

**WIMDU**

City Guides

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ROME

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# 'BENVENUTI' A ROMA!

## BENVENUTI A ROMA

A few useful tips before you visit...

Free Entry

Tipping

Discounts

Plan Ahead

Bottle it up

Counterfeit goods



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Welcome  
to Rome

# Of the many marvels of the ancient world,

Rome is the one that inspires the most awe and intrigue. This iconic city tells the tale of the rise and fall of one of the world's great bygone civilisations. At the height of its power, Rome was the beating heart of one of the world's most powerful empires.

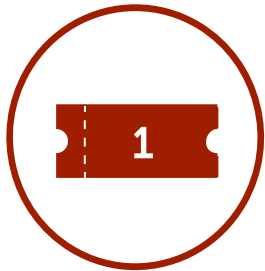
In the 2nd-century AD - a time in history when communities of 10,000 or more were considered to be large cities - Rome had a population of one million. To manage its great populous the Roman state pioneered advanced systems of governance for urban planning and law and order. From the innovative sewage networks to the expert precision of its aqueducts, Rome became a shining example of architectural prowess and well-organised rule.

Today, the city remains the vibrant capital of Italy - having grown into a wonderful tapestry that fuses the many eras of the city's past with its architecture, artwork, cuisine and culture. The hallmarks of its ingenuity, dominance and wealth can be seen today in the magnificent ruins and ancient relics. The artistic prowess and religious power can be admired in the abundance of churches, galleries and grand palaces - and the city's contemporary culture can be experienced in the many markets, high streets, restaurants and bars.

Rome has so much to see and do that it would be impossible to fit it all into just one guide - and for a city that spans three millennia, this should be no surprise. This guide provides an overview of some of the most interesting and most popular sights, attractions and venues on offer, and covers everything that you need to know from transport to tourist cards.

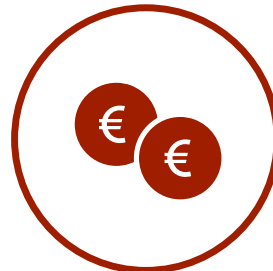
# A FEW USEFUL TIPS BEFORE YOU VISIT:

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## FREE ENTRY

All national museums, monuments and archaeological sites offer free entry to all visitors on the first Sunday of every month. A comprehensive list of these can be found in our [Roma Pass](#) section.



## TIPPING

It's not necessary to tip. Service is included in the bill, so tipping is uncommon and there's no need for you to feel obliged to splash the cash.



## DISCOUNTS

If you're an EU citizen, carry your ID. EU citizens can enjoy discount entry to many of Rome's most popular attractions.



## BOTTLE IT UP

During summer months, carry a reusable water bottle when you're out and about. You **will** need it, and there are plenty of drinking fountains for refills.



## COUNTERFEIT GOODS


Avoid eye-contact with pushy street salesmen. If possible, try to ignore them altogether. If they approach you, say 'no' and keep walking. Street salesmen are common in many tourist cities, though in Rome they can be particularly persistent. Furthermore, it's illegal to buy counterfeit goods in Italy and doing so can incur a €10,000 fine.



## PLAN AHEAD

Reserve time-slot tickets to popular attractions, whenever possible, to avoid long queues or the chance of being turned away.





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## ROME'S TOP 10 LANDMARKS

1. [The Colosseum](#)
2. [Vatican City](#)
3. [The Roman Forum](#)
4. [The Trevi Fountain](#)
5. [Piazza Navona](#)
6. [Via Appia Antica](#)
7. [Castel Sant'Angelo](#)
8. [The Spanish Steps](#)
9. [The Pantheon](#)
10. [Altare della Patria](#)



The excitement and mystery surrounding Rome's towering ancient relics draws over 7 million tourists to the city every year.

With so much to see and experience, knowing where to start can be difficult during the limited timeframe of your visit. Whether you have a taste for the intricate mastery of the High Renaissance, the magnificent ruins of ancient civilizations or the experimental nature of contemporary art, Rome has more than enough to satisfy any palate. Here are some of the top unmissable landmarks within the city. For more sites of interest, check out our Top 10 Unmissable Museums and Galleries section.





- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Colosseum      | 6 Via Appia Antica     |
| 2 Roman Forum    | 7 Castel Sant'Angelo   |
| 3 Vatican City   | 8 Spanish Steps        |
| 4 Trevi Fountain | 9 Pantheon             |
| 5 Piazza Navona  | 10 Altare della Patria |



ROMA  
PASS

# 1 THE COLOSSEUM

The Colosseum's **2,000 year history** and iconic status make it one of the most famous symbols in Europe, rivalled only by the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben. Also known as the **Flavian Amphitheatre**, the Colosseum was a magnificent feat of architectural engineering. Built of **Roman concrete**, it was the **largest amphitheatre ever created**, and took only eight years to construct.

Higher estimates predict that in its heyday the Colosseum could hold up to **80,000 spectators**. People would flock to the stadium to witness the bloody performances of

the gladiators, as well as battle re-enactments, executions and dramatic interpretations of classical mythology. The Colosseum was without doubt at the **cultural heart of Ancient Rome**.

Today, visitors can access two levels of the Colosseum, which offer views of the interior of the arena and the tunnels that existed beneath them, which were used as passageways for the performers and animals. Entry to the Colosseum also includes access to **Palatine Hill** and the **Roman Forum**.

**OPENING TIMES:**

variable. Please visit the official website for details

**ADDRESS:**

Piazza del Colosseo, 1, 00184 Roma

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en/archaeological-site/colosseum>

**ADMISSION:**

Regular: €12 Reduced, €7.50 (EU citizens 18-25, EU teachers), Visitors aged 17 and under or 65+ – free

**GETTING THERE:**

**Metro:** MEB, MEB1 (Colosseo)

**Bus:** 51, 75, 85, 87, 117, 118, 186, 810 (Colosseo)

**Tram:** 3, 8 (Piazza del Colosseo)





## 2 VATICAN CITY

Vatican City gained independence in 1929, and with a **population of less than 850** and a total area of **110 acres** it is recognised as the smallest independent state in the world. The state is also politically unique, with the Pope being the only absolute monarch in Europe. The Vatican is home to the Holy See – the central power that governs the Catholic Church.

As the epicentre of Catholicism, Vatican City attracts well over **5 million pilgrims** and tourists per year. Visitors flock to experience the awe and wonder evoked by the

grand and elegant structures that are housed within. Highlights include the **Sistine Chapel**, which boasts the iconic masterpiece of Michelangelo's '**The Creation of Adam**', the magnificent **Basilica of Saint Peter**, which offers the breathtaking beauty of its highly-decorated and cavernous interior, and the **Vatican Museums** with their vast collections of priceless art.

For a complete list of opening times and entrance fees for attractions within Vatican City, please visit the official website.



### GETTING THERE:

**Metro:** MEA (Cipro), **Bus** 34, 46, 64, 116

**Tram:** 19 (San Pietro)



### OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.vaticanstate.va/content/vaticanstate.html>



ROMA  
PASS

# 3 THE ROMAN FORUM

Attracting an astonishing **4.5 million annual visitors**, the Roman Forum is one of Europe's most popular attractions. For centuries throughout the era of antiquity, the Forum was the beating heart of Rome's great empire. One of the area's most important functions was its role as the city's **political epicentre**, and it was home to the Senate House and government offices.

Throughout its long history, the layout was restructured on numerous occasions to improve its suitability as a centre for politics, commerce and religious gatherings. The ruins of ancient temples, government buildings and statues offer a glimpse of the history that took place here. Surviving structures include the remains of the **Temple of Vesta**, the **Temple of Caesar**, the Rostra and the **Curia Julia Senate House**.



## ADDRESS:

Piazza del Colosseo, 1, 00184 Roma



## OPENING TIMES:

Daily: variable. Please visit the official website for details)



## OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en/archaeological-site/roman-forum-and-palatine-hill>



## ADMISSION:

Regular: Regular: €12, Reduced €7.50 (EU citizens 18–25, EU teachers), Visitors aged 17 and under or 65+ – free



## GETTING THERE:

**Metro:** MEB, MEB1 (Colosseo)

**Bus:** 51, 75, 85, 87, 117, 118, 186, 810 (Colosseo)

**Tram:** 3, 8 (Piazza del Colosseo)





# 4 THE TREVI FOUNTAIN

Built in 1762, this elaborate **Baroque masterpiece** is perhaps the most famous fountain in Rome – and is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. The fountain is located on the historic **Trivium crossing**, from which it takes its name.

