



Posillipo inside

Guided Tour

Sejanus Cave and Parco della Tomba di Virgilio are the focus points of the itinerary. The first one crosses the hill of Posillipo, provides wonderful landscapes of Nisida and the Phlegrean area; from the park, you can see an amazing landscape of the Neapolitan gulf, on which is settled the Vesuvius's mole.

Poi

- 1 Crypta neapolitana (Park of Virgilu's Tomb)

Info



POI

1



Distance

0.00 Km

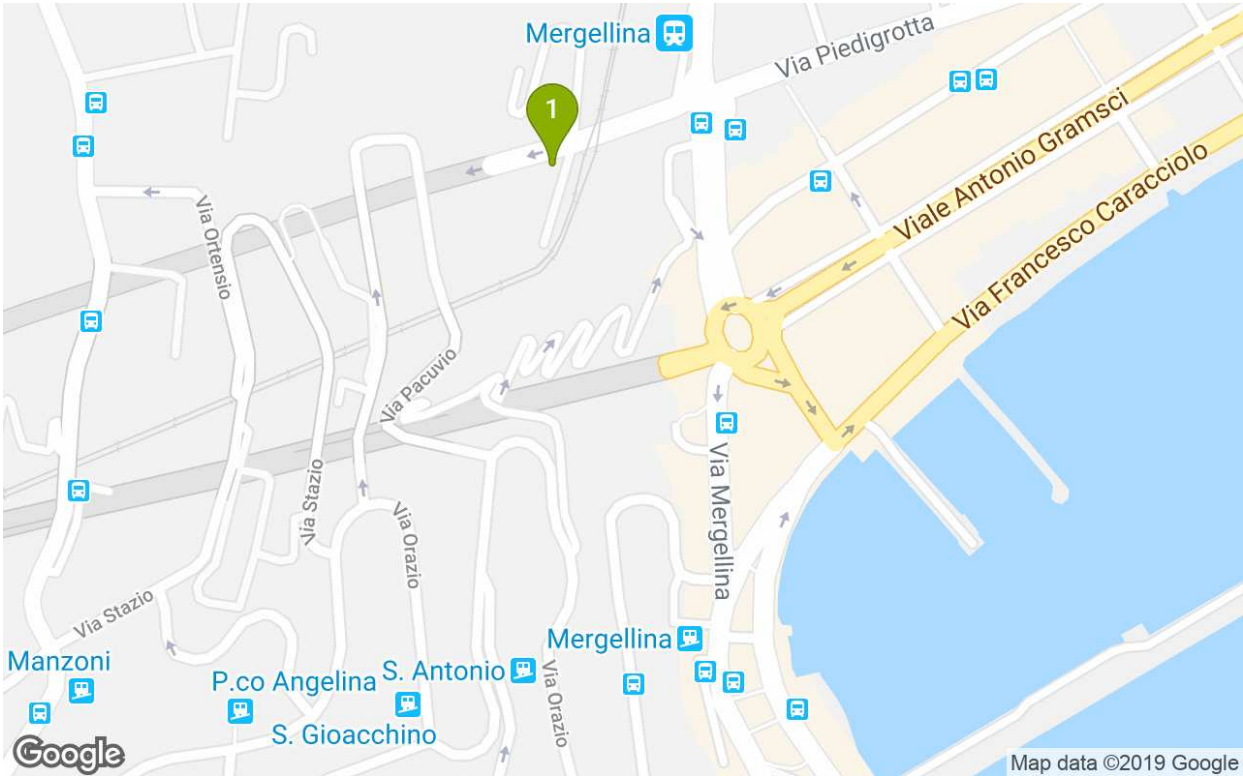


Skill

Tutti



Scan the QrCode to access the navigable mobile version of the itinerary





Crypta neapolitana (Park of Virgilu's Tomb)

Napoli / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

Site rich of suggestive legends, equipped with such beauty to be quoted by Petrarca and to turn Goethe's head, the Neapolitan Crypt, situated in Parco Virgiliano, is a long cramped gallery of 700 meters excavated in tuff in the 1st century b.C. Also known as Grotta vecchia di Pozzuoli (old cave of Pozzuoli), it was built at the time of Emperor Augustus to connect Naples to Campi Flegrei.

