REGGIA DI CASERTA

INFO FOR YOUR VISIT

ROYAL APARTMENTS TIMES
Opening: **8.30 - 19.30**
Ticket office closing: **18.00**
Last entry: **18.15**
Exit from the Museum: **19.25**
Closed every tuesday

AVERAGE VISIT TIMES
Royal Apartments **2 h 30 min.**

ACCESSIBILITY
Access from Piazza Carlo di Borbone
Elevator up to the Royal Floor.
Visits and educational assistance.

TICKET OFFICE
The purchase of the ticket implies the acceptance of the Visitor Regulations, which can be consulted on reggiadicaserta.cultura.gov.it

CLOAK ROOM
The service is free of charge and open every day from **8.30** to **18.30**

BOOKSHOP

RESTAURANT

VISITS
Royal Apartments audioguides
for adults **€ 5**
Royal Park audioguides
for adults **€ 5**
Children audioguides **€ 4**
Scheduled educational visits including headphones
(1 h and 20 minutes): **€ 10 per person**
In ear noise silencers (compulsory for guided groups of more than 6 visitors): **€ 2 per person**
For more info, contact Opera Laboratori at the central entrance

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
School activities
reservation required.
For info and reservations
+39 0823 448084
or send an email to
caserta@operalaboratori.com

TOILETS

CONFERENCE HALL "TERRA DI LAVORO"

EDU LAB

The Direction reserves the right to close parts of the Museum whenever there is a danger to the safety of people and the safeguard of the Monument.

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

MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA | DIPARTIMENTO PER LA VALORIZZAZIONE CULTURALE

MUSEI ITALIANI | unesco World Heritage Site | We support the Sustainable Development Goals

SCAN THE QR CODE AND READ THE VISIT REGULATIONS

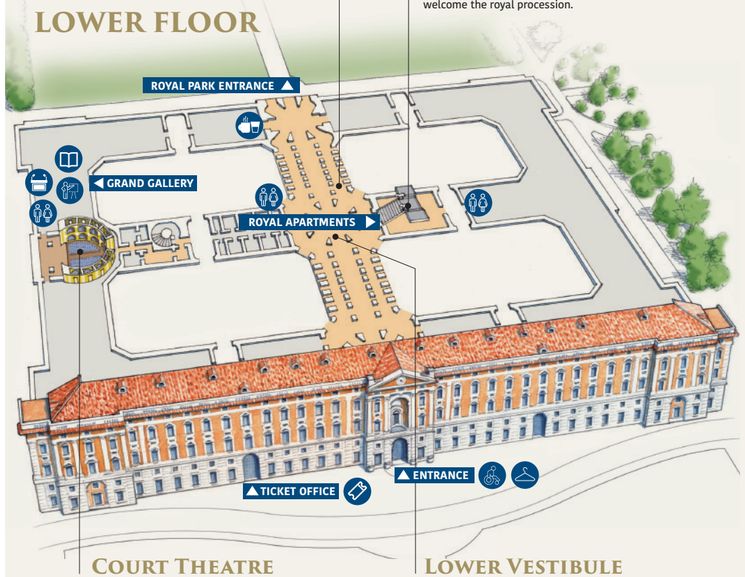
TELESCOPE

The ground floor of the Palace is crossed by a long gallery with three naves, that cuts longitudinally the four courtyards. The central gallery, destined to the passage of the carriages, creates a **perspective telescope** that connects Charles of Bourbon's square with the Royal Park, with "Via d'Acqua" in the background, a very long tree-lined avenue with fountains and artificial waterfalls that ends with the waterfall of Diana and Actaeon.

