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ROMAN THERMAE OF BAIA

History and Monuments

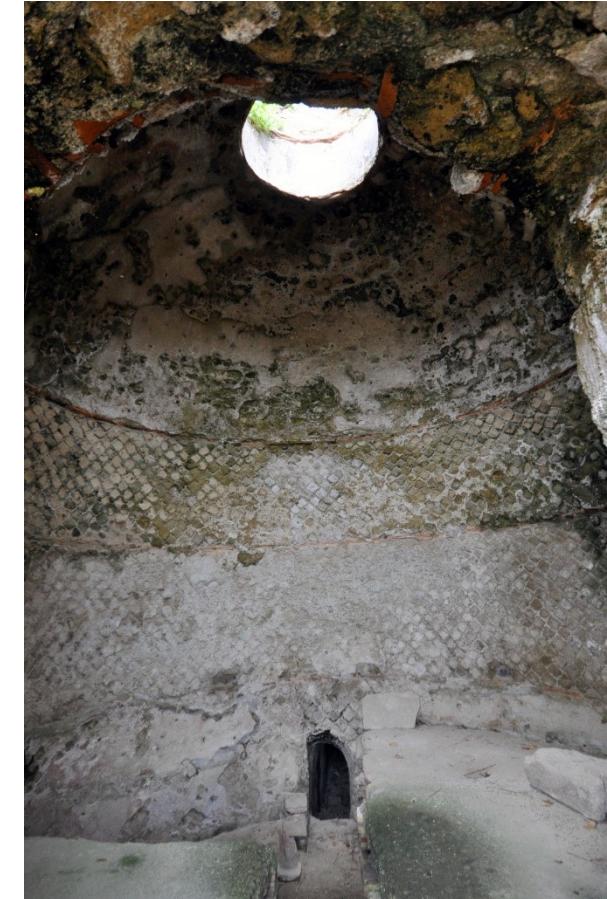
Baia Thermae Archaeological Park spreads over 3.5 hectares, representing the excavated area of the ancient Roman site.



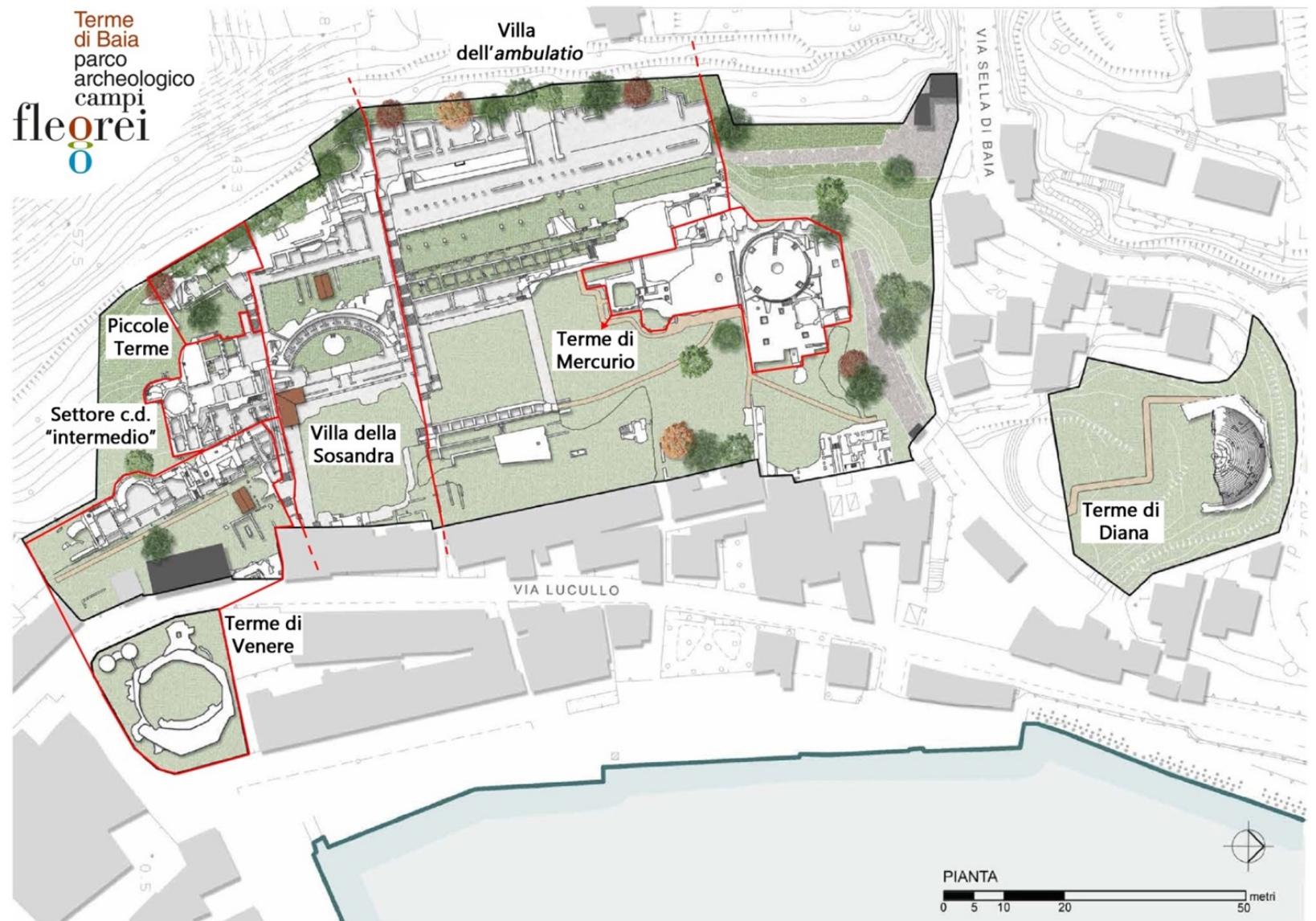
Buildings are located along the slope of an ancient volcano, rising to the top of the 50 meters high cliff with terraces linked by ramps and staircase.



