

# Discover the ancient Romans in the shadow of Vesuvius



The Vesuvian Archaeology Study Programme is suitable for students of all ages, whether your interest is Roman history, archaeology, architecture, history of art, papyrology or material culture. Students of heritage management and conservation will find the programme offers stimulating case studies that explore the role archaeological sites play in the modern world and the challenges of conserving them.

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## Programme:

A typical programme will include:

**Pompeii:** a day-long visit to this iconic site. Both public buildings and private life will be explored in depth.

**Herculaneum:** the study visit will complement the Pompeii tour through a comparison of the differently preserved archaeological remains; in addition, an introduction to the work of the Herculaneum

Conservation Project, Europe's most ambitious conservation initiative, will offer insights into the challenges of preserving sites for future generations and how new approaches to site management offer unique archaeological results.

**Oplontis:** the study tour will explore this luxurious imperial villa, where elite living contrasts to the houses of Pompeii and Herculaneum and is vividly illustrated through its world-famous wall-paintings.

**Villa Sora:** a special opening can be arranged for this largely unknown elite villa and bath complex that was also destroyed by the AD79 eruption of Vesuvius; exploration of the site will also allow discussion of heritage management in a dense urban context.

**Naples:** a half-day will be dedicated to exploring the material culture of the Vesuvian sites through the exceptional collection housed in the National Archaeological Museum. Participants will have a free half-day to explore the surrounding World Heritage Site of Naples city centre.

**Vesuvius:** a visit to the area's natural heritage at the Vesuvius National Park and to the top of the volcano's cone completes understanding of events that took place in AD79 and which led to the destruction of Roman sites across a large area of the Bay of Naples.

**Site orientations:** introductory presentations to the sites will be given in a classroom so that participants are prepared for their visits and familiar with complementary archival material and material culture that is not available during site visits.



### Who we are:

This study programme is organized by the BIG Heritage Consultancy (BHC), in response to a special initiative by the Herculaneum Society. BHC offers independent heritage consultancy and CPD courses in the Vesuvian area. The Director, Christian Biggi, has extensive experience in running international, professional CPD courses, workshops, conferences and study tours for the Associazione Herculaneum, as the former Manager of their Herculaneum Centre initiative which has a mission to facilitate public involvement in Herculaneum's heritage – going beyond the archaeological site to include the 22 eighteenth - century Vesuvian Villas, the historic centre of Resina, natural heritage (Vesuvius and the sea), and all the living traditions of music, dancing, eating, storytelling and celebrating that make this such a vibrant place to be.

Christian Biggi is an experienced archaeologist and heritage practitioner whose professionalism has been recognized by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) through election to two of their scientific committees: International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) and International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC).

The Course Director, Dr Joanne Berry, is the author of *The Complete Pompeii* (2007) and has led study tours to Vesuvian sites for the British School at Rome, the Herculaneum Centre and others. She has taught archaeology and ancient history at the universities of Reading, Royal Holloway (London), Swansea and

Oxford, and has worked in the Vesuvian region for the past twenty years.

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### Dates:

The dates of the programme are Monday 7 – Friday 11 September 2015.

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### Why choose this study programme?

You will gain first-hand experience of the archaeological sites of the Bay of Naples.

You will be introduced to the latest research about these sites, including unpublished materials, by means of guest presentations and visits to on-going archaeological projects. The courses will give you the opportunity to meet scholars and practitioners active in the field.

**Details of the study programme are subject to change, although the main themes and type of content will remain the same.**

Participants who wish to add additional accompanied site visits or day courses in archaeological skills, for e.g. building survey, 3D laser scan survey, osteology courses, should enquire for further details. Those who wish to undertake voluntary work should enquire to find out about opportunities and which course dates are most compatible. These options (plus accommodation) are at additional cost.

Should a programme not reach the minimum number of participants (20) by 7 August 2015, it will be cancelled. Registered participants will be offered a place on another programme or a refund.

You will be introduced to the full range of evidence used by historians and archaeologists working at these sites. You will be taught to read the archaeological remains and begin to assess the value of the evidence and possibilities for their use.

You will be actively involved in discussions on the significance and interpretation of evidence relating to a

range of themes relevant to the study of the ancient world, such as: urbanization, public life, domestic life, the ancient economy.

You will be asked to consider the role these sites play in the modern world and discuss issues regarding their management: what problems have affected the sites in the past? what problems do they face today? what can be done to address these problems? and what impact has this had on how we study the sites?

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### **Cost:**

Each study programme costs €950 per participant. Included in this are all entrance tickets, transport to/from study visits, expert course leader and guest speakers, study materials, meals, shared accommodation in a 3\* hotel.

