

## Baths of Diocletian

Built at the end of the third century by the Emperor Diocletian and his brother Maximian, the baths were the largest in Rome and could hold more than 3,000 people. The Romans, apart from the wealthy ones, did not have running water in their homes, thus by necessity they had to use the thermal baths.

The baths provided facilities for group and individual bathing, saunas, gyms, massage rooms, and libraries. All around the complex, then as now, were porticoes. Entrance was free and both sexes were allowed, but, except for a few Emperors who permitted common use, men and women had to take their baths at different scheduled times.

### Museo Nazionale Romano Terme di Diocleziano

- Address:** Via E. De Nicola, 78 **Tel:** (+39) 06 477881; (+39) 06 39967700
- Open:** Tues - Sun 9.00 - 19.45 (Last entrance @ 18.45)  
24 & 31 Dec 9.00 - 17.00 (Last entrance @ 16.00)
- Cost:** General Admission: € 5,00. Free entry for those under 18 y.o.
- Closed:** Monday, 1 Jan, 25 Dec
- Metro:** Line A: Repubblica-Teatro dell'Opera, Termini
- Bus:** H, 16, 36, 60, 61, 62, 84, 90, 175, 492, 910
- Useful Info:** Guided visits €3.50 per person. For reservations call (+39) 06 39967700.

## Palazzo Massimo alle Terme

The palace was built between 1883 and 1887, designed by Camillo Pristucci on the ruins of Villa Peretti, built by Sisto V and owned by the Massimo family.

Villa Peretti was first damaged by the construction of Termini station and in 1883 was demolished. For almost a century, the palace was a prestigious college run by the Jesuits. Nowadays it houses the Museo Nazionale Romano.

- Address:** Largo di Villa Peretti, 1 **Tel:** (+39) 06 6872719; (+39) 06 39967700
- Open:** Tues - Sun 9.00 - 19.45 (Last entrance @ 18.45)  
24 & 31 Dec 9.00 - 17.00 (Last entrance @ 16.00)
- Cost:** General Admission: € 6,00. Reduced: € 3,00 for EU citizens between 18 - 25. Free entrance for EU citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.
- Closed:** Monday, 1 Jan, 25 Dec
- Metro:** Line A: Repubblica-Teatro dell'Opera, Termini
- Bus:** C,H, 16, 36, 38, 40, 64, 86, 90, 92, 105, 157, 170, 175, 204, 217, 310, 360, 492, 590, 649, 714, 910
- Useful Info:** Advance ticket reservation: € 1.50. Reservations recommended for groups over 12 people at a cost of € 25,00.

## Santa Maria degli Angeli

The church overlooking Piazza della Repubblica is Santa Maria degli Angeli, designed by Michelangelo, who made use of the main hall of the Baths of Diocletian.

Inside there is a large 18th century sundial used until the middle of the following century, when it begun the practice of marking the time with the cannon on the Janiculum hill. This cannon is still working today to indicate midday.

- Address:** Piazza della Repubblica
- Open:** 7.00 - 18.00

## 1 Termini Stop con't

Piazza dei Cinquecento

### Piazza della Repubblica

Romans call it Piazza Esedra because of the exedra of the Baths of Diocletian, on the foundations of which rose, at the end of the 19th century, the two semicircular palaces with colonnades designed by Gaetano Koch.

In the center of the square stands the 19th century fountain by Alessandro Guerrieri, decorated at the beginning of the 20th century with bronze sculptures by Mario Rutelli.

## 2 Piazza Venezia Stop

Piazza San Marco

### 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

<b>Address:</b>	Piazza del Campidoglio, 1	<b>Tel:</b>	(+39) 060608
<b>Open:</b>	Mon - Sun 9.00 - 21.00 (Last entrance @ 20.00); 24 & 31 Dec 9.00 - 14.00 (Last entrance @ 13.00)	<b>Closed:</b>	1 Jan, 1 May, 25 Dec
<b>Bus:</b>	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.