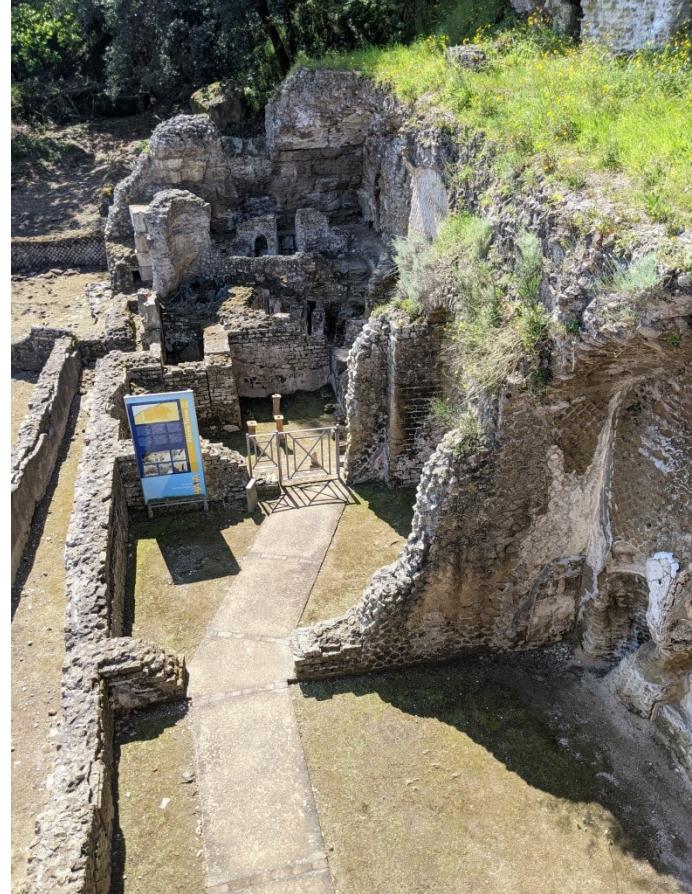
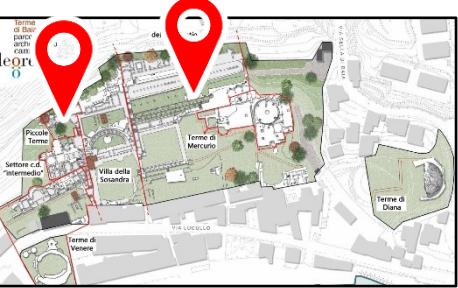
The thermal resource was well known since the origin of the site: first notice (II century b.C.) cites *Aquae Cumane*, as an health resource close to *Cuma*, the most important town of the area.



