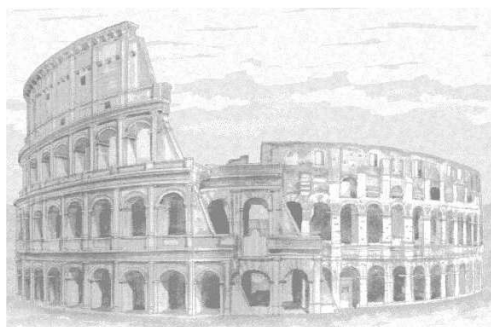


## Rome, Italy

[RomeeGuide.com](http://RomeeGuide.com)



### Introduction

Rome is the capital of Italy and is situated in the Lazio region (central Italy). Rome, the "Eternal City", is located on the River Tiber between the Apennine Mountains and the Tyrrhenian Sea. It was centre of the Roman Empire and today is the home of the Italian government. Rome is also the main headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church, with the Pope residing in Vatican City.

Enjoy the energy and vibrancy of Rome, its cafés, restaurants, shops and many other Roman attractions. A city of contrast with old and new, Baroque and Roman and changing views all over the city.

Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire and has been filled with history for thousands of years. There is much to see and do!

### Facts & Figures

Rome city centre is about 24 kilometres inland from the Tyrrhenian Sea, with the city area extending to the very shore. The city was founded on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 753 BC.

Rome's altitude ranges from 13 metres above sea level, at Piazza del Popolo, to 120 metres above sea level, the peak of Monte Mario which is 139 metres high.

The Rome city area covers about 1,285 square kilometres (580 square miles), including many green areas. The urban area of Rome is 5,352 square kilometres (2,066 square miles).

The population of Rome, as at December 2006, is 2,705,603 for the city area and about four million including the suburbs. It's currency is the Euro (EUR); main language is Italian and main religion is Roman Catholic.

### Climate

Rome has a typical Mediterranean climate which is great for spending time outdoors around the many parks and gardens to be found in and around the city.

Summer is hot with temperatures often higher than 35°C at noon. Winter is mild with the average December daytime temperature being 13°C. Spring (April to June) and autumn (September/October) are great times to visit Rome, having warm weather and clear skies. In August the temperature often exceeds 32°C (90°F). Traditionally, many businesses closed during August and Romans left the city for holiday resorts, but this trend is decreasing with the city remaining fully functional during the whole summer due to growing tourism as well as change in the population's work habits.

### Weather averages for Rome, Italy

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
<b>Average high °C (°F)</b>	12 (55)	13 (56)	15 (59)	17 (63)	21 (71)	25 (77)	28 (83)	28 (83)	26 (79)	21 (71)	16 (62)	13 (57)	20 (68)
<b>Average low °C (°F)</b>	3 (39)	4 (40)	6 (43)	8 (47)	12 (54)	16 (61)	18 (66)	19 (67)	16 (62)	13 (56)	7 (46)	5 (42)	11 (52)
<b>Precipitation inch (cm)</b>	3.2 (8)	2.8 (7)	2.7 (6)	2.0 (6)	2.0 (5)	1.3 (3)	0.6 (1)	1.0 (2)	2.7 (6)	4.5 (11)	4.4 (11)	3.8 (9)	31.6 (80)

### Tourist Information

#### Essentials

**Emergency = 112**

#### Emergency Services

Dial 112 anywhere in the EU to reach the emergency services. Additional local numbers: Police 112, Ambulance 113, Fire 115.

**Time zone:** GMT+1

Rome is one hour ahead of GMT in the winter and two hours ahead in the summer.

#### Medical Services

Pharmacists (farmacia) are qualified to give advice on minor ailments and to dispense prescriptions. There will always be a 24-hour one 'on rota'.

Hospital: Policlinico Ubert I, Via del Policlinico 155 Tel: 06 499 71

#### Electricity

Electrical current is 230 volts, 50Hz using the European two pin plug.

## Banks

Banking hours are usually 0830-1330 and 1530-1930 Mon. to Fri. MasterCard; Visa and Diners Club are all widely accepted. ATM availability is very good.

## Smoking

Smoking is not allowed anywhere with public access and includes stations, restaurants and bars.

## Telephones

**Phone country code:** +39, **city code:** 06 (always dial the 0 - even from abroad). The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code.

## Tipping

Tipping is expected, with 10% being the norm for restaurants where a service charge has not been included. Hotels normally add a service charge of 15-18% and tips are expected. Taxi drivers increasingly expect tips from foreigners in the 5-10% range.

## Embassies and consulates

### Australian Embassy

Via Antonio Bosio 5, 00161 Rome. Telephone 06 852 721.

### Austrian Embassy

Via Pergolesi 3, 00198 Rome.

### British Embassy

Via XX Settembre 80, I-00187 Rome. Telephone 06 4220 0001. Out of office hours, telephone 06 4220 2603.

### Canadian Embassy

Via Zara 30, 00198 Rome (Immigration/Visa and Consular Canadian Citizen Services). Telephone 06 85444.1 or 06 85444.2911 (for Consular Canadian Citizen Services).

### Finnish Embassy

Ambasciata di Finlandia, Via Lisbona 3, 00198 Rome.

## Language

Italian is spoken everywhere in Rome and the Romans are not at all interested in listening to English. However, English is usually understood especially in the tourist areas. It is a good idea to know some Italian, however they probably still won't accept your version. Carry a small phrase book with you, it will help to decipher menus and allow you to understand some of the words that come very quickly out of Italian mouths. Pointing to what you want on the menu works and sign language can be effective as well, for instance writing on your hand always means 'bill please'.

Most Italians would rather the English speaking tourists make some effort with the language and seem to really appreciate it when you do. So try to use 'buongiorno' and 'ciao' when saying hello, 'arrivederci' for goodbye and 'grazie' for thankyou.

## Money

The Euro (EUR) is the official currency. ATM's are widespread and credit cards widely accepted. Banks are closed on weekends. There are many money exchange places around Rome, American Express Piazza di Spagna (06 67641).

## ROMA Pass

A pass that provides free entry to the first two museums and public transport. Available from all partner museums and Rome Tourist Information booths.

## Safety

Rome is generally safe but pick-pocketing and bag snatching does take place in crowded areas. Take most care at Roma Termini, Esquilino and bus line 64 to St Peter's Square. Be aware of groups of children, some of whom try to distract you while the others steal what they can. Carabinieri (black uniform) are military police and Polizia (blue and grey uniform) are civilians. If you are robbed, report the crime to a police station to ensure that you can claim on your insurance.

## Hospitals

Bambino Gesù  
*Piazza S Onofrio (06 68591)*

Ospedale Nuovo Regina Margherita  
*Via morosini (06 58441)*

San Camillo  
*Via Pacinotti, 18 (06 553001932)*

Santa Lucia  
*Via delle Fotografia, 95 (06 5159291)*

## Tourist Information Centres

The main tourist office is at Via Parigi 5.

There are booths at Fiumicino and Termini.

Information kiosks can be found at: Spanish Steps (Largo Goldoni); San Giovanni (Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano); Via Nazionale (Palazzo delle Esposizioni); Piazza Navona (Piazza delle Cinque Lune); Castel Sant'Angelo (Piazza Pia); Forum (Piazza del Tempio della Pace); Trastevere (Piazza Sonnino); and Santa Maria Maggiore (Via del'Olmata).

### French Consulate (Consulat de France à Rome)

Via Giulia 251, 00186 Rome. Telephone 06 68 60 15 00.

### New Zealand Embassy

Via Clitunno 44, Rome 00198. Telephone 06 853 7501 or 335 203 769 after hours.

### South African Embassy

Via Tanaro 14, Rome.

### Spanish Embassy

Palazzo Borghese, Largo Fontanella di Borghese 19, Rome.

### Swedish Embassy

Piazza Rio de Janeiro 3, Rome. Telephone 06 44 19 41.

### US Embassy

Via Vittorio Veneto 121, 00187 Rome. Telephone 06 4674 2356.

