



Visiting Pompei





Visual agenda for the 3 paths

▲ PATH 1

1. Amphitheatre.

Here Pompeians used to watch games, races and combats.

This was the largest building in town.



2. Large Gymnasium.

Here the young Pompeians didn't practice gym only.

The young used to learn the rules of the city from their teachers and became good men.



3. Praedia of Giulia Felice.

This was the big house of Giulia Felice.

This house has many rooms and a very beautiful garden.



4. House of Venus in the Shell.

This was the house of a very important family. Here you can see many frescoes. In one on the frescoes the goddess Venus is painted while lying in a shell.





5. House of the Orchard.

In this house you can see 2 very beautiful frescoes.

In these frescoes many trees with fruits are painted.



6. Thermopolium and House of Vetutius Placidus.

A thermopolium was a shop where they used to sell cooked food.



7. Fullery of Stephanus.

A fullery was a laundry.

Here fabric used to be dyed and washed to make clothes.



8. Wall inscriptions.

On many walls of the buildings in Pompeii you can see many writings: sentences of love, sentences of hatred and jokes.





■ PATH 2

9. Stabian Baths.

In this building Pompeians used to take hot, warm or cold baths, and met their friends.



10. Forum and Temple of Jupiter.

The Forum is a big square. Here Pompeians met to talk about the problems of the city and to pray god Jupiter.



11. Sanctuary of Apollo.

Here people came to pray god Apollo.



12. Basilica.

Here Pompeians gathered to talk and take decisions about the important things of the city.



13-21. Antiquarium.

This is the museum where you can see many precious and delicate objects found in Pompei.





● PATH 3

22. House of the Vettii.

This was the house of a very rich family.

Here you can see many frescoes and a very beautiful garden.



23. Necropolis.

This was one of Pompeii's cemeteries. Here you can see the tombs of the people who died in Pompeii a very very long time ago.



24. Villa of the Mysteries.

This is one of the most famous and beautiful houses in Pompeii. Here you can see a very beautiful and large fresco.





Visiting Pompei

Visiting Pompei you can see how the city was like a very very long time ago.

The archaeologists found many things of Pompei under the ground. For example, the archaeologists found:

- houses
- streets
- shops
- squares
- objects and artworks.

While walking in the streets of Pompei you can see the remains of the things the archaeologists found.

By means of the 3 paths we tell you:

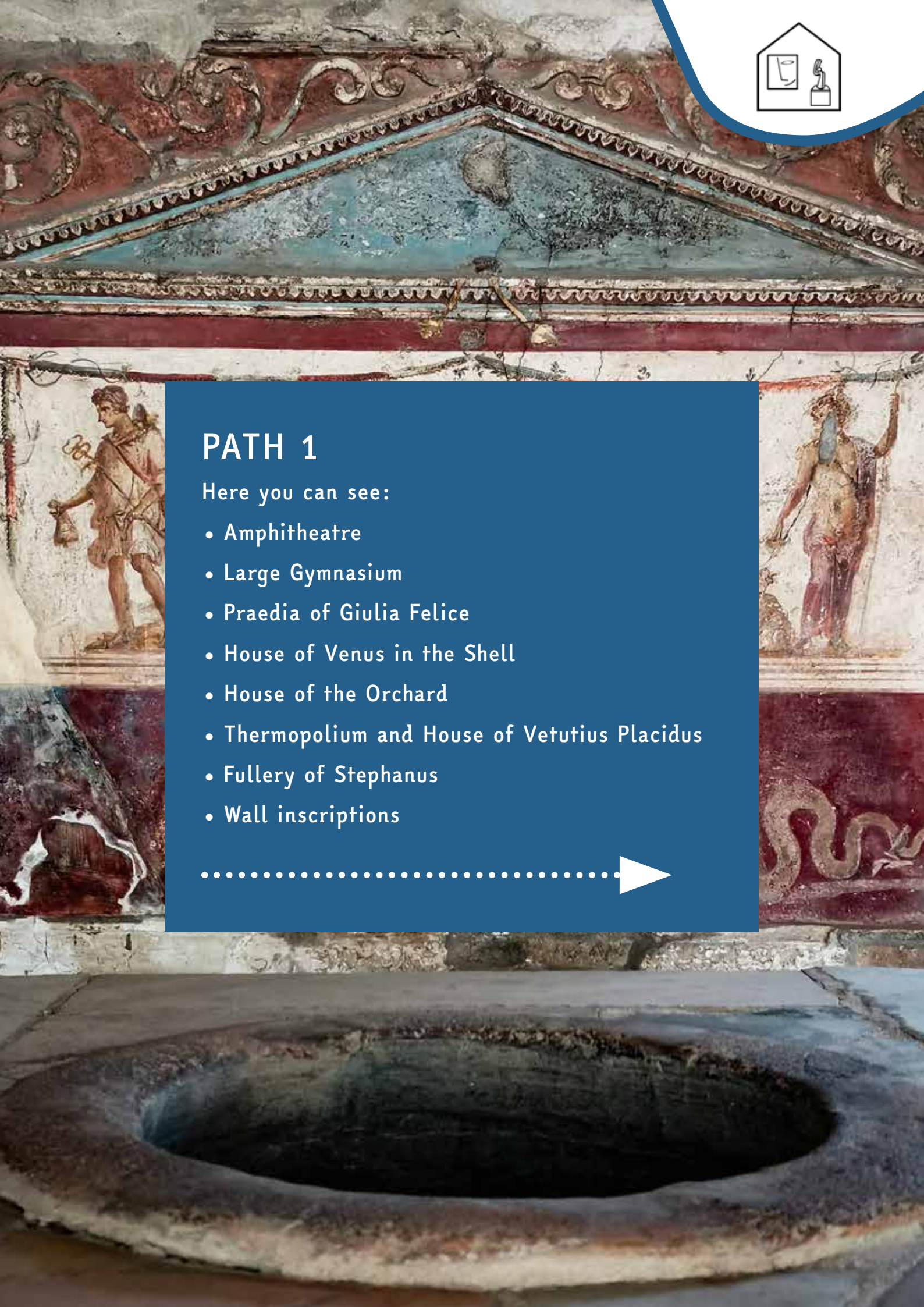
- on some pages, how the inhabitants of Pompei lived. For example, we explain to you how they enjoyed themselves, how were their houses and shops like.
- On other pages, we explain to you what the archaeologists found here in Pompei.