**The cost does not include travel to/from the Vesuvian area at the beginning and end of the programme. In addition, participants are expected to organize their own travel insurance.**

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## **Frequently asked questions:**

### **What makes these courses unique?**

The course leader and guest lecturers are all research-active in the Bay of Naples, and able to present the very latest information about Pompeii and Herculaneum, based on the most up-to-date research and fieldwork. Participants will be exposed to material that has not yet been published, or to new interpretations of the archaeological remains. They will see the work of the Herculaneum Conservation Project up close, and be given the opportunity to visit lesser-known archaeological sites. After some courses there will be an optional opportunity to volunteer on a field project at Pompeii or Herculaneum or add on additional day courses in archaeological field skills.

### **Is the course suitable for people who speak English as a foreign language?**

The course is entirely in English. Those who speak English as a foreign language are welcome if their English is of university standard.

### **What do I need to bring with me?**

You will need the usual items you would take on a day trip, including sensible shoes (not open-toed or with heels), sunscreen and sunhat. We'll give you a more detailed list when you sign up.

### **What materials will I receive?**

You will receive study materials, including maps of the sites, plans of buildings discussed in detail, and relevant bibliography for future study. You will be encouraged to take notes!

### **What is the accommodation like?**

Accommodation is arranged in the comfortable, newly renovated Hotel Herculaneum ([www.hotelherculaneum.com/en](http://www.hotelherculaneum.com/en)), directly opposite the entrance to the excavations of Herculaneum. Prices are based on shared rooms. Participants will be asked for details of any special dietary requirements at the time of registration.

### **How will we get around?**

With the exception of the special visit to Vesuvius, we will travel to each site on the local train network, which

connects Naples to all the Vesuvian towns and main archaeological sites.

**How many people will be on the course with me?**

There will be a minimum of 20 students and a maximum of 35 divided into two study groups so that we can enjoy fruitful discussions within the group. We reserve the right to cancel a course if the minimum number of participants is not achieved by 7 August 2015 and you will be offered an alternative or a refund.

**Do I need to come with a group?**

No, participants from different countries and institutions may attend the course. Groups of school students accompanied by a teacher are also very welcome. For school groups please send your inquiry to [herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk).

**What level of fitness is required for the course?**

You will need a reasonable level of fitness for this course because it will involve lots of walking. If you have a disability, please contact us to discuss the suitability of the course. BHC is proud to be an equal rights provider and will take all reasonable steps to meet participant needs – but due to the nature of archaeological sites, some disabilities cannot be catered for.

**Is there anything else I should know?**

You will need to arrange for your own travel insurance. BHC can take no responsibility for accidents or theft of any belongings.

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**How to apply:**

Applications for this course are managed in the first instance by the Herculaneum Society, a charity registered in the United Kingdom to promote education and research at Herculaneum. The Society is pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships of €250 each to assist deserving students enrolled on the programme. In order to apply you will need to 1) complete the form below, 2) send an academic reference and 3) write a motivational statement. This will all need to be sent by email to [herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk).

Your application for a scholarship should reach the Herculaneum Society by 31 July 2015. No application will be processed after the established deadline.

Once we receive your completed form we will email you a full registration form and a request for a deposit of €200. Once your payment is made, we will confirm your registration. After confirmation further queries may be sent to [christian.big.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:christian.big.heritage@gmail.com).



**Application form:**

First name .....

Surname .....

Nationality .....

Male Female .....

Date of birth (DD/MM/YYYY).....

University if applicable.....

Course/programme .....

Email address .....

Postal address

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Phone number .....

Is English your first language? Yes No

If not, what level is your English? .....

Poor Good Very good Fluent

Please list any English language certificates gained:

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**How did you hear about the Vesuvian Archaeology Study Programme?**

Internet (which website?)  
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Email

University department

Other (please specify)

**Tick if you require further information about any of the following:**

Additional accompanied site visits

Course in building survey

Course in 3D laser scan survey

Course in osteology

Opportunities to volunteer

**If applying for a scholarship please arrange for a reference from one academic referee and give their details below.**

Referee's name .....

Institution/department.....

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Email address of referee .....

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**Referees may email references directly to [herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:herculaneum@classics.ox.ac.uk). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they arrive before the deadline. Scholarship applications must be received by 31 July 2015.**



**In the space below, please write a brief statement explaining your interest in the Vesuvian sites, why you would like to participate in the Vesuvian Archaeology Study Programme, and what you hope to gain from it. Please include details of your current or future study plans and, if a student, your academic results. This statement should be no more than 300 words.**

**The Herculaneum Society is offering a limited number of scholarships of €250) each to deserving students currently registered on an undergraduate or postgraduate programme. To be considered, please include an additional statement (no more than 300 words) of your financial circumstances (annual income and expenditure) and your reason for applying. Your referee should confirm the need and that all appropriate applications for assistance have been made with the university, college or school.**

