



# THE MINERVA GARDENS & MEDICAL SCHOOL OF SALERNO



Join us for a guided **tour of Salerno's Minerva Gardens**, located in the heart of the **historic city center**. Experience the beautiful location of the gardens, nestled on the hillside, with its terraced **multi-level layout**, and its intricate system of fresh water springs and fountains. Thanks to the large-scale restoration of the Minerva Gardens in the 1990's, the water delivery system, **composed of basins and fountains**, one on each terraced level, were restored, along with the full restoration of the natural beauty of **the ancient gardens**.

The historical and cultural value of the gardens is closely tied to **the Schola Medica Salernitana**, and its famous Master, **Matthew Silvatico**. Silvatico was recognized for his deep understanding of **plants' medicinal properties** and for founding the first botanical garden in the Mediterranean.

The garden's elevated location allows exposure to the **North winds off the Bay of Salerno**, and creates a unique, humid microclimate. This environment is ideal for growing the herbs that are used as the active ingredients in natural, therapeutic medicines. This unique microclimate became the subject of many historical, scientific studies and marked the birth of natural medicine in the Middle Ages.

**The garden can only be reached on foot**; however there is a public elevator can take you to the garden's entrance. A tour to the Minerva Gardens can be combined with the following optional visits:

**The Museum of the Schola Medica Salernitana**, the world's first medical school. The school was founded by a **fusion of Greek & Latin influences** and merged with **Arab and Jewish medical traditions**. The meeting of different cultures led to a synthesis and comparison of various medical methods and schools of thought. **Thanks to the Normans, the school received global recognition during 12th century**.

**The Papi Museum houses a rich collection of surgical and medical instruments from the 17th - 20th centuries**.



This Experience Includes:

- Private English speaking guide
- Entrance Tickets

Optional / Extras (Not Included):

- Round-trip transportation
- Visit to The Museum of The Salerno Medical School
- Visit to the Papi Museum of Surgical Instruments

