



REDISCOVERING POMPEII TIMELINE

1700 A.D. – Present Day

Rediscovered in the early 1700s, Pompeii has slowly revealed itself again, street by street, building by building, room by room.

No other ancient city has been found so complete and intact, free from centuries of changes and modernizations. The recovered architecture, art and personal belongings provide an unparalleled record of what life was like in the Roman Empire.

Few other ancient sites have yielded such stark images of individual inhabitants, humble or affluent, caught in their last moments of life. Pompeii's haunting body casts immortalize those who failed to escape and evoke the human drama of the city's tragic end.

Rediscovering Pompeii

1709 - 1716

A workman sinking a well at a monastery strikes seats in ancient Herculaneum's theater. Excavations start in this area.

1748

Excavations begin at Pompeii near its Herculaneum Gate and on part of the Amphitheater.

1778

The first plan of the town is developed.

1824

The Forum baths are discovered and partially excavated; work begins on the House of the Tragic Poet.

1827

Detailed map of all exposed area of Pompeii drawn; first guide-book to Pompeii published.

1860

Giuseppe Fiorelli becomes director of the excavations and publishes the first definitive history of the excavations at Pompeii.

1863

Fiorelli or one of his assistants hit upon the idea of pouring plaster into the cavities formed in the hardened volcanic material where human and animal bodies had decomposed. The first casts of Vesuvius' victims are made.

1879

The 18th centennial anniversary of the destruction of Pompeii is marked by official ceremonies. A conservation and restoration policy is implemented to maintain or re-establish the ancient environment as much as possible. This policy is still in effect.

1894 - 1900

Excavations of Roman villas at Boscoreale on the side of Vesuvius, northeast of Pompeii, begin.

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1929 - 1930

The Villa of Mysteries is fully cleared and results published; all wall paintings are retained including the Frieze of the Dionysiac Mysteries, perhaps the most important of all Pompeian paintings.

1932 - 1935

Clearing the full length of the Via dell' Abbondanza completed.

1935 - 1939

Palaestra near the Amphitheater fully excavated and restored; many bodies found in portico.

1943

Allied bombs fall on Pompeii striking several houses in the Via dell' Abbondanza.

1944

Vesuvius erupts for several months.

1957

Museo Archeologico Nazionale founded in Naples where many of the objects found in Pompeii and other sites are housed today.

1997

Pompeii is named a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Present

About three-quarters of Pompeii's 163 acres are now recovered.

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