

Archaeology Web Quest

Should visitors be allowed in Pompeii?

Introduction

Pompeii is a popular destination for tourists in Italy. It is one of the oldest and best preserved archaeological sites in the world.

The city was buried by four metres of volcanic pumice and lava which encased it in a thick hard crust that preserved its hidden treasures for centuries. People forgot Pompeii was even there – it became the subject of myths and legends.

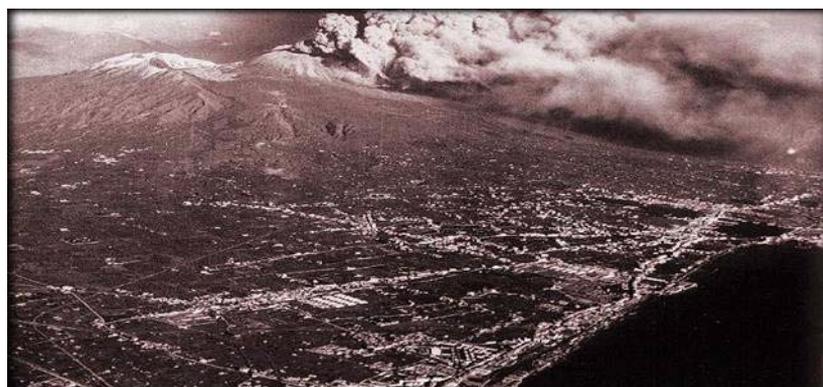
Over the years people have tried to dig through the hard crust to gain access to the treasures below. In 1763, an inscription revealed that the site was actually the ancient town of Pompeii.



The organisation responsible for the preservation of Pompeii - *Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei* – is considering a halt to all excavation work to preserve the remains of the ancient city still buried under metres of volcanic ash. There has even been a suggestion that the ancient city be closed to visitors and preserved for future generations to study and uncover.

What do you think? What advice would you give?

Find out more about how archaeological work in Pompeii has been conducted, what has been learned about life in ancient Pompeii from this work, and what is at risk if excavations continue. Once you have explored the following links you will have a better idea of how to answer the question.



All images Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei unless otherwise stated.



Task 1: Interactive map of Pompeii

This map reveals or the excavated sites.

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/images/stories/cw/a/pompeii/pompeii-map2.htm>

Click onto this site to see an enlarged version of this map. Wave your mouse over the coloured and circled numbers and see what has been uncovered.

Choose any 5 from the following list of buildings and houses and investigate further.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO VISIT	PRIVATE BUILDINGS TO VISIT	PLACES REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT
1 = TEMPLE OF APOLLO	17 = TEMPLE OF ISIS	30 = HOUSES 11 & 12
2 = THE FORUM	18 = CASTELLUM AQUAE	31 = HOUSE OF THE VESTALS
3 = TEMPLE OF JUPITER	19 = THE VILLA OF THE MYSTERIES	32 = HOUSE OF THE SURGEON
4 = MACELLUM	20 = HOUSE OF PANSA	33 = HOUSE OF THE CHASTE LOVERS'
5 = BUILDING OF EUMACHIA	21 = A BAKERY	34 = HOUSE OF COMPLUVIUM
6 = BASILICA	22 = HOUSE OF VETTI	35 = HOUSE OF THE GREAT ALTAR
7 = FORUM BATHS	23 = HOUSE OF FAUN	36 = HOUSE OF MENANDER
8 = STABIAN BATHS	24 = HOUSE OF THE ANCIENT HUNT	37 = HOUSE OF SALLUST
9 = TRIANGULAR FORUM & DORIC TEMPLE	25 = BROTHEL	
10 = LARGE THEATRE	26 = FULLERY OF STEPHANUS	
11 = SMALL THEATRE (ODEON)	27 = THERMOPOLIUM OF VETUTIUS PLACIDUS	
12 = GLADIATORS BARRACKS (QUADRIPORTICO)	28 = HOUSE OF LOREIUS TIBURTINUS	
13 = AMPHITHEATRE	29 = HOUSE OF VENUS IN THE SEA SHELL	
14 = PALAESTRA		
15 = NUCERIA GATE CEMETERY		
16 = HERCULANEUM GATE CEMETERY		

Task 2: Find out more about your chosen buildings at the following website:

http://mr_sedivy.tripod.com/pompeii_9.html

Task 3: Find out more about how archaeologists uncover objects:

<http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/pompeii/field/5.html>

Task 4: What sorts of things do they find?

<http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/pompeii/field/5.html>

Task 5: How do they work out what the people of Pompeii ate or how they lived?

<http://www.archaeology.org/interactive/pompeii/field/5.html>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/26602/diet.htm>

Task 6: Ask the experts

The Team: Whose advice will you require? Look at the team on this site

<http://www.arch.virginia.edu/struct/pompeii/field-obs-97/>

How would the advice of the team members differ? Think about what expertise they bring to the task.

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/Pompeii>

Task 7: What are the greatest risks to the preservation of Pompeii?

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/pompeii_rediscovery_06.shtml

<http://www.arch.virginia.edu/struct/pompeii/masonry/masonry-1.html>

Task 8: What has been learned through the excavation of Pompeii?

<http://www.pompeiiisites.org/Sezione.jsp?titolo=Pompeii&idSezione=1165&idSezioneRif=1726>

Do we already know enough and is there more to learn?

What would you advise?

Source: Alfredo & Pio Foglia

Now that you have gathered your information, you should be ready to provide advice to the *Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei*.

- What are the arguments for and against the idea of closing Pompeii to all visitors?
- Draw up a chart with Arguments For and Arguments Against.
- How do you balance the risks and the benefits?

Present your argument in the form of a letter or report. Provide evidence to support your opinion.



Source: Alfredo & Pio Foglia