## Orientation

### Rome's Neighbourhoods

#### *Centro Storico*

This is where Rome began, therefore it is the oldest area with the most history attached to it. The outstanding public square here, Piazza del Campidoglio, was designed by Michelangelo and here you can view his two famous statues of the twins Castor and Pullox. In Centro you can view the oldest museum in the world, the Capitoline Museum. Roman ruins are aplenty in this area: It's here you can sightsee Circus Maximus, the Colosseum, Trajan's Market and the Roman Forum. There is a feast of architecture and churches as well including San Marco, San Nicola in Carcere and the Vittoriano. There is also a vibrant nightlife here with bars and eateries.

#### *Tridente and Borghese*

This area has the famous Spanish Steps and is known to be a shopoholic's dream, a very wealthy shopoholic that is. The Tridente is full of chic streets where all the well dressed Romans hang out and the designer labels strut their stuff. It is home to the elegant square, Piazza del Popolo, and one of the busiest streets in Rome, the Via del Corso. It is famed for its artistry and you can view some good galleries here including Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna and Galleria Borghese. This area is a good place for children as well as it is home to the Bioparco Zoo and the Museo dei Bambino di Roma. There are plenty of dining options here but not a great deal of nightlife. The one sight that you cannot go without viewing, along with hoards of other tourists, is the famed Trevi Fountain.

#### *The Esquiline and Celio*

Known as the seedier part of town, this area is home to Rome's main train station. A lot of tourists unknowingly end up staying in this area as it is home to 75% of Rome's hotels, especially the cheaper ones. San Lorenzo can also be found in this district and there is plenty of cultural diversity here.

#### *The Aventine and Testaccio*

Located just east of the River Tiber is Rome's working-class neighbourhood. In Testaccio you will find real Romans and it is well known for its authentic Roman restaurants. Testaccio has come a long way from its days of housing Rome's slaughterhouses. In the same area, and closer to the Tiber, is Aventine Hill, a leafier and posh residential area which also has a very bloody history. In this area you will find the Baths of Caracella, the Appian Way with its historical catacombs and the British War Cemetery.

#### *Trastevere and the Gianicolo*

Lying south of the Vatican and on the western side of the Tiber is the 'city within a city', Trastevere. It has a village feel but is still quite close to inner Rome. It is a little more out of the way so doesn't have the hoards of tourists and is a very colourful, sometimes off beat, area. Trastevere has a reputation for fine eateries with the hub being in and around Piazza Santa Maria in Trastevere. Do not be too frightened if, when in Gianicolo, you hear a cannon fired at noon as this is a daily event. It resounds from beneath the terrace where the famous statue of Giuseppe Garibaldi stands.

#### *The Vatican and Prati*

Vatican City occupies an area of less than half a square kilometre, making it the smallest state in the world, but what a state it is! Vatican City is the official headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and houses the tomb of the founder of this iconic institution, St Peter. Only some 800 residents live here but it has its own army (the Swiss Guards), postal service, radio and TV stations, railway station, and own currency and stamps. It is here that you can view St Peter's Basilica and tour the Vatican Museums and catch a glimpse of Michelangelo's famous Sistine Chapel. Just North of Vatican City is the well-to-do district of Prati. Here you will find large boulevards, good shopping and some of the best delectable delis.

The ancient city of Rome is between the Capotoline, Palatine, Esquiline and Quirinal hills. This is where you will find the Colosseum and Imperial Fora. Rome has many museums, churches and art galleries to explore.

## Getting About

The Stazione Termini is the main hub of Rome, with not only the major train lines linking to the local airports but the majority of links to Italy's other major cities as well as other destinations across Europe. With many of the bus lines terminating outside the Stazione Termini, it is likely that any visit to Rome will involve some time spent in this area and it would be useful for any traveller to make themselves aware of the station.

Getting around Rome by foot is not that difficult and a lot of beautiful sites and local restaurants can be found by wandering aimlessly with no real purpose other than to 'take in' the city. A good number of Rome's best known sights, including the National Roman Museum or The Teatro dell' Opera, are within a walking distance from the Stazione Termini which would make it an ideal meeting place or reference point.

### Rome Airport

#### *Leonardo da Vinci International Airport*

This is the main international airport for Rome. Leonardo Express trains run to the central train station Roma Termini which is about one kilometre from the main railway station. Walking in the area of the Roma Termini in Vittorio square at night is not recommended. The alternative is the Metropolitan train to Tiburtina Station and then connect to the Rome Metro. Taxis are available but do fix the price before departing. Be very careful you are using a licensed taxi as unlicensed taxi drivers will try to approach you.

### ***Ciampino International Airport***

The second international airport is used by many of the low fare airlines and has no direct train connection. COTRAL/Schiaffini operates a bus to Anagnina metro station for connections to central Rome. Buses are also available to Ciampino local train station where the train goes to Rome Termini. There are also buses to Termini station. Once again, taxis are available but do agree a fixed price before you leave.

## **Rome Transport**

### ***Bus***

Tickets must be stamped before you board the bus and not checked on the bus. The 110 Open is a bus service that stops at all the city's main sights, departing from Termini Station square every 20 minutes. Tickets are valid on all forms of transport. A biglietto per autobus is a ticket that gives you one Metro ride and as many bus/tram rides as you can do in an hour and a quarter. Tickets are purchased at Tabaccheria with a big 'T' sign outside, newspaper kiosks or vending machines. A 24-hour ticket is only valid on the day you buy them. A useful bus route is the 40, from the Termini station to Castel Sant'Angelo. Night buses are often needed as the Metro closes at 23:30.

Another great way to get around the main tourists areas of Rome are the open-topped tourist buses. These buses travel on a circuit stopping at the major sights in Rome and operate on a hop on/hop off basis. Tickets can be purchased on board and they come with earphones so you can listen to the tour guide as you ride.

### ***Metro***

There are two lines that cross at Termini station. Line A (red line) runs northwest past the Vatican and south. Line B (Blue Line) runs southwest past the Colosseum and northeast. Trains run from 05:30 to 23:30 every day and a bit later on Saturday nights.

### ***Pushbike***

Bikes can be rented from Bike and Scooter Rental (06 4815669) or Bici E Baci (06 4828443).

### ***Taxi***

Only use licensed taxis and be careful of private cars, a practice common at the airports and stations. Do not use any taxi where the driver approaches you first. Licensed taxis are white vehicles with a taxi meter. Supplements are payable for luggage, night-time and public holidays. Taxi stands are easy to find. If you call for a taxi, the meter starts when called and so may have charges on before you start. For taxis call 063570 or 065551.

### ***Train***

Rome's main railway station is Termini Station and is open from 04:30 until just after midnight. When Termini is closed, trains reaching Rome stop at Tiburtina station. Other stations are Ostiense, Trastevere, Tuscolana, Tiburtina.

### ***Tram***

The tram is useful for the city centre with stops at the Vatican, the Colosseum and the Trastevere area.

### ***Walking***

Walking is easy in the city centre and large parts are closed to traffic. When crossing roads maintain a normal walking pattern and do not dodge the traffic as the driver will be trying to avoid you and will not expect you to suddenly run!

## **Accommodation**

Due to the huge quantity and variety of accommodation available in Rome, we recommend that you browse to find your choice and book online at [Travel eGuides](http://Travel eGuides) prior to your departure.

## **Restaurants**

### **Eating in Rome**

Usually, one only orders a cappuccino with breakfast. Although you can probably get one later on in the day, most of the locals will look at you strangely.

There are many local bakeries which offer wonderful breads, pastries and other gastronomic delights. One of the more popular items in Rome is called 'Suppli al telefono' or, more simply, 'suppli'. It is a ball of rice wrapped around mozzarella cheese and then breaded and fried. When you bite into it, the melted cheese oozes out and resembles a telephone wire!

During lunch, there is no better way to experience Italy than to go to a pizza shop. Try to experiment outside of your comfort zone as you may find some wonderful pizzas with such things as sliced, hard boiled eggs or mayonnaise.

Dinner starts a little later in the evening than many are used to. The Italians are very social people, even more so during a meal and are likely to try to find you a companion when dining.