<b>Address:</b>	Piazza Venezia	<b>Open:</b>	8.30 - 18.30
<b>Cost:</b>	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.		
<b>Useful Info:</b>	Visits to the museum for exhibitions. For information call +39 06 69994319		

## ② Piazza Venezia Stop con't

Piazza San Marco

### 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, 12 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

## ② Piazza Venezia Stop con't

Piazza San Marco

### 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.

### 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.

## ② Piazza Venezia Stop con't

Piazza San Marco

### 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

## ③ Colosseo Stop

Via Celio Vibenna

*Via Nicola Salvi, 64 Sundays & Holidays only*

### 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.

### 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

## 3 Colosseo Stop con't

Via Celio Vibenna

Via Nicola Salvi, 64 Sundays & Holidays only

### 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.

<b>Address:</b>	Piazza del Colosseo	<b>Tel:</b>	(+39) 06 7005469; (+39) 06 39967700
<b>Open: Mon - Sun</b>	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)
<b>Cost:</b>	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.		
<b>Closed:</b>	1 Jan, 25 Dec		
<b>Metro:</b>	Linea B: Colosseo	<b>Bus:</b>	3, 60, 75, 81, 85, 87, 117, 175, 186, 204, 673, 810, 850

## 3 Colosseo Stop con't

Via Celio Vibenna

Via Nicola Salvi, 64 Sundays & Holidays only

### 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.

<b>Address:</b>	Via di San Gregorio, 30	<b>Tel:</b>	(+39) 0639967700
<b>Open: Mon - Sun</b>	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)
	<b>Casa di Augusto:</b>		11.00 - 15.30 Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun
<b>Cost:</b>	General Admission: €8,00; Reduced: €4,00; Prices are subject to change with no notice..		
<b>Closed:</b>	1 Jan, 25 Dec		
<b>Metro:</b>	Linea B: Colosseo	<b>Bus:</b>	3, 60, 75, 81, 85, 87, 117, 175, 186, 204, 673, 810, 850
<b>Useful Info:</b>	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

## 4 Terme di Caracalla Stop

Piazza Bocca della Verità, 16

### Baths of Caracalla

In ancient Rome there were more than 170 public baths, the Balnea", Greek name ( just like thermae") associated to the idea of warm", used also to name the spa built by Agrippa close to the Pantheon in 25-19 BC. The imposing construction of the Thermae of Caracalla began in 212 AD with Emperor Marco Aurelio Severo Antonino Bassiano (Caracalla) and finished in 216 AD, but under the reigns of Eliogabalo and Alessandro Severo they were even enlarged with a long arcade fence. The outer barrier measured 337 meters by 328, over an area of 11 hectares: they could host 2.000 bathers and there were also a Gymnasium, two libraries ( a Latin one and a Greek one), an Art Gallery and Gardens. The huge rooms, with alternations of niches and exedras, were richly decorated with coloured marbles, statues and mosaics and were covered with vaulted roofs.

The Calidarium" had a peculiar structure, with circular plan and an imposing dome (34 meters of diameter) resting on eight huge columns, four of which are still visible. The Calidarium has always been a model for the construction of mausoleums and early Christian sacred buildings. The cistern was fed by the Acqua Marcia" aqueduct, with a flow of 80.000 cubic meters. The thermae went on functioning for 300 years, until the Goths, during their occupation, cut off the aqueducts ruining the whole structure.

A great number of the rich decorations of the Thermae of Caracalla were taken away in order to decorate the Church of St. Maria in Trastevere; since the 16th century some architectural elements have been decorating Palazzo Farnese, while since 1612 two big monolithic basins of Egyptian granite, 5,50 meters long, were moved in the place in front of Palazzo Farnese itself. Finally some floor mosaics are kept in the Museo Gregoriano Profano in the Vatican City.

From 1938 to 2000 the Calidarium area has been a charming seat for summer concerts and performances by the Opera House.