Although relatively modern, by Rome's standards at least, the Trevi is built upon the site of a much older fountain. The original fountain marked the terminus of Rome's ancient **Aqua Virgo aqueduct**, which was built in 19 BC.

The aqueduct spanned an impressive 21 kilometres, and was able to supply more than 100,000 cubic metres of water every day. In the 4th century, the aqueduct fed a total of 1,352 fountains.

**Coin tossing** is popular with visitors, and coins are traditionally thrown over the left shoulder using the right hand to ensure a return to the fountain. Each night an estimated 3,000 Euros are collected, and are **used to subsidise a supermarket for the poor**.

**ADDRESS:**

Piazza di Trevi, 00187 Rome

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.trevifountain.net/description.htm>

**GETTING THERE:**

**Bus:** 51, 53, 62, 63, 71, 80, 83, 85, 116, 160, 492 (Largo Chigi)





# 5

## PIAZZA NAVONA

Originally known as '**Circus Agonalis**', the site on which Piazza Navona now lays was the location of a Roman athletics stadium, built in 86 AD. The stadium was the city's first permanent venue for athletics, and could hold up to 30,000 spectators. Over the centuries that followed, the structure deteriorated and fell into disrepair. No longer used as a stadium, the interior arena hosted markets, festivals and other public gatherings from the 15th-century onwards.

As its popularity as a public meeting space grew, the square was transformed by new building work. Additions

included the **Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi** (Fountain of the Four Rivers), the Fontana del Moro and the **Fontana del Nettuno** (Fountain of Neptune). Also on the site, visitors will find the **Church of Sant'Agnese in Agone**, which is named after the early Christian Saint Agnes who was martyred in the Circus Agonalis Stadium.

The fragments of the former stadium can be found in the foundations of the buildings that now flank the square, which have incorporated the stadium's lower arcades.



### GETTING THERE:

**Bus:** 30, 70, 81, 87, 116, 130F, 186, 492, 628, C3, N7 (Corso Rinascimento)



### OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<http://www.navonasquare.com/en/storia.php>



ROMA  
PASS

# 6 VIA APPIA ANTICA

Via Appia Antica, also known as the **Appian Way**, is one of the oldest and most historically significant Roman roads, dating back **over 2,300 years**. At one time, it was the most important road in the world - and its significance in Roman period led to the famous saying "all roads lead to Rome".

Construction on the first section of the road was carried out in **312 BC** with the intention to **improve the speed of communication** between Rome and nearby **Capua**.

The total distance of this initial stretch was **132 miles** - starting at **Circus Maximus** and ending at Capua. Over time the road was lengthened, and at its peak it stretched **365 miles** from Rome to Brindisi on the Adriatic coast.

Today, visitors can enjoy the numerous sights along the Appian Way, with highlights including **Villa dei Quintili**, the **Mausoleum of Caecilia Metella** and the **Ensemble of Capo di Bove**.

**GETTING THERE:**

**Bus:** 118 (Via Appia Antica)

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.viaappiaantica.com/>



ROMA  
PASS

# 7 CASTEL SANT'ANGELO (+ MUSEUM)

Also known as the **Mausoleum of Hadrian**, the Castel Sant'Angelo was commissioned in the early second century AD by the Emperor Hadrian as a mausoleum for himself and his family. The remains of successive emperors were also interred here, with the last being those of the infamous **Caracalla** in 217 AD. The structure remained a mausoleum until 403 AD, when it was militarised to serve as a fortified outpost for the city. During this time and in the centuries that followed, the decorations and urns were looted, removed or destroyed.

There are numerous myths that give reason for the castle's current name, one of which states that the

**Archangel Michael** appeared atop the structure in **590 AD**, sheathing his sword to signify the end of the plague. It wasn't until the 14th century that the structure was converted into a castle, under the diktat of the Papal State. It was at this time also that a tunnel was built to connect the castle to St. Peter's Basilica.

Today, the castle serves as a major tourist attraction and houses the **Museo Nazionale di Castel Sant'Angelo**. Within the walls of the museum, visitors will find a large collection of ceramics dating from classical antiquity to the Renaissance period. Other highlights include the Sculpture Collection and the Picture Gallery.