## Coffee

'Latte' in Italian is just milk and so you need to say "cafe latte." A 'latte macchiato' is steamed milk stained with a smaller shot of espresso. 'Espresso' is just a shot of coffee. 'Espresso doppio' means a double shot of espresso, while 'espresso macchiato' is espresso 'marked' with a dab of steamed milk. 'Americano' is filtered coffee. 'Cappuccino' is not so popular with Italians and not normally drunk other than in the mornings.

## Ice-cream

Generally you pay for your ice-cream first and then show your receipt to the server. When asked "panna?" This means "do you want whipped cream on top?"

## Pizza

The best pizza is served in the evening when the wood oven has heated up. For a typical local meal try one of the fried items such as battered salt cod for a starter, followed by a pizza. Pizzas tend to be very thin-crust. Avoid the tourist areas where prices are high and the pizza is poor. Pizza al taglio is pizza by the slice, point to the one you want and the size as it's sold by weight.

## Trippa

Trippa is tripe. Offal is a Roman tradition, e.g. osso buco, bone marrow.

## Budget restaurants

### Arancia Blu – Vegetarian

Charming, softly lit atmosphere and a flavours' symphony of famous peasant cuisines from all over the world – from the Arabian hummus and tabouleh to the Sardinian sheep's cheese enriching the *ravioli ripieni di patate e menta*. Generous wine list and inventive desserts. Closed for three weeks in August. Via dei Latini 55-65. Telephone 06 4454105.

### Hostaria dei Bastioni – Italian

Take a seat on the terrace, enjoy a glass of wine and contemplate the travellers' buzz in front of the mysterious Vatican. The menu offers a real bargain. Don't miss the freshly grilled fish, the fisherman's risotto with shellfish or the delicious cutlets of tender beef with mushrooms. Closed 15 July to 1 Aug. Via Leone IV 29. Telephone 06 39723034.

### Il Bacaro – Italian

Cosy and unpretentious, a lovely place for travellers to enjoy a traditional Italian lunch right next Piazza di Spagna. A must-taste is the fresh, homemade cheese, while the pasta menu will challenge your senses with unusual flavour combinations. Via degli Spagnoli 27. Telephone 06 6864110.

### Otello alla Concordia – Italian

A cosy restaurant amid the charming boutiques sprinkled along the narrow streets in the northern Spanish Steps area. On the arbour-covered terrace or in the packed but friendly dining room indulge your senses with the delicious *abbachio arrosto* (roast lamb) or the traditional Roman-style *Saltimbocca* (veal with ham). Via della Croce 81. Telephone 06 6791178.

## Medium range

### Crab - Seafood

Very close to Basilica of San Giovanni, this trattoria will reveal to you the seas' secrets from all over the world – oysters from France, crustaceans from the Adriatic, lobster from the Atlantic. Don't miss the chef's recommended king crab legs. Via Capo d'Africa 2. Telephone 06 77203636.

### La Tartaruga – Italian

A wine bar in Campo dei Fiori area, this place always surprises with the elegant but cosy atmosphere, fantastic food and a tempting wine list. Great selection of antipasto – cold meats and cheeses from all over Italy. Closed Mondays and August. Via del Monte della Farina 53. Telephone 06 6869473.

### L'Eau Vive – French, International

Elegant French atmosphere, imposing architecture and fine cuisine prepared and presented by missionary Christian nuns dressed in traditional costumes. The menu reveals exquisite French cuisine and exotic international dishes. The delicious homemade patés are a must-taste! Via Monterone 85. Telephone 06 68801095.

## Splurge

### La Pergola – Mediterranean

Amazing views from atop Monte Mario! An exquisite setting and a terrace for alfresco dining but it's actually the food that impressed the critics to call this place Rome's best restaurant. The menu is a spectacular symphony of colours and unusual flavours. Try the chef's recommendation - pasta *tagliolini* with zucchini, fresh lime and shrimp. Via Cadlolo 101. Telephone 06 35092152.

**La Terazza – Italian, International**

With a formal yet not intimidating atmosphere, this place offers a sensational view over St. Peter's, and the culinary masterpieces of chef Adriano Cavagnini who trained at Lake Garda. Among the menu highlights you will discover sea bass baked in a crust of black olives. Via Ludovisi 49, in the Hotel Eden, Near Via Veneto & Piazza Barberini. Telephone 06 478121.

**La Rosetta – Seafood**

Right in the shadow of the Pantheon, you will be surprised to find a fine dining place, where the chef-owner might take your order himself and give his recommendations. Fresh and quality ingredients, a warm atmosphere and simple but extremely savoury dishes. No red meat on the menu! Via della Rosetta 8-9. Telephone 06 6861002.

**Piazza di Spagna area****Hostaria 'La Botticella'**

Vicolo del Leopardi 39/A – 00153 (065814738) Trastevere area.

**Hostaria da Nerone**

Via delle Terme di Tito 96 – 00184 (064817952) Colosseum area.

**Il Comparone**

Piazza in Piscinula 47 – 00153 (065816249) Trastevere area.

**Il Duca**

Vicolo del Cinque 52/56 – 00153 (065817706) Trastevere area.

**Il Galeone di Corsetti**

Piazza S. Cosimato 27 – 00153 (065809009) Trastevere area.

**Mario's**

Via del Moro 53/55 – 00153 (065803809) Trastevere area.

**Traditional Italian restaurants**

ARSIAL (Regional Agency for the Development and Innovation of Agriculture in Lazio) and FIPE (Italian Federation of Public Concerns) promotes traditional Roman cuisine and grants a trademark of 'typicality', "Ristorante Tipico" (typical restaurant). The restaurants below have this trademark.

**Al Vantaggio**

Via del Vantaggio, 35 – 00186 (063236848) Piazza del Popolo area.

**Alberto Ciarla**

Piazza S. Cosimato 40 – 00153 (065818668) Trastevere area.

**Angelino ai Fori**

Largo Corrado Ricci 40/43a - 00184 (066791121) Colosseum area.

**Antica Trattoria Polese**

Piazza Sforza Cesarini 40 – 00186 (066861709) Piazza Navona area.

**Ar Montarozzo**

Via Appia Antica 4 – 00179 (0677208434) Appia Antica area.

**Armando a San Lorenzo**

Piazzale Tiburtino 1/3/4/5/6 – 00185 (064959270) San Lorenzo area.

**Armando al Pantheon**

Via Salita De' Crescenzi 31 – 00186 (0668803034) Pantheon area.

**Cecchino dal 1887**

Via Monte Testaccio 30 – 00153 (065746318) Testaccio area.

**Miraggio**

Via della Lungara 16/A – 00165 (0666560369) Trastevere area.

**Rinaldo all'Acquedotto**

Via Appia Nuova 1267 – 00178 (067183910) Capannelle area.

**Settimio**

Via del Pellegrino 117 – 00186 (0668801978)

**Taberna de' Gracchi**

Via dei Gracchi 266/268 – 00192 (063213126) Prati area.

**Taverna Romana**

Via Rodi 16 – 00195 (0639743393) Prati area.

**Trattoria Abruzzese**

Via Napoli 4 – 00184 (064825556) Via Nazionale area.

**Checco er Carettiere**

Via Benedetta 10/13 – 00153 (065800985) Trastevere area.

**Da Ettore**

Corso Trieste 129 – 00198 (068554323) Nomentana area.

**Da Giggi**

Via Belsiana 94 - 00187 (066791130) Da Meo Patacca.

**Da Nazzareno**

Via Magenta, 35/37 - 00185 (06 4957782) Termini area.

**Da Otello**

Via della Pelliccia 47/53 – 00153 (065896848) Trastevere area.

**Dal Pollarolo**

Via Ripetta 4/5 – 00186 (063610276) Piazza del Popolo area.

**Gigetto al Portico d'Ottavia**

Via del Portico d'Ottavia 21 - 00186 (066861105) Piazza Venezia area.

**Grotte del Teatro di Pompeo**

Via del Biscione 73 – 00186 (0668803686) Campo de' Fiori area.

**Piazza dei Mercanti**

30 – 00153 (0658331086) Trastevere area.