<b>Address:</b>	Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 52	<b>Tel:</b>	+39 0639967700 / 060608
<b>Cost:</b>	General Admission € 6,00 ; Reduced € 3,00 for EU citizens between 18 and 24 years old. ; Free entrance for EU citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.		
<b>Open:</b>	Last Sunday of October - February	Tues - Sun	h9.00 - h16.30 (Last entrance @ h15.00)
		Mon	h9.00 - h14.00 (Last entrance @ h13.00)
	16 February - 15 March	Tues - Sun	h9.00 - h17.00 (Last entrance @ h16.00)
		Mon	h9.00 - h14.00 (Last entrance @ h13.00)
	16 March - Last Saturday of March	Tues - Sun	h9.00 - h17.30 (Last entrance @ h16.30)
		Mon	h9.00 - h14.00 (Last entrance @ h13.00)
	Last Sunday of March - 31 August	Tues - Sun	h9.00 - h19.15 (Last entrance @ h18.15)
		Mon	h9.00 - h14.00 (Last entrance @ h13.00)
	1 September - 30 September	Tues - Sun	h9.00 - h19.00 (Last entrance @ h18.00)
		Mon	h9.00 - h14.00 (Last entrance @ h13.00)
	1 October - Last Saturday of October	Tues - Sun	h9.00 - h18.30 (Last entrance @ h17.30)
		Mon	h9.00 - h14.00 (Last entrance @ h13.00)
<b>Closed:</b>	1 January, 25 December		
<b>Metro:</b>	Line B: Circo Massimo	<b>Bus:</b>	3,16,81,85,87,117,186,218,590,650,714,810,850

## 4 Terme di Caracalla Stop con't

Piazza Bocca della Verità, 16

### Church of SS. Nereo and Achilleo

Legend has it that St. Peter, leaving Rome after his escape from prison, lost one of the bandages dressing his wounds; by the place where the bandage fell a church was erected. That church, in 4th century, was then dedicated to the Saints Nereo and Achilleo (1st century Martyrs) and it was rebuilt in 8th century and restored in 16th century.

On the inside you can admire the 9th-century triumphal arch and its mosaics, a Bishops throne, the ambo and the candlestick dating back to the 15th century and the pulpit on porphyry base coming from the Thermae of Caracalla. The walls of the side aisles are decorated with frescoes by Niccolò Pomarancio, showing terrifying details about tortures sustained by martyred apostles.

Tel: +39 06 5757996 Open: h10.00 / h12.00; h16.00 / h18.00 Saturday - Thursday

### Church of St. Sisto

The little Church of St. Sisto Vecchio was donated by Pope Onorio III to St. Domenico in 1219: it became the first convent for Dominican nuns. Its bell tower dates back to 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Tel: +39 06 775174 Open: h9.00 - h11.00; Closed August

### Church of St. Balbina

This 4th-century-church is one of the most ancient in Rome; it overlooks the Thermae of Caracalla and it is dedicated to the virgin and Martyr who lived in 2nd century. On the inside there is the magnificent cardinal tomb engraved by Giovanni Di Cosma in 1303.

Tel: +39 06 5780207 Open: h8.00 - h18.00

## 5 Porta di San Sebastiano Stop

Via di Porta San Sebastiano

### Porta San Sebastiano

Originally known as Porta Appia, it was renamed during Christian age, rebuilt by Onorio and restored by Belisarius in 400 AD. It is flanked by two medieval Towers and it leans against the Aurelian Walls, the imposing town walls built by Emperor Aureliano (270-275 AD) and finished by his successor Probo (276-282 a.C.).

The walls incorporated the Seven Hills, thus protecting Rome from the Marcomanni, the Quadi, the Iatungi and the German, defeated by Aurelian himself. The walls were 19 kilometres long, 6 meters high and 3 meters thick and they had 18 doors and 381 towers.

The present aspect of the Gate is the result of several transformations throughout centuries; the last triumphal cortege entering the city from Via Appia was the one led by Marcantonio Colonna after the victory of Lepanto over the Turks in 1571.

### Casina del Cardinal Bessarione

This very rare example of suburban Renaissance villa was used as a small hospital in early 14th century, then as a monastery and, towards the half of 1800, it became a country tavern. The restoration brought the internal decorations and the nice Italian garden back to their ancient splendour. The bond with Cardinal Bessarione, humanist and bishop in the Tuscolo, might be ascribed to the fact that the nearby Church of St. Cesareo was a fixture of the Tuscolo Episcopate.

