



REGGIA DI CASERTA

GUIDE TO VISIT TO
ROYAL PALACE, CASERTA AND SURROUNDINGS



CASERTA

Caserta originated in the Middle Ages as a mountain village, but in modern times, depopulation and commercial needs forced the town to move further down the valley, to the site of the pre-existing village called "La Torre." Over the centuries, due to feudal changes, its ownership passed **from the Acquaviva family to the Caetani family of Sermoneta**, until the fiefdom was purchased by King **Charles of Bourbon**. This marked the beginning of a project that included not only the construction of the Royal House, but also the design of the city's urban plan, entrusted to the architect **Luigi Vanvitelli**: modern Caserta was born. In the city of Caserta today, you can admire the Palazzo della Prefettura, once the residence of the Acquaviva family, located next to Piazza Vanvitelli, where the architect's statue stands; the Fascist-era War Memorial; Corso Trieste with its historic buildings; and Via Mazzini, a shopping center and home to MAC3, the city's Museum of Contemporary Art. Religious sites include the Cathedral of San Michele Arcangelo, and the churches of San Sebastiano and Sant'Anna.



Basilica of Sant'Angelo in Formis

12.7 km from Caserta
The Benedictine Basilica of Sant'Angelo in Formis was rebuilt in 1072 by the abbot of Montecassino, **Desiderio**, on the ruins of the ancient temple of Diana Tifatina. The mosaic floor of the temple remains, dated to 74 BC. The **frescoes** that cover the interior walls, with biblical themes, are the most important testimony of Campanian pictorial culture in the last three decades of the 11th century.
www.touringclub.it/destinazione/localita/chiesa/170812/basilica-of-s-angelo-in-formis-capua

Museum Campano of Capua

14 km from Caserta
Much of Capua's rich and complex history is represented in the Museo Campano, founded in 1870. It houses precious archaeological collections ranging from prehistoric to modern times, including statues of **Matres Matutae**, a vast collection of epigraphs from the Campanian countryside, vases, bronzes, Norman-Swabian parchments, and Renaissance sculptures.
[www.provincia.caserta.it/Campanian museum/](http://www.provincia.caserta.it/Campanian%20museum/)



Campanian Amphitheater of Santa Maria Capua Vetere

8.4 km from Caserta
It is the second largest amphitheater in Italy after the Colosseum in Rome, famous for being home to the gladiator school that played a key role in Spartacus's revolt. It is part of the **Archaeological Circuit of Ancient Capua**, along with the nearby Archaeological Museum, which houses artifacts unearthed during excavations in the Capua area, and the underground Mithraeum, one of the most important sanctuaries in the world dedicated to the god Mithras, dating back to the 2nd century BC.
www.polomusealecampania.beniculturali.it/index.php/-amphitheater

San Leucio Belvedere

5.3 km from Caserta
About 5 km from Caserta lies the Monumental Complex of the Belvedere di San Leucio, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** along with the Royal Palace of Caserta since 1997. Conceived by Charles of Bourbon as a hunting reserve, the complex reached its peak under **Ferdinand IV**, who established a silk factory there to export its products worldwide. The workers were welcomed into the Royal Colony of San Leucio, governed by a special Statute: the king's vision was to create an **autonomous community free from social discrimination** and based on meritocracy.
www.comune.caserta.it/pagina698_belvedere-di-san-leucio.html



San Silvestro Forest

5.2 km from Caserta
Behind the Diana and Actaeon waterfall lies the Bosco di San Silvestro, which, together with the English Garden and the site of San Leucio, was part of the so-called "**Royal Delights**" annexed to the Royal Palace of Caserta. It was purchased by Charles of Bourbon in 1750 and used as a **hunting reserve and farm** by the sovereigns, who built the Royal Casino of San Silvestro there for this purpose between 1797 and 1801. The forest has been recognized as a Site of European Community Interest and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Since 1993, it has been a **WWF Oasis**.
www.laghiandaia.info/



Carolino Aqueduct

13.2 km from Caserta
Charles of Bourbon commissioned architect Luigi Vanvitelli to build a colossal aqueduct, named after him the Carolino Aqueduct, to meet the city's needs and feed the fountains of the Royal Palace. The result is a **grandiose feat of hydraulic engineering** modeled on ancient Roman aqueducts, which extends from its source on Mount Taburno along a 38 km route, mostly underground, with several canal bridges. Among these, the most impressive are those spanning the Maddaloni Valley, where the 529 m long tuff structure rises to a height of approximately 100 meters. The other most important bridges are the Ponte Carlo III in Moiano (BN), which crosses the Isclero River, and the Ponte della Valle in Durazzano (BN).