PATH 1

Here you can see:

- Amphitheatre
- Large Gymnasium
- Praedia of Giulia Felice
- House of Venus in the Shell
- House of the Orchard
- Thermopolium and House of Vetutius Placidus
- Fullery of Stephanus
- Wall inscriptions





How did Pompeians enjoy themselves?

The inhabitants of Pompei liked to enjoy themselves very much.

To enjoy themselves they played.

The plays they liked best were:

- **throwing knucklebones.**

Knucklebones were little animal bones
the players threw as they do today with dice.



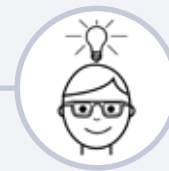
- **playing with nuts.**

The players put nuts one on top of another.

The winners were those who didn't let the nut
tower collapse.



Pompeians enjoyed themselves also watching
the **gladiators** fights
in the **Amphitheatre**.



Find out what
the Amphitheatre
is on page 44

Pompeians used to go to the **theatre**.

A theatre is a place where there are many shows with playing actors.

In Pompei there were 2 theatres:

- the **Large Theatre**,
where many people could enter
- the **Small Theatre**
where few people could enter.



Pompeians liked to go to the **baths** very much.

At the baths Pompeians usually:

- took hot and cold baths
- did gymnastics
- swam in the swimming pool
- relaxed
- met friends.

The **Stabian Baths**

were the most important baths in Pompei.



Find out what
the Stabian Baths
were on page 83



▲ 1. Amphitheatre



This is the **Amphitheatre** of Pompeii.

The Amphitheatre is a building they used to have:

- races and games
- shows and combats.

This Amphitheatre was built a very very long time ago and it's the largest building in the whole city.

People paid a ticket to watch shows and games, as we do today when we go to the cinema.

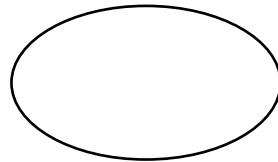
Also, some people from nearby towns used to come to this Amphitheatre because it was very famous.



This Amphitheatre has an oval shape.

From outside you can see:

- the walls made with many arches
- staircases to climb to the higher floor.



In the middle of the Amphitheatre there is the arena.

The arena is the space where they use to have the shows and the games.

All around the arena there are steps where people could sit and watch the shows and the games.

Those steps are very big.



The nicest places where to watch the shows and the games were those near the arena because people could see better from that point.

Here the richest and most important people used to sit because those were the places that costed a lot of money.

The places on top were the farthest from the arena.

From those places people couldn't see well what happened in the arena.

Here the less rich people used to take place because those places costed little money.





In this Amphitheatre Pompeians came to see the fights of **gladiators**.

Gladiators were people who fought. Gladiators could fight with other gladiators or with **fierce** animals. Fierce animals are very strong animals like lions and tigers.



Pompeians liked those games very much and the best gladiators were as famous as football players or actors today.

Pompeians cheered the gladiators they liked best as we do with football teams today.

A story tells that during a gladiators' fight Pompeians argued with some people of a nearby city.

All the people inside the Amphitheatre got angry and started arguing. The **emperor** got so angry that he kept the Amphitheatre of Pompei closed for a long time.

The emperor is like a king.



▲ 2. Large Gymnasium



This was the gymnasium of Pompeii.
They call it **Large Gymnasium**
because it was the largest
and most important gymnasium in the city.
The Large Gymnasium is near the **Amphitheatre**.

Find out what
the Amphitheatre
is on page 44



A very very long time ago
people didn't practice gym only at the gymnasium.
Many young people went to the gym to:

- learn the rules of the city
- grow up and become good men.



La Palestra Grande ha la forma di un rettangolo.

Da fuori vedi le alte mura.

Nelle mura si aprono 10 grandi porte
per entrare dentro la Palestra.

Quando entri nella Palestra vedi un grande cortile.

Su tre lati del cortile ci sono dei lunghi **porticati**
fatti con colonne.

Un porticato è come un corridoio aperto su un lato.

Quando cammini sotto un porticato ti proteggi dalla pioggia
o dal sole e puoi vedere il cortile.



I giovani che venivano qui
hanno fatto delle scritte **graffite**
sui muri e sulle colonne.

Moltissimo tempo fa
per fare un graffito
le persone usavano una punta
di metallo che grattava il muro.
Puoi vedere le scritte graffite
ancora oggi.



The houses of Pompeians



There were many houses in Pompei.

The houses of Pompei were called **domus**.

The domus of the rich were very big and beautiful.

They could enter their domus by the **main entrance**.

They went through a corridor and arrived into the **atrium**.

The atrium was a large courtyard.

From this large courtyard they could go:

- into the rooms.

The rooms were called **cubicula**.

- into the dining room.

The dining room was called **triclinium**.

In the middle of the large courtyard there was a tub.

That tub was called **impluvium**.

The impluvium was the tub used to collect rainwater.

For example, Pompeians used rainwater to wash themselves or their clothes.

The **tablinium** also opened on that courtyard.

The tablinium was the room where they had their friends over.

