

Researchers Uncover a Bathhouse Complex in Ancient Pompeii

今回は、古代ローマ都市ポンペイで発見された大規模な浴場施設のニュースです。瓦礫の中から発掘された浴場には、宴会場などを備えた複数の部屋も発見され、当時の富裕層が楽しんだ複合施設だったようですね。日本の温泉文化と同様に古代ローマでも入浴はリラックスや社交の場だったのかもしれませんが。意外と言えない、bury (埋める) wreckage (瓦礫) やcomplex (複合施設) などの単語もぜひ覚えておきましょう。特に、「bury」の発音は間違えやすいので要チェックです！



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Archeological research has uncovered another treasure of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii: a large private bathhouse.

The explosion of Mount Vesuvius in 70 AD buried Pompeii in thick ash, [wreckage](#), and lava, or hot liquid rock. Archeologists are continuing to find remains of the city under the ground.

The bathhouse was part of a large private house, the scientists said. The bathhouse holds a series of rooms that would have provided hot, warm, or cold conditions. The art and design of the [complex](#), including mosaic works, also suggest the owner was wealthy.

“We have here perhaps the largest [thermal](#) complex in a private house in Pompeii,” said Gabriel Zuchtriegel, director of the Pompeii Archaeological Park.

He explained that Pompeii’s powerful and wealthy set up large spaces at their homes to hold major gatherings for ceremonies and other purposes.

"It was an opportunity to show the wealth in which they lived and also to have a nice thermal treatment," he said.

The baths were **unearthed** in the so-called Regio IX, a large central area of Pompeii Park that is still unexplored.

Recently, archeologists working in the same area found a bakery, a laundry and two homes. They also found the bones of three people who died in the volcanic burst.

Pompeii was not the only city destroyed in the explosion. It also **buried** the city of Herculaneum.

Zuchriegel said wealthy citizens of Pompeii often would first take a bath and then attend a banquet, or a big meal. The private thermal complex permitted them to do so together at the home where the banquet was held.

"There is room for about 30 people who could do the whole routine, and that could also be done in public baths. So there is the caldarium, a very warm environment, and also a large tub with cold water," he said.

I'm Caty Weaver.

The Associated Press reported this story. Caty Weaver adapted it for VOA Learning English.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. wreckage (n.) badly damaged parts of buildings or other objects

After the powerful typhoon passed, people searched the wreckage for their belongings.

2. complex (n.) a large, well-organized set of buildings

There are three parts to the temple complex, and they were built many years apart.

3. thermal (adj.) related to a hot spring

The Japanese city of Beppu is famous for its thermal baths.

4. unearth (v.) to discover and dig up out of the ground

Scientists have unearthed a very old collection of jewelry and swords in eastern England.

5. bury (v.) to put in the ground and cover with dirt

We buried the treasure on a sea cliff under a large cypress tree.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What happened to Pompeii in 70 AD?
2. What are the features of the thermal bath described in this article?
3. Why did the wealthy people of Pompeii have such fancy baths built?
4. What kinds of features do thermal baths in Japan have?
5. What are the benefits of a hot springs (both the springs itself and the baths that use it)?