## Foreign Restaurants

### **Argentinean**

#### **El Gaucho**

Via Anguillarese, 63a (06 9995695)

### **Chinese**

#### **Golden Crown**

Via in Arcione, 85 (066798628)

### **French**

#### **L'Escargot**

Via Appia Antica, 46 (06 5136791)

### **Greek**

#### **Mitos**

Via A Volta, 5 (06 90623735)

### **Indian**

#### **Shanti**

Via Fabio Massimo, 68-70 (06 3244922)

### **Lebanese**

#### **Cedro del Libano**

Via Telegono, 19 (349 6649121)

### **Spanish**

#### **El Patio**

Via Casilina, 1108 (06 263181)

## Tours

Similarly to accommodation, there is a large choice of tours available in Rome. Again, we recommend that you browse to find your choice and book online at [Travel eGuides](http://Travel eGuides).

## Day Trips

### **Albano**

The ancient amphitheatre and tombs of Horatii and Curatii.

### **Ariccia**

A 16th century palace rebuilt by Bernini.

### **Bolsena**

A small city on the lake shores of Lake Bolsena with medieval buildings in the centre.

### **Bracciano**

A medieval hill town 40 km from Rome.

### **Capranica**

A small medieval hamlet 50 km from Rome.

### **Castel Gandolfo**

A Bernini designed church with fountain.

### **Frascati**

Frascati, just over 20 km from Rome, is a relaxed hill town famous for its white wine. It is reachable by train from Roma Termini.

### **Grottaferrata**

Known for the Abbey of San Nilo founded in 1004 by St. Nilus.

### **I Castelli Romani**

To the southeast of Rome and an area of lakes and forests.

### **Il Duomo**

This amazing cathedral is an incredible work of art and is a breath stealer when you round the corner into Piazza del Duomo. The townsfolk are very proud of their ornate church and it is immaculately kept. It's the amazing facade of this church that captivates you. The intricate details in the carvings tell lots of stories that are centuries old. Piazza del Duomo (0763 342 477).

### **Orvieto**

This village is as stunning as its location is amazing. Orvieto is built on a pedestal of volcanic rock. This Umbrian town is located 121 km north of Rome. It gives the impression of a monolithic city when you approach it by car but, once up the hill of rock, you will

find it to be a small, charming, cosy village with a killer view! The train is the best way to travel to Orvieto. It takes an hour from Rome and delivers you to the base of the rock. Once there you can travel up to the township on the funicular which allows you a stunning view of the Umbrian landscape.

Orvieto is a delight to walk around as it has a perfect mix of eateries, shopping, churches, squares and hoards of wine shops, all selling the local brew which is excellent. The food and service here is very good, from the smaller cafés to some very good, classy restaurants. A highlight of dining here and anywhere in Umbria is the wine, bottle or carafe, cheap or expensive, it doesn't matter as it all tastes incredibly good.

Nearly as stunning as the town built on a rock is the incredible church in the middle of the town on a rock.

### **Ostia Antica**

Rome's ancient harbour is 30 minutes by train from Stazione Ostiense and gives an idea of what a Roman city was once like. Impressive remains of the Roman settlement which used to be the military garrison for the defence of the river entrance as well as shipyard, gathering place for the Roman fleet and provisioning centre. Ostia Antica, Viale dei Romagnoli 717 (06 56 35 80 99).

### **Ostia Lido**

The nearest beach to Rome with boardwalk and marina.

### **Ponza**

This beautiful island is located three hours from Rome and is well worth the trip. There are lovely beaches and coves that are ideal for swimming and sunbathing. A great way to take in the delights of the island is to hire a small motorboat. Ponza is an idyllic place to have a few drinks and enjoy some antipasto delights while having a break from the museum and church hopping of Rome.

### **Palestrina**

An ancient town with the Temple of Fortuna dated to 2 BC.

### **Sermoneta**

The Castello Caetani dominates and dates back to the 1200s.

### **Tarquinia**

The fortified town of Tarquinia overlooks the sea with medieval streets and the 12th century church of Santa Maria di Castella.

### **Tivoli**

An old town with the Villa d'Este which has 2,000 fountains laid out on sloping gardens. Also the home of Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli is only 20 km from Rome.

### **Villa Aldobrandini**

Construction started in 1598 by Giacomo della Porta and completed 100 years later.

## **Attractions**

### **Architecture**

#### ***Ara Pacis Augustae***

An altar completed in 19 BC to mark the peace established by Augustus. Located at Lungotevere in Augusta (06 8205 9127).

#### ***Baths of Caracalla***

A classic Roman bathing complex which could hold up to 1,600 persons. Located at Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 52 (06 575 8626).

#### ***Capitoline Hill***

Capitoline Hill is the home of the city government with Michelangelo's Piazza del Campidoglio. Bordering the piazza are the Palazzo dei Conservatori, Palazzo dei Senatori and Palazzo Nuovo with the Capitoline Museums and its collection of classical art and ancient sculpture.

#### ***Casina delle Civette***

A Swiss lodge built in 1840 and open to the public to view. Villa Torlonia. Via Nomentana, 70 (06 4425 0072).

#### ***Castel Sant'Angelo***

Built between 135 and 139 AD by Hadrian as his mausoleum and then used as a fortress, a prison and now a museum. Climb to the upper terraces for views of Rome. Lungotevere Castell, 50 (06 681 9111). Use Metro Lepanto.

**Circus Maximus**

Circus Maximus was a large arena where over 200,000 people could watch gladiators. Now in ruins and builders over the years have taken the marble and stone. Via del Circo.

**Colosseo**

The heart of ancient Rome with the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Forum of Augustus, Markets of Trajan and the Capitoline.

**Colosseum**

The Colosseum is a significant structure. Completed in 80 AD with seating for 50,000, it was *the* place to watch gladiators. It took eight years to build and was started by Emperor Vespasian who died just before it was completed. The elliptical building is nearly 50 metres high. The upper storey was for lower classes and women and the lower area was for prominent citizens. The wild animals were kept in cages below ground. The Colosseum entertainment was free and sometimes lasted for several days. Unfortunately the southern side of the Colosseum was destroyed by an earthquake in 847. Via dei Fori Imperiali. (06 3996 7700). Use Metro Station Colosseo.

**Domus Aurea**

Ruins of the domus built for Nerone after the fire of 64 AD. The villa extended for a square mile between the slopes of the Caelian and Palatin hills. Located at Via della Domus Aurea (06 3996 7700). Use Metro Colosseo.

**Golden House of Nero**

After the fire in 64 AD, Nero built an ornate palace with a 150 foot nude statue of himself at the entrance. A major restoration of the palace was completed 1999. Via della Domus Aurea (06 3974 9907).

**Mamertine Prison**

A underground prison. Clivio Argentario (06 679 2902).

**Mercato Traianei**

The most recent imperial forum built in 107 AD. Via 1V Novembre, 94 (06 679 0048).

**Palazzo Altemps**

Constructed in 1480 for Count Girolamo Riario, nephew of Papa Sisto IV. Located at 8, Sant' Apollinare Street.

**Palazzo Crivelli**

Built in the 16th century and decorated with lions heads, satyrs and disfigured heads. Located at Via dei Banchi Vecchi, 22.

**Palazzo Spada**

Piazza Capo di Ferro built by Giulio Merisi Caravaggio for Cardinal Capodiferro and restored by Borromini.

**Palazzo Venezia**

Originally the Venice embassy now a museum and art gallery.

**Pantheon**

Originally built in 27 BC and rebuilt in the second century AD, the Pantheon is one of the few ancient Roman buildings that it is still intact. A perfect square resting in a cylinder measuring 142 feet wide and 142 feet high with 25 feet thick walls, bronze doors weighing 20 tons each and an impressive dome. Light comes from the oculus at the top of the dome. Dedicated in 609 to St. Mary ad Martyres, it holds Raphael's tomb. The Pantheon borders the Piazza della Rotonda, a rectangular square with a central fountain. Piazza della Rotonda (06 6830 0230).

