

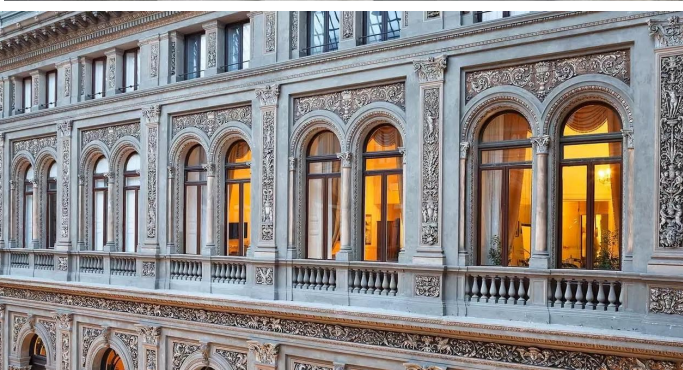


NAPLES IS A CHAOTIC CITY FULL OF ATMOSPHERE WITH ITS FAIR SHARE OF CRUMBLING ARCHITECTURE BUT IT IS IN ACTUAL FACT RICH IN HISTORY, TRADITIONS, ART AND MUSIC.

48 hours in Naples

A comprehensive overview

Naples is the international airport for all those who visit, Sorrento, Capri, the Amalfi coast, Pompeii or Herculaneum and most travellers by pass the city on their way to these hotspots. However it is well worth visiting in its own right for it has much to offer either for 48 hours or a longer weekend.



The Art Hotel and the Galleria Umberto

The boutique Art Hotel is located in the fabulous Galleria Umberto, one of Naples must see destinations and should you decide to stay here it's position is the perfect location with easy access to all of the city's major attractions.

views of Naples, including one of its famous castles.

Breakfast compliments the opulent setting and can be taken on the breakfast balcony. Ohh those Italian pastries are to die for.



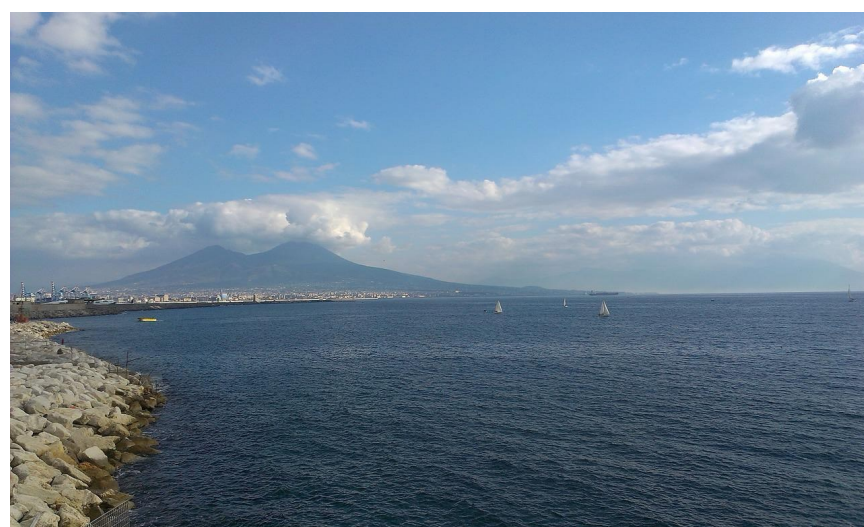
The Theatre

It is reached by a small ornate iron lift which takes you to the 4th floor. The interior evokes an extraordinary sense of luxury with its incredible frescoed ceilings, ornate gilded furniture, elaborate brocades and marble bathrooms. It perfectly compliments the historic Victorian Galleria and its balconies open either onto the amazing interior of the soaring mall or onto

The Teatro di San Carlo is located beside the Umberto Gallery. It was refurbishment in 1854 when the theatre's interior took on its traditional red and gold appearance which remains to this day. It is the oldest working theatre in Europe and well worth a visit. Either for a performance or for a tour.



GALLERIA UMBERTO AND THE ART HOTEL ON THE 4TH FLOOR WITH PASTRIES FOR BREAKFAST



THE BUS:

TEATRO DI SAN CARLO

MOUNT VESUVIUS

STREET ART

Hop on, Hop off Buses

The hop on hop off buses also have their base a stones throw away and there is no better way to get to know a city than taking the hop off, hop on bus tour. Its commentary is excellent and it stops at most of the destination high lights should you wish to visit. From the top deck the main attractions are captured on camera and etch themselves onto the memory. However I was unable to go aloft on my recent visit so I saw Naples from street level which was not a bad thing. It allowed me to soak up the atmosphere and pulse of what many see as a chaotic city with its fair share of crumbling architecture but it is in actual fact rich in history, traditions, art and music.

Like any city it has many cars and motorcycles on its main arteries but ribbons of narrow passageways between tall buildings give it a well worn charm. Hanging from many of its balconies clothes hang out to dry. The patched cobbled streets with bold white markings create endlessly changing patterns. So too do the trees. Some full of dusty oranges or pink blossom, others with spider like branches, some like umbrellas and then palms of every size.

On the surface it may be a city with a tattered charm yet it is set around a bay of infinite beauty dominated by mount Vesuvius.

Our commentary reminded us that the volcano just sleeps for now but should she wake again from her slumber there are detailed strategies in place for evacuation. On a more humorous note we also learnt about the legend of the castle built on an egg and other curiosities and anecdotes which these tours are famous for. We actually enjoyed two routes. One which took us around the city and one which took us along the coast high above the metropolis.

Words ; Janet Myers

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