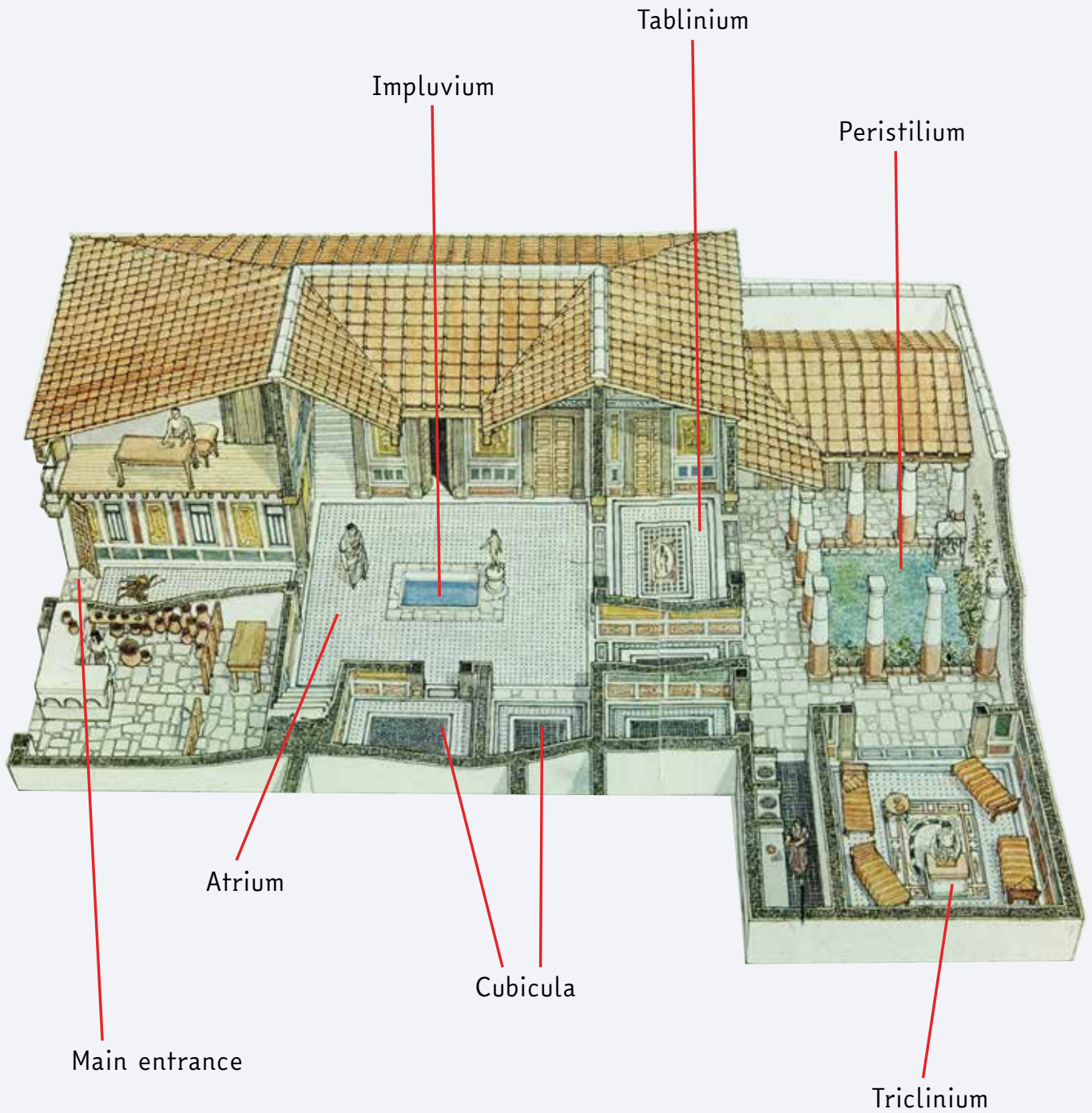
In the houses there was a big garden also, called **peristilium**.

The peristilium was a garden with columns all around it.



Here you can see the drawing of a house of Pompeii. The roof has been removed to let you see how it was made inside.

Try to find the rooms of the house in the drawing.





▲ 3. Praedia of Giulia Felice



This big house is called **Praedia of Giulia Felice**.

Praedia is a **Latin** word meaning **property**.

Latin is the language spoken by the people in Pompeii a very very long time ago.

Properties are all the things someone has, such as houses, palaces, and gardens.



A very very long time ago there was written on a wall of the building that it was the palace of Giulia Felice.

Today that writing is not there anymore because it was taken off the wall.

The writing said that Giulia Felice **rented** some parts of her big house.

To rent means to have someone live in your own house.

To live in Giulia Felice's house people had to give her some money.

The palace of Giulia Felice was very big.

The woman had decided to rent some parts of her palace to get a lot of money.

She had decided to rent her palace because the earthquake had destroyed many houses a short time before.

For this reason, many people in Pompei were looking for a house to live in.



This palace was so big because they put together smaller palaces that had been built a long time before.

Those smaller palaces were:

- a big house
- a big garden with small houses all around
- some baths.

Baths were the places where Pompeiians took hot and cold baths and met their friends.

- a large and very beautiful park.



house



garden



baths



park



To make her palace even more beautiful
Giulia Felice had decided to build inside it also:



- A very beautiful porch with some columns made of a stone called marble.

A porch is like a corridor open on one side.

When you walk under a porch you protect yourself from rain or from sun and you can see the courtyard.

Under the porch you can see frescoes on the walls.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

You can't see those frescoes very well because they are damaged.



- A garden with a channel full of water.

A channel is a long ditch that has been dug in the ground.
It was cooler near the channel full of water.



- Some small apartments for the friends that would come over.



▲ 4. House of Venus in the Shell



This was the **House of Venus in the Shell**.

In this house a very important family used to live.

The most important part of this house was the **peristilium**.

The peristilium was a garden with some columns all around.

Around the garden there are some rooms with very beautiful **frescoes**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.



On the wall across the peristilium there is a painting of **goddess Venus**.

A goddess has the body of a woman and is very powerful.

A long time ago people believed that for all the things there was a god or a goddess that could help them.

A god helped men:

- go hunting
- look better
- be lucky
- grow plants
- win wars.

Venus was the goddess of beauty and love, and made people fall in love.

Venus protected Pompei.



This is the House of Venus in a Shell

because in the fresco Venus is naked and is lying inside a shell.

Near Venus there are two cupids.

Cupids are like little angels.



Venus wears jewels on her:

- head
- neck
- wrists
- ankles.





You can also see a painted garden with plants and animals from faraway countries.

On the right you can see some little birds drinking water from a fountain.





On the left you can see the painting of a statue of god Mars.

Mars was the god of war, and helped people win it.

Mars has a **shield** and a **spear**.

A shield is an object used to protect the body from enemies' blows.

A spear is a long stick with a metal tip.



▲ 5. House of the Orchard



This was the **House of the Orchard**.

