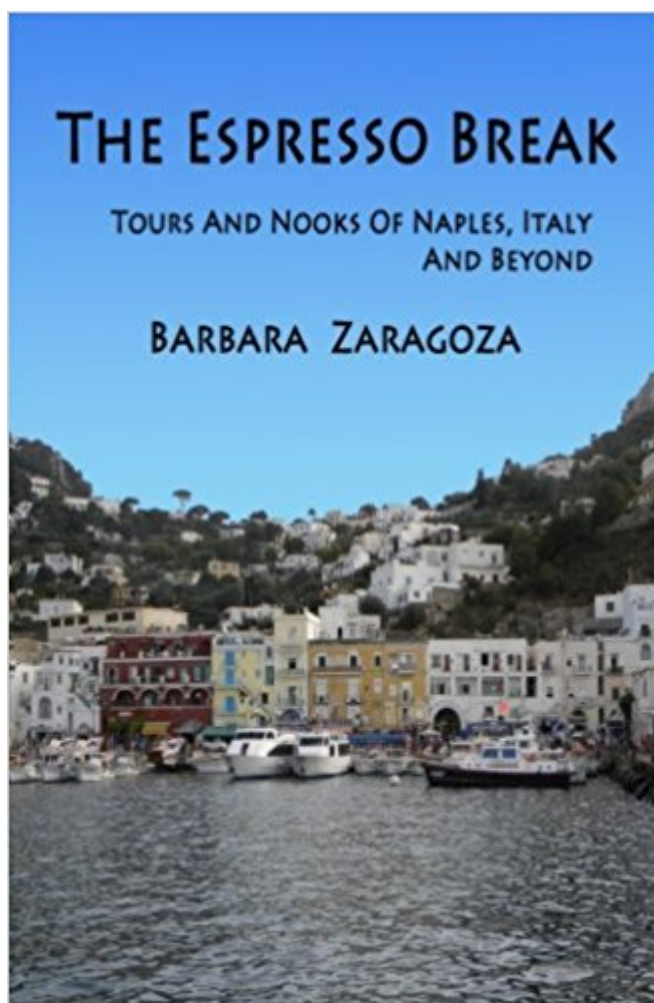


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# The Espresso Break: Tours And Nooks Of Naples, Italy And Beyond



## Synopsis

A Naples Travel Guide. Visit Hades and Purgatory, roam the ruins like the gluttonous Romans, or watch miracles happen. The Espresso Break takes you into the mythical land that is the oldest city in the Western World -- Naples, Italy -- and beyond.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this readable, entertaining information guide for tourists, Zaragoza takes readers from the heights of Mount Vesuvius to the ruins of Pompeii and beyond. Part atlas, part history lesson, part epicurean review, this comprehensive handbook to Naples is without peer. -Kirkus Reviews

Travelers often fear Naples, Italy and it can indeed be hard to manage through the crush of traffic, the Neapolitan dialect, and the streets that accommodate two thousand year old ruins rather than cars. I wanted to provide myth and lore along with pragmatic information to make any stay in Naples turn from frustration to wonder.

The Espresso Break is extremely detailed, but highlights sites and historic sites not often mentioned in the usual guidebooks. Particularly, as Naples is often a destination avoided or where at the most one would spend a day hitting only the more affluent areas of the city. Naples reputation as dirty, seedy, and crime ridden is probably overblown, but it can give one pause. While she recommends driving to many of the sites that she highlights, I, as a frequent visitor to Italy and Sicily, might avoid renting a car and cough up for a taxi if possible. GPS coordinates or addresses can often lead one down a grassy goatpath rather than at least a semi-paved "vicolo" where your tiny European rental

might pass. And this is with the most recent, updated Italian data card!!! The book makes for good reading with lots of accurate historical references. As a retired Navy wife, I applaud her delving into everything Neopolitan during her husband's posting. We did the same during almost 4 years on the island of Okinawa, Japan. Despite that island's only being 60 miles long and 15 miles wide, and planning an excursion every weekend, we were still experiencing awesome sites right up to the end of our stay. While my husband and I are Italophiles and have been to Italy at least 10 times, we have only experienced the train and ferry stations in the Naples area, bypassing the city while heading to the Amalfi Coast or returning to Rome. We plan to definitely experience Naples after reading *The Espresso Break*!!!

My niece and I were looking forward to going to the restaurant which, according to the *Espresso Break Tours* book, invented Pizza. Unfortunately, the author gives a completely incorrect address. We ended up checking online and had to walk across town to the correct address. The book is informative and interesting but is missing maps to allow you to organize your days or even realize where the places are that she describes. Again, the book is interesting, but lacks organization and requires you to read it in its entirety before you can start to organize your trip. There is no index to look up individual sights and very limited information over the individual sights. It focuses on sights outside of Naples and only brushes over the sights in Naples itself. Still, I enjoyed the history and stories that she writes and enjoyed the book. If you are hoping for clear day plans with lists of sights to see, you will be disappointed. Still, I have to end on a positive note as I truly enjoyed this book and all of the historical facts.

What a great find! This book covers many places, which major guidebooks do not, and shines them from an insider's view. Assuming a traveler like myself carries more than one guidebook, this one has become a great companion/supplemental guide while I was wondering around Napoli. In one occasion, I decided to venture out by looking for the little wine shop in the book; I left like my husband and I were on a treasure hunt! It's been almost a year since I took this book to Napoli, and I am about to go back there with it. *The Espresso Break* has brought many suggestions and has helped me appreciate the great city of Napoli and surrounding areas. Because I was very happy from the last year's trip, I ended up sending another copy to my dear friend who was interested in planning a trip there!

I purchased this book last year based on many of its rave reviews. An insider's guide to Napoli? Let

me at it. One of my favorite travel guides of all time is "City Secrets: Rome". The book is organized into walks or tours, which can be quite useful if that's the way you plan your travel. However, if you go off that path, that's where I've found the book lacking in direction or information. It's lack of illustrations, maps, and graphics also compounds the thinness on the subject matter. I'm also a huge fan of the Touring Club of Italy books (now out of date), and they have a lot of text that works on its own -- but with the aid of occasional good maps. This book is neither of those. Also disappointing is that the book offered little over and above what is already available for free from the author's original blog posts. I was hoping for a lot more out of these guides. But at best I found the material to be supplemental to other guides and not your first and primary guide to the region.

Awesomely great and essential guide to the things to see and do in a fascinating city and surrounding area for anyone who is willing to spend more than a day or two there to see more than the usual sights. (Do I need to add that Naples is pretty wonderful?) Espresso Break is full of interesting information, super directions, and a clear sense of the author's personality and tastes which are generously shared and wonderful to read. My only minor quibble is with the Kindle edition which is formatted well for the iPhone (my only experience of it) but lacks an easily referenced Table of Contents or index, which means a lot of backing and forthing, and sometimes annoying searching. Minor complaint tho; this is one of the best guidebooks (it even seems weird to call it that, because it is SO much more) I've ever used.

Since I live in Naples, Italy I was looking for a book that would provide me with off the beaten path things to see and do besides the typical "touristy areas". This has been my favorite local guide book and has provided a lot of insight and information to places we might not have otherwise seen. Highly recommend!

No place like Napoli and no better guide.

Like having a knowledgeable friend take you around Naples, this book offered ideas for famous, infamous and little-known sites you will be pleased to discover.

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