Casertavecchia

13.2 km from Caserta
Casertavecchia, the medieval center of Caserta, lies on the slopes of the Tifatini Mountains, approximately 13 km northeast of the city. The town reached its peak during Norman rule, as evidenced by the **Cathedral of San Michele Arcangelo**, built between 1113 and 1153. With the advent of the Bourbons and the construction of the Royal Palace of Caserta, Casertavecchia lost its centrality. Besides the Cathedral, the bell tower, the remains of the Norman Castle, and the town's streets are also noteworthy.
www.comune.caserta.it/pagina699_borgo-di-casertavecchia.html



Royal Estate of Carditello

14 km from Caserta
Approximately 14 km from the Royal Palace of Caserta lies the Royal Site of Carditello, also known as the Royal Palace of Carditello. Conceived by Charles of Bourbon as a breeding ground for prized horse breeds, Ferdinand IV transformed it into a large **agricultural and dairy farm**, encompassing woodlands, pastures, and arable land. The estate was designed in 1787 by Francesco Collecini and decorated by the court painter Jacob Philipp Hackert.

The area in front, intended as a **horse track**, is embellished with fountains, obelisks and a small circular temple.

www.fondazionecarditello.org/website/



Archaeological Museum of Calatia

8.9 km from Caserta
Located in the municipality of **Maddaloni**, the Archaeological Museum reconstructs the history of Calatia, an Etruscan city that became strategic in Roman times due to its position along the Appian Way, through finds dating from the 8th century BC to the 3rd century AD, using multimedia. The exhibition is made more precious by the historic building in which it is located, the **Casino of the Carafa della Stadera dukes**, who had Maddaloni as a fiefdom since 1465. Originally a farmhouse, the Casino often hosted King Charles of Bourbon on his frequent hunting trips. The building's precious decorative features have been restored.

www.museoarcheologicocalatia.beniculturali.it

REGGIA DI CASERTA

VISIT INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS
APARTMENTS REAL
Opening hours: 8:30 am – 7:30 pm
Ticket office closes: 6:30 PM
Last admission: **6:30 PM**
Exit from the museum: 7:25 PM
Closed on Tuesdays

VISITS
Audio guides for adults
Apartments **€5**
Audio guides for adults
Royal Park **€5**
Audio guides for children **€4**
Scheduled educational visits
(1 h 20 min): **€10 per person**
including earphones
Earphones-silencers (mandatory)
(for groups with a guide (more than 6
visitors) **€2 per person**
For information, contact Opera Laboratori
at the main entrance

AVERAGE TRAVEL TIMES
Apartments **1 h 30 min.**

ACCESSIBILITY
Access from Piazza Carlo di Borbone.
Elevator for exclusive use.
Visits and educational assistance.

ACTIVITY EDUCATIONAL
School activities require reservations. For
information and reservations, please call
0823 448 084 or email
caserta@operalaboratori.com.

TICKET OFFICE
The purchase of the ticket tacitly
implies knowledge and
acceptance of the Visit Regulations,
which can be consulted on the website
www.reggiadicaserta.beniculturali.it

TOILET

WARDROBE
The service is free and
open every day
from 8:30 to 19:00.

BABY PIT-STOP

BOOKSHOP

INFO POINT

RESTAURANT

The Management reserves the right to
suspend the ticket whenever there
is a risk to the safety of people and the
protection of the Monument.

