



## MINI DAILY



## POZZUOLI

### Itinerary

1. **FLAVIO AMPHITHEATRE**
2. **MACELLUM ALSO CALLED TEMPLE OF SERAPIS**

#### 9.30 a.m. Departure from the Flavian Amphitheatre entrance

The Flavian Amphitheatre, also called Maggiore, is the third largest after the one in Rome and in Capua. It is divided into three rings closed at the top by an attic and at the bottom by an external arcade with an elliptical plan built on travertine slabs. The piperno pillars were consolidated later in brick. From the arcade 4 main and 12 secondary entrances, from the corridor 20 flights of stairs, allowed influx of about 40.000 spectators.

Begun under Nero and completed by Vespasiano (69-96 A.C.), it measures m. 149 x 116 (arenas m.75 x 42). Under the podium of the arena there are the underground corridors with the space to the service of the shows. The undergrounds are well preserved so it was possible to study the complex system of lifting cages with beasts.

In 305, under the persecution of Diocletian, seven Christian martyrs were exposed into the arena: Gennaro, Festo and Desiderio from Benevento, Sossio from Miseno and Procolo, Eutiche and Acuzie from Pozzuoli, they were beheaded near to the Solfatara.

In the Middle Ages it was stripped of the construction materials and many statues that shattered produced lime.

After that, we proceed with the visit to the "Macellum" – Commonly known with the name of "Temple of Serapis", owing to the discovery of the statue of "Jupiter Serapis" an Egyptian deity, it represents the most significant monument of the urban coastal area. The large quadrangular room with the porticoed courtyard in the centre,



granite columns and four cipollino columns, is actually the most food market of antiquity. Races, goods, cults, rituals from anywhere were crossed here confirming the extraordinary role that Puteoli had in ancient time.

But the Serapeum owes its fame also to the phenomenon of Phlegrean bradyseism: the three Corinthian pillars of cipollino, perforated by the lithodomas (mollusks perforating the stone), give us the right measure of the submersion of the building in the sea.

**12:30 p.m. End of our services** – free time to go for a walk around Pozzuoli

△- To optimize the organization, we reserve the right to manage the sequence of visits at our discretion.