ROYAL STAIRCASE

The Royal Staircase is the heart of the Palace, and it is the perfect combination between classicism and Baroque theatrical scenography. The central flight of stairs, with the two marble lions, symbols of the strength of arms and of the reason, is divided into two lateral flights of stairs that lead to the Royal Apartments. On the back wall there are three sculptures: ***Maestà Regia*** by Tommaso Solari in the center, ***Merito*** by Andrea Violani on the left and ***Veritas*** by Gaetano Salomone on the right, representations of the virtues that the good king had. On the vault of the Royal Staircase, frescoed with the "Reggia di Apollo" by Girolamo Starace Franchis, the musicians stood to triumphantly welcome the royal procession.

LOWER FLOOR



COURT THEATRE

The court theatre was designed after the planning of the Palace and it was inaugurated in 1769, at Carnival, by Ferdinand IV and Maria Carolina, enthusiast to stage many plays. The theatre is shaped like a horseshoe, with five orders of boxes, luxuriously decorated with putti and festoons by Gaetano Magri and a sumptuous royal stage. Through the stage door it is visible the Royal Park, creating a suggestive natural scenography. In the center of the vault there is the fresco "*Apollo che calpesta il pitone*" by Crescenzo La Gamba. The scenery was made by the painter **Antonio Joli**. Ferdinand IV nominated the musician **Giovanni Paisiello** "Maestro di Camera e di Cappella".

LOWER VESTIBULE

In the middle of the Gallery, the center of the Royal Palace, there is the inferior vestibule, octagonal in shape, with scenography perspectives facing the four courtyards and accessing to the Royal Staircase. In the vestibule, there are four classic marble statues, made from 1759 to 1773 by **Andrea Violani** and **Tommaso Solari**. In the recess on the left there is a fifth statue of the Roman times, one of the biggest of the ancient times: "***Ercole a riposo***", three meters high, found at the thermal baths of Caracalla and belonged to the Farnese art collection, inherited by Charles Bourbon from the maternal family.

The Reggia di Caserta is a huge, monumental building that includes an important architectural, artistic and natural heritage. It consists of the Royal Palace, the Royal Park, the English Garden, the Wood of San Silvestro and the Caroline Aqueduct. Together with the "Belvedere of San Leucio", the Reggia di Caserta is **World Heritage Site** since 1997.

In 1751, **Charles of Bourbon**, king of Naples, commissioned the construction of the project to the architect **Luigi Vanvitelli**. Charles wanted the Royal Palace of Caserta to be the new city of the Court and the symbol of the cultural and justice institutions, the **symbol of the new Bourbon government**, powerful and magnificent, but also modern and efficient. It wasn't only the construction of a palace, but a change of the whole area. The plain of Caserta with its fertile land, at the foot of Tifatini mountains, rich in woods and wild game, and not far from Naples, was indicated as the ideal place for the ambitious project.

TERRAE MOTUS

After the seismic events that devastated Campania and Basilicata in 1980, the art gallery owner **Lucio Amelio** mustered the most important international contemporary artists to commemorate the tragedy with an exposition for the creation of a "continuous soul's earthquake". The art exhibition was shown in Boston, Ercolano and Paris, before being given to the Reggia di Caserta in 1993. The pieces of the art collection are exhibited in the Royal Apartments.

SUPERIOR VESTIBULE

The superior vestibule is the center of the Royal Palace with spectacular perspectives, and it is illuminated by four glass windows that overlook the courtyards. From here, there is access to the **Palatine Chapel** and to the **Royal Apartments**. The structure is octagonal with pink marble Ionian columns and a big dome with a spiral-shaped ceiling coffer.

