

Colosseum

Its original name is Flavian Amphitheatre, in honour of the Emperors of the Flavian dynasty who ordered its construction. It was called Colosseum because nearby there was a colossal statue of Nero in golden bronze, 35 metres high, which was moved here from the Domus Aurea during the reign of Adrian.

Its construction begun under the Emperor Vespasian in 72 A.D. and finished under Titus eight years later. Its inauguration lasted 100 days, during which 5,000 animals and numerous gladiators were slain. In fact, the amphitheatre was used for fights between gladiators and chasing of ferocious beasts as well as for naval battles.

The Colosseum contained about 70,000 spectators, who were protected from the sun by canvas "sails," manoeuvred by a team of sailors. The interior was subdivided into three overlapping sectors of steps, each one destined to a different social class category: the lower section, around the arena, was for the emperor, senators, magistrates, and vestals; the first tier was for the horsemen, the second for citizens, and the third one for the lowest classes.

Since the Middle Ages, the Colosseum was abandoned and used as a quarry for travertine to build new palaces, according to a custom much in vogue at that time. At the end of the 16th century Sixtus V proposed to transform the amphitheatre into a wool factory or to divide it in two parts to create a street connecting the Lateran and the Vatican. It has not been historically proven that Christians were martyred here, but the Colosseum was consecrated as a sacred site in the middle of the 17th century, and the Popes began its restoration.

Address:	Piazza del Colosseo	Tel:	(+39) 06 7005469; (+39) 06 39967700
Open: Mon - Sun	02 Jan -15 Feb		8.30 - 16.30 (Last entrance @ 15.30)
	16 Feb - 15 mar		8.30 - 17.00 (Last entrance @16.00)
	16 Mar - Last Saturday of March		8.30 - 17.30 (Last entrance @ 16.30)
	Last Sunday of March - 31 Aug		8.30 - 19.15 (Last entrance @ 18.15)
	1 Sept - 30 Sept		8.30 - 19.00 (Last entrance @ 18.00)
	1 Oct - Last Saturday of Oct		8.30 - 18.30 (Last entrance @ 17.30)
	Last Sunday of Oct - 31 Dec		8.30 - 16.30 (Last entrance @ 15.30)
Cost:	General Admission: € 8,00. Reduced: € 6,00 for EU citizens between 18 - 25. Free entrance for EU citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.		
Closed:	1 Jan, 25 Dec		
Metro:	Linea B: Colosseo	Bus:	3, 60, 75, 81, 85, 87, 117, 175, 186, 204, 673, 810, 850

Arch of Costantine

The Arch of Constantine was built in 315 A.D. to commemorate the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312, when Constantine defeated his rival Maxentius, who fell from the bridge and drowned.

On the facade overlooking the Colosseum are represented fights between Marco Aurelio and the Daci family and on the other side, the battle between Marco Aurelio and Constantine.

Address: Piazza del Colosseo

Palatine

The Palatine is one of the most famous hills in Rome. Here, according to tradition, Romulus founded Rome in 753 B.C., a date confirmed by the remains of some huts dating to the 8th century B.C. The Palatine was the hill where the emperors established their residence and where the Farnese family in the 16th century created the first botanical garden in the world.

During the Middle Ages the area of the circus was occupied by fortifications, as proved by the Frangipane Tower at the end of the valley, also called the Moletta because of the mills which were fed by a canal running through the valley.

Address:	Via di San Gregorio, 30	Tel:	(+39) 0639967700
Open: Mon - Sun	02 Jan -15 Feb		8.30 - 16.30 (Last entrance @ 15.30)
	16 Feb - 15 mar		8.30 - 17.00 (Last entrance @16.00)
	16 Mar - Last Saturday of March		8.30 - 17.30 (Last entrance @ 16.30)
	Last Sunday of March - 31 Aug		8.30 -1 9.15 (Last entrance @ 18.15)
	1 Sept - 30 Sept		8.30 - 19.00 (Last entrance @ 18.00)
	1 Oct - Last Saturday of Oct		8.30 - 18.30 (Last entrance @ 17.30)
	Last Sunday of Oct - 31 Dec		8.30 - 16.30 (Last entrance @ 15.30)
	Casa di Augusto:		11.00 - 15.30 Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun
Cost:	General Admission: €8,00; Reduced: €4,00; Prices are subject to change with no notice..		
Closed:	1 Jan, 25 Dec		
Metro:	Linea B: Colosseo	Bus:	3, 60, 75, 81, 85, 87, 117, 175, 186, 204, 673, 810, 850
Useful Info:	Advance ticket reservation: € 1.50. Reservations recommended for groups over 12 people at a cost of € 25,00.		

Circus Maximus*

The long valley down the Aventino hill was once occupied by the Circus Maximus, the largest arena of ancient times. It was 600 metres long and 200 metres wide, and could hold up to 300,000 spectators. According to legend, it was built by the Etruscan king Tarquinius Priscus, it was enlarged first by Caesar and then by Augustus, who raised the Egyptian obelisk, which is now in Piazza del Popolo, in its centre.

The circus was used for chariot races, which were won by the first driver who crossed the finish line after seven laps. The circus was used for centuries, with the last shows being held there in the 6th century A.D. The imperial palace looked onto the Circus Maximus; its imposing ruins are still visible on the Palatine hill.

Metro: Line B: Circo Massimo

Domus Aurea

This imperial palace was built by Nero after the fire of 64 A.D.; its ceiling was covered in gold and studded with precious gems and shells. A colossal statue of the emperor, 35 metres high, stood at the entrance, and the area now covered by the Colosseum was an artificial lake.

After long years of restoration, the Domus Aurea has now been reopened to the public.

Address:	Via della Domus Aurea	Open:	9.00 -19.45. Tuesday closed.
Cost:	General Admission: € 5,00 Reduced: € 2.50 for EU citizens between 18 and 25 years old. Free entrance for EU citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.		
Useful Info:	Advance ticket reservation: € 1.50. Reservations recommended for groups over 12 people at a cost of € 25,00.		