At the entrance, situated not too far from Giacomo Leopardi's tomb, it is now possible to see two frescoed niches: the one on the left has a raffiguration of the Madonna and her Baby from the 14th century, while, on the right one, which is of uncertain origins, God's face is depicted.

The tunnel is oriented so that, in occasion of the equinoxes, the sun is perfectly allineated between the two entrances at dusk and dawn, which enables the natural light to illuminate it completely.

This crypt, besides being an essential passage to connect Neàpolis with Puteoli harbour, was also a place of worship where initiation rites took place. The myth narrates that Virgilio himself excavated the cave in one night thanks to his magic and, according to Petronio, a writer and a roman politician, the crypt in the 1st century was consecrated to Priapo, god of fertility, and so mystery and orgiastic rites were celebrated there overnight.

In the Christian age, it was also mentioned by Petrarca in his Itinerarium Syriacum, where he describes a small chapel called Santa Maria from Idria, built by a hermit near the entrance of the cave. The name of the temple, whose fragments are situated in the cave, comes from the Madonna Odigitria, which means the One who points out the way. Her image was used as a good omen for wanderers who decided to use the cave to reach Pozzuoli.

To this day it preserves an undeletable charm, able to withstand offences of time and humans.

🕒 Opening Hours

10:00 - 14:50

📅 Closing Days

Tuesday

👁️ Visit Duration

30 min.

📍 Address

Salita della grotta, (o via Piedigrotta) 20 Napoli - Napoli (NA)

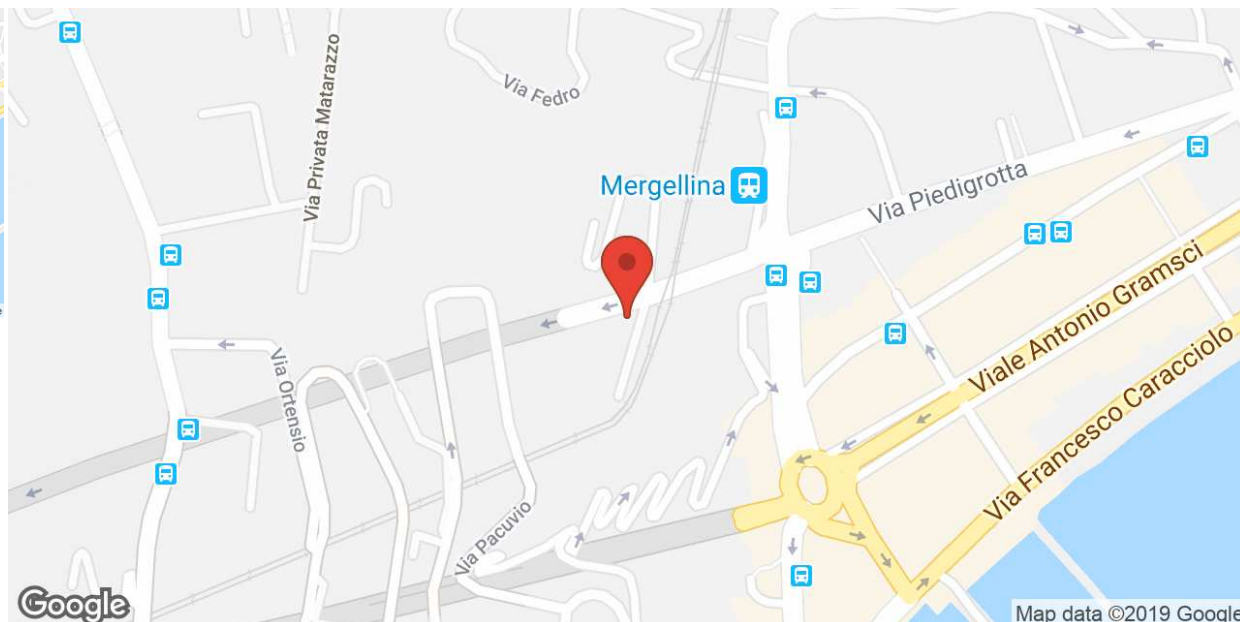
🚇 Metro Line 2, Mergellina Station. (about 1 min. on foot)