THE ROYAL PALACE

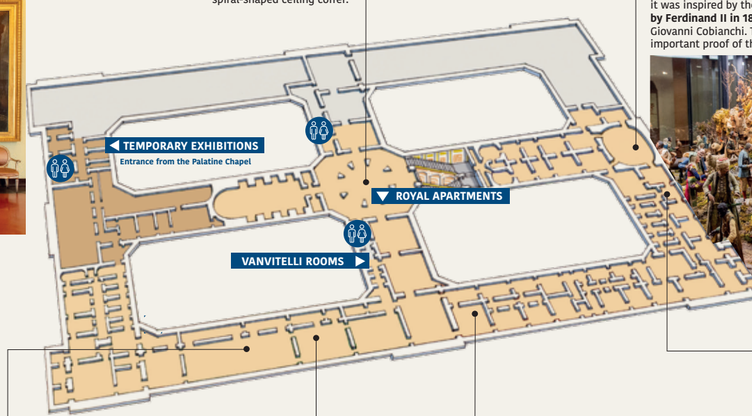
The building of the Royal Palace began on **20 January 1752**, but Vanvitelli died before its completion. The construction continued under the watch of his son Charles. The Palace has a rectangular plan of about 47.000 m2 and it has five floors with a total height of 40 meters. The interior space is divided into four courtyards. On the first floor, or "**Piano Reale**", there were the Apartments, that Vanvitelli divided into different rooms for the members of the royal family. The **Rooms of the Crown Prince** were the only rooms used by the Bourbons since 1780, when Ferdinand IV and the wife Maria Carolina took up residence.

The **Rooms of the King** were completed around the mid-19th century. The Palace overlooks a big elliptical square where there were musters and tournaments and the Royal Park, connected by a suggestive telescope.

NATIVITY SCENE

The Bourbons loved the ancient tradition of the nativity scene, so every year they set it up in the Reggia di Caserta, with a competition among the court artisans and the sovereigns too. The current Royal Nativity Scene, set up in 1988 in the Elliptical Room, initially used as "puppet show", it was inspired by the **Christmas nativity's model wanted by Ferdinand II in 1844** and designed by the painter Giovanni Cobianchi. The clothes of the shepherds are an important proof of the custom clothing of the time.

ROYAL FLOOR



THRONE ROOM

It is the widest room of the Palace, about 40 m long, destined to the public meetings. The works, started in 1811 with the architect Pietro Bianchi, were finished only in 1845, on the VII International Sciences Conference demanded by **Ferdinand II**. The splendor of the bourbon court is shown through the abundant use of the gold in the decorations, that includes the portraits of the Kings of Naples on the architrave and the coats of arms of the areas of the Kingdom. At the bottom of the room there is the throne in sky blue velvet. The vault is decorated with the fresco "*La posa della prima pietra del palazzo il 20 gennaio 1752*" by Gennaro Maldarelli.

ASTREA'S ROOM

Together with the precedent room of Mars *(Sala di Marte)*, the Astrea's Room is a neoclassical anteroom that leads to the King's Rooms. The room's decoration was commissioned by **Gioacchino Murat** to the architect Antonio De Simone. The name derives from the mythical goddess of justice illustrated in the painting on the vault, by Jacques Berger, and in one of the high-reliefs made of golden stucco. It was destined to the diplomatic activities.

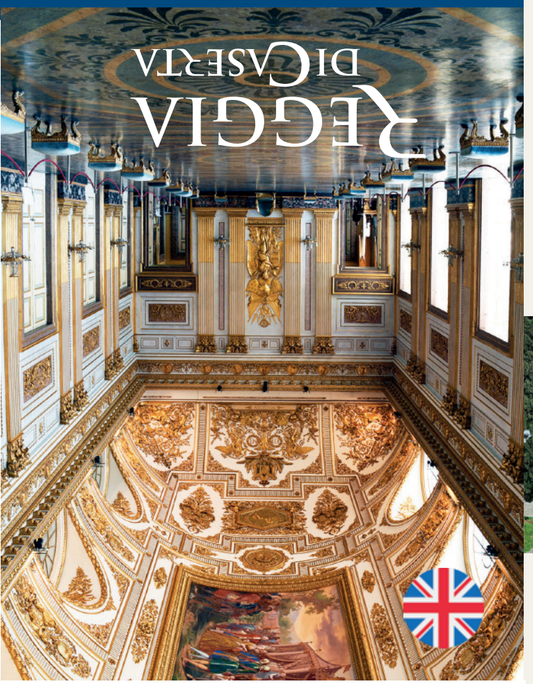
ROOMS OF THE FOUR SEASONS

They are the four anterooms of the rooms of the Crown Prince, so called for the allegorical frescos on the ceilings, by Antonio De Dominicis and Fedele Fischetti. The white and gold furniture were made by Gennaro Fiore and Bartolomeo Di Natale from 1780 to 1784. In the Spring room and the Winter room, which are the first and the last ones along the itinerary, there are paintings by **Jakob Philipp Hackert**, an international famous landscape painter named court painter by Ferdinand IV.