Piazza Carlo di Borbone 81100 Caserta CE
re-ce@beniculturali.it
reggiadicaserta.cultura.gov.it
For information and reservations
+39 0823 448084



BEHAVIORS TO FOLLOW FOR YOUR SAFETY

WEAR THE MASK

GET YOURSELF MEASURED BODY TEMPERATURE

SANITIZE YOUR HANDS

AVOID CROWDS



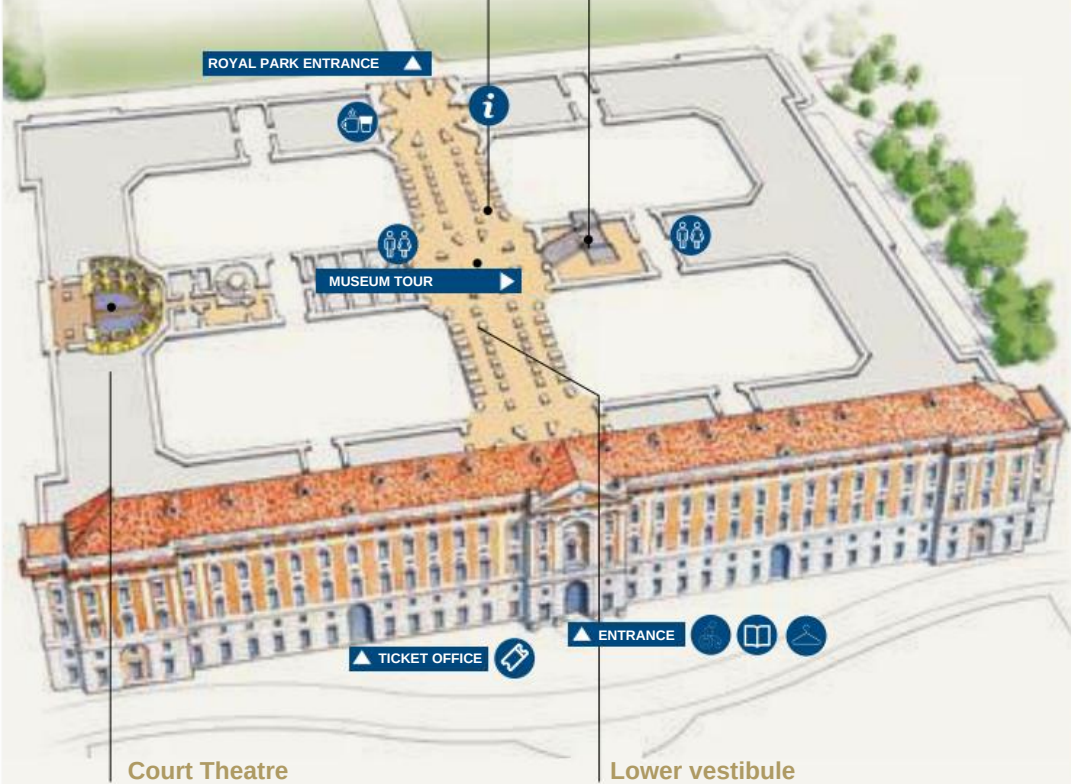
Telescope

The ground floor of the Palace is crossed by a long, three-aisled gallery, which longitudinally cuts across the four internal courtyards. The central gallery, intended for carriages, creates a **perspective telescope** connecting Piazza Carlo di Borbone with the Royal Park, framing the Via d'Acqua in the background, a long avenue articulated with a succession of fountains, pools, and artificial waterfalls that seem to stretch into infinity, culminating in the Diana and Actaeon waterfall.

Grand Staircase

A perfect synthesis of classicism and Baroque theatrical scenography, the Scalone d'Onore is the heart of the Palace. The central staircase, guarded by two marble lions, symbols of the strength of arms and reason, divides into two lateral ramps leading to the Royal Apartments. Three sculptures stand out on the back wall: one by Tommaso Solari in the center, **Majesty** Direction flanked on the left by one by Gaetano Salomone, representing **Merit** by Andrea Violani and on the right from **Truth** the virtues a good sovereign must possess. The vault of the Grand Staircase, frescoed by Girolamo Starace Franchis, was used to accommodate musicians to triumphantly welcome the royal procession.

lower floor



Court Theatre

Conceived after the Palace's design, the Court Theatre was inaugurated in 1769, during Carnival, by Ferdinand IV and Maria Carolina, who staged numerous performances there. The hall has the classic horseshoe shape, with five tiers of boxes richly decorated with cherubs and festoons by Gaetano Magri, and a sumptuous royal box. The stage door opens onto the Royal Park, creating a suggestive natural setting.

