

Via Nazionale

The avenue was opened in 1870 along the track of the route built by Pope Pius IX. Nowadays is one of Romans' favourite street, especially for shopping.

San Vitale

The church of San Vitale was built in the 5th century and restored at the end of the 19th. Until the 1800s, in this church bread was distributed to the poor to fulfil the terms of the will of a Roman nobleman.

Address: Via Nazionale, 194

Palazzo delle Esposizioni

Built by Pio Piacentini at the end of the 19th century, this impressive building is today the seat of important and interesting exhibitions.

Address: Via Nazionale, 194 **Closed:** Monday

Open: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sun: 10.00 – 20.00; Fri, Sat: 10.00 – 22.30

Last entrance one hour before closing time.

Piazza del Quirinale

Piazza del Quirinale is located on the highest of Rome's seven hills. This hill, in ancient times, was the site of numerous sanctuaries. The square is closed by the majestic Quirinal Palace, on which famous architects worked, including Lorenzo Bernini. Begun in 1573 under Pope Gregory XIII, who wanted to make it the Pope's summer palace, and finished two centuries later under Clement XII, the building became from 1870 the residence of the king of Italy, and today is the official residence of the President of the Italian Republic.

In the centre of the square stands the obelisk from the Mausoleo di Augusto, a fountain from the Roman Forum, and the famous statues of the "Dioscuri", Roman copies of Greek originals which represent the two inseparable twins Castor and Pollux, protectors of horsemen. In the square is held a choreographic ceremony for the changing of the guards, which attracts crowds of tourists.

Useful Info: In order to visit the Quirinale, it is necessary to have a permit from the Intendenza della Presidenza della Repubblica, Via della Dataria 96.

Scuderie del Quirinale

Address: Via XXIV Maggio, 16 **Tel:** (+39) 0639967500

Open: Sun - Thurs 10.00 – 20.00; Fri & Sat 10.00 - 22.30 **Closed:** Monday, 1 Jan, 25 Dec

Bus: H, 60, 64, 70, 117, 170, 640

Trajan's Forum

The semicircular structure belongs to Trajan's Markets, built by Apollodorus of Damascus in the second century A.D.; there were more than 150 shops selling everything, from silk to fresh fish, just like in a modern shopping centre.

Mercati di Traiano e Museo dei Fori Imperiali

Address: Via IV Novembre, 94 **Tel:** (+39) 060608

Open: Mon - Sun 9.00 - 21.00 (Last entrance @ 20.00)
24 & 31 Dec 9.00 - 14.00 (Last entrance @ 13.00)

Closed: 1 Jan, 1 May, 25 Dec

Trajan's Column

It is the only monument of Trajan's Forum still intact.

It narrates the deeds of the Emperor against the Dacians and its height is 30 metres as well as the hill that was raised to the ground in order to build the forum.

Address: Via dei Fori Imperiali

Via dei Fori Imperiali

This street was realized upon will of Mussolini in 1932. At the end of the Republican era, the valley of the Roman Forum, centre of city life, had become insufficient. Thus, various emperors created new Forums along this street, whose name means "The Way of the Imperial Forums".

During the Middle Ages the Forums were abandoned and over time buried and interred. The area was systematically excavated only in 1923.

Augustus' Forum

Augustus' Forum, was built by Augustus to commemorate the victory of 42 B.C. over Julius Caesar's assassins and was opened in 2 B.C.

The forum was separated from the populated Suburra district by a big wall that protected the forum from the fire.

Address: Via dei Fori Imperiali

Basilica of Saints Cosmas and Damian

This church, built under Pope Felice IV between 526 and 530, and S.Maria Antiqua were the first Christian churches in the Forum area.

The Basilica was a sanctuary where the devoted used to pray for recovery to Cosma and Damiano, martyred military doctors.

Address: Via dei Fori Imperiali

Open: 9.00 - 13.00; 15.00 - 18.00

Basilica of Maxentius or Costantine

The construction of the basilica began under Maxentius in 306 and was finished by Constantine. Basilicas in ancient Rome were used for the administration of justice and business negotiations.

The early Christian churches copied their architecture and were also called basilicas.

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