

## 1 Termini Stop

### 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.

**Address:** Viale Einaudi - Via Enrico De Nicola, 78

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 7.45 pm; closed on Monday.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 5,00. Free entrance under the age of 18.

**Useful information:** Guided visit € 3.50 per person. Reservation: 06/39967700

### 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.

**Address:** Piazza della Repubblica

### 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

**Timetables:** 7.00 am - 6.00 pm.

### 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 Villa Peretti, 1

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 7.45 pm; closed on Monday.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 6,00 ; Reduced: € 3,00 for European Union citizens between 18 and 25 years old. Free entrance for European Union citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.

**Useful information:** Advance ticket reservation: € 1.50; 12 person min group: € 25,00 (reservation must be made).

## 2 Via Nazionale Stop

### 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.

**Address:** Piazza del Quirinale

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

### 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

### Basilica of Saints Cosmos 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, 1

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 1.00 pm; 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm.

### 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

### 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:** Piazza del Grillo, 1

## 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

## 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

**Useful information:** Closed for restoration until December.

## 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/b

## 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.

**Address:** Via Nazionale

## 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.

**Address:** Via IV Novembre, 94

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 7.00 pm; closed on Monday

## Colosseo Stop

## 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

**Timetables:** Everyday from 9.00 am until one hour before sunset.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 8,00; Reduced: € 6,00 for European Union citizens between 18 and 25 years old. Free entrance for European Union citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.

**Useful information:** From 2/7/04 until 9/1/05 the price is two euro more to visit the exhibition "La città moderna e il suo passato".

### 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 S. Gregorio

**Timetables:** From 9.00 am until one hour before sunset.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 8,00; Reduced: € 4,00. Prices are subject to change with no notice.

**Useful information:** Advance ticket reservation: € 1.50. Groups of min 12 people: € 25,00 (reservation must be made).

### 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.

**Address:** Via del 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:** Viale della Domus Aurea, 1

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 7.45 pm; closed on Tuesday.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 5,00; Reduced: € 2.50 for European Union citizens between 18 and 25 years old. Free entrance for European Union citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.

**Useful information:** Advance ticket reservation: € 1.50; Groups of min 12 people: € 25,00 (reservation must be made).

## 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:** Via di S. Gregorio - Piazza del Colosseo

## 4 Bocca della Verità Stop

### 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 della Bocca della Verità, 18

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 1.00 pm; 3.00 pm - 6.00 pm.

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

### 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 della 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 della Bocca della Verità

### 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:** Via del Teatro Marcelllo

### 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:** Via del Teatro Marcello, 46

**Timetables:** 10.00 am - 7.00 pm.

**Useful information:** Visits only by prior appointment. Telephone number: 06- 6869972.

## Piazza Venezia Stop

### **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

**Timetables:** 7.30 am -12.00 am; 4.30 pm - 7.30 pm.

**Useful information:** Mass at: 8 - 9 - 11 am; 7 pm (12 am, only on Sunday). Preferably no visits during mass times.

### **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

### **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.

**Address:** Piazza del Campidoglio

### **S. 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 dell'Aracoeli

**Timetables:** 9.00 - 12.30 am; 3.00 - 6.30 pm. From October: 9.00 - 12.30 am; 2.30 - 5.30 pm.

### **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:** Via del Plebiscito, 118

**Timetables:** 8.30 am - 6.30 pm.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 4,00; Reduced: € 2,00 for European Union citizens between 18 and 25 years old. Free entrance for European Union citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.

**Useful information:** Visits to the museum for exhibitions. Information tel: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

**Tariffs:** 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.

**Address:** Largo di Torre Argentina

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

## **Piazza Navona Stop**

### **Oratorio dei Filippini**

The oratorio, with its particular facade, is one of Francesco Borromini's works, as well as some marvellous works in the inside: the big "Sala di Ricreazione" with the triangular marble chimney, the stunning "Salone della Biblioteca" and the "Aula dell'Oratorio".

**Address:** Via del Governo Vecchio, 134

**Useful information:** Closed.

### **Palazzo Braschi**

This palace was built in the 18th century for the noble family of Pope Pius VI, and designed by Cosimo Morelli. Since 1952, it has been the location of the museum of the city of Rome, with a collection of paintings, sculptures and various objects.

**Address:** Piazza S. Pantaleo, 10

**Timetables:** : 9.00 am - 7.00 pm; closed on Monday.

**Useful information:** Contact "Il sogno" cooperative, tel:06-85301758.

### **Santa Maria in Vallicella**

Ordered by San Filippo Neri, it was started in 1575 and it took 30 years to finish it. Inside, there are well known works of art, by famous artists, such as Rubens and Pietro da Cortona.