Today we don't know who lived in this house, but we know they were important people.

In fact, the house is on Via dell'Abbondanza, the most important street in Pompei.

In this house you can see 2 very beautiful **frescoes**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

Usually, frescoes were in the rooms where all the guests could enter, so that everyone could see them.

On the contrary, those 2 frescoes were in the bedrooms where only the persons who lived in that house could go.

The bedrooms were called cubicula.



In one of the rooms of house you can see the first fresco.
In the fresco you can see a big garden.



In that garden there are:

- **Many different birds** flying in the sky.
You can see big or small, black or white birds.



- Many different plants with fruits.

The painter who made this fresco was very good at doing it, because the plants look like they are real.

If you get closer to the fresco you can spot the plants and the fruits.

There are:



- a lemon plant



- an arbutus plant.



In another room of the house you can see another fresco.
In that fresco you can see **3 big trees**.



In the middle
there is the biggest of the 3 trees,
a **fig** tree.

A fig tree is the tree
where figs grow.



If you get closer to the fresco
you can see:

- some figs
- some birds
- a snake.





The shops in Pompeii

Pompeians went to shops or to the market to buy:

- food, such as bread, fish and cheese
- fabric to make clothes.

The market was held once a week in the **Forum**.

On the other days of the week

Pompeians used to go to shops.

In Pompeii there were as many shops as in nowadays cities.



Find out what the Forum is on page 89

In Pompeii there were:

- The **thermopolium**.

Thermopolium was how, in Pompeii, they called the bars where hot drinks and food were sold.

Pompeians like to eat food on the street very much, like the food they bought in those bars, as we do today with sandwiches and pizza.



- The **fullery**.

A fullery wash the laundry of a very long time ago.

A laundry is the place where clothes and fabric are washed.





- The **caupona**.

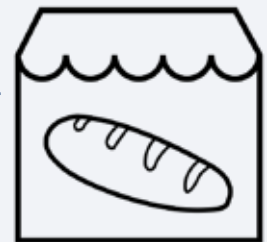
Caupona was how, in Pompei, they called the places where they could eat and sleep also.



- The **pistrinum**.

The pistrinum was the shop where bread was sold. Pompeians used to buy round bread loafs that had been cut before.

On each bread loaf a drawing told you the name of the bakery that had made it.





▲ 6. Thermopolium and House of Vetutius Placidus



Thermopolium was how, in Pompeii, they called the bars where hot drinks and food were sold.

This was the thermopolium of a man called Vetutius Placidus.

The thermopolium of Vetutius Placidus opens on Via dell'Abbondanza.

Pompeians liked to eat food on the street very much, like the food they bought in those bars, as we do today with sandwiches and pizza.

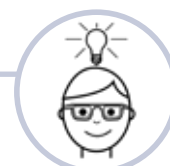


When you look at this Thermopolium you see a **large brick** counter. That counter has been restored because it had been damaged by the eruption of the Vesuvius.

To restore means to clean and fix an object, a building or a room of a long time ago that was damaged. The archaeologists had it restored to let you understand what it was like. On the counter there are some big round holes. Under those holes there were the **jars** where they put food.

A jar is a very big vase.

They put food inside the jars to keep it hot after cooking it.



Find out how the Vesuvius erupted on page 31





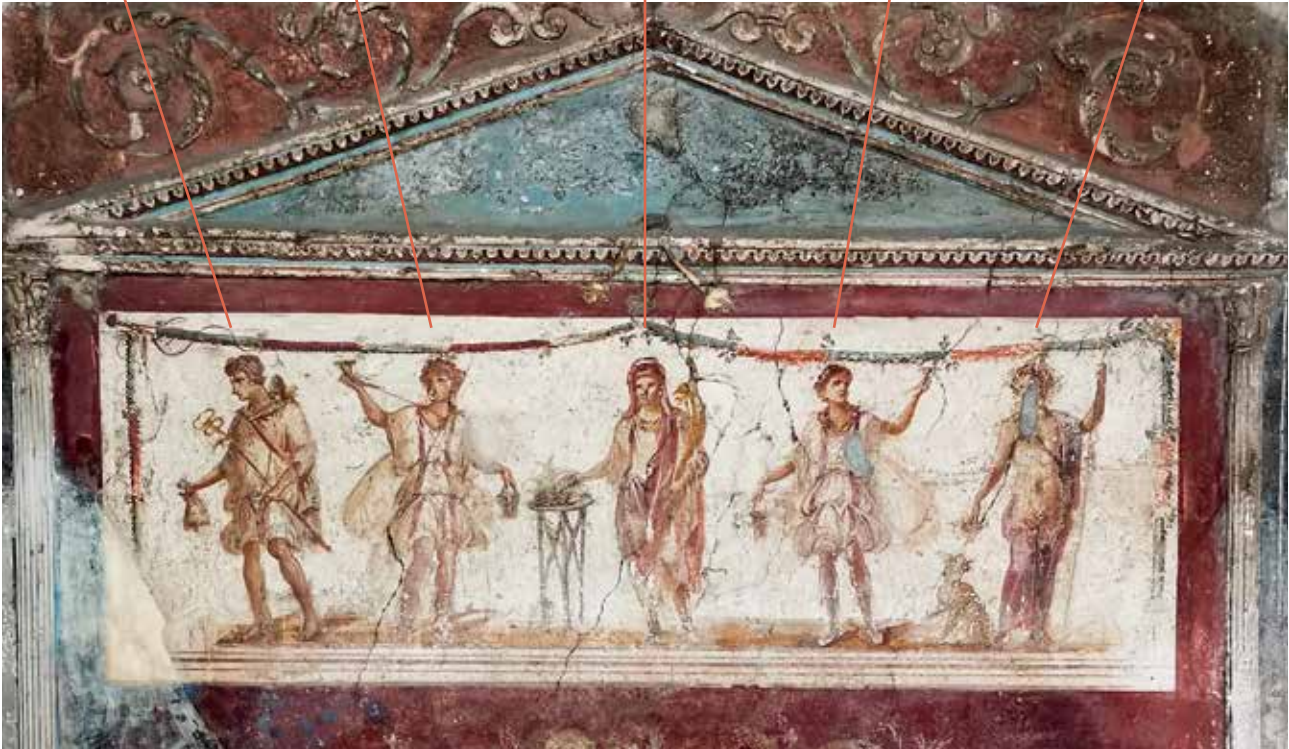
Mercurius

Lares

Genius ancestor

Lares

Bacchus



On the wall across the room you can see a **fresco**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

In that fresco you see:

- the **Lares**, that is the gods who protected the house
- the **Genius ancestor** of Vetutius Placidus.