The Church was built upon Roman ruins dating back to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and has a Renaissance façade by Giacomo della Porta; on the inside you can admire mosaics and decorations from the period of Pope Clemente VIII (XVI th century), whose coat of arms is still adorning the ceiling.

Tel: +39 06 67103833

## ⑤ Porta di San Sebastiano Stop con't

Via di Porta San Sebastiano

### Arch of Drusus

Close to Porta St. Sebastiano rises the Arch of Druso, actually a fornix with monumental forms, with which the Aqueduct Antoniniano stepped over Via Appia, in order to reach and supply the Thermae of Caracalla.

### Museum of the Walls

Since 1990 the inside of Porta St. Sebastiano is the seat of the Museum of the Walls, with display panels, plastic models of the different steps of the building of the walls, as well as plaster casts of some decorative elements.

The didactic course (divided into ancient, medieval and modern sections) runs through the story and the architectonic transformations of the town walls which have defended Rome from 200 AD up to the Breach of Porta Pia in 1870. Some of the panels are dedicated to the fortifications during Royal Time and the Republic and to the history of the ancient Via Appia.

From the Museum you have access to the rounds way all along the top of the walls as far as the fornices in Via Cristoforo Colombo and you will surely enjoy the breathtaking view from the two Towers.

**Tel:** +39 06 70475284

**Bus:** 218

**Open:** Tuesday- Sunday h9.00 - 14.00 (Last entrance 13.30)

**Closed:** 1 May, 25 December

## ⑥ Sede Parco Regionale Appia Antica Stop

Via Appia Antica, 42

### Sede Parco Regionale Appia Antica

Established by Regional Law n°66 of November 10th 1988, with its own State Holding Company, in 2002 the park was enlarged with the annexation of Tor Marancia Estate to the Park of Caffarella, the Park of Acquedotti and the Area of Latin Tombs, covering an area of around 3,500 hectares; the aim is the junction to the Roman Forum and the Park of Castelli Romani with the removal of all the incompatible productive assets. The seat of the Foundation was established in the former Latina Paper Mill, in the nearby of the Tomba di Geta and the Sepolcro di Priscilla.

Within the perimeter of the Park run the first 16 km. of the track of ancient Via Appia, built by the censor Appio Claudio. It was the first great route to the south and it followed the various steps of Roman Conquest: it first connected Rome to Capua, then, in 268 BC, it was extended to Benevento, and in 191 BC it to Brindisi, which could be reached, after a 13-day-run, in a distance of 365 miles (540 km.): each 10 miles (14 km.) there was a post-stage for horse change (Stationes) and refreshment-places for travellers (Mansiones). Via Appia was the most important consular road, as to be called "Regina Viarum" (the queen of roads) and to be lined by tombs and funerary monuments, as the Law of the Twelve Tables" forbade burials within Rome's urban area.

**Tel:** +39 06 5126314 / 06 5130682.

**Address:** Via Appia Antica, 42 **Bus:** 218

**Open:** Monday - Thursday h9.00 - h13.30; h14.30 - h17.30  
Friday h9.30 - h13.60

**Closed:** Saturday, Sunday

**Informazioni Utili:** Tariffs : On request guided Tours on foot or by bike for groups of at least 15 persons.  
Via Appia Antica is closed to private traffic on Sundays and National Holidays

## ⑥ Sede Parco Regionale Appia Antica Stop con't

Via Appia Antica, 42

### Church Domine Quo Vadis?

The Church is also called St. Maria in Palmis. Tradition has it, and this was made popular by Polish writer Sicukiewicz, that it was built on the place where Jesus appeared to St. Peter, running away from Rome to escape martyrdom, in order to convince him to go back and face his destiny. J

Jesus left his footprints on a marble slab, but actually the slab, a copy of the original conserved in the Basilica of St. Sebastiano, is only a typical example of a pagan ex voto for the success of a journey.