**Address:** Via del Governo Vecchio, 134

**Timetables:** 10.30 - 12.00 am; 5.00 - 6.00 pm.

**Useful information:** Mass timetable: 8-10 am; 7 pm. Preferably no visits during mass times.

### **Palazzo della Cancelleria**

It was built in 1485, using, in part, marbles taken from the Colosseum and in part using the money that Cardinal Raffaele Riario, the nephew of Pope Sixtus V, won from the nephew of Innocent VIII in just one night's gambling. The name of the architect is not known, while it is probable that Bramante worked on the courtyard. Inside is the so called "Salone dei 100 giorni" because Vasari and his students took this amount of time to fresco it. It seems that Vasari was very proud of having done the job this fast, but it is said that when he boasted of it with Michelangelo, the great artist replied "You can tell!" The building is now under the Vatican administration.

**Address:** Piazza della Cancelleria, 1

**Timetables:** Thursday 4.00 - 7.00 pm; Saturday 9.00 - 12.00 am.

**Useful information:** Tickets must be purchased at the Vatican City, in Via di Porta Angelica.

### **Sant'Agnese in Agone**

It was ordered by Pope Innocenzo X in 1652. It is said that the church was built on the same site where S. Agnese was martyred, at a young age, in 304 A.D. Girolamo and Carlo Rinaldi started the job but were later substituted by Borromini, whose labour lasted between 1653 and 1657.

**Address:** Via S. Maria dell'Anima, 30

**Timetables:** 10.00 am - 6.00 pm; Sunday 11.00 - 12.00 am.

**Useful information:** Closed in August.

### **Fontana dei Fiumi**

Built for Pope Pamphilus X and opened in 1651, the magnificent fountain has four allegorical statues representing the famous rivers Ganges, Danube, Nile and Rio della Plata.

**Address:** Piazza Navona

### **Piazza Navona**

A real jewel in the roman baroque style, this square was built on the Stadium of Domitian with the same size and shape. It is famous for the fontana dei Fiumi by Bernini and for the church of S. Agnese in Agone, by Borromini.

**Address:** Piazza Navona

### **Museo Barracco**

The small 16th century palace known as "Farnesina ai Baullari" was built for a French prelate and is today the seat of the Museo Barracco, a museum of ancient sculpture.

**Address:** Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 166/A

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 7.00 pm; Sunday 9.00 am - 1.00 pm.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 2.50; Reduced: € 1.50 for European Union citizens between 18 and 25 years old. Free entrance for European Union citizens under 18 and over 65 years old.

**Useful information:** Ticket office 06/68806848; closed on Monday.

### **San Giovanni dei Fiorentini**

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, patron saint of Florence. Built on a plan by Sansovino, and started in 1520, the construction was finished in 1614 by Carlo Maderno, who designed its characteristic dome. Maderno's tomb is inside the church, together with that of Borromini.

**Address:** Via Acciaiuoli, 2

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 1.00 pm; 4.00 pm - 7.00 pm.

## San Pietro Stop

### **Via della Conciliazione**

This street owes its name (which means "conciliation") to the treaty stipulated between Italy and the Holy See on February 11, 1929, ratifying their mutual independence. Designed by Marcello Piacentini and Attilio Spaccarelli, it was inaugurated in 1950 on the occasion of the Holy Year. An old neighbourhood called "spina di borgo", was destroyed in order to build it. It rose right where the road now runs and contributed to an effect of surprise when you came out of the narrow streets into the immense St. Peter's square.

**Address:** Via della Conciliazione

### **Saint Peter's Basilica**

It was built on the site of the apostle's martyrdom between 64 and 67 A.D., in an area once occupied by Nero's circus. The basilica rises today over the tomb of St. Peter; it was erected in the 4th century by the emperor Constantine and was rebuilt under Pope Julius II. The work began in 1506 under the direction of Bramante, and later by Raphael, Michelangelo, Maderno, and other architects, including Bernini, who decorated the interior. The church was consecrated in 1626 under Pope Urban VIII. The great four row colonnade was created by Bernini between 1657 and 1665, to accompany the facade designed by Carlo Maderno. Inside the St. Peter's basilica there is the well known dome designed by Michelangelo (inspired by the dome over Florence cathedral). After the artist's death, it was modified and finished by Giacomo della Porta and Domenico Fontana. St. Peter is the largest basilica in the world, extending over 22,000 square metres. It is 194 metres long and 132 metres high and the interior is gigantic as well...in fact, the 29 metres high bronze baldachin, designed by Bernini, is as tall as a four-floor building.

**Address:** Piazza S. Pietro

**Timetables:** Church: 7.00 am - 7.00 pm (winter 6.00 pm). Dome: from 8.00 am till sunset.

### **Passetto di Borgo**

It joins the Vatican palaces with Castel Sant' Angelo and was created by order of Pope Nicholas III in 1277, on top of the ancient walls. This hanging passageway allowed the popes residing in the Vatican to take refuge in the defended fortress of Castel Sant' Angelo, as happened with Clement VII during the siege of Rome by the Landsknechts forces of Charles V.