**ADMISSION:** Regular €10.50, Reduced €7.50,  
EU Citizens under 18 – free



**GETTING THERE:**  
**Tram:** 18 (San Pietro)  
**Bus:** 23, 34, 40, 62, 280, 982 (Castel Sant'Angelo)



**ADDRESS:**  
Lungotevere Castello, 50, 00186 Rome



**OPENING TIMES:**  
Tue – Sun 9am – 7.30 pm (last entry at 6.30pm)



**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**  
<http://www.castelsantangelo.com/index.asp>





## 8 THE SPANISH STEPS

Rome's famous Spanish Steps (Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti) were built in the early 18th century, and have inspired countless artists, musicians and filmmakers ever since. The majestic stone stairway was built to provide access from the **Trinità dei Monti church** to the square below.

The Spanish Steps take their name from the square below them, **Piazza di Spagna**, which in turn took its name from the Spanish Embassy which once bordered

the square. The construction costs were bequeathed in the will of French diplomat Étienne Gueffier, with the sole purpose for them to be used to create the Baroque-style structure.

The steps have featured in numerous films, including 'Roman Holiday' with **Audrey Hepburn** and 'The Talented Mr Ripley' with **Matt Damon**. The area surrounding the steps has also housed numerous historical figures, including the English poet **John Keats**.

**LOCATION:**

Piazza di Spagna, 00187 Rome

**GETTING THERE:**

**Metro:** MEA (Spagna)

**Bus:** 117 (Piazza di Spagna)





# 9 PANTHEON

The Pantheon is one of the best preserved relics from the Roman Empire, and is also one of the greatest examples of its architectural prowess. **For 1,300 years, the Pantheon's dome was the largest in the world** – and to this day it remains the largest unsupported dome.

Since its creation in **128 AD**, the Pantheon has remained in constant use. Although originally used as a pagan temple, the building has been used as a church since 609 AD and is dedicated to **Santa Maria ad Martyres**

(Saint Mary of Martyrs). Since the 16th century, the Pantheon has also been used as a tomb, with the famous painter **Raphael** being amongst those laid to rest there.

The function of the Pantheon isn't the only thing that has changed over the centuries. Throughout its lifetime, the structure has been stripped of many of its more decorative aspects, including pagan statues, all metal ornaments and large sections of the external decorative marble.

**OPENING TIMES:**

Mon – Sat 8.30am – 7.30pm,  
Sunday 9am – 6pm

**ADDRESS:**

Piazza della Rotonda, 00186 Rome

**GETTING THERE:**

**Bus:** 30, 70, 81, 87, 116, 186, 492, 628  
(Corso Rinascimento)

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE:**

<http://www.pantheonroma.com/en/>





# 10

## ALTARE DELLA PATRIA (Altar of the Fatherland)

The Altare della Patria (Altar of the Fatherland) is one of Rome's largest and most impressive monuments. Dedicated to **Victor Emmanuel**, the first king of Italy following unification, the monument was designed in 1885 and it took 40 years to build the structure. Covered in countless elaborate sculptures, and made up of several tiers, it has been nicknamed '**the wedding cake**' by its critics. The eclectic monument draws upon numerous architectural and artistic styles, taking significant inspiration from Greek and Germanic architecture.

Built of dazzling white marble upon an area between **Piazza Venezia** and Capitoline Hill, the Altare della Patria is visible from almost every part of Rome. Within its walls, visitors will find the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with its Eternal Flame**, and also the Museum of Italian Unification. Entrance to the monument is free. To enjoy an unbeatable view over the city, it is possible to take an elevator to the roof for a fee.



### ADMISSION

Elevator: Regular €7, Children under 10 – free



### OPENING TIMES:

Elevator opening times:

Mon – Thur 9.30am – 6.30pm,

Fri – Sun 9.30am – 7.30pm (last entrance  
45 minutes before close)

Stairs opening times: Winter 9.30am – 4.30pm,  
Summer 9.30am – 5.30pm



### ADDRESS:

Piazza Venezia, 00186 Rome



### GETTING THERE:

**Bus:** Bus 46, 60, 80, 190F, 780, 916, 916F,  
B06 (Piazza Venezia)

**Tram:** 8 (Venezia)