PALATINE LIBRARY

The Palatine library was wanted by **Maria Carolina of Hapsburg**, wife of Ferdinand IV, and it includes two reading rooms and three consultation rooms, where there are more than 14000 volumes, the most important of the European and Neapolitan culture, to which other volumes were added by Gioacchino Murat and Ferdinand II in the XIX century. In the third room there are neoclassical frescos by the German painter **Heinrich Friedrich Füger** in 1782. Also, the eighteenth-century vases of "Fabbrica Giustiniani" creates a neoclassical style, that imitate the finds of Pompei and Ercolano).

VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE
ROYAL PALACE, CASERTA
AND SURROUNDINGS



CASERTA

In the Medieval Age, Caserta was a mountain village, but in the Modern Age because of depopulation and commercial needs the residential area moves to the valley, where there was a village called "La Torre". Over the centuries, because of feudal alternation, its possession went from **Acquaviva to Caetani di Sermoneta**, until the feud was bought by the king **Charles of Bourbon**. It is the beginning of a project that establishes not only the building of the Royal Palace, but also the design of the city plan, entrusted to the architect **Luigi Vanvitelli**: the modern city of Caserta develops.
Today in the city of Caserta there are the Prefecture, where Acquaviva lived, near Vanvitelli Square, whose name derives from the statue of the architect built in its centre; the war memorial erected to the victims of fascism; Corso Trieste with many historical buildings; Mazzini Street, with many shops and the headquarters of Mac3, the Museum of contemporary art of the city. Among the religious places there are the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, the churches of St. Sebastian and St. Anne.

Basilica of Sant'Angelo in Formis

12,7 km from Caserta
The Benedictine church of Sant'Angelo in Formis was rebuilt from 1072 by the abbot of Montecassino, **Desiderio**, on the ruins of the ancient temple of Diana Tifatina (of which the mosaic floor– dated 74 b.C. - is the only part remained).
The biblical themed **frescos** on the internal walls are the most important proof of the pictorial culture of Campania in the last three decades of the XI century.

www.touringclub.it/destinazione/localita/chiesa/170812/basilica-di-s-angelo-in-formis-capua

Belvedere of San Leucio

5,3 km from Caserta
About 5 km from Caserta there is the monumental building of Belvedere of San Leucio, **world heritage** together with the Reggia di Caserta since 1997. Initially Charles of Bourbon wanted it to be a hunting reserve, but the complex was at its maximum splendour with **Ferdinand IV** who used it as a silk factory to export its manufacture all over the world. The workers were hosted in the Real Colonia of San Leucio ruled by a specific statute: the king's utopia was to create an **independent community without social discriminations** and based on meritocracy.

www.comune.caserta.it/pagina698_belvedere-di-san-leucio.html

Wood of San Silvestro

5,2 km from Caserta
Behind the waterfall of Diana and Actaeon, there is the wood of San Silvestro that, together with the English Garden and the site of San Leucio, was part of so-called "**Reali Delizie**" annexed to the Royal Palace of Caserta. It was bought by Charles of Bourbon in 1750 and used as a **hunting ground and a farm** by the sovereigns, who for this reason built the Real Casino of San Silvestro there, between 1797 and 1801. The Wood was declared site of interest of the European Community and UNESCO World Heritage. Since 1993 it is a **WWF oasis**.