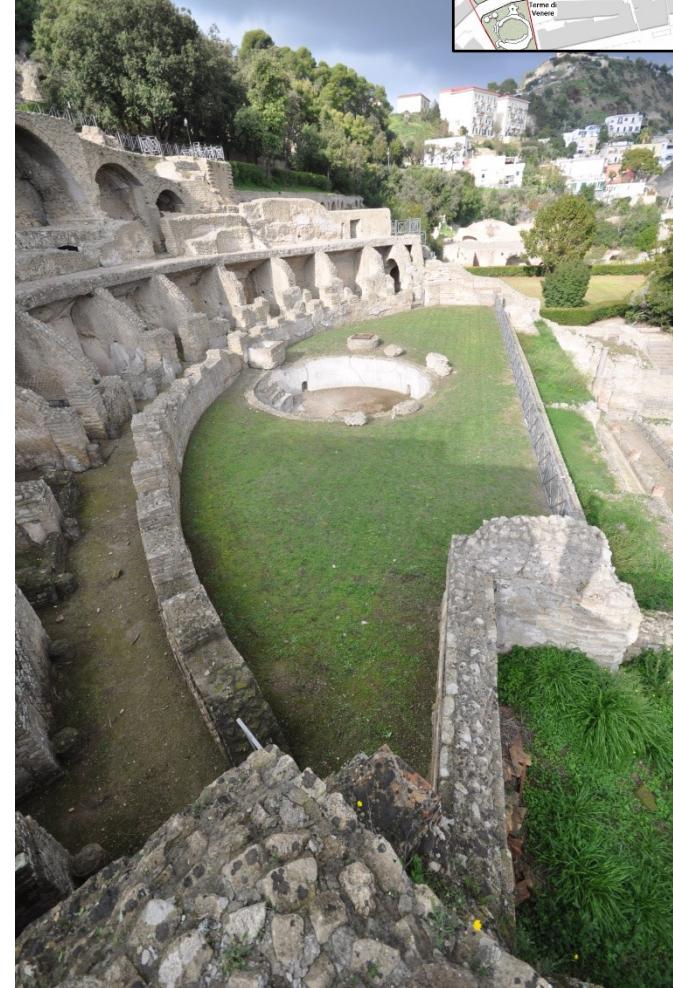
Seven complexes are today exposed:
5 thermae and 2 large villas,
built between II century b.C. and III sec. A.D.



Ambulatio Villa and Little Thermae are the older complexes, originally connected: a small thermal bath serving a majestic residence built on seven terraces.



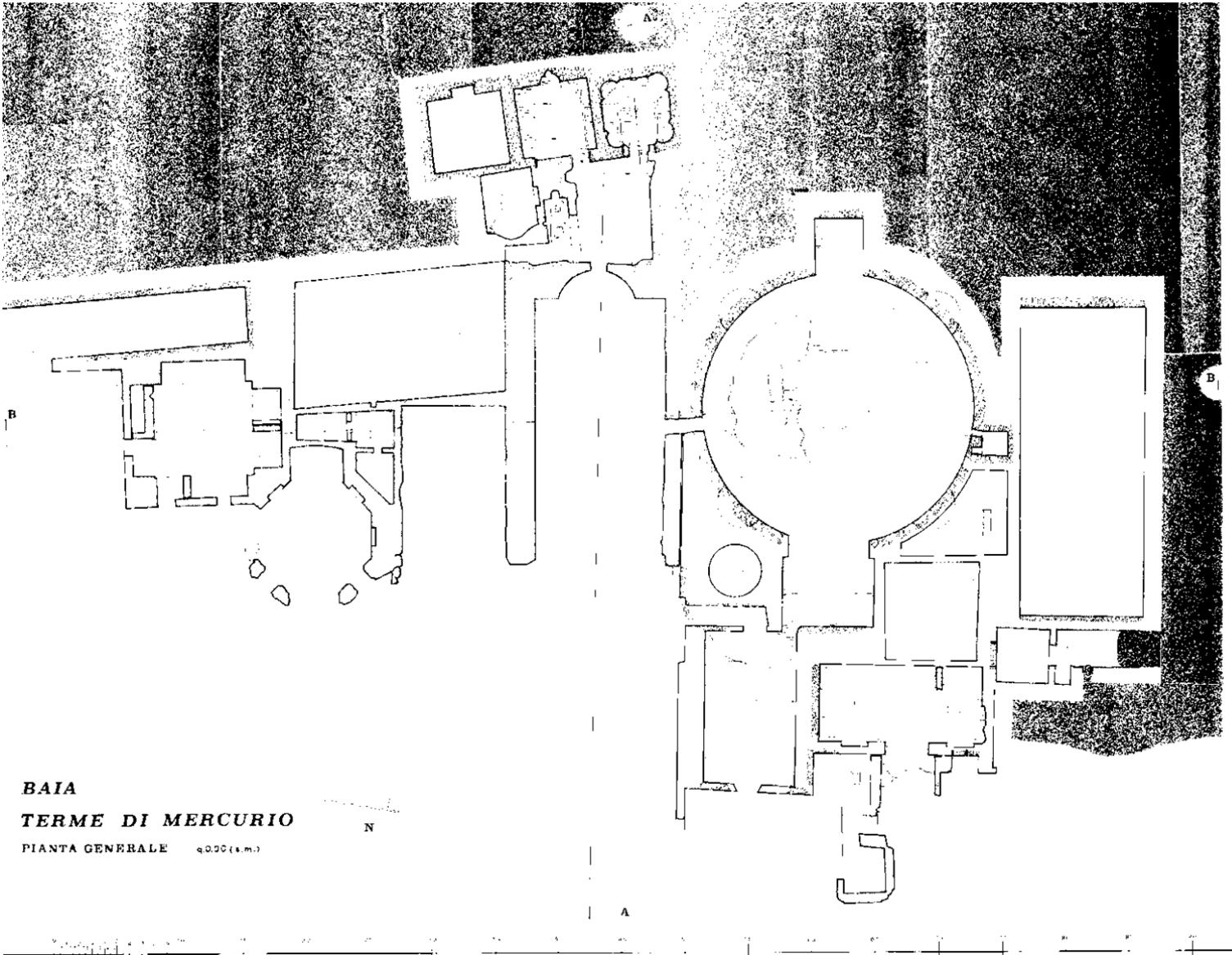
In-between, in the I century A.D., was built the *Villa della Sosandra*, with a wide exedra facing the sea.



