

What people around Vesuvius do?

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Did people live under Vesuvius before it erupted ?

No one lived **under** the volcano, but there were many people living **near** the volcano. In addition to the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, there were likely many farms, as soils containing volcanic ash tend to be fertile. The volcano had produced nothing worse than minor earthquakes and a little smoke for a thousand years, so no one thought of it as a risk.

Fortunately, the wind direction in the 79 CE eruption that buried Pompeii and Herculaneum spared Neapolis (now Naples). There are now more than 3 million people living in the Naples area, at risk if Vesuvius has another major eruption.



Why do so many Italians live near the active volcanoes of Vesuvius and , risking their life? Why are Italian volcanic regions so densely populated, compared to others

Italy is a smallish, mountainous country so arable land is not plentiful. The arable land near volcanoes is particularly fertile and with such a good climate more than one crop can often be grown in a year.

Italy is also spectacularly beautiful and central in the Mediterranean Sea. These areas are densely populated as there is not a lot of spare land for people to spread out on. Even in ancient times people lived in insulae much like apartments today - are you can see in the ruins of Pompeii. Also, Italians are usually Catholic and traditionally had large families though these have dropped significantly this century. Italians have spread worldwide due to overcrowding, enriching the cuisines of countries such as Australia and the United States. But many remain, and with limited space the population density continues.



People live there, despite the risk of catastrophic eruptions for economic reasons but also because it is home. The climate, the landscape, the food, the culture, the history, the architecture, the pace of life, the people are all wonderful.

The people of Campania (above) and Sicily (below) have lived in these areas for centuries and the lifestyle far out ways the risks.

It is interesting to note that a catastrophic event with either Mt Etna or Mt Vesuvius would affect more than the local area due to the ash - as we've seen in recent years with eruptions in Indonesia and Iceland.



A video:

<https://youtu.be/GB3uFj4Oral>



Sources

<https://www.quora.com/Why-did-people-live-near-Mount-Vesuvius>

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https://sm.askmen.com/askmen_gr/photo/default/volcano_b5r6.jpg

THANKS YOY FOR WATCHING

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