## ⑦ Valle della Caffarella Stop

Via della Caffarella

### Caffarella Valley

The Valley, during the Middle Ages, was named "Vallis Marmorea" (Valley of Marble), thanks to the rests of many ancient buildings. An affluent of the river Tiber, the river Almone, always sacred to Romans, runs through the valley and there is also a sacred wood", where stood the Nymphaeum of Egeria. Legend has it that in a cave Numa Pompilio used to meet the Nymph, advisor and wife of the king.

The whole area of 132 hectares became property of various eminent Roman Families which enriched it with villas, temples, sepulchres, columbaria and tombs, between 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and the beginning of the Imperial Age. After the fall of Roman Empire several towers stood to guard and protect the country estates, then farmhouses and mills were built. The unification of the different plots of land into one estate begun with Giovanni Pietro Caffarelli in 1529. Later the property passed first to the Rospigliosi Family, then to the Pallavicini Princes and, in 1816 to Duke Giovanni Torlonia.

You can visit the Sepulchre of Annia Regilla, very well kept, and the Temple of the god Reticolo (from Latin redeo", return), dedicated to the deity which convinced Hannibal to stop his march to Rome: its an elegant tomb, dating back to the half of the II<sup>nd</sup> century a.C., built in red and yellow files, in the shape of a temple with full walls, marked with semicolumns, pilasters, framed windows and marble tables. The sepulchral room was covered by a barrel vault, now collapsed, while the upper floor was reserved to funeral ceremonies.

Near the junction between Via Appia Antica and Via della Caffarella is the Chapel of Reginald Pole, an English Cardinal known to be opposed to the Anglican Reformation of Henry VIII: it is a round little chapel with a small dome on the top, built in 1539 in polychrome files, similar to roman ancient buildings, as an ex voto for escaping an ambush made by the Kings men right there.

## 8 Catacombe di San Callisto Stop

Via Appia Antica, 110

### Catacombs of Saint Callixtus

The most ancient cemetery of Roman Christian community: founded around the middle of the 2nd century, in the beginning the Catacombs of St. Callixtus were private burial sites, but, throughout 300 years they became larger and larger up to contain 75.000 Christians; some of the wide cemeteries cells were used for religious observances, others for funeral banquets. The transformation from Catacomb into Basilica was ratified by the Edict of Milan" in 313 AD, with which Emperor Constantine recognized freedom of worship to Christians.

The Catacombs of St. Callixtus owe their name to the deacon head of the Cemetery who became Pope during the III century and enlarged the underground area that became the official burial site of Rome's Bishops for 200 years: the Crypt of the Popes, now empty, once contained the remains of 9 Popes and of 8 Bishops of the 3rd century; Callixtus was, however, the first Pope to be buried there in 222 AD : Pope Pasquale I discovered this tomb in 821 and the bodies were moved into the Church of St. Cecilia in Trastevere under the High Altar, where is shown the original statue of St. Cecilia by Maderno. The catacombs were abandoned after the Barbarian invasions, when the Popes, from 7th century DC, decided to transfer the Martyrs bodies into the churches within the town walls, as pilgrimages outside were dangerous because of the Barbarians.

The Catacombs of St. Callisto were re-discovered in 1849: they spread over 10 square km., creating tangled grids 20 km. long, extended on five levels. On the walls signs, graffiti, symbols of Christian faith and Greek inscriptions made on the gypsum sealing the tombs. There is also a Latin inscription with the word martyr".

The Catacombs, called coemeteria" (cemetery) till 1400, had developed mostly along the suburban ways, especially over the Appian Way, because the Law of the Twelve Tables" prohibited the inhumation of the dead in town, also for hygienic reasons. Early Christians, maybe in order to imitate the burial of Christ, whose body had been laid in a room hollowed into the rock, preferred inhumation to the cremation practiced by Romans. The body had to be preserved for the future return of the soul in the day of resurrection: hence the cult of martyrs and saints.