The wealth of thermal resources led to the rise of majestic thermal complexes, with large domed halls.



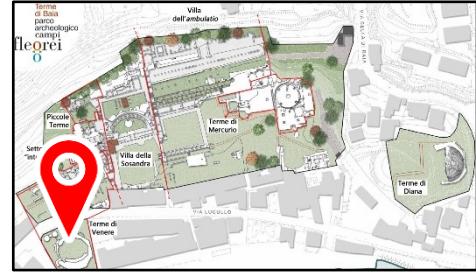
First came the *Mercurio Thermae*,
that took the place
of *Ambulatio*
Villa's garden.



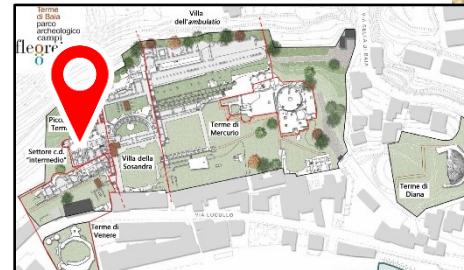
The complex is well-known for its dome, 20 meters wide; the first built so wide in roman age.



One century later were built the *Venus Thermae*: even this building, divided in two terraces, was domed (nowadays collapsed).



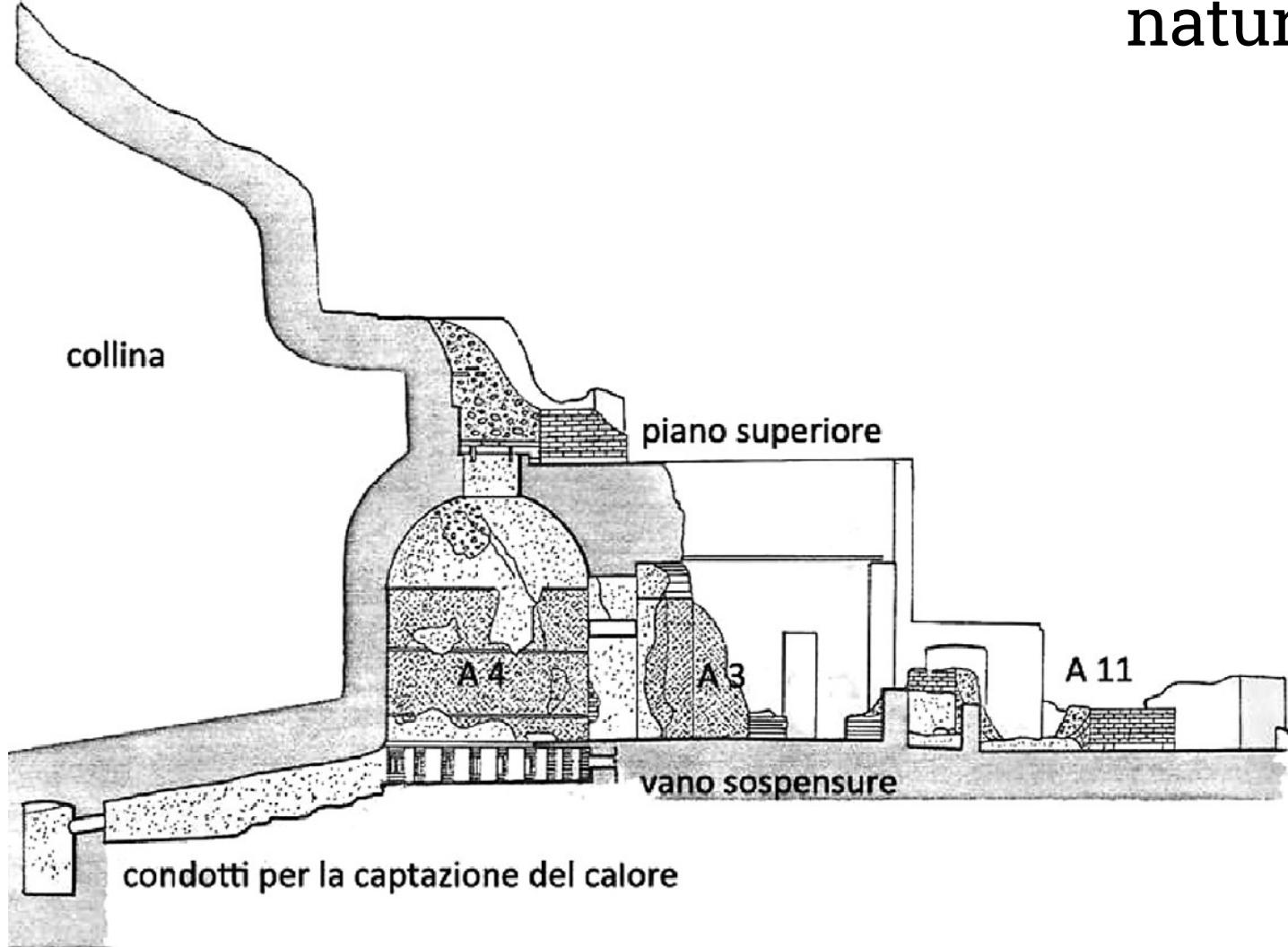
Shortly after the previous, the *intermediate Thermae* arose: their name derives from the position, between *Venus T.* and *little T.* They were built on a single wide and panoramic terrace.