**Roman Forum (Palatino)**

The Roman Forum was the political, economic and religious centre of ancient Rome and now is a wide area that is open to the public without charge. Largo Romolo e Remo (06 69901110). Use Metro Colosseo.

**Spanish Steps and Piazza di Spagna**

Built in 1725 the steps curve upwards from the Piazza di Spagna to the Church of Santa Trinit dei Monti. The shopping area of Via Condotti leads back from the Spanish steps to Via del Corso. At the bottom of the steps lies Bernini's boat-shaped Barcaccia fountain.

**St. Peter's Basilica**

Emperor Constantine in 319 AD built a basilica over where the tomb of St. Peter was located. It was reconstructed in the 15th century. Inside is Michelangelo's Pieta. Located at St. Peter's Square (06 698 5318).

**Tomb of Cecilia Metella**

A funeral monument built at the end of the Roman period. Located at Via Appia Antica, 161 (06 3996 7700).

**Villa Farnesina**

A renaissance house in Trastevere with rooms covered in frescoes, some by Raphael.

**Vittoriano**

Inaugurated in 1911 and devoted to the King Victor Emmanuel II with the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Sometimes called 'the wedding cake' or 'the typewriter', inside it has changing art shows. From the top is a good 360 degree view of Rome. Located at Piazza Venezia (06 699 1718).

**Art Galleries****Casa di Goethe**

The house where Goethe used to stay on his visits to Rome and now displays some of his works and other temporary exhibits. Via del Corso, 18 (06 3265 0412).

**Centrale Montemartini**

An old power station converted into an exhibition of Roman and Greek sculpture. Via Ostiense, 106 (06 3996 7800). Metro Piramide.

**Compless de Vittoriano**

At the back of the Vittorio Emanuele II which houses many important touring exhibitions. Via S. Pietro in Carcere (06 678 0664). Metro Colosseo.

**Galleria Borghese**

Works by Raphael, Titan and Caravaggio and sculptures by Berni and Canova. Booking is essential. Piazzale Scipione Borghese, 5 (06 841 3979).

**Galleria Colonna**

The part of Palazzo Colonna that is open to the public with works by Guercino, Tinoretto, Van Dyck, Botticelli and others. Via della Pilotta, 17 (06 678 4350).

**Galleria Corsini**

This gallery houses the national art collection of 16th and 17th century paintings and also works by Carvaggio and Tiziano. Via delle Lungara, 10, Trastevere (06 6880 3323).

**Galleria Doria Pamphili**

Housed in the Palazzo Doria Pamphili, a private collection with works by Caravaggio, Tiziano, Raffaello, Rubens and others. Piazza de Collegio Romano, 2 (06 679 7323).

**Galleria Mastroianni**

Sculptures and engravings by Umberto Mastroianni. Piazza San Salvatore in Lauro, 15 (06 687 8737).

**Galleria Nazionale di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea**

The national collection of modern art in the Villa Borghese with works by De Chirico, Kandinsky, Klimt and Cezanne housed in a place built in 1911. Viale Belle Arti, 131 (Parioli) (06 322 981).

**Galleria Spada**

Works by Rubens, Reni and others in the Renaissance Palace built in the 16th Century. Palazzo Spada, Piazza Capo di Ferro, 13 (06 687 4893).

**MACRO**

The Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Roma is a collection of contemporary art with changing exhibitions. Via Reggio Emilia, 54 (06 6710 70400).

**Museo Barracco di Scultura Antica**

Roman art collected by Giovanni Barracco. Corso Vittorio, 166 (06 6880 6848).

**Museo Hendrik Christian Andersen**

Works by Norwegian artist Andersen who lived in Rome from 1896 and houses numerous paintings, graphic works and sculptures. Villa Helene, Via Pasquale Stanislao Mancini, 20. Use Metro Flaminio.

**Museo Canonica**

A collection of works by Pietro Canonica. Fotezzuola di Villa Borghese, Viale P. Canonica, 2 (06 884 2279).

**Museo Capitolini**

A collection of Roman sculpture that includes the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius. Piazza del Campidoglio (06 3996 7800).

**Museo dell'Alto Medioevo**

Decorative arts from the Roman Empire period to early Renaissance. Viale Lincoln, 3 (06 5422 8199). Metro Eur Fermi.

**Museo di Palazzo Venezia**

A collection of decorative arts from medieval to the 18th century. Via del Plebiscito, 118 (06 32810).

**Museo Ebraico**

A collection to represent the Jewish community in Rome and located inside the synagogue in the old Jewish ghetto. Lungotevere de'Cenci (06 684 0061).

**Museo Etrusco di Villa Giulia**

Home of the National Etruscan collection that includes an Etruscan tomb artefacts and watercolours by Caffi, Corrodi, Aerni and others. Piazzale Villa Giulia, 9 (06 320 1951).

**Museo Napoleonico**

A collection of Napoleon's art, books and other objects. Piazza Ponte Umberto 1 (06 6880 6286).

**Museo Nazionale di Arte Orientale**

Housed in the Palazzo Brancaccio with collection of Asian art. Via Merulana, 248-250 (06 487 5077).

**National Gallery of S. Luca**

Created in 1577 by Pope Gregory XIII with a small collection including works by Raphael, Bassan and Rubens. Via dell'Accademia di San Luca, 77 (06 679 8850).

**Palazzo Altemps**

A collection of Roman statuary and other artefacts. Piazza Sant'Apollinare, 48 (06 687 2719).

**Bridges**

The River Tiber, which passes through Rome, has 26 bridges and most provide good views.

**Ponte di Castel Sant'Angelo**

Built by Emperor Adriannus in 130 AD, it is 130 metres long.

**Ponte Garibaldi**

Views of Saint Peter's from this bridge.

**Ponte Sisto**

Built between 1473 and 1475, this bridge has no cars and attracts buskers in the evening.

**Churches**

Rome and church are two words that are closely associated with each other. Rome is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic church, with its leader, the Pope, residing at the Vatican. Most tourists to Rome expect to spend a lot of time visiting some of these sacred houses, often with St Peter's usually at the top of their list.

Churches are impressive landmarks in the towns and cities, and Rome has many more than any other centre in Italy. Not only are they places of worship but they have become impressive art galleries and museums due to the high quality art and decorations of their interiors and exteriors. Rome's churches are especially impressive as often the art work has been done by world famous artists.

Most churches are open for display but they stick to strict opening hours and are not open for touring when a service is on. Some churches charge a fee to enter and others are free to wander around, there is usually notification of entry costs at the front door.

A lot of churches in Rome have a dress code and it is enforced, especially if there is a sign out the front stipulating the correct attire for entry. Anyone wearing shorts, short skirts, singlet tops where shoulders are shown or the midriff showing will not be allowed entry. It has been known for people to wait in a long line at St. Peter's only to be refused entry when they get to the front of the queue because their clothing isn't deemed suitable to enter. If you are out sightseeing for the day in Rome there is strong possibility that you will see a church that you would like to enter, so make sure you have dressed according to the dress code. For females it is a good tip to have a light cardigan in your bag to cover up just in case you see a church you would like to enter.

At eGuide we try to be fully comprehensive but the number of churches in Rome defeats us and so we only list some. There are many more!

**Il Gesu**

Opened in 1584 is the church of the Jesuits with the baroque triumph in the name of Jesus on the ceiling. Piazza del Gesu (06 697 001).

**San Carlo alla Quattro Fontane**

A small church designed by Francesco Borromini with an oval interior covered by an elliptical cupola. Via del Quirinale, 23 (06 488 3261).

**San Clemente**

A small cathedral where you can hear the underground river that flows beneath the city. Via San Giovanni in Laterana.

**Palazzo Barberini**

A national collection of 13-16th century paintings with works from Renaissance and Baroque periods. Via Barberini 18 (06 481 4591).

**Palazzo Massimo alle Terme**

Ancient sculpture and mosaics in this building with a neo-16th century style but opened in 1887. Laro di Villa Peretti, 1 (06 4890 3500).

**Palazzo Ruspoli Fondazione Memmo**

An old palace now used for photographic exhibitions. Via del Corso 418 (06 6830 7344).