At the center of the vault is the fresco by **chickenat** step on the python Crescenzo La Gamba. The scenery was painted by **Antonio Joli**. Ferdinand IV appointed the musician **Giovanni Paisiello** as Chamber and Chapel Master .



Lower vestibule

Halfway down the Gallery, the central hub and focal point of the Royal Palace, lies the octagonal lower vestibule, offering dramatic views of the four internal courtyards and access to the Grand Staircase. The vestibule houses four marble statues of classical subjects, sculpted between 1759 and 1773 by **Andrea Violani** and **Tommaso Solari**.

In the niche on the left is a fifth statue from the Roman era, among the largest from antiquity: it is 3 m tall, coming from **Hercules to rest** the Baths of Caracalla and belonging to the Farnese collection, inherited by Charles of Bourbon from his maternal family.



ROYAL PALACE OF CASERTA

The Royal Palace of Caserta is a vast monumental complex encompassing a rich architectural, artistic, and natural heritage. It includes the Royal Palace, the Royal Park, the English Garden, the Bosco di San Silvestro, and the Carolino Aqueduct. Along with the Royal Belvedere of San Leucio, the Royal Palace of Caserta has been a **World Heritage Site since 1997**.

In 1751, **Charles of Bourbon**, King of Naples, commissioned the architect **Luigi Vanvitelli** to build the project . In Charles's bold vision, the Royal Palace of Caserta was to be a new city for the Court, for ministries, and for the highest institutions of culture and justice, the **symbol of the new Bourbon state**, powerful and grandiose, yet also modern and efficient. Not simply the construction of a palace, but a territorial operation that would characterize the landscape and urban planning of the chosen location. The Caserta plain, with its fertile lands, located at the foot of the Tifatini mountains, rich in forests and game, and not far from Naples, was identified as the ideal site for realizing this ambitious European-wide program.



Terrae Motus

Following the seismic events that devastated Campania and Basilicata in 1980, Neapolitan gallery owner **Lucio Amelio** gathered leading international contemporary artists to commemorate the tragedy with an exhibition aimed at creating "a continuous earthquake of the soul." The exhibition was shown in Boston, Ercolano, and Paris before being donated to the Royal Palace of Caserta in 1993. Currently, the works from the collection are displayed on rotation in the Royal Apartments.

Throne Room



It is the largest room in the palace, approximately 40 meters long, and was intended for public audiences. Work began in 1811 under the architect Pietro Bianchi, but was not completed until 1845, on the occasion of the VII International Congress of Sciences, commissioned by **Ferdinand II**. The pomp of the Bourbon court is evident in the abundant use of gold in the decorations, which include portraits of the Kings of Naples on the architrave and the coats of arms of the Kingdom's provinces. At the back of the room is a blue velvet throne. The vault frescoed by Gennaro Maldarelli depicts

The laying of the foundationstone of the Palace on January 20, 1752.