The last are the *Diana Thermae*. Half of the big dome is collapsed and the rest of the complex is still to be excavated.

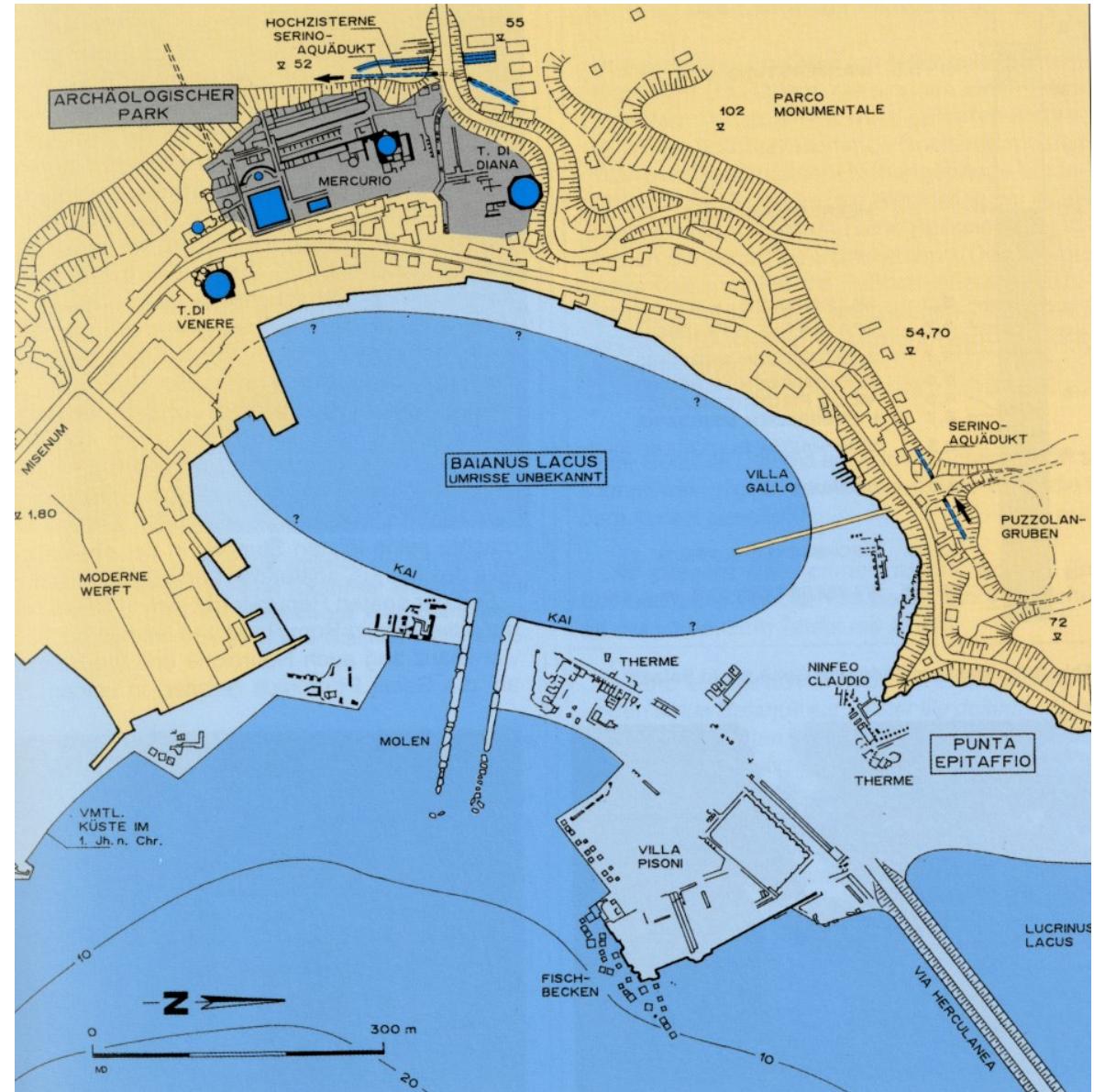


The Roman Thermae of Baia exploited natural hot springs, without ovens.