The Genius ancestor is a relative who died a long time before and protects a person

- **Mercurius**.

Mercurius was the god who protected traders, that is the persons who sell goods.

- **Bacchus**.

Bacchus was the god of wine.



The gods have been painted inside a house.

That house is called **edicola**.

An edicola is a very little house.

Inside the edicola they put statues or drawings of the gods.

That edicola has a blue roof and 2 white columns.



Perhaps the other walls of the thermopolium were painted too.

On the left you can see other parts of paintings.

Behind the thermopolium of Vetutius Placidus

there are some parts of his house that have remained up to now.

The house was very big and beautiful.

Such a beautiful and elegant house lets you understand that Vetutius Placidus was very rich.



What did archaeologists find out?



While the archaeologists were digging inside the thermopolium, they found a **lot of gold coins** in one of the jars under the counter.

The archaeologists think that those coins were the money earned by Vetutius Placidus the day the Vesuvius erupted.

Perhaps Vetutius Placidus had hidden the money in the jar thinking he would go back to get it after running away.

Inside the jar there were so many gold coins that the archaeologists think that who owned a thermopolium was very rich.



▲ 7. The Fullery of Stephanus



Here you can see a **fullery**.

A fullery was the laundry of a very long time ago.

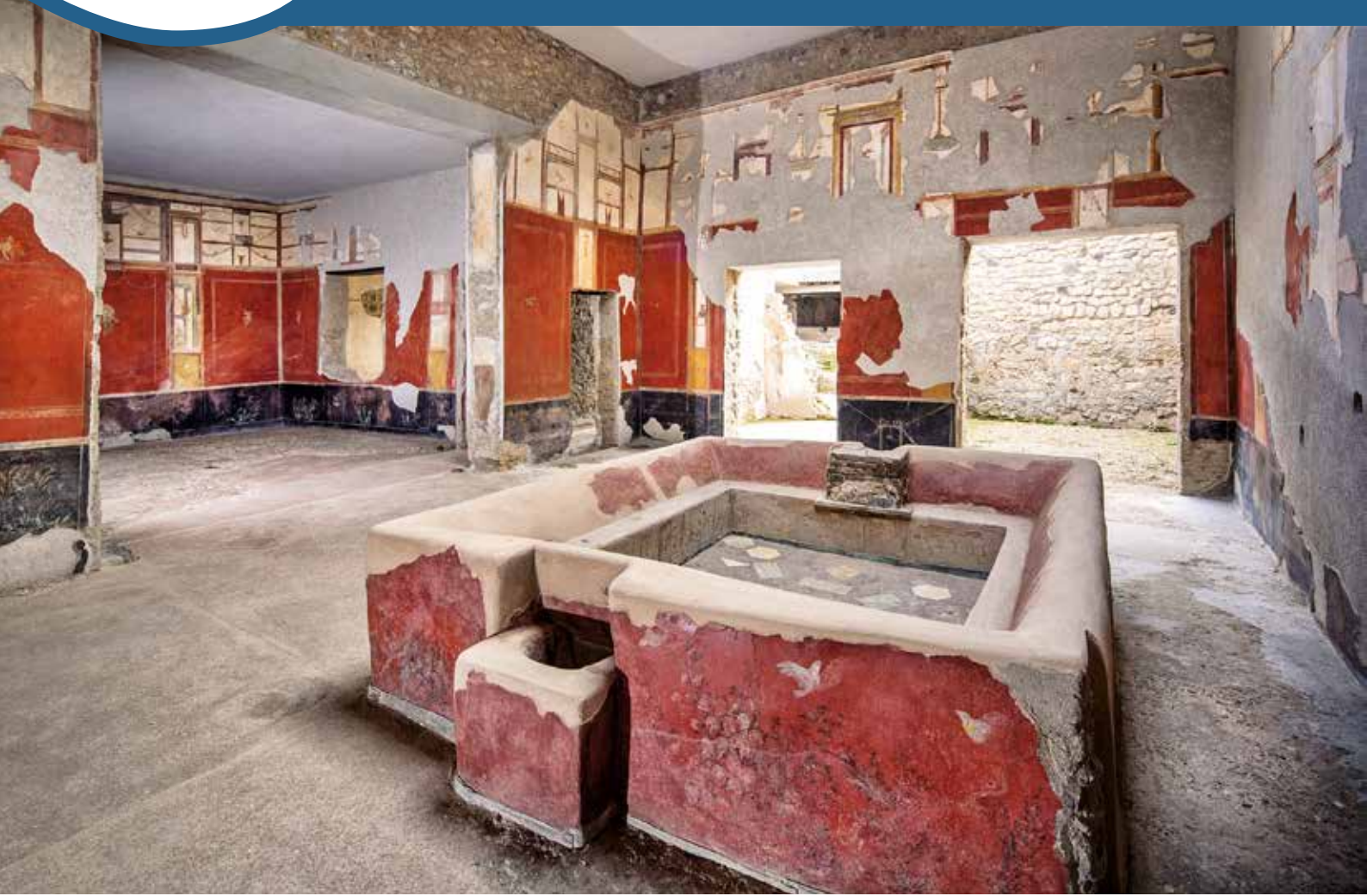
A laundry is the place where they wash clothes and fabric.

This fullery was the one of a man called **Stephanus**.

Stephanus is a **Latin** name,
while today in English we use Stephan.

Latin is the language spoken by the people in Pompeii
a very long time ago.

To open his fullery, Stephanus used the rooms of a big house
that was already there.



In the middle of the first room you see a **big red tub**.
Before becoming a fullery, this was the **impluvium**.
The impluvium was the tub where rainwater was collected.
When Stephanus made his fullery he used the impluvium
as a tub to wash fabric.