**Villa Giulia Museum**

An extensive collection of Etruscan art and artefacts.

**San Giovanni in Laterano**

The cathedral church of Rome and first of the major basilicas. Piazza san Giovanni in Laterano, 4 (06 6988 6433).

**San Luigi dei Francesci**

Well known for the side chapel which contains three Caravaggio paintings, including 'The Calling of St. Matthew'.

**San Marco**

Founded in 336 AD on the site of the house where St. Mark the evangelist stayed. Piazza San Marco (06 679 5205).

**Sant'Andrea della Valle**

Built in 1624 by Giacomo della Porta with the second highest dome in Rome. Coros Vittorio, 6 (06 686 1339).

**Sant'Ignazio**

A good example of baroque art.

**Sant' Ivo della Sapienza**

Located near Piazza Navona, a small church shaped like the Star of David and with an interesting steeple.

**Santa Maria alla Minerva**

Rome's gothic church behind the pantheon.

**Santa Maria in Aracoeli**

The Romanesque Aracoeli is on the site of an ancient temple to Juno Moneta. Piazza del Campidoglio, 4 (06 679 8155).

**Santa Maria Maggiore**

On top of the Esquiline Hill with gold decorations inside. Piazza di Santa Maria Maggiore (06 483 195).

**Fountains**

Rome has over 300 fountains, but please do not enter the water!

**Baraccia Fountain**

At the bottom of the Spanish Steps lies Bernini's boat-shaped Barcaccia fountain built in 1629 by Bernini. Piazza di Spagna. Use Metro Spagna.

**Fontana dei Riumi**

Built by Bernini for Pope Innocent X with four giants to represent four great rivers: the Danube, the Ganges, the Nile and Rio della Plata. Piazza Navona.

**Fontana del Tritone**

Built by Bernini with Triton, who is half man and half fish. Piazza Barberini.

**Trevi Fountain**

The Trevi Fountain, at the piazza of Via del Tritone, was made famous in the film 'Three Coins in a Fountain'. If you toss a coin in the fountain, legend states that you will return to Rome. The Trevi fountain is at the end of the Aqua Virgo, an aqueduct constructed in 19 BC which brings water from the Salone Springs. The fountain was completed in 1762. The central figure of the fountain is Neptune, god of the sea, who rides a shell-shaped chariot pulled by two sea horses and guided by a Triton. One horse is calm, the other restive to represent the moods of the sea. To the left of Neptune is a statue representing abundance and on the right a statue representing salubrity. Piazza di Trevi.

**Museums**

Rome has many museums. Publicly owned museums are generally free or have discounted entry for EU citizens.

**Keats Shelley House**

Museum dedicated to romantic poets. Piazza di Spagna, 26 (06 678 4235).

**Le Carrozze d'Epoca**

Carriages that go back to the 18th century and all the accessories such as saddles and whips. Via A Millevio, 693 (06 5195 8112).

**Museo Civico di Zoologia**

Rome's zoology museum with a large collection of insects and other species. Via Aldrovandi, 18 (06 6710 9270).

**Santa Maria in Trastevere**

The nave is lined with columns from ancient Roman buildings and the apse is covered in gold mosaics. Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere (06 589 7332).

**San Nicola in Carcere**

A 12th century church built over three temples. Via del Teatro di Marcello (06 6830 7198).

**San Pietro**

St. Peter's is one of the world's great Christian symbols. Built over Saint Peter's tomb in the 4th century, over the years it has been added to including help from Michelangelo and inside you will find his Pieta. He built the massive dome. Bernini was responsible for the piazza and baldacchino. Good views from the cupola. Piazza San Pietro. Use metro Ottaviano - San Pietro.

**San Saba**

A 7th century church originally run by Greek monks. Via San Saba.

**Museo degli Orrori Dario Argento**

An underground museum with the props used by Dario Argento many of which depict horrors. Via dei Gracchi, 260. Use Metro Ottaviano.

**Museo dei Bambini di Roma**

A museum for children laid out as a small city with things to play with and touch. Via Flaminia, 80 (06 361 3741). Use Metro station Flaminio.

**Museo del Presepio Tipologico Internazionale**

Nativity displays from around the world. Cripta della Chiesa dei SS. Quirico e Giulitta (06 679 6146).

**Museo delle Auto della Polizia di Stato**

Police cars from the early days to the modern including a Ferrari 250 GTE. Via dell'Arcadia, 20.

**Museo delle Cere**

The wax museum with over 100 celebrities and wax dinosaurs. Piazza SS Apostoli, 67 (06 679 6482).

**Museo della Civilita Romana**

Reproductions of Roman civilisation along with a planetarium. Piazza Agnelli, 10 (06 592 6041).

**Museo delle Anime dei Defunti**

A collection of bibles and arguments to show there might be life after death. Chiesa del Sacro Cuore in Parti, 12 (06 6880 6517).

**Museo di Anatomia Comparata**

Skeletons and anatomical specimens along with a display to illustrate evolution and animal adaptation. University degli Studi 'La Sapienza' (06 4991 8033).

**Museo di Roma**

The history of Rome from the early to modern. Palazzo Braschi, Via di San Pantalei 10 (06 6710 8346).

**Museo di Roma in Trastevere**

Exhibition of Roman folklore. Piazza San Egidio 1b (06 581 6563).

**Museo Ebraica di Roma**

Tells the story of the persecution of the Jews in Rome. Langotevere Cenci (06 6840 0661).

**Museo Francescano dei Padri Cappuccini**

Remains of 4,000 monks used for decorations such as lampshades made from skulls, ribs hanging from the ceiling to make chandeliers and pelvic bones making hour glass shapes. Chiesa di S Maria deall Concezione, Via Vittori Veneta, 27 (06 487 1185). Use Metro Barberini.

**Museo Nazionale degli Strumenti Musicali**

Musical instruments including early Greek and Roman instruments. Piazza Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, 9a (06 32 810).

**Museo Nazionale delle Arti e Tradizioni Pollari**

A museum for agriculture and rural life in Italy. Piazza Marconi, 10 (06 592 6148). Use Metro Eur Fermi.

**Museo Nazionale delle Paste Alimentari**

All about pasta in this museum! Pixxa Scanderberg, 117 (06 699 1120). Use Metro station Barberini.

**Museo Nazionale di Castel Sant'Angelo e Mausoleo di Adriano**

A collection of weapons covering all periods in what was originally a fortress, prison and even a palace for the Popes. Lungotevere Castello, 50 (06 681 9111).

**Museo Nazionale Preistorico**

Prehistoric Italian, bronze age and iron age artefacts. Piazza Guglielmo Marconi, 14 (06 549 521). Use Metro Eur Fermi.

**Museo Nazionale Romano**

Built in a medieval crypt and shows life in Rome in the Middle Ages with two medieval houses on display. Via delle Botteghe Oscure,31 (06 3996 7700).

**Museo Nazionale Romano - Terme di Dioclesiano**

The largest baths in Rome and opened in 306 AD. Via Enrico De Nicola, 79 (06 3996 7700).

**Museo Numismatico della Zecca italiana**

A museum for money and coins. Via XX Settembre, 97 (06 4761 3317). Use Metro Repubblica.

**Palazzo Braschi**

Rome's history during the period 17-19th century in an 18th century palace. Piazza S Pantaleo, 10 (06 6710 8346).

**Planetarium and Astronomy Museum**

One of the first planetariums in the world and now lets you take a virtual journey from the Earth to the moon. Museum of Roman Civilisation, Piazza G Agnelli, 10.

**Scuderie del Quirinale**

Formerly an armoury, now a museum with changing exhibitions from around the world. Via XX1V Maggio, 16 (06 696 270).

**Villa Giulia Museum**

An extensive collection of Etruscan art and artefacts. Piazzale di Villa Guilia, 9 (06 322 6571).

**Parks and Gardens****Orto Botanica**

Rome's Botanic Gardens with fountains, fish ponds and hidden areas to relax in. Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24 (06 4991 7107).