<b>Tel:</b>	+39 06 51301580 / 06 5130151 Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology +39 06 4465610	<b>Bus:</b>	218
<b>Open:</b>	Thursday - Tuesday 9.00 - 12.00, 14.00 - 17.00	<b>Closed:</b>	Wednesdays & February

## 9 Catacombe di San Sebastiano Stop

Via Appia Antica, 136

### Catacombs of St. Sebastiano

The Catacombs of St. Sebastiano have been the first to be indicated with the Greek expression *katà kymbas*" (by the cave), hence the name used to design all the underground cemeteries. Inside these Catacombs, disposed over four levels, was buried St. Sebastiano, victim of Diocletians persecutions; in the crypt of the Saint you can admire a bust ascribed to Bernini.

They have been, for a long time, the only catacombs to be visited, together with St. Lorenzo and St. Pancrazio; in 1st century, in this area, there was a pagan cemetery which was transformed into a Christian one during 3rd cent., after the conversion of the lands owner, who started the first excavation works.

In 258 DC, during persecutions by Valeriano, St. Peters and St. Pauls relics were secretly moved here from their tombs in Vatican and Via Ostiense, where they were later brought back.: only during periods of strong persecutions the gallery were secretly dug under the estates of rich Christians ( just like the Catacombs of Pretestato, with crypts and cubicula decorated with paintings from 2nd century. Via Appia Pignatelli, 11).

<b>Tel:</b>	+39 06 7850350	<b>Bus:</b>	118, 218
<b>Open:</b>	Monday - Saturday h9.00 - h12.00, h14.00 - h17.00	<b>Closed:</b>	Sunday,; from 22 nov - 20 de

### Church of St. Sebastiano

The Basilica of St. Sebastiano was first dedicated to SS. Apostles Peter and Paul, St. Sebastiano being buried there only in 3rd cent.: he was a servant of the Imperial Family and was condemned to be pierced to death by arrows, during Diocletian's persecutions.

The Basilica was built in the first half of 4th cent. and re-built by Ponzio and Vesanzio in 1609; the façade is from 1612 and it was ordered by Cardinal Scipione Borghese; on the inside a ligneous ceiling by Vesanzio and in the first chapel on the left, on the tomb of St. Sebastiano, you can admire the Saints statue by Giorgetti upon model by Bernini.

The first chapel on the right holds on the inside the stone of the footprints left by Jesus when he met St. Peter on the Appian Way, where now the Church Domine Quo Vadis? stands. Actually it is just an ex voto for the success of a journey. In front of the Basilica a large square with the votive column of Pio IX, dating back to 1852.

In the nearby there is the entrance to the Jewish Catacombs in the Vigna Rondanini, a cemetery of the Jewish community during the Republic Era, used during 2nd and 4th cent. (Via Appia Pignatelli, 4. Information and reservations: Tel. +39 0668806897).

<b>Tel:</b>	+39 06 7850350	<b>Bus:</b>	118, 218
<b>Open:</b>	Monday - Sunday h8.00 - h13.00, h14.00 - h17.00		

## 10 Cecilia Metella Stop

Via Appia Antica, 161

### Circus and Villa of Massenzio

The monumental area was formed by three main buildings: the Palace, the Circus and the Mausoleum. The one still existing, the Circus, 530 meters long and 90 meters wide, was built by the Emperor Marco Aurelio Valerio Massenzio in 309 BC, added to the Royal Palace and dedicated to his son Romolo, died at the age of nine and buried right into the Mausoleum, held within a huge four-sided portico: of the former building on two levels, today the only part remaining is the cylindrical body of the elevation of the crypt, while a farmhouse dating back to 1700 stands where once was the pronaos.

At the top of the Circus there were two semi cylindrical towers, 16 meters high; between them there were 12 rooms from which race chariots used to start. In the centre of the arena there used to be the spina", a barrier along the longitudinal axis around which the chariots went around, where a 16,54-metre-high obelisk was settled.

In 1649 the obelisk was moved by Innocenzo X in the middle of the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi by Bernini, in Navona Square. On the curve of the Circus stood a huge Triumphal Arch and the terraces had more than 10.000 seats. The whole area was acquired by the Municipality of Rome in 1943, thanks to an expropriation.