The house roof became the place where wet fabric could be put to dry.
To get to the roof they used a wooden ladder that isn't there anymore.

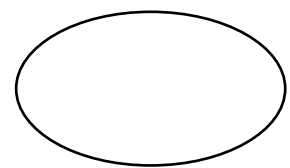


Other rooms of the house were used to wash clothes and fabric.

First, fabric was soaked in oval tubs.

To clean fabric and make it stronger and tougher, they used pee of animals and persons to wash it.

Then they rinsed with clean water in the 3 tubs you can see in the room.



Following the path of the visit you can see other rooms, like the kitchen where Stephanus used to eat.



What did archaeologists find out?



The coins
of Stephanus

While archaeologists were digging the fullery to clean it from ash and lapilli, they found the **skeleton** of a man near the entrance. A skeleton is the set of bones of someone who died a long time ago that we can still see today.

That man had a **bag full of gold coins**.

The archaeologists thought the man was Stephanus, the owner of the fullery.

We know Stephanus was the owner of the fullery because his name is written on a wall before the entrance.

The streets of Pompeii



There were many streets in Pompeii.

The most important street was called **decumanus maximus**.

The floor of the streets was made of **big stones**.

Under the street ran the water pipes.

In Pompeii the streets were very big because horses and chariots needed to pass through them.

The chariots had 4 wheels and were pulled by horses.

Pompeiians used chariots to go to faraway places or to carry heavy things.

People used to walk on the sidewalks.





To cross the street from one sidewalk to the other, Pompeians used the highest stones you see in the photo. Those stones were like pedestrian crossings. The streets you're using today are the real ones of the ancient city of Pompei.



▲ 8. Wall inscriptions



On the walls and columns along the streets you can see many **wall inscriptions**.

Wall inscriptions are writings made on a wall.

Inscriptions were painted on the walls with a brush or made as graffiti with a tip.

Pompeians used to write many things on the building walls.

For example, Pompeians wrote:

- sentences of love
- sentences of hatred
- shopping lists
- sentences to remember what to do
- their name or the name of someone famous
- funny sentences or jokes.





PATH 2

If you feel like, you can continue your path and see:

- Stabian Baths
- Forum and Temple of Jupiter
- Sanctuary of Apollo
- Basilica
- Antiquarium



If you are tired, you can take the Piazza Esedra exit and come back again to finish the visit.

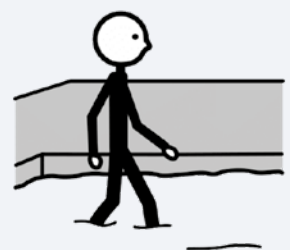
The public buildings



In the city of Pompeii there were many **public buildings**.
Public buildings are the places where everyone can enter.
In those buildings Pompeians:

- relaxed
- prayed
- met each other
- enjoyed themselves
- bought things.

To relax and be quiet
the inhabitants of Pompeii
used to go to the baths.





To pray to the gods, the inhabitants of Pompei used to go to the **sanctuary** and the **temple**.

In the sanctuary and the temple there were the statues of the gods.

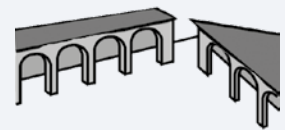
Pompeians prayed in front of the statues of the gods.



When Pompeians wanted to meet each other, they used to go to the square called **forum**.

In the forum there was a big building called **basilica**.

The basilica could contain many people.



To buy things Pompeians used to go to the **market**.

At the market they could find:

- The granaries where vegetables and fruit were sold
- The macellum where meat and fish were sold.



All Pompeians went to those public buildings because they were open to everyone.



■ 9. Stabian Baths



The Baths were the place where Pompeiians:

- took hot and cold baths
- went to the gym
- went for a swim
- relaxed
- met friends.

Those baths were called **Stabian** because they were between the Via Stabiana and Via dell'Abbondanza. Those were the most important baths in Pompei.



At the baths they could find:

- tubs with hot and cold water
- gyms
- swimming pools
- big halls
- gardens.

Men and women used to go to different rooms at the Baths.

The most important entrance for Stabian Baths is in Via dell'Abbondanza.

From that entrance they could get into a large garden where men did gymnastics.

This is the natatio.

A natatio is an outdoor swimming pool.

On the walls there were very beautiful **frescoes**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

Today you can't see the frescos very well because they were damaged.





This is the **porch** that leads to the part of the Baths used by men only. A porch is like a corridor open on one side. When you walk under a porch you protect yourself from rain or from sun and you can see the courtyard.



This was the **dressing room**, that is the room where people left their clothes. You can see some **niches** on the walls, where they had wooden lockers. A niche is a hole made in a wall to put something inside.



People took a bath going into the cold water tub first, then in the warm water tub and then in the hot water tub.

This is the **frigidarium**, the room where people took cold water baths. The frigidarium was a round room and around the swimming pool there is a bench where they could sit down.



On the walls there were paintings of plants and flowers.

The ceiling of the room is a **dome**, therefore is round.

They painted it in blue like a sky with many stars.

The people who made this room wanted it to be like a garden so that here men could rest and be quiet.

This is the first room where people could take a bath.





Afterwards they went to the tepidarium,
the room where people could take a bath in **warm water**.

Water is warm when it's not too hot nor too cold.

This is a rectangular room.

In the picture you can see many little bricks.

On top of the little bricks there was another floor.

Under that floor they had some hot **steam** pass by to keep rooms
and tub water warm.

Steam is the hot air that goes up when water is boiling.

At the baths they made hot vapor by boiling a lot of water
in a big oven.

The hot steam was pushed into large pipes that ran under the floor
to warm up the rooms.



Near the oven where water boiled there was the **calidarium**, the room where people took baths in **hot water**.

This was the last room where they could take a bath.

Near the part for men there was the one for women.

For women also there were:

- the **dressings room**
where to leave clothes
- the **frigidarium**
where to take cold water baths
- the **tepidarium**
where to take warm water baths
- the **calidarium**
where to take hot water baths.

The rooms for women are smaller and less decorated than the ones for men: in fact, on the walls there are no paintings.





