

Heritage Choir Newsletter #24 – Rome, Italy

It's Sunday, October 13th, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. We will travel to Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii....



Following early morning Sacrament Meeting and Breakfast, we will travel to Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii.

Mount Vesuvius is the only active volcano in mainland Europe and has produced some of the continent's largest volcanic eruptions. Located on Italy's west coast; Campania, west of Italy, it overlooks the Bay and City of Naples and sits in the crater of the ancient Somma volcano. Vesuvius is most famous for the 79 AD eruption which destroyed the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Though the volcano's last eruption was in 1944, it still represents a great danger to the cities that surround it, especially the busy metropolis of Naples.

Description of Mount Vesuvius

- Vesuvius is a convexly curved peak consisting of large cone 'Gran Cono'. A steep rim encircles the large cone.
- The height of the main cone does not remain constant. It varies with the eruptions.
- This structure of Mount Vesuvius is caused by the breakdown of the big Mount Somma.
- Mount Somma was the original and earlier structure of the present Mount Vesuvius.
- The 79 A.D eruptions of Mount Somma released more energy than the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima-Nagasaki.

What Type of Volcano Is Mount Vesuvius?

- Mount Vesuvius is a volcano depression. It is circular in shape; classified as a Stratovolcano.
- It contains explosive eruptions, hot high-density lava, ash, and gases.
- Mount Vesuvius and some other Italian volcanoes make the Campanian volcanic arc.

How Big Is Mount Vesuvius?

- A giant's valley (Valle del Gigante) lies in between the Mount Somma and Cone called Gran Cono.
- At the peak of the cone is a large hole of about **305 meters i.e. 1000 ft.**
- This hole is about **610 meters i.e. 2000 ft deep.** It has a circumference of about **12 km i.e. 7.45 miles**
- The hole was formed as a result of the eruption of 1944.
- The distance around the base of Mount Vesuvius is about **30 miles i.e. 48.3 kms.**

How High Is Mount Vesuvius?

- The height of Mount Vesuvius changes continuously with eruptions.
- In 2013, the height of the cone was found to be **1281 meters i.e. 4203 feet.**
- A long narrow semicircular hilltop begins at about **600 meters i.e. 1968 feet**, called Mount Somma.
- Towards the north, the cone is encircled by Mount Somma rising to about **1132 meters i.e. 3714 feet.**

Next, we will continue on to visit Pompeii.....**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.**

Rome "Fun Fact" #24 – Before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD a word for Volcano did not exist, which was created afterwards. Volcano derives from the word Vulcan - the Roman God of the Flame and Metal Forgery.