**Tel:** +39 06 7801324

**Bus:** 218

**Open:** Tuesday- Sunday h9.00 - h13.30 (Last entrance @ h13.30)

**Closed:** Monday

### Tomb of Cecilia Metella

Built between 25 and 10 BC, it is the sepulchre in the best state (and the best known) in the Appian Way, a model for the following imperial funerary monuments. This cylindrical Mausoleum is 11 metres high, with a diameter of 30 metres, and it stands upon a cubic basement, following a typical Hellenistic solution. It is covered by travertine and adorned on the top by a frieze with festoons and bucranes (oxens skulls), again typical Hellenistic decorations. The bucranes motif gave to the place the name of capo di bove" (head of ox) and became a characteristic element of Roman funerary decoration.

The sepulchral chamber was dedicated to Cecilia, daughter of Quinti Cecilio Metello Cretico and wife of Licinio Crasso. In 1302 it was transformed into a fortress by the Caetani Family and increased in height thanks to a battlement, still visible nowadays, added together with a tower and a nearby castle; by the hypogeum you can still see a lava flow dating back to 260.000 years ago. Face to the tomb of Cecilia Metella you can visit the remains of the castrum and those of the Church of St. Nicola.

**Tel:** +39 06 7802465 / 06 39967700

**Bus:** 218

**Open:** *Summer* Tuesday- Sunday h9.00 - h19.15 (Last entrance @ h18.15)

**Closed:** Monday

*Winter* Tuesday- Sunday h9.00 - h16.30 (Last entrance @ h15.30)

## 11 Sant'Urbano Stop

Vicolo Sant'Urbano

### Nymphaeum of Egeria

At the foot of the hill where once stood the Temple of Cerere and Faustina, there is a cave. Roman legend has it that Numa Pompilio and Egeria, wife and advisor of the King, used to meet there.

The nymphaeum was formed by a wide rectangular room, with niches in the walls, and it was covered by a barrel vault; in the main niche there was a fountain fed by a channel flowing at the back of the building.

### Church of St. Urbano

In Vicolo St. Urbano, a side road of Via Appia Pignatelli, whose name comes from the family of Pope Innocenzo XII, who settled it at the end of 1700, you can admire an old building which was supposed to be the Temple of Cerere and Faustina and was transformed into the Church of St. Urbano in 9th-10th century.

The prostyle and tetrastyle temple, rising on a high podium, now filled in, was built with lateritious with the seals of Marco Aurelios Era impressed on them. The façade has got four Corinthian fluted columns, whose intercolumnations were bricked in during 7th century, and a architrave with three smooth fascias, made with marble coming from the Mount Pentelikan, near Athens.

The inside, enlarged after the closing of the pronaos, decorated with frescos from 1011 AD and re-painted in 1600, was formed by an almost square cell, covered by a barrel vault, and walls marked by Corinthian square pilasters. In the central lacunar, the only preserved part, you can see two painted figures, in all probability Erode Attico, a rich Athenian rhetorician, and Annia Regilla, his Roma wife, to which the temple was dedicated.

Tel: +39 06 7808900

Open: Sunday h10.00 - h12.00

## 12 Capo di Bove Stop

Via Appia Antica, 222

### Capo di Bove

Property of the State since 2002, the archeological importance of the area was already known, but it was only after the State's acquisition that excavations were started, leading to the discovery of a untouched thermal plant, whose first phase of construction is dated to the mid-second century AD.

The structure was probably private property for the use of a villa or a group of people belonging to a corporation or a collegium. The discovery of mosaics, fragments of polychrome marble and portions of painted plaster denotes a particularly elegant and refined atmosphere.

In this area of 8500 square meters the construction of a public access area is underway, with the main building to house the Appian Documentation Centre and the Archives of Antonio Cederna.