■ 10. Forum and Temple of Jupiter



The Forum was the most important square in Pompeii.

You can see many columns around the square.

People from Pompeii used to go to the Forum:

- to talk
- to pray to gods
- to have religious celebrations
- to decide important things for the city of Pompeii.

Around the square there were many buildings:

- the Temple of Jupiter
- the Macellum
- the Granaries
- some shops.



This is the **Temple of Jupiter**.

Here people prayed to god Jupiter.

Jupiter was the father of all the other gods.

A god has the body of a man and is very powerful.

A long time ago people believed that for all the things there was a god or a goddess that could help them.

A god helped men:

- go hunting
- look better
- be lucky
- grow plants
- win wars.

A very long time ago the Temple was very big and had a triangular roof.



Today you can only see a large staircase with six columns on it.



On the right side of the Temple of Jupiter there is the **Macellum**. This was the market for meat and fish. You can see a very high wall enclosing the Macellum.



On the left side of the Temple of Jupiter there are the **Granaries**. This was the market for fruit and vegetables. Today archaeologists use the Granaries to keep the objects found in Pompeii.



Here were some **shops**.





■ 11. Sanctuary of Apollo



If you go through the Forum and follow along Via dell'Abbondanza, you get to the **Sanctuary of Apollo**.

The Sanctuary was the place where people prayed.

Apollo was the god of sun and made the sun rise every morning.



The sanctuary was very big and elegant because Apollo was a very important god for Pompeians. Today you see a large space with columns on the right and on the left.

In the middle there is the altar.

An altar is like a table where the priests said their prayers to Apollo.

Behind the altar you can see the staircase that leads to the sanctuary.

Today there are 2 columns and some pieces of 4 more columns.

The rest of the temple doesn't exist anymore.

Across that room there was the statue of Apollo.



Here people used to celebrate Apollo and his sister Diana.
Diana was the goddess of hunting
and helped men hunt animals.
Many children from Pompeii went to those celebrations too.



Today you can see the statues of Apollo and Diana
between the columns.



■ 12. Basilica



This is the **Basilica**.

The **Basilica** was the most important and elegant building in the Forum.

Here people used to meet to:

- decide important things for the city
- decide the rules of the city
- decide how to punish the people who didn't respect the rules.



When you enter the Basilica you see two rows of columns:
one on the right and one on the left.

Today you can't see the roof of the Basilica anymore
because it collapsed.

A very long time ago there were many statues inside the building.
Those statues made the Basilica very beautiful and elegant.



The **Antiquarium** is a big museum.

This museum was built a short time ago.

A museum is a place where they keep artworks and important and beautiful objects so that everybody can look at and study them.

Inside the Antiquarium there are **many rooms**.

In the rooms of the Antiquarium you can see **many objects of a very very long time ago**.

Those objects come from the city of Pompei.



■ 13. Red palace fresco



This is a **fresco**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

A long time ago this was the wall of a house.

Now that house is not there anymore,
and they brought the fresco into the Antiquarium.



In this fresco you can see a **red palace** divided into 2 floors.

On the ground floor you can see:

- **4 yellow columns**
- **4 windows**
- **2 masks.**
A mask is a thing you put over your face to make it look different.
- In the middle you can see the **head of a woman.**



On floor 1 you can see:

- **2 statues** representing 2 women
- **2 dishes** hanging from the ceiling.
The 2 dishes have 2 men with wings on them.
- **2 women on a chariot with horses** near the feet of the 2 statues.



Behind the red palace you can see the **blue sky**.

In the middle of the blue sky you can see a **column** with 2 vases on top.

Around one of the vases there is a snake.

On that column you can see:

- **a shield**
- **a helm.**





■ 14. Funerary statue of a man wearing a toga

This statue represents a **man wearing a toga**. A **toga** is the suit that people from Pompeii used a very very long time ago.

The man has a very serious face. **This statue was placed on a tomb and represents the man buried in the tomb.**

Only very important people had a statue over their tombs. Therefore, this man was very important.





■ 15. Fresco with Venus on an elephant-pulled quadriga



This is a **fresco**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.

A long time ago this fresco was on a wall along the street.

Now that wall isn't there anymore

and the fresco was put inside the Antiquarium.

In this fresco you can see **goddess Venus**.



Venus was the goddess of beauty and love and made people fall in love.

Goddess Venus is standing on a **quadriga**.

A quadriga is like a chariot.

In front of the chariot there are 4 elephants pulling the chariot.

Venus has:

- a **golden crown** on her head
- a blue **cloak** with some stars on it
- a scepter in her hand.

A scepter is a stick that important persons like kings hold in their hands

- an **olive branch**.

Near Venus there is a cupid handing a crown to Venus.

On the right and on the left there are 2 more cupids holding a crown and a palm branch.

Cupids are like little angels.



In this fresco goddess Venus has many objects that powerful people like kings and queens have. Venus was very important for the city of Pompei and protected its inhabitants.



■ 16. Bust of Dionysus

This statue is called

Bust of Dionysus.

A bust is a statue that shows only a person's head and shoulders.

This bust represent **god Dionysus.**

God Dionysus was the god of wine.

This statue is made of **bronze.**

Bronze is a metal that can be given any shape when it's hot.



Dionysus has curly hair.

Over his hair Dionysus has some flowers.

This statue is green and brown because is very **ancient**, and water and earth damaged it.





■ 17. Statue of Livia

This statue represents **Livia**.

Livia was the wife
of **emperor Augustus**.

An emperor is like a king.

Livia is standing and she's dressed
like a very important woman.

Livia has:

- a very long dress
- a cloak.

**Livia has a very quiet
and serious face.**





■ 18. Wall inscriptions

This is a **piece of a wall**.

A long time ago
it was the wall of a shop
in the city.

If you look carefully
you can see:

- a drawing
- some wall inscriptions.

Wall inscriptions
are writings made on a wall.
Inscriptions were painted
on a wall with a brush
or made as graffiti with a tip.





In the drawing you can see **Mercury** getting out of a temple with a stick and 2 snakes in his hands.

Mercury was the god of money.