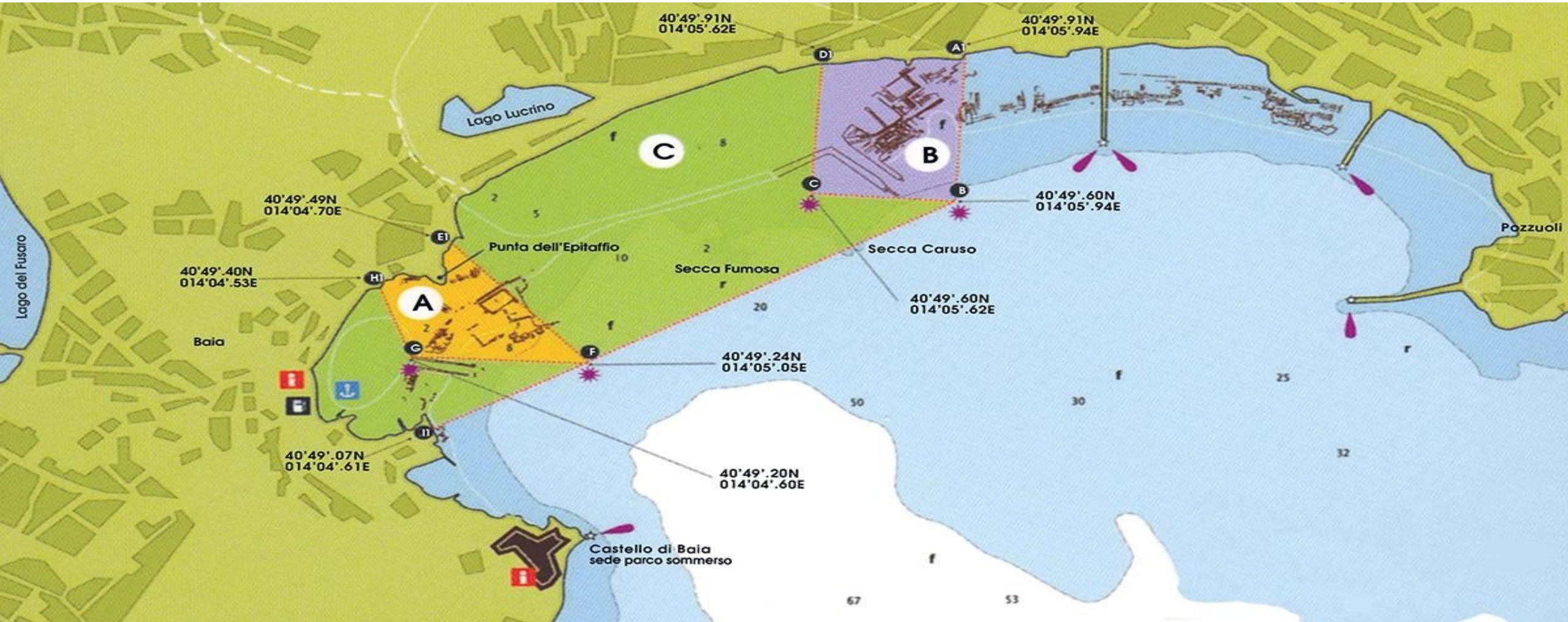


- *naturales sudationes*
- *calentes aquae*
- *siccus vapor*
- *vapor fervidus*

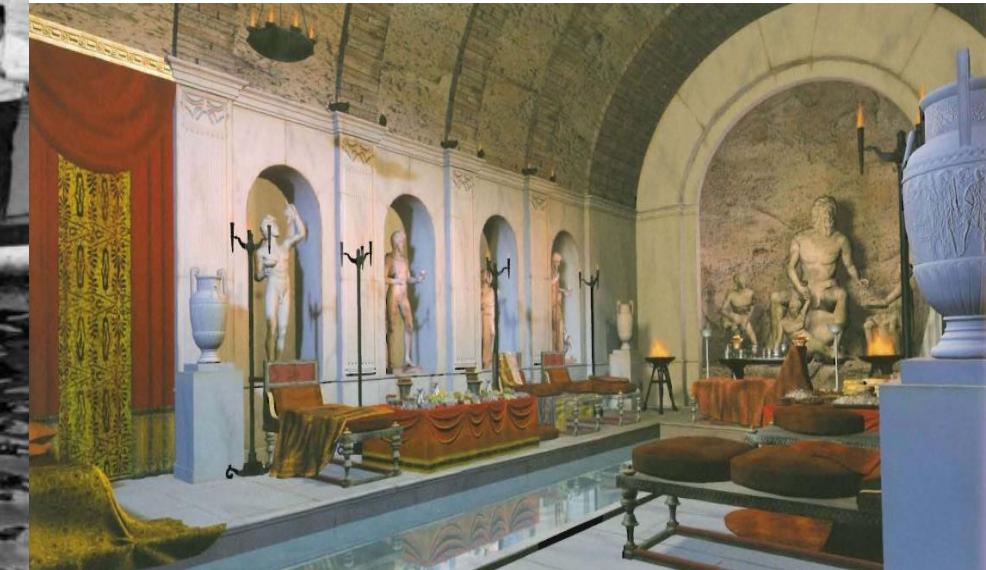
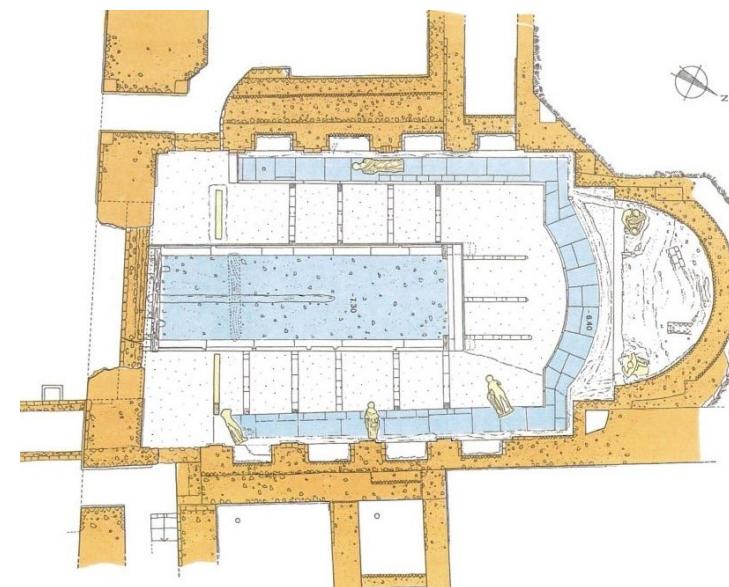
Besides the complexes on the slope, many buildings of *Baia* were