

## 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

## 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&apos;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.

## 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.

**Address:** Via dei Fori Imperiali

## 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      **Closed:** 1 Jan, 1 May, 25 Dec

**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)

## 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.

**Address:** Via dei Fori Imperiali

## 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

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

Last entrance one hour before closing time.

**Closed:** Monday

## 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 May, 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