Above Mercury you can see some writings.

Those writings are in **Latin**.

Latin is the language spoken by the people in Pompeii a very very long time ago.

They are **2 electoral writings**.

Electoral writings are made when there are **elections**.

During the elections people choose who can rule the city.

Those writings are about some people who wanted to rule the city.



■ 19. Triclinium bed



The **triclinium bed** is the bed placed in the triclinium.
The triclinium was the room where Pompeians used to eat.
The bed has:

- **some parts made of wood.**

The brown parts are made of wood.

Those parts have been made a short time ago.

- **some parts made of bronze.**

Bronze is a metal that can be given any shape when it's hot.

The grey parts are made of bronze and they are ancient.

The parts made of bronze are **decorated**.

An object is decorated when it's covered with drawings.





■ 20. Pigments



These are the **pigments**.

A pigment is a coloured powder.

In this showcase you can see many pigments of different colours.

You can see:

- the pink pigment
- the yellow pigment
- the blue pigment.

When you mix the pigment with water and with a special glue, a colour is born.

The inhabitants of Pompei used the colours to make paintings or **frescoes**.

A fresco is a painting made on a wall.



When the **Vesuvius** erupted,
painters were **restoring** the houses of Pompei.

To restore means to clean
and fix an object, a building or a room of a long time ago
that was damaged.

The painters were restoring the houses of Pompei
because there had been an earthquake a short time before.

The painters left their small cups with pigments
on the house floors to run away.

The ash of the eruption covered everything.

After a long time archaeologists found the small cups with pigments.



Find out how
the Vesuvius
erupted
on page 31



The most beautiful colour is **Egyptian blue**.

They call it like this because it was invented in **Egypt**.

Egypt is a country faraway from Italy.



■ 21. Casts



In the year 79 the ash of volcano Vesuvius covered the whole city and all the inhabitants of Pompei.

The inhabitants of Pompei died while doing their daily things.

When the archaeologists started digging the city of Pompei, they found some holes.

The archaeologists understood that before then in those holes there were the dead bodies of the inhabitants of Pompei.

Sometime after people die, their bodies become dust and only some pieces of bones remain.



For this reason there wasn't anything more inside the holes found by the archaeologists.

The archaeologists put some liquid plaster in the holes and waited until it dried.

When the plaster was dry, it had the shape of the dead person.

The dried plaster with the shape of a person is called cast.



These are the casts of 2 persons:

- on the left there is a child, in fact the cast is small
- on the right there is an adult, in fact the cast is big.



PATH 3

If you feel like, you can continue your path and see:

- House of the Vettii
- Necropolis
- Villa of the Mysteries



If you are tired, you can take the Piazza Esedra exit and come back again to finish the visit.



● 22. House of the Vettii



The House of the Vettii is a very famous house. Aulo Vettio Restituto and Aulo Vettio Conviva lived here. Aulo Vettio Restituto and Aulo Vettio Conviva were part of the Vettii family. The people who lived in this house were very rich and very important for the city of Pompei. The Vettii family was rich and famous because they **traded** many kinds of goods. To trade means buying and selling many objects and a lot of food to distant or nearby cities.



At the entrance of this house you see the fresco of **god Priapus**.
In Pompei god Priapus is painted with a very big penis
because he was the god of **prosperity**.

Prosperity means:

- feel good
- be rich
- be powerful.

The Vettii family wanted this fresco to let everybody know
that they were very powerful.



Through the entrance door you get to the **peristilium**.
The peristilium was a garden with some columns all around.

Around the peristilium you can see the most beautiful rooms
in the house.

In the rooms of the house there are many **frescoes**.

For example, you can see a fresco in the **hall**.





In this fresco you can see some **cupids**.

Cupids are like little angels.

In this fresco the cupids do a lot of things.



Some cupids are washing clothes.

Some cupids are selling wine.

Some cupids are cooking.

The Vettii family had a fresco painted in this hall because it was a very important room.



● 23. Necropolis



A **necropolis** is like a cemetery of a very long time ago.

When someone died, was buried in the necropolis.

There were 6 necropolises in Pompei.

The 6 necropolises of Pompei were all outside the walls of the city.

You can see one of those necropolises near Porta Ercolano.

Inside the necropolis of Porta Ercolano they also buried the rich people.

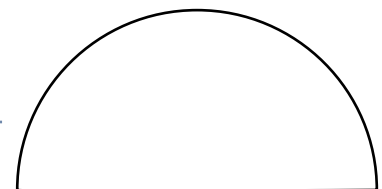
The tombs of those rich people were very beautiful and big.



This is a tomb.

This tomb is very big
and has the shape of a **semicircle**.

A semicircle is half circle.



Inside the tomb you see a big **fresco**.



● 24. Villa of the Mysteries



The **Villa of the Mysteries** was a very big house.
The people who lived in this villa were very rich.
This villa is very beautiful, and you can see the sea and the Vesuvius from some of the rooms.

In this villa there were:

- bedrooms
- kitchen
- bathroom
- baths.

The baths were the place where Pompeians took hot and cold baths.



One of the rooms of the Villa is called **Hall of the Mysteries**.

For that reason it's called Villa of the Mysteries.

Inside the Hall of the Mysteries there is a big fresco on the walls.

In this fresco you can see many people.

There are:

- **women**
- **men**
- **children.**



This fresco is about the story of a woman.
Nobody knows the story of this woman well.
Some think she was about to get married.
In the fresco you see the woman doing various things
to get ready for her wedding.
All those things were part of the mystery ceremonies.
A mystery ceremony means to do things that only a few people know.
Therefore a mystery ceremony was a secret.
The mystery ceremonies were made to prepare oneself
for important things like weddings or becoming adults.

When you see this symbol



it means that in this place
you find people who can help you.
They can help you understand artworks,
paintings, statues, houses, castles.

The non profit association L'abilità
created Museo per tutti
with De Agostini Foundation.

The association L'abilità is made up
of a group of people
who take care of people with disabilities.

The association L'abilità wants everyone
to understand artworks.
De Agostini Foundation supports
this project.

The Archaeological Park of Pompei
wants everyone to enter and see
the remains of the city of Pompei.

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