placed around the *lacus baianus*, facing the sea:
 all this area is now submerged, due to the bradyseism.



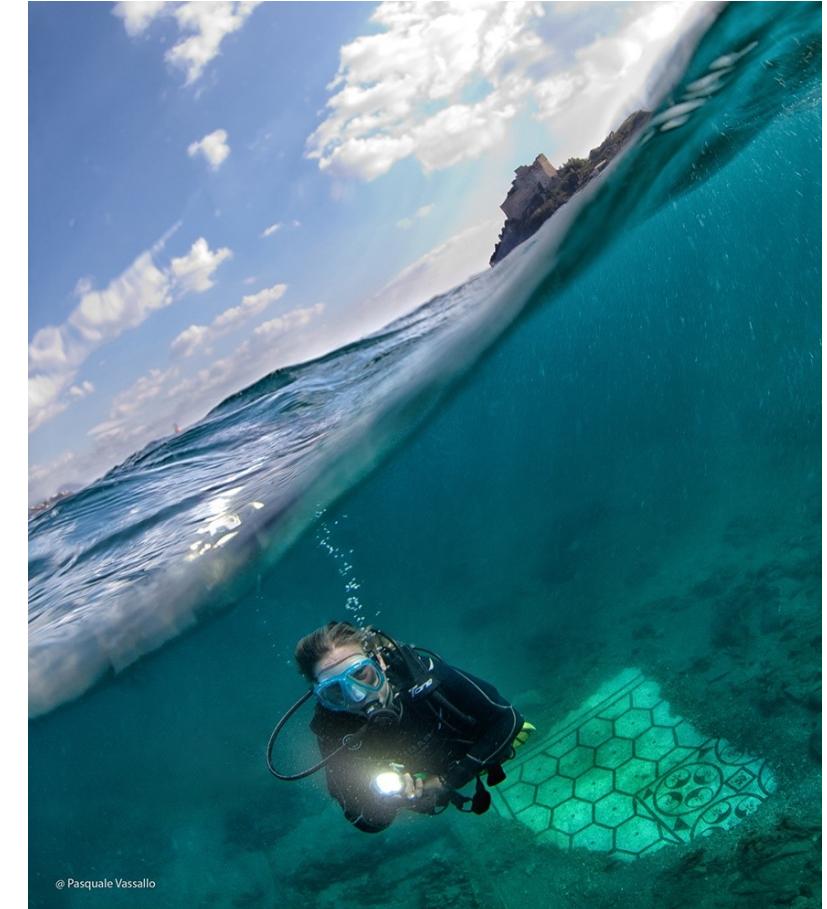
This sector, which includes mostly *villas* and *thermae*, is nowadays part of the Submerged Archaeological Park of Baia.



