

Campidoglio

The staircase on the right, the "cordonata" designed by Michelangelo, leads to the square of the Campidoglio, political and religious centre of ancient Rome which is now the city hall.

In the centre of the square it rises the famous copy of the statue of Marco Aurelio, while the original is housed in the Palazzo Nuovo. On the sides, both Palazzo Nuovo and Palazzo dei Conservatori host the Capitoline museums and at the rear the Palazzo Senatorio is the seat of the Municipality.

Musei Capitolini

Address: Piazza del Campidoglio, 1

Tel: (+39) 060608

Open: Mon - Sun 9.00 - 21.00 (Last entrance @ 20.00);

Closed: 1 Jan, 1 May, 25 Dec

24 & 31 Dec 9.00 - 14.00 (Last entrance @ 13.00)

Bus: H, 30, 44, 46, 60, 62, 63, 64, 70, 75, 81, 84, 85, 87, 95, 160,170,186,204,628,630,716,780,781,810

Santa Maria dell'Ara Coeli

Also called "altar of heaven," it was erected on the spot where, according to tradition, a Sibyl announced to the Emperor Augustus the coming of Christ.

Address: Piazza del Campidoglio, 55

Open: 9.00 - 12.30; 14.30 - 17.30

Vittoriano

The imposing white marble monument on the right is the Vittoriano, dedicated to Victor Emanuel II, the first king of Italy as a united nation. Designed by Giuseppe Sacconi, it was begun in 1885 and finished in the 1920s. One of the most characteristic areas of Rome was destroyed in order to build it.

On the first terrace is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, containing the remains of an unnamed soldier who died in World War I. Here a guard of honour stands day and night, made up of members of the various branches of the military.

Address: Piazza Venezia

Palazzo Venezia

This palace is the first example of Renaissance architecture in Rome. It was built in the middle of the 15th century for Cardinal Pietro Barbo, elected pope with the name of Paul II. The palace was used first as a papal residence, then, from the middle of the 16th century it served as headquarter for the Venetian embassy, hence its name, and then of the Austrian one.

It passed into the hands of the Italian State in 1916 and was the seat of government during the Fascist period. Mussolini used the balcony to make his speeches to the crowd. The palace today houses a museum and also provides space for temporary exhibitions.

Address: Piazza Venezia

Open: 8.30 - 18.30

Cost: General Admission: € 4,00. Reduced: € 2,00 for EU citizens between 18 - 25 y.o.

Free entrance for EU citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.

Useful Info: Visits to the museum for exhibitions. For information call +39 06 69994319

Palazzo delle Assicurazioni

Inspired by Palazzo Venezia, it stands on the site of the house where the great Michelangelo lived and died.

It was designed by Guido Birilli and built between 1906 and 1911.

Address: Piazza Venezia **Cost:** Free Entrance

Largo di Torre Argentina

It is an archaeological area, called the sacred area because it contains four temples from the Republican period. Near the temples was the Court of Pompey (Curia di Pompeo) where Julius Caesar was killed in 44 B.C. by a group of conspirators, among whom was Brutus, his adopted son.

Largo Argentina takes its name from a tower which was the residence of a papal master of ceremonies who called himself Argentinus after the Latin name of Strasbourg, where he was born.

Useful Info: Visits only by prior appointment; contact the Soprintendenza Comunale ai Monumenti Antichi e Scavi Archeologici in Via del Portico d'Ottavia, 29 - tel. +39 06/67102070.

Sant'Andrea della Valle

It was begun at the end of the 16th century and finished in the middle of the 17th century by Carlo Maderno, who designed the high dome, which is lower only to St. Peter's. The imposing travertine facade is the work of Rainaldi, created in the middle of the 17th century.

Inside is the famous Barberini chapel, called also the "Tosca chapel" because it was the setting for the first act of Puccini's opera. Here the artist Cavaradossi paints a picture of the Virgin Mary, modelled on Marchesa Attavanti, thus arousing the jealousy of his beloved Tosca.

Address: Piazza Vidoni, 6 **Open:** 7.30 - 12.00; 16.30 - 19.30

Useful Info: Mass times: 8-9-11-19, h12 Sundays only. Preferably no visits during mass times.