www.laghiandaia.info/

Caroline Aqueduct

13,2 km from Caserta
Charles of Bourbon designated the architect Luigi Vanvitelli to build a colossal aqueduct, whose name it is dedicated to him, for the needs of the city and for the fountains of the Royal Palace. The result is a **magnificent work of hydraulic engineering**, based on the model of the ancient roman aqueduct, that from the sources of the Taburno mountain twists and runs for 38 km, mostly underground, with some bridges and canals. Among these ones, the most majestic are the "***Ponti della Valle***" that cross the Valle di Maddaloni, where the 529 m long structure built in tuff, rises up for a height of about 60 meters with round arches. Other important bridges are the Bridge of Charles III in Moiano (BN), that crosses the river Isclero, and the Bridge of Valle di Durazzano (BN).

Casertavecchia

13,2 km from Caserta
Casertavecchia, the centre of Caserta in the Middle Ages, is located at the slopes of the Tifatini mountains, about 13 km away to the north-east of Caserta. The village experienced its most splendour during the Norman domination, represented by the **Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel**, built between 1113 and 1153. When the Bourbons came to power and the building of the Royal Palace of Caserta started, Casertavecchia lost its centrality. Beside the Cathedral, there are other important buildings, such as the bell tower, the ruins of the Norman Castle and the streets of the village.

www.comune.caserta.it/pagina699_borgo-di-casertavecchia.html

Museum of Capua

14 km from Caserta
The richest part of the history of Capua is represented by the Museum, built in 1870. In the museum, there are valuable archeological collections from the prehistoric age to the modern age, including the statues of **Matres Matutae**, a large collection of epigraphs, vases, bronzes, Norman and Suevian parchments and sculptures of the Renaissance.

www.museocampanocapua.it/

Amphitheatre of Santa Maria Capua Vetere

8,4 km from Caserta
It is the second biggest italian amphitheatre, right after the Colosseum, famous for being the school of gladiators, protagonists of the revolt of Spartacus. It is part of the **archeological national site of the Ancient Capua** along with the near Archeological Museum, where there are the archeological finds brought to light during the archeological excavations in Capua, and in one of the most important sacred places dedicated to the god Mitra, dating to the II century b.C.

https://museicampania.cultura.gov.it/

The Real Estate of Carditello

14 km from Caserta
About 14 km away from the Royal Palace of Caserta, there is the Royal site of Carditello, also known as Royal Palace of Carditello. Initially designated by Charles Bourbon as a place of livestock of prized breeds of horses, Ferdinand IV transformed it into a **big farm and in a dairy farm**, that included woods, pastures and arable lands. The estate was designed in 1787 by Francesco Collecini and it was decorated by the court painter Jacob Philipp Hackert. The area in front of the palace, destined to be a **trail for the horses**, is decorated with fountains, obelisks and a little circular temple.

www.fondazionecarditello.org/website

Archeological Museum of Calatia

8,9 km from Caserta
The archeological Museum is located in **Maddaloni** and it recreates with a multimedia language the history of Calatia, an Etruscan city whose position along the Appian way, made it of crucial importance for the Romans, through archeological finds dating from the VIII century b.C. to III century a.C.
The exhibition is enriched by the historical building where it is placed, the **Casino of the dukes Carafa of Stadera**, lords of Maddaloni since 1465.
Born as large farm, the Casino often housed the king Charles of Bourbon in his frequent hunting trips. Only some parts of the building have been possible to recover, such as the valuable decorative apparatus.

www.museoarcheologicocalatia.beniculturali.it

ROME
CAPUA
MUSEUM OF CAPUA
AMPHITHEATRE
S. MARIA CAPUA VETERE
REAL ESTATE OF CARDITELLO
S. ANGELO IN FORMIS
S. LEUCIO
WOOD OF S. SILVESTRO
CASERTAVECCHIA
CASERTA
TRAIN STATION
CAROLINE AQUEDUCT
MADDALONI
ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF CALATIA
MARCIANISE
NAPLES
AFRAGOLA HIGH-SPEED STATION