

An excavation is on the brink of being halted...

An archaeological excavation that
has spanned a quarter of a century
is about to be suspended

—Aiming to Conduct the Excavation in 2026—
Launching an Emergency Support Campaign

Fundraising Goal: 15 million yen (Deadline: June 30)

The University of Tokyo “Somma Vesuviana Excavation”

WHY IS THIS URGENT?

This is an archaeological excavation project of an ancient Roman site in Italy that the University of Tokyo has been conducting since 2002.

It is a challenge to unearth memories from 2,000 years ago that were buried by volcanic eruptions and to unravel the mysteries of Roman history.

This site is a premier field where we can trace the cycle of “disaster, reconstruction, and disaster again” spanning several centuries, and **it may be the villa where the first Roman emperor, Augustus, met his end.** We are now on the verge of a historic discovery that will reveal these things.

However... **due to recent funding shortages, the excavation project is about to be suspended, and the 2026 excavation survey may not take place.**

If we are unable to secure the necessary funds, we will unfortunately have no choice but to abandon the excavation.

Some mysteries in Roman history, which have lain dormant since the year 2000, may never be solved...

**To continue our excavation, we urgently need your support right now.
Please give us the chance to keep digging!**

Fundraising Goal and Breakdown

**Fundraising Goal: 15 million yen
(Deadline: June 30)**

[Costs for the specific works required]

The following costs are required to conduct a basic archaeological survey:

- Costs for dispatching researchers to the site: Approximately 6 million yen
- Archaeological survey costs: Approximately 5 million yen
- Costs for ensuring the safety of the site and for the maintenance and management of archaeological objects: Approximately 4 million yen

●Even if the fundraising goal is not met, we will conduct on-site research and surveys on a scale commensurate with the available budget. (Preparations are scheduled for July, and excavation team members are scheduled to arrive on-site in August.)



Project Update: **“Just One Step Away from a Historic Discovery...!”**

An Unprecedented Discovery! **“Seven Hearthplaces”** - A Major Step Forward in Proving That This Was the Villa of Augustus, the First Roman Emperor

Recent findings have confirmed that the room under investigation contained at least seven “hearths.” This is an extremely rare feature, with no comparable examples found at contemporary sites in Italy, underscoring the uniqueness of this archaeological site. When considered alongside the fact that the structure has been proven to date from the same period as the death of Emperor Augustus, the hypothesis that the villa of his—presumed to have existed in this region historically—is indeed the very building we are investigating is becoming increasingly plausible.

We intend to press on without pause to uncover the history buried beneath the volcanic ash!



FUTURE GOALS: "WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WITH YOUR SUPPORT"

Areas Scheduled for Excavation in 2026-2028

(NOTE: THE AREA CURRENTLY UNDER EXCAVATION IS EXPOSED BECAUSE THE ROOF HAS NOT YET BEEN INSTALLED.)

If we reach our goal, we'll be able to continue our excavation work in 2026, albeit on a minimal scale!



■ Blue box: The area to be excavated down to the level of the building's foundation (approximately 15 meters below ground level), which is the main focus of the survey and is believed to be a structure dating from before the 1st century BCE (possibly Augustus's villa?).

■ Red box: This is the area where excavation will primarily be carried out using heavy machinery, as it is necessary to dig down in a stepped pattern around the perimeter in order to safely reach the area outlined in blue within the current excavable zone.

A Message from the Project Team



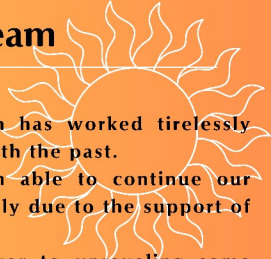
For over 20 years, our team has worked tirelessly under the Italian sun to unearth the past. The fact that we have been able to continue our excavations this long is entirely due to the support of all of you.

Now, we are closer than ever to unraveling some mysteries in the ancient Roman history from 2,000 years ago.

However, without your support, we may be forced to end the excavations before the story is complete.

Your support will be a powerful force in revealing one of the most astonishing archaeological discoveries of our time.

To shed light once again on a lost chapter of history, we sincerely ask for your continued warm support!



HOW TO DONATE

TO CONTINUE OUR EXCAVATIONS IN 2026,
WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW.
THIS DISCOVERY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO
ADD A NEW CHAPTER TO WORLD HISTORY.

PLEASE GIVE US THE CHANCE TO
CONTINUE OUR EXCAVATIONS.



★As a token of our appreciation, we will send an on-site report (including photos and activity updates) via email to everyone who donates during the campaign period.

- Once the excavation survey is completed, we will share the findings with you.
- We will create a page on this project's official website dedicated to the 2026 excavation survey report, where we will list the names of all donors along with our gratitude. (※Only for those who wish to be listed)

FOLLOW ME!



@SOMMA_PROJECT_STAFFS