One of its most famous monuments is the *Ninfeo di Punta Epitaffio*: a majestic dining hall, decorated with statues partly recovered.

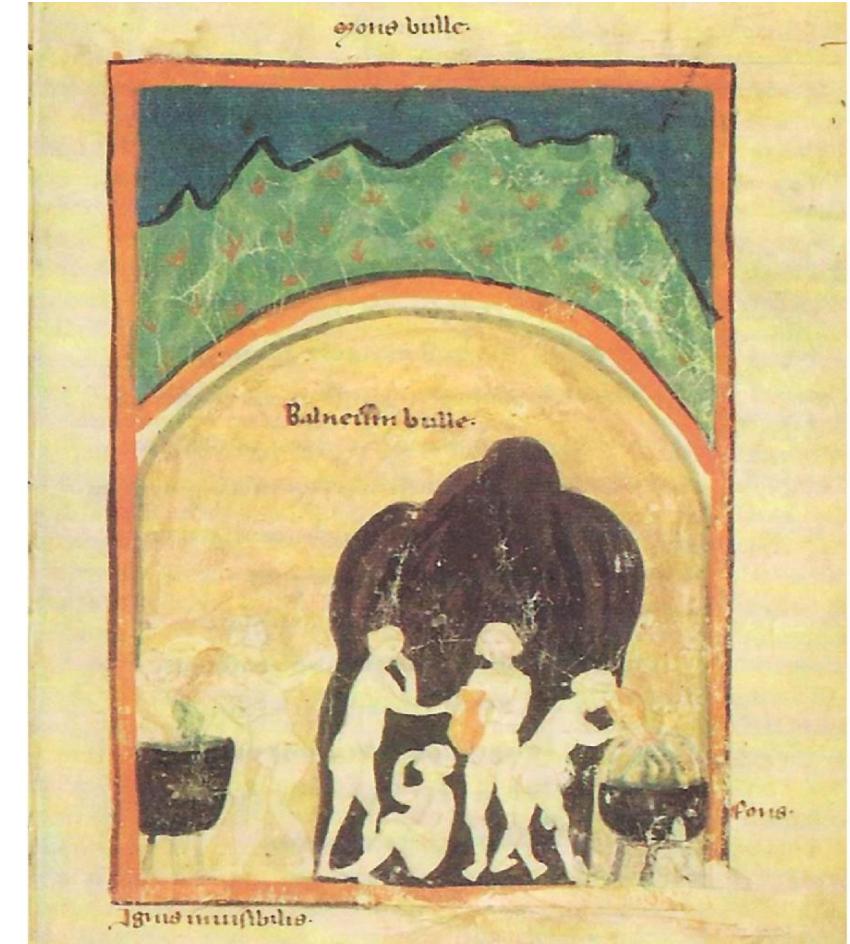


Today many mosaic floors and other rooms are still visible a few meters deep, by diving or from glass bottomed boat.



@ Pasquale Vassallo

The success of *Baia* exceeded the bradyseism: hot spring were still active during the Middle Age, so many small thermal baths took place in ancient roman rooms.



Virtual Tour of the Site

The Roman Thermae of Baia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Weibl493vQ4>

The underground Thermae path

https://youtu.be/k_OJdEcqBJE

The underground Thermae restoration

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25LNE_KWXao

Pulizia Mercurio

<https://www.facebook.com/parcoarcheologicodeicampiflegrei/videos/263435425478839>

The underwater archaeological park of Baia

<http://www.parcoarcheologicodibaia.it/video-aereo-baia-sommersa>

Porto Giulio

<https://www.facebook.com/parcoarcheologicodeicampiflegrei/videos/831473117571950>