

SDCC Visit Sunny Roman Sites in Italy

During the October half term, 27 students and 4 staff headed off to Italy to visit some of the most famous historical sites in the world. After a long trip via Stansted, we landed in the morning at Naples and onto an Italian coach straight onto the amazing Naples Archaeological Museum which houses many famous statues, mosaics and frescos. After a pizza stop, we then travelled around the Bay of Naples to our hotel near to Sorrento with views across the bay to Capri and Vesuvius.

Day 2 saw us drive around the bay to Vesuvius. Sadly the summit was shut due to the extreme weather Italy had faced over the previous 72 hours which had resulted in a landslide. Our weather escapes were notable given we had originally planned to do Rome first, which seeing the tennis ball sized hail stones pictures of Rome on the Monday, we were delighted we had changed our plans to do Naples first instead. This was furthered by avoiding Rome on Champions League football Tuesday and the escalator accident at Republic. The Roman Gods were smiling on us it seems! Having travelled back down the volcano, we arrived in Pompeii for our lunch and a guided tour of this amazing Roman site. After dinner, we went into Sorrento – lovely at night with its closed to traffic streets, lights and tourist trap shops.

Day 3 and off to Herculaneum in the morning – the hot and sunny weather of day 2 continued as it would for the whole week. Then the long trip to Rome through stunning landscapes. Dinner at the Termini Rail Station and a bit of orientation including some rather posh ice creams for those opting for the longer walk.

Day 4 saw a crazily early start as we arrived at the Colosseum for 8.30am. Following the footsteps of so many famous Romans we then spent the next 5 hours taking in the arena, and the neighbouring Forum and Palatine hill. After a lunch break, we braved the metro to visit Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain. No after dinner walk this evening as we all gratefully returned to our hotel and beds....but we can truly say that we saw Rome.

Day 5 – our final day saw us heading off on a walking tour with our upbeat Italian guide who took us to various famous Rome landmarks including Pantheon, Venice Square, and Trajan's Column amongst much more. After a final lunch, it was off to airport and a far more civilised journey home via Bristol rather than Stansted.

A fantastic week in which both hotels complimented our students on their behaviour. Pleased to miss the tornadoes that swept Italy the following week as well!