**Parco Degli Scipioni**

Large park with children's playground. Piazza Numa Pompilio, Porta S Sebastiano.

**Parco Nimorense**

A playground and well known for the small bridges in the park. Piazza Crati.

**Parco Urbano de Pineto**

Contains a number of archaeological items. Via dell Pineta Sacchetti.

**Pincio**

Views over Piazza del Popolo with playground and restaurant.

**Villa Ada Savoia**

Bicycles can be rented in this park and there is also a children's area with free and paid games. Popular with joggers with paths around the lakes and woodland. Via Salaria, Via di Ponte Salaro.

**Villa Borghese**

A large villa with a lake where you can row and plenty of tracks for bicycles and roller-blading all of which can be rented. Piazzale Flaminio.

**Villa Doria Pamphili**

At the top of Gianicolo with buildings, skating rink, lake and artificial waterfall. Via di San Pancrazio.

**Villa Sciarra**

A small Roman villa with exotic plants, statues and fountains. Viale delle Mura Giannicolensi.

**Squares**

'Piazza' or squares are all over Rome. We list a few but there are many others. Just explore.

**Capitoline Square**

A square created by Michelangelo with a recreation of the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius.

**Piazza Colonna**

Home of the Italian Government, Palazzo Chigi.

**Piazza del Campidoglio**

Designed by Michelangelo on top of the Capitol hill with the Capitoline Museum.

**Piazza del Popolo**

At the northern entrance to Rome is this square which has been added to since it first started in 1472.

**Piazza della Minerva**

Just behind the Pantheon with a statue of an elephant by Bernini with an obelisk on its back.

**Piazza di Trevi**

A small square, home of the Fontana di Trevi.

**Piazza di Spagna**

The square under the Spanish Steps and named after the Spanish Embassy. The steps were a gift from King Louis XV to Rome.

**Piazza Montecitorio**

The location of the House of Representatives.

**Piazza Navona**

Originally a stadium built by the Domitian with fountains by Bernini.

**Piazza Venezia**

The centrepiece is the enormous Vittorio Emanuele Monument with the Capitoline hill next door close to the Forum.

**Vatican****Piazza San Pietro (St. Peter's Square)**

This is the gateway to the largest and most famous church in the world. The square is often full of tourists walking around taking in the majesty of the location. St. Peter's Basilica, and the man himself is there in stone with the keys to the kingdom, takes up one end of the square with the dome tucked away at the back. To the left as you enter the square are the official Vatican shops, post office and bookstores that do a very busy trade. To the right is the line up to enter the church or the museum around the corner. If in Rome on a Sunday, you can join in with the crowds to celebrate mass and, if you are really lucky, the Pope himself may make an appearance at his window in the Apostolic Palace.

**San Pietro (St. Peter's)**

St. Peter's is one of the world's great Christian symbols, built over Saint Peter's tomb in the 4th century. Over the years it has been added to and included help from Michelangelo whose Pieta you will find inside. He built the massive dome. Bernini was responsible for the piazza and baldacchino. Good views from the cupola. Piazza San Pietro (06 69881662). Use metro Ottaviano to San Pietro.

**Sistine Chapel**

Well known for Michelangelo's frescoes in the ceiling that took him four years to paint. The walls are painted by Domenico, Signorelli and others. Located inside the Vatican Museum; just follow the signs.

**Vatican City**

A State within the city of Rome, and the location of St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museums and Castel Sant'Angelo. The Pope gives a public audience every Wednesday and tickets need to be organised ahead of time from the Vatican. The Sunday morning blessing is given from the study overlooking Saint Peter's square and is open to all.

**Vatican Gardens**

The Vatican gardens consist of 23 hectares of beautiful greenery, paths, flower beds and, of course, statues and fountains. You need to make a reservation to visit here and the tickets must be picked up two to three days before your tour, so you need to be organised. The tours are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10am and last for a couple of hours. Vatican Tourism Office (06 6988 1662).

### **Vatican Museums**

The Vatican Museums occupy a part of the papal palaces and include the Borgia Apartments, Egyptian-Gregorian Museum, Ethnological Museum, Raphael Rooms, the Etruscan Museum, Pinacoteca, Pio-Clementino Museum, Raphael Salon and the Vatican Library. The Sistine Chapel is at the end of the museum route and where Michelangelo's 'Last Judgment' is rising above the frescoes on the side painted by Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Roselli, Pinturicchio, Signorelli and della Gatta. The altar wall has Michelangelo's 'Last Supper' with Christ above centre flanked by Mary. Located at Vatican City, Viale Vaticano (06 6988 4676).

## **Animal Attractions**

### **Bioparco Zoological Garden**

A zoo with over 200 specimens, along with entertainers and playground. Piazzale del Giardino Zoologico, 1 (06 3608211).

## **Fun Attractions**

### **Aquafelix**

A large water park with large water slide, outside the city of Rome. Civitavecchia. Via Terms di Traiano (07 6632221).

### **Aquapiper**

A huge water park with slides and more, outside Rome. Via Maremmana Inferiore (0774 326538).

### **Luna Park**

An established amusement park with classic rides. Via delle Fontane.

## **Natural Areas**

### **Catacombs**

#### **Catacombe di Priscilla**

One of the oldest catacombs. Via Salaria, 430 (0686206272).

#### **Catacombe di S. Agnese**

Fourth century catacombs that go down three levels and are well decorated. Via Nomentana, 349 (06 8610840).

#### **Catacombe di S. Callisto**

A huge complex of underground passages in the Roman Church Cemetery. Via Appia Antica, 110 (06 5136725).

#### **Catacombe di S. Domitilla**

Santa Domitilla is buried in these important catacombs. Via delle Sette Chiese, 280 (06 5110342).

#### **Catacombe di S. Sebastiano**

The Jewish community cemetery. Appia Antica, 136 (06 7850350).

### **Views**

#### **Castel Sant'Angelo**

Good 360 degree views of Rome. Lungotevere Castellao, 50.

#### **Gianicolo**

This hill is 80 metres high and named after Janus the two-faced God. Monteverde.

#### **Via Monte Tarpeo**

Good views above the Campidoglio.

## Entertainment

### Nightlife

Rome may be a serious, historical showpiece by day, but at night it becomes one of Europe's most popular music and dance capitals. Live music, concerts and disc jockeys pump out varied styles of music to suit not only the young, trendy set, but most age groups and nationalities will be entertained as well. Remember when in Rome... Roman's start late and finish early, early morning that is. Concerts and live bands don't kick off until about 11pm and most clubs stay open until 4am and this goes on most nights of the week.

Rome also has a vibrant, gay nightlife, with gay clubs and pubs operating in most districts in Rome. Testaccio is one of Rome's liveliest night time areas. South of Testaccio off the Via Ostiense in the area around Via Libetta are many clubs and pubs.

At [Rome eGuide](#) we have put together a list of some of the live venues and nightclubs in central Rome and districts however, this is just a sample there are many more.

#### **Alpheus**

This club attracts all types as it offers an amazing range of entertainment on weekends. The four main areas host live gigs, concerts, festivals and cabarets, and there is the dj entertainment as well that goes long into the night. Via del Commercio (06 574 7826).

#### **Anima**

This small club is popular with all ages and nationalities and offers a range of music styles. Via Santa Maria dell Anima (06 6889 2806).

#### **Big Mama**

The place to go for blues, with regular live performances and dining as well. Vicola San Francesco a Ripa (06 581 2551).

#### **Gregory's**

A small but popular jazz venue in the Tridente district, that has live performances on most nights. Via Gregoriana (06 679 6386).

#### **Hangar**

This is Rome's oldest gay bar. It has a friendly atmosphere and can be packed on weekends. Via in Selci, Esquiline (06 488 1397).

#### **La Maison**

This looks like a place for the posh but once you get past the snappy dressers and the opulence inside there is a lot of fun to be had for everyone. Beware of the picky doorman; maybe best to wear the glad rags this night! Vicolo dei Granari (06 683 3312).

### Cinemas

#### **Alcazar**

Via Merry del Var, 14 (06 588099).

#### **Casa del Cinema**

Via Urbana, 47a (06 4 872368).