Open: Monday - Saturday h10.00 - h16.00; Sunday h10.00 - h18.00

## 13 Stadio delle Terme Stop

Largo Vittime del Terrorismo

See also the Terme di Caracalla Stop

## Circo Massimo Stop\*

Via del Circo Massimo

\*Sunday & Holidays Only; See the Palatine & Circus Maximus entries under the Colosseo Stop

## 14 **Bocca della Verità Stop**

Piazza Bocca della Verità, 16

### **Santa Maria in Cosmedin**

The church was built in the 6th century, and restored and renovated in the 12th century, when the bell tower was erected and the portico rebuilt. Under the portico there is the ancient mask of a river god, called Bocca della Verità ("Mouth of Truth") because of the popular belief that it bites liars' hands off.

It is now a great attraction for tourists and Romans alike, even if there are always some people who are too afraid to stick their hands inside.

**Address:** Piazza Bocca della Verità

**Open:** 9.00 - 13.00; 15.00 - 18.00

**Useful Info:** Preferably no visits during mass times.

## 14 **Bocca della Verità Stop con't**

Piazza Bocca della Verità, 16

### **Temple of Vesta**

The circular temple built in the second century B.C was dedicated to Hercules Victor.

It is the oldest marble building still preserved in Rome.

**Address:** Piazza Bocca della Verità

### **Temple of Fortuna Virilis**

The rectangular temple was dedicated to Portunus, the deity protecting the port.

It dates back to the second century B.C. and it has been restored several times and used as a Christian church.

**Address:** Piazza Bocca della Verità

### **San Nicola in Carcere**

The church, so-called because of the presence of an ancient prison, was built in the 11th century on the ruins of three pagan temples and renovated at the end of the 16th century.

On both sides of the church you can still see the columns of two temples.

**Address:** Piazza Bocca della Verità

**Open:** 10.00 - 19.00

**Useful Info:** Visits only by prior appointment: +39 06 6869972.

### **Theatre of Marcellus**

This theatre resembles the Colosseum. Begun by Julius Caesar near the temple of Apollo, it was finished in 13 B.C. by Augustus, who dedicated it to his nephew Marcellus, who had died prematurely. The theatre was 130 metres in diameter, about 30 metres high, and could hold 15,000 spectators.

During the Middle Ages it was used as a fortress by noble families; in the 16th century it was turned into a palace by the Savelli family and in the 18th century passed into the hands of the Orsini family. Their homes are still visible in the upper part of the theatre.

**Address:** Piazza Bocca della Verità

## 14 Bocca della Verità Stop con't

Piazza Bocca della Verità, 16

### Jewish Museum of Rome

The building was constructed shortly after the unification of Italy in 1870. The building which had previously housed the ghetto synagogue was demolished, and the Jewish community began making plans for a new and impressive building

- da Wikipedia

<b>Address:</b>	Via Lungotevere Cenci	<b>Tel:</b>	(+39) 06 684000661
<b>Closed:</b>	Sat, 1 Jan, 15 Aug, Jewish Holidays		
<b>Open:</b>	16 Sept-15 Jun	Sun - Thurs	10.00 - 17.00 (Last entrance @ 16.15)
		Fri	9.00 - 14.00 (Last entrance @ 13.15)
	16 Jun-15 Sept	Sun - Thurs	10.00 - 19.00 (Last entrance @ 18.15)
		Fri	9.00 - 16.00 (Last entrance @ 15.15)
<b>Bus:</b>	H, 8, 23, 30, 40, 46, 62, 63, 64, 70, 81, 87, 186, 204, 271, 280, 492, 571, 628, 630, 780, 810, 916		

## 15 Termini Stop

Piazza dei Cinquecento

### Mura Serviane & Piazza dei Cinquecento

The most ancient walls in the city are known as the Servian Walls because of the second last king of Rome, Servius Tullius, in the middle of the sixth century B.C. There are pieces of these walls throughout several places in Rome but the best preserved one is in Piazza dei Cinquecento, on the left hand of Termini Station.

Piazza dei Cinquecento is so called in memory of the 500 Italian soldiers who died in 1887 on the battlefield of Dogali, in Eritrea.

**Address:** Piazza dei Cinquecento