**Introduction**

While certainly a disaster for its inhabitants, the volcanic destruction and burial of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and its surroundings in 79 AD has been a boon for archaeologists who have found it to be a window into a long-vanished world. Since its rediscovery in the 18th century, the fate of Pompeii and the surroundings have captured the imagination of writers, artists and more.

For more information on Pompeii, the Roman Empire and its place in our culture and imagination, please explore the tabs at the top of this guide.

**AIA Description of the Exhibition**

From the Archaeological Institute of America:

Pompeii and the other ancient cities destroyed and paradoxically preserved by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 are usually considered the places where one can best and most directly experience the daily lives of ancient Romans. Rather than presenting these sites as windows to the past, this exhibition explores them as a modern obsession.

Over the three hundred years since their discovery in the early 1700s, the Vesuvian sites have functioned as mirrors of the present, inspiring foremost artists—from Piranesi, Fragonard, Ingres, and Alma-Tadema to Duchamp, Dali, Rothko, and Warhol—to engage with contemporary concerns in diverse media.

This international loan exhibition is co-organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art in association with the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Québec.

**Exhibition Catalog**

The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection [Hardcover]
Victoria C. Gardner Coates (Author); Kenneth Lapatin (Author); Jon L. Seydl (Author)
Language: English. ISBN-10: 1606061151

**About This Guide**

This guide was originally created for Visions and Voices.  
- Browse upcoming Visions and Voices events  
- Explore USC Libraries Visions and Voices research guides
Books in the USC Libraries

- **Resurrecting Pompeii** - Estelle Lazer
  Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7L39 2009
  Publication Date: 2009-09-24

- **Pompeii: art, industry, and infrastructure** - Kevin Cole (Editor); Miko Flohr (Editor); Eric Poehler (Editor)
  Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7 P665 2011
  Publication Date: 2011-06-22

- **Pompeii and Ancient Settlements** - John J. Dobbins (Editor); Pedar Foss
  Call Number: AFA DG70.P7W77 2007
  Publication Date: 2007-08-20

- **The Complete Pompeii** - Joanne Berry
  Call Number: Doheny & Leavey: DG70.P7B468 2007
  Publication Date: 2007-11-01

- **Antiquity Recovered** - Victoria C. Gardner Coates; Jon L. Seydl (Editor)
  Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7A73 2007
  Publication Date: 2007-06-18

Books in the USC Libraries

- **Ghosts of Vesuvius** - Charles R. Pellegrino
  Call Number: Doheny & Leavey: DG70.P7P44 2004
  Publication Date: 2004-08-01

- **Pompeii** - Kevin Cole (Editor); Miko Flohr (Editor); Eric Poehler (Editor)
  Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7 P665 2011
  Publication Date: 2011-06-22

- **Pompeii's Living Statues** - Eugene Dwyer
  Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7D89 2010
  Publication Date: 2010-05-17

- **Roman Life** - John R. Clarke; Michael Larvey (Photographer)
  Call Number: Doheny DG78.C577 2007
  ISBN: 9780810993396
  Publication Date: 2007-11-01

- **Pompeii** - Roger Ling
  Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7L56 2005
  ISBN: 0752414593
  Publication Date: 2005-06-01

eBooks on Pompeii

- **Pompeii: the life of a Roman Town** - Beard, Mary
  Publication Date: 2008 EBOOK

- **Pompeii awakened: a story of rediscovery** - Harris, Judith
  Publication Date: 2007

- **Intimità a Pompei** - Anna Anguissola
  Publication Date: 2010-12-15

Need More Books?

To run a new search in our catalog for books with the subject of "Pompeii," please click [this link](http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=353046&sid=2888221).
Pompeii and Ancient Rome in Movies

Popular Movies

Movies on Pompeii and Ancient Rome in the USC Libraries

These movies are available for checkout. Click on the links for the library catalog record.

- **Rome et Pompeii [videorecording]** (1993)
  The grandeur of Imperial Rome and Pompeii is reconstructed by archeologists, historians, and video artists.
  Leavely Library LIVY VID 12

  AFA Library AFA DVD 505

  Uses archaeological evidence to re-create daily life in the town of Pompeii at the time Mt. Vesuvius erupted. Gives an historical overview of the urban, political and cultural organizations of Pompeii.
  AFA Library AFA DVD 558

- **Fellini Satyricon [videorecording]** (2001)
  Fellini recreates the bawdy and lecherous days of Nero's reign in ancient Rome and its lack of concern with human dignity and obsession with perverse sex. The film is also an allegorical satire of the self-indulgence of modern society.
  Leavely Library LIVY VID 898

- **The Aeneid of Virgil. [videorecording]** (1997)
  Professor Elizabeth Vandiver presents 12 lectures on this great epic of ancient Rome. The lectures provide detailed examination of the most important episodes and address various critical and interpretative issues.
  Leavely Library LIVY VID 1284

- **I, Claudius [videorecording]: the complete series** (1976)
  An epic tale of ambition, debauchery, and intrigue, the Emmy-winning BBC series is one of the most popular and acclaimed dramas in Masterpiece Theatre history. Based on the novels by Robert Graves, spanning the history of the Roman Empire from Augustus to Nero.
  Leavely Library LIVY DVD 6143

- **Nero's Golden House [videorecording]** (2009)
  Examines the reality behind the myth of this extraordinary building that played host to violence, sexual perversion, and great beauty. Investigators attempt to distinguish fact from fiction.
  AFA Library AFA DVD 937