#### **Cineplex Gulliver**

Via della Lucchina, 90 (199199991).

#### **La Palma**

A popular jazz club that offers good live music as well as djs. There is also a large outdoor courtyard and a restaurant here. Via G.Mirri, San Lorenzo (06 4359 9020).

#### **Locanda Atlantide**

This is a modest venue that caters to a mostly alternative crowd. There is a variety of styles here from dramatic theatre, concerts and djs. Via dei Lucani, San Lorenzo (06 4470 4540).

#### **Micca Club**

This is one of Rome's newest club venues and is located in a huge underground space near the train station. There are theme nights and international djs and music. Via Pietro Micca (06 8744 0079).

#### **Qube**

This is one of Rome's biggest nightclubs and can be very busy with a mix of music styles. Via di Portonaccio (06 438 5445).

#### **Rialtosantambrogia**

This popular squat in the ghetto has live drama performances, disco nights, art exhibitions and djs. Via Sant'Ambrogio (06 6813 3640).

#### **Metropolitan**

Via del Corsom, 7 (06 3200933).

#### **Nuovo Sacher**

Lgo Ascianghi, 1 (06 5818116).

#### **Warner Village Cinemas**

Pizza della Repubblica, 45 (6 477791).

## Theatres

### **Granteatro**

Via Tor di Quinto (06 33220917).

### **Parco della Musica**

This is Rome's newest performing arts centre and it's tipped to host many festivals, musicals and concerts. Via P de Coubertin (06 80 242).

### **Teatro Ambra Jovinelli**

Via Guglielmo Pepe, 43-47 (06 44340262).

### **Teatro Argentina**

Largo Argentina, 52 (06 684000345).

### **Teatro Belli**

Pizza S. Apollonia, 11 (06 5894875).

### **Teatro de' Servi**

Via del Mortaro, 22 (06 6795130).

### **Teatro del Lido**

Via delle Sirene, 22 (06 56339753).

### **Teatro dell'Opera**

Hosts the main events of Rome's opera season which runs from late December to June. This theatre is also the base for the Rome Opera Ballet. Piazza Beniamino Gigli, off Via Nazionale (06 488 1755).

### **Teatro Eliseo**

Via Nazionale, 183 (064882114).

### **Teatro Flaiano**

Via S Stegano del Cocco, 15 (06 6796496).

### **Teatro Greco**

Via R Leoncavallo, 10- 14 (06 8607513).

### **Teatro India**

Via Luigi Pierantoni, 6 (06 55300894).

### **Teatro Palladium**

This 1920s-built theatre hosts everything from dramatic performances to seminars. Piazza Bartolomeo Romano (06 5706 7768).

### **Teatro Olimpico**

Hosts mostly music performances from orchestras to pop. Piazza Gentile da Fabriano (06 326 5991).

## Shopping

Shopping in Italy is a real delight and most cities have everything from the top designers to the shabby chic. Rome offers a myriad of good shopping streets and areas, however be aware that it is hard to find a bargain here. You will pay top dollar for most of your purchases with very little discounts given. The famous shopping strips are wonderful to browse in but the leases are so high that unfortunately the costs are passed on to the customers. Listed below are some of the top shopping streets in Rome.

### Shopping Centres

#### **Via Borgognona**

You will see some of the best dressed Romans in this street. If you are looking for trendy and ultra expensive this is the street that will thrill you, but maybe not your credit card.

#### **Via Cola Di Rienzo**

Close to the Vatican, this is a good street to buy fashions, shoes and accessories at reasonable prices.

#### **Via Condotti**

This is the poshest street in Rome and is easy to find as it's at the base of the Spanish Steps. Even your fullest wallet may not be enough to purchase an outfit here, but a great place to people watch.

#### **Via del Corso**

Located near the Piazza del Popolo, this street attracts the younger, trendier set.

#### **Via Frattina**

Another upmarket shopping strip that starts at Piazza di Spagna. This area is busy but easier to move around as it is closed to road traffic.

#### **Via Nazionale**

The place to go if you are looking for anything in leather. There are other boutiques here as well but, beware, it can be extremely busy and hard to get around.

#### **Via Sistina**

This strip begins at the top of the Spanish Steps and once again the shops are stylish, chic and pricey.

#### **Via Vittorio Veneto**

More classy boutiques selling high-priced fashion and designer wear, but also has lots of cafés to stop at, rest and revive in.

## Department Stores and Malls

The largest of Italy's department store chains is La Rinascente, where you can find well priced clothing, underwear, jewellery, home wares, books and gift wear. There is a branch in Piazza Colonna, Via del Corso (06 679 7691), and another at Piazza Fiume. Another popular department store chain is Coin and it also has two outlets in Rome. Via Cola di Rienzo (06 708 0020), and Piazzale Appio.

If it's designer labels you want at half the price and don't mind last season's, then head to Discount dell'Alta Moda. You will find most of the top design labels here and is great if you have the patience to work your way through the racks to find your style and size. Via Gesu e Maria 16A (06 361 3796).

### **Cinecitta Due**

Via Palmiro Togliatti, 2.

### **Centro Commerciale Anagnina**

Via Torre di Mezzavia, 35.

### **Forum Termini**

Termini Train Station.

### **Le Torri**

Via D Cambellotti.

### **Rocco Casa**

Via Vittore Ghiliani, 40.

### **Standa**

Piazza Talenti.

### **Upim**

Largo Boccea.

## Markets

### **Anticaja Petrella**

Weekend market. Via Monte della Farina, 62.

### **Campo dei Fiori**

Campo dei Fiori is one of the oldest markets in Rome, where food and flowers are most frequently found. Experience some Italian delicacies and enjoy magnificent aromas. Although the name literally means "field of flowers", there are no fields in sight! It is in the middle of downtown Rome, off of the Corso Vittorio Emanuele II. The prices are high but the food is delectable. This market starts at 6am and ends up at midday from Monday to Saturday, Piazza Campo de' Fiori. Take bus 46, 62 or 64.

### **Castroni**

This market not only sells the freshest produce from Italy, it also has an array of foodstuffs from all over the world. Here you will see food you didn't even know existed, let alone have tasted. Via Cola di Rienzo (06 687 4383). Take bus 32, 70 or 280.

### **Eco-Solidarity Market**

In Ostiense there is a market for used clothing and goods as well as antiques.

### **L'Antico in Terrazza Peroni**

Antique market on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Via Mantova.

### **La Soffita in Garage**

Sunday morning market. Underground parking lot, Parks Piazzale del Partigiani.

### **Mercata di Testaccio**

If you want to take in the real culinary delights of Italy, this market will please all your senses. Full of locals and fresh produce, this market is a delightful display of Romans going about their daily business. Piazza Testaccio Take bus 23,75 170 or 280, tram 3.

### **Piazza Vittorio Emanuele**

This is Rome's largest market and operates from 7am to midday, Monday to Saturday. Fresh produce and other foodstuffs are available as well as stalls of clothing, home wares and other merchandise. Santa Maria Maggiore.

### **Ponte Milvio**

The market runs across the bridge every day except Sunday. Piazzale Ponte Milvio.

### **Porta Portese**

Street market on Sunday mornings on the left bank of the Tiber, between Porta Portese and Stazione Trastevere, centred on Via Portuense. The wares are mainly clothes, both old and new. The second-hand clothing stalls are by far the more popular, with the clothes sorted by type (leathers and furs, jeans, coats, children's clothes, etc.) and piled on large tables with everything at the same (low) price. Tables start at 50 cents, and range up to 20 euros for high-quality leather and fur. It is a huge flea market sells more trash than treasure but at least you may be able to dig up a little gem that is something typically Roman. You will really have to fight the crowds and be prepared to rummage, however it is a fun Sunday morning out. Best to go early, say 7am. Finishes up at 2pm. Via Portuense, Piazza Ippolito Nievo, take bus 75 or 780, tram 3 or 8.

### **Via Sannio**

A more civilised market with leather goods, cheap fashions and accessories. Held Monday to Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Off Piazzale Appio. Take bus 85, 87 or 850.

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