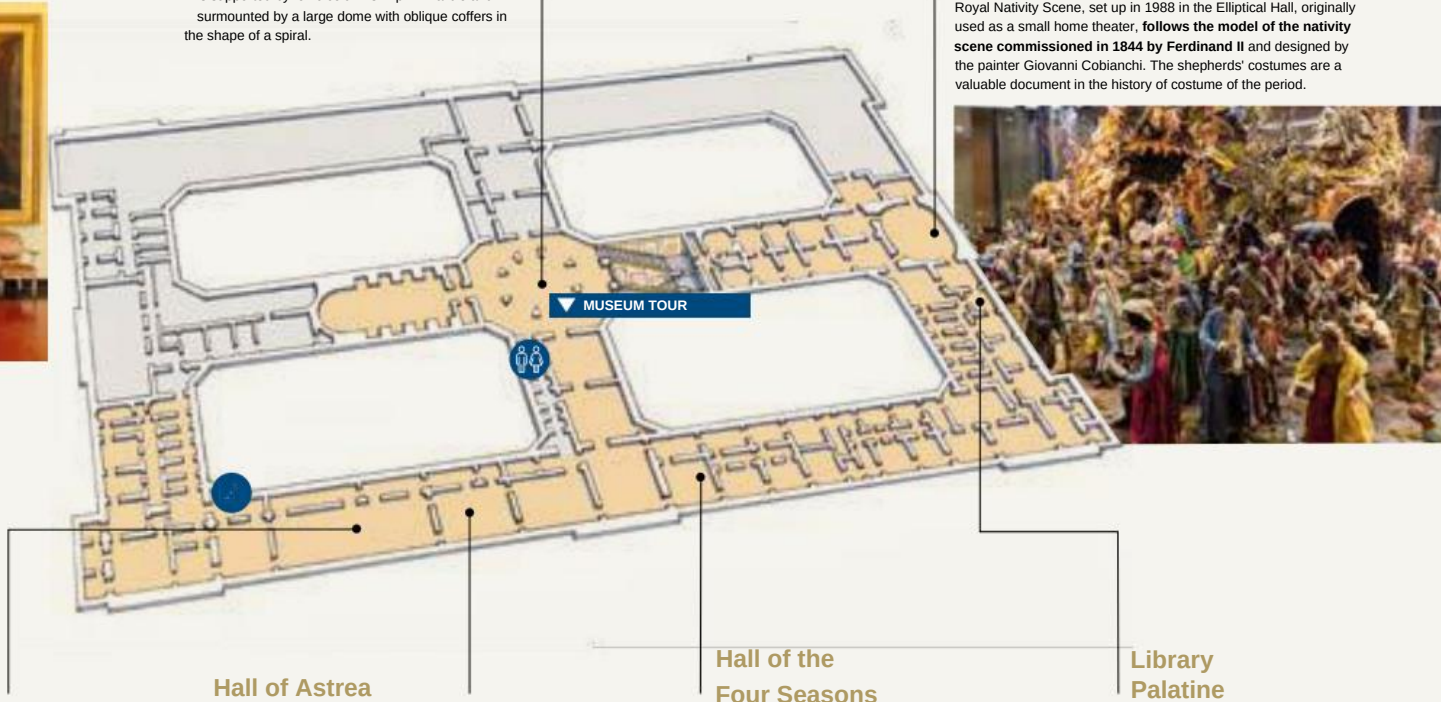


Upper vestibule

Mirroring the lower vestibule but illuminated by four windows overlooking the internal courtyards, the upper vestibule is the focal point where the middle arms meet, creating changing and dramatic perspectives. From here, one enters the **Palatine Chapel** and the **Royal Apartments**.

The octagonal structure, with intersecting barrel vaults, is supported by Ionic columns in pink marble and surmounted by a large dome with oblique coffers in the shape of a spiral.

main floor



Hall of Astrea



Along with the Hall of Mars, which precedes it, it is a neoclassical antechamber that leads to the King's Quarters. The decoration of the room was commissioned by **Joachim Murat** from the architect Antonio De Simone. Its name derives from the mythical goddess of justice depicted in the painting on the vault, by Jacques Berger, and in one of the groups of gilded stucco high reliefs that fill the short walls. It was intended for diplomatic activities.



These are the four antechambers of the Crown Prince's Quarter, so named for the allegorical frescoes that adorn their ceilings, painted by Antonio de Dominicis and Fedele Fischetti. The white and gold furnishings were created by Gennaro Fiore and Bartolomeo di Natale between 1780 and 1784. The Spring Room and the Winter Room, the first and last along the route, respectively, house paintings by **Jakob Philipp Hackert**, a European-renowned landscape painter appointed court painter by Ferdinand IV.

Library Palatine



Commissioned by **Maria Carolina of Habsburg**, wife of Ferdinand IV, the Palatine Library comprises two reading rooms and three reference rooms, which contain over fourteen thousand volumes among the most significant of European and Neapolitan culture, to which were added in the nineteenth century the acquisitions of Joachim Murat and then of Ferdinand II. In the Third Hall are the classically inspired frescoes painted in 1782 by the German painter **Heinrich Friedrich Füger**. The eighteenth-century vases from the Giustiniani Factory, modeled on the finds from Pompeii and Herculaneum, contribute to the neoclassical style.