- **Spartacus [videorecording]** (2001)
  Spartacus, a Thracian gladiator raised as a slave, leads his fellow slaves in an uprising against the corrupt Roman Empire. This edition includes the following supplements: the restored 1991 Super Technirama version of Spartacus; and much more.
  Leavely Library LIVY DVD 697

- **Gladiator [videorecording]** (2000)
  A Roman general refuses to transfer his loyalty to the new Emperor, Commodus. He becomes a slave and then a gladiator, fighting in the Roman Colosseum in defiance of the Emperor. Directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe.
  Leavely Library LIVY DVD 102

- **Hail Caesar [videorecording]** (1998)
  Leavely Library LIVY DVD 929
Introduction

The Getty Villa, the original site of the J. Paul Getty Museum, is a museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. The design is based on the Villa dei Papiri, a 1st century Roman estate in Herculaneum, Italy, which was partially excavated in the 18th century. It is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to ancient art. It underwent a major renovation project and reopened in 2006.

Visit the TimeScape Room, containing interactive exhibits that focus on time, place, and artistic style in the ancient Mediterranean, and the Family Forum for some hands-on activities.

Performances and films are available (student rate tickets), as well as free lectures (tickets required).

Bird's Eye View

![Bird's Eye View of Getty Villa](image)

General Information

The Getty Villa is located at
17985 Pacific Coast Highway
Pacific Palisades, California 90272
(310) 440-7300

Hours, Directions, and Parking

Collections

The Permanent Collection of the Getty Villa is comprised of approximately 44,000 Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities; more than 1,200 items are on exhibit in 23 galleries. There is also a small collection of Cycladic objects, dating from 3000-2200 BCE.

Many of the galleries are arranged by themes, including Women and Children in Antiquity, Stories of the Trojan War, Monsters and Minor Deities, and Wine in Antiquity.

Please see Further Reading at the Find Books tab for a brief list of books about the Getty.

Exhibitions

Current Exhibitions

The Sanctuaries of Demeter and Persephone at Morgantina
April 14 - January 21, 2013

A cache of over 30 votive offerings excavated from the sanctuaries of the ancient city of Morgantina, located in Sicily, is on loan from the Museo Archeologico Regionale of Aidone, Sicily. The objects, which date from 400 to 200 B.C., were given as gifts by worshippers to Demeter and her daughter Persephone, goddesses of agricultural fertility who also presided over the feminine sphere. Ranging from brightly painted offerings to more delicate and inscribed votives, the items were displayed in the open-air Entry Pavilion of the Getty Villa's renovated garden.

http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/videoDetails?cat=4&segid=3729

Comments (0)

Architectural Reimagined

Boston-based architects Rodolfo Machado and Jorge Silvetti began renovating the Getty Villa site in 1997. Visitors now start their visit in a spectacular open-air Entry Pavilion, then progress along a scenic pathway to the heart of the site, a 450-seat outdoor classical theater, based on ancient prototypes.

http://www.getty.edu/visit/see_do/architecture.html

Comments (0)

Gardens

Gardens are integral to the setting of the Getty Villa, as they

http://libguides.usc.edu/content.php?pid=353046&sid=2888155
bejeweled) terracotta figures of the deities ornaments such as bone hair pins and oil nocturnal rituals, the artifacts reveal relicgious highlight the vibrancy of local craftsmanship.

Roman Ephebe from Naples
Ongoing
Youth as a Lamp Bearer is on long-term loan from the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Naples

Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity
Ongoing
Over 180 ancient glass objects made in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Greek world, and the Roman Empire. The exhibit spans the entire period of ancient glass production, from its origins in Mesopotamia in about 2500 B.C. to Byzantine and Islamic glass of the eleventh century A.D.

Forthcoming Exhibitions
Lion Attacking a Horse from the Capitoline Museums, Rome
August 10, 2012–February 4, 2013

The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection

Comments (0)

Further Reading
All of the following are available in the Helen Topping Architecture and Fine Arts Library (AFA).

Bowe, Patrick. Gardens and plants of the Getty Villa. 2011
AFA: SB466.U7G482 2011

Hackman, William R. Inside the Getty. 2008
AFA: N582.M251S7 2008

AFA and Grand: HD9570.G4A26 2003

AFA Reference and Leavy: N582.M25A87 2005

J. Paul Getty Museum handbook of the antiquities collection. 2010
AFA: N5803.M36J25 2010


Previous editions in AFA and Grand; check Homer

Ross, Richard. Seeing the Getty Villa. 2005
AFA and Leavy: N582,M25R68 2005

AFA: NK5565.S68 1992

True, Marion. The Getty Villa. 2005
AFA and Leavy: N582.M25T78 2005

For additional books, search Homer.

Currently on Exhibit
Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity
Related book:
AFA: NK5106.G5413 2003x

Comments (0)
Visions & Voices: The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection

Exhibition at the Getty Villa September 12, 2012–January 7, 2013

Last Updated: Aug 20, 2013

URL: http://libguides.usc.edu/pompeii

Comments (0)

USC Research Guides

For more information on archaeology, ancient art and the classical world, please explore these online research guides:

- Ancient Art and Archaeology
- Archaeology
- Classics

Comments (0)

YouTube Video

A dramatic rendering with readings from Pliny the Younger who witnessed the eruption.

Comments (0)

YouTube Video: "The Wonders of Pompeii"

3 minute video with scenes of Pompeii.

Comments (0)

Public Websites

- Official Website of Pompeii Archaeological Site
- BBC: "Pompeii: Portents of Disaster"
- Discovery Channel: Pompeii

Comments (0)

Images of Pompeii