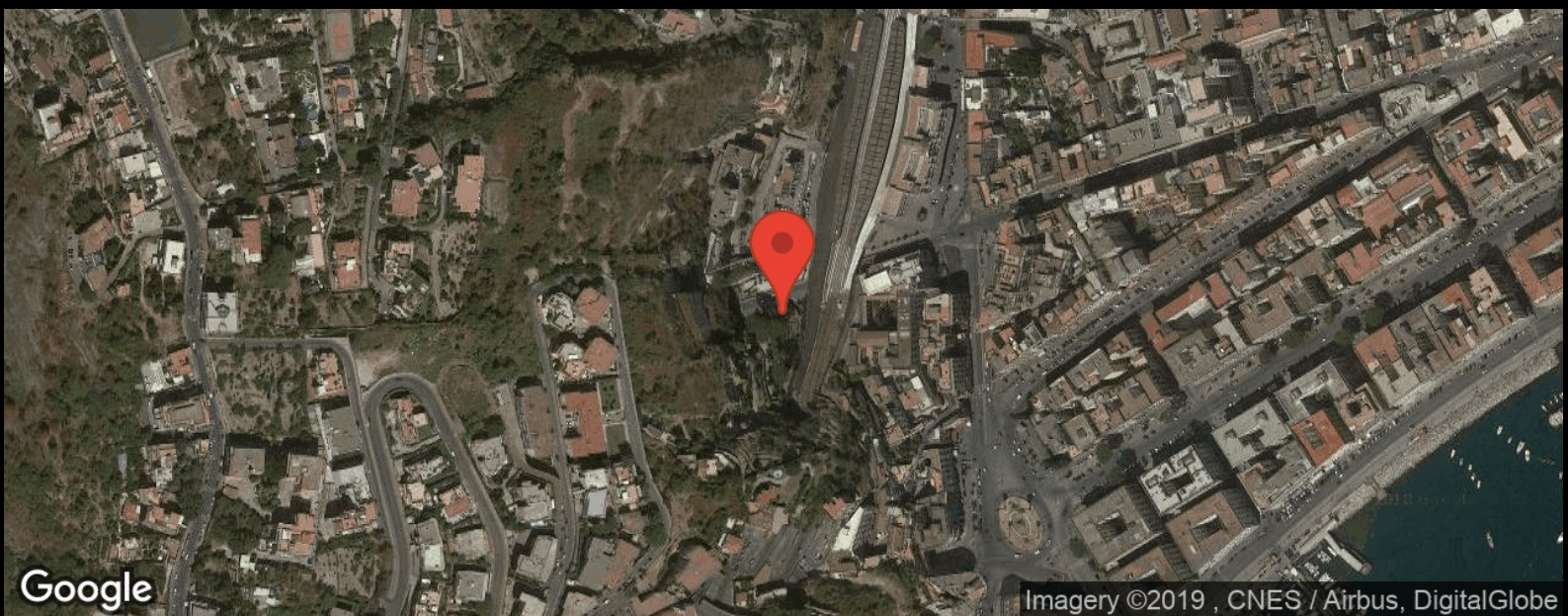
📞 Phone

081 669390-5808390

1

Crypta neapolitana (Park of Virgilu's Tomb)





Google

Imagery ©2019 , CNES / Airbus, DigitalGlobe

The specified location could not be found.

