

Pompeii

Quick Summary



Pompeii was a Roman city. On 24 August, 79 AD, a volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the city and its people, killing 2,000 of them. Pompeii is now considered one of the world's most important historical sites because of the way the volcanic ash preserved the city and its people. This gives historians and archaeologists a vivid picture of life in the Roman Empire around 2,000 years ago. Archaeologists have found graffiti written by the people who lived in the town. People often wrote on walls, and archaeologists have been able to read some of what they wrote. Pompeii is an interesting attraction for tourists from around the world and is visited by 2.5 million people a year.



Around noon on August 24, 79 CE, a huge eruption from Mount Vesuvius showered volcanic debris over the city of Pompeii, followed the next day by clouds of blisteringly hot gases. Buildings were destroyed, the population was crushed and the city was buried beneath a blanket of ash and pumice. For many centuries Pompeii slept beneath its pall of ash, which perfectly preserved the remains. When these were finally unearthed, in the 1700s, the world was astonished at the discovery of a sophisticated Greco-Roman city frozen in time.

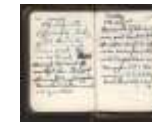


Vocabulary:

Vesuvius,
preserved,
archaeologists,
erupted,
destroyed,
historians, ancient



Where was Pompeii located? The ancient Roman city of Pompeii was located in what is now the **Campania region of Italy, south-east of Naples**. It was at the south-eastern base of Mount Vesuvius and was built on a spur formed by a prehistoric lava flow to the north of the mouth of the Sarnus (modern Sarno) River.



Aspirations and career links to history: academic researcher, archivist, heritage manager, historic buildings inspector/conservation officer, museum education officer/curator, gallery exhibitions officer, secondary school teacher, geologist.

