: The must-see: Pompeii

We advise you to get to **Pompeii** (E) **early**, as it too is very crowded. If you only have a few hours to spare, we advise you to plan your itinerary carefully, so you can see as many **buildings** as possible in just a few hours, or take [a guided tour of Pompeii](#) (in French, generally lasting 2 hours).

As for us, after 5 hours we'd seen enough and had reached saturation point. To help you and optimize your visit, we have detailed [our itinerary and our must-sees in Pompeii](#).

We then returned our [car to the airport](#) and boarded our plane that evening, already planning a future trip to the region!

## Our additional 5, 6 and 7 day itinerary ideas

- **Day 5 and 6**: we advise you to book 2 days on the **Amalfi Coast**, located 1 hour from Naples to explore the famous villages of **Positano, Amalfi...** and enjoy the magnificent view from the path of the "**Gods**". We are preparing an article on this corner of paradise!
- **Day 7** : You can choose to explore another island in the Bay of Naples, **Procida** and/or **Ischia**, which are less touristy than Capri, or explore the [Greek site of Paestum](#), 2 hours south of Naples. A reader had recommended this site to us, and it's one of the most beautiful Greek sites we've visited (even though we spent 3 months in Greece).

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## The best things to do in and around Naples

To visit the various points of interest in the incredible Naples area(**boat tours, pizza tastings, day trips...**) you can book your activities **in advance via the internet** and plan your days in advance.

We recommend **taking a look at** the [GetYourGuide](#) website, which offers a range of activities at unbeatable prices. It can also give you plenty of ideas for original activities to organize your stay. We also particularly appreciate their flexible cancellation policy, which allows you to cancel up to 24 hours before the activity and still get a full refund, with tickets at the same price as on site.

- ☐ [Ticket for the Catacombs of San Gennaro](#)
- ☐ [Ticket with audio guide for Pompeii](#)
- ☐ [Priority ticket for Herculaneum](#)
- ☐ [Cruise to Capri](#)

## Practical information (plane, car and hotels)

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## How to get to Naples?

From **Paris**, without a stopover, it takes about **2h30** to fly to Naples. From France, you can find flights from **50€**.

## Getting around Naples

In Naples, you can do everything on foot or easily take the metro.

The best way to get around Naples is to [rent a car](#). You will be free to move around and you can stop to take photo breaks whenever you want.

We advise you to be careful, **as Italians are very sporty drivers**. The second point to watch out for is that in Naples, there is a **ZTL** in the historic center and on the coast.

This **limited-traffic zone is reserved for local residents**. If you enter it without authorization, you'll be fined. On the whole, we recommend parking outside the historic centers in this region, to avoid finding yourself in a ZTL and having to maneuver through the tight lanes.

Our advice

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→ **Car:**

□ To compare offers and find the **best value for money**, after testing several today, we use the price comparator [Discover Cars](#) a reliable and easy-to-use car rental service.

□ Another important point: **the comprehensive insurance offered via DiscoverCars** is often much cheaper than that added directly at the rental company's counter, while offering broader coverage. A real time-saver, and above all a way of avoiding unpleasant surprises when picking up or returning the vehicle.

□ To give you an idea of the rate, we found a car for €35 per day through **Galdieri Rent** to pick up at **Naples airport**.

□ [Compare Naples airport deals on Discover Cars](#)

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## Where to sleep?

Looking for a place to stay in Naples? To make it easier for you to find what you're looking for, we've put together an article detailing **the most interesting areas to stay in Naples** and **those to avoid**, as well as our **best hotel addresses**.

→ **In Naples, our favorite** : we recommend the [Garibaldi Rooms](#) hotel, ideally located right next to the **central train station**, and therefore the airport shuttle stop right in the historic center, so you can **do everything on foot**. We stayed here for 3 nights in a quiet location.

□ [Booking info and reservation for Hotel Garibaldi Rooms, rated 8.7/10 on Booking](#)

→ **Pompeii at the foot of the ruins** : we recommend the [B&B Pompei Olympus](#), located at 5 minutes walk from the ruins. The hotel is very quiet, located at the end of a cul-de-sac. Our room was spacious, clean and well decorated.

□ [Information and booking for the Hotel B&B Pompei Olympus, rated 9.3/10 on Booking](#)

The hosts are adorable and offer a lot of little touches, which is always very appreciated! If you're coming by car, parking is free, which saves you ten euros or so and a lot of stress!

To help you find what you're looking for, we recommend that you use the Booking search engine to select your accommodation. By filtering the scores above 8/10, we're rarely disappointed. We advise you to book as early as possible, as Naples remains one of Italy's most popular tourist destinations.

[Top rated accommodations in Naples](#)

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## Map of our stay in Naples

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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4 avis (5/5)

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