**Address:** Castel Sant'Angelo - Vaticano

**Tariffs:** € 2,00 supplement to visit Castel Sant'Angelo.

**Useful information:** Only in August

## Castel Sant'Angelo

Created as Hadrian's Mausoleum, it was perhaps designed by the emperor himself and built by the architect Demetrianus. Completed in just nine years, in 139 A.D., it was used for about 80 years as the burial place of Roman emperors, the last of whom was Caracalla, in 217 A.D.. The mausoleum was subsequently transformed into a fortress and became the fulcrum of the defence system on the right bank of the Tiber. The story narrates that Pope Gregory the Great, in 590, during a procession called to invoke relief from the plague, saw the archangel Michael floating above the castle as he sheathed his sword, to indicate that the plague was over. The episode gave the name to the castle, which means "castle of the holy angel," and is commemorated by a statue of an angel on top of it. The castle for centuries belonged to noble Roman families and when it passed definitively into papal hands it was used as a prison and also as an emergency shelter. This castle was the setting for Puccini's famous opera Tosca, a fictitious drama which ends with the suicide of the singer who jumps off the terrace of the castle in desperation for the death of her lover. After being used for centuries as a prison and army barracks by the Italian government, since 1925 the castle has been a national museum.

**Address:** Castel S. Angelo

**Timetables:** 9.00 am - 7.00 pm.; closed on Monday.

**Tariffs:** Full price: € 5,00; Free entrance under 18 and over 65 years old.

**Useful information:** Information: 06/6819111.

## 8 Piazza Cavour Stop

### Piazza Cavour

The square is dedicated to Count Camillo Benso, Italy's first prime minister after unification in 1861, which he spearheaded; his image appears on the monument in the centre.

**Address:** Piazza Cavour

#### Santa Maria dei Miracoli and Santa Maria in Montesanto

Both churches, that seem to be twins at first sight, were begun by Carlo Rainaldi and finished by Bernini and Carlo Fontana. The church of Santa Maria in Montesanto is also known as the church of the artists because here are held masses and funerals for artists.

**Address:** Via del Corso, 528 Via del Babuino, 197

**Timetables:** 10.00 - 12.00 am; 4.00 - 7.00 pm.

**Useful information:** Mass at: 8 - 12 am; 7.00 pm. Preferably no visits during mass times.

#### Santa Maria del Popolo

The church of Santa Maria del Popolo was built toward the end of the 11th century on the tomb of the Emperor Nero, in a place said to be infested by demons. Pope Paschal II, after the Virgin Mary appeared, had Nero's ashes removed and constructed a chapel on this cursed spot, at the Roman people's expense, which is why it was called "Saint Mary of the People". Transformed in 1477 under Sixtus V into the current church, it contains frescoes by Pinturicchio, two masterpieces by Caravaggio, and a chapel by Raphael and Bernini.

**Address:** Piazza del Popolo, 12

**Timetables:** 7.00 - 12.00 am; 4.00 - 7.00 pm.

## Porta del Popolo

Porta del Popolo rises where the ancient Flaminian gate was originally found, along the Aurelian walls. The gate led to the Flaminian Way and changed its name after the church was built.

**Address:** Piazzale Flaminio - Piazza del Popolo

### Palazzo di Giustizia

Designed by Guglielmo Calderini and built at the end of the 19th century, it was inaugurated in 1910. The building covers an area of 150 x 175 metres and it contains more than 900 rooms and 30 courtrooms. The Romans call it the "Palazzaccio," which means "the awful building," and it is not difficult to imagine the reason!

**Address:** Piazza Cavour

### Piazza del Popolo

The square was designed by Giuseppe Valadier at the beginning of the 19th century, with two hemicycles decorated by statues and fountains, and staircases and terraces placed along the slopes of the Pincian. In the middle of the square it rises the Egyptian obelisk of Ramesse II from the 13th century B.C., which was once in the Circus Maximus. In the past, executions were carried out in this square. In 1825 the revolutionaries Montanari and Targhini were beheaded, because they had attempted to kill a spy, as it is shown in the film "In the year of Lord" by Luigi Magni. But the square has also been a place of entertainment. In the 19th century the weekly public Bingo game was held here; during Carnival season the horse race, the famous "Berbers", started from here along the Corso, and during Easter this was the place where the fair was held. On various occasions, as still happens, people gathered here to watch fireworks.

**Address:** Piazza del Popolo

### Ara Pacis Stop

#### Ara Pacis

The Ara Pacis, or altar of peace, was erected by Augustus in 9 B.C. to celebrate the long period of peace he had given to Rome. The altar set behind a marble railing, with the walls covered by relieves depicting the deeds and the family of the emperor.

**Address:** Via dell'Ara Pacis

#### Mausoleo di Augusto

The Mausoleo di Augusto, the tomb of the emperor and his family, was built by Augustus in 29 B.C. Cypresses grew thickly above the huge circular base, with a statue of the emperor dominating the centre. This mausoleum was abandoned for centuries, since in the 12th century it was used as a fortress, then as a quarry for travertine, and finally transformed into an amphitheatre and concert hall. Only in 1936, when this area of Rome was undergoing urban renewal, all the lids were removed.

**Address:** Piazza Augusto Imperatore

#### Via del Corso

This street is almost a mile long, starting from the Obelisk of Piazza del Popolo and ending in Piazza Venezia. During the 1700's, thanks to the many cafes that lined the Corso, it became a centre of intellectual,

artistic and political life. From the mid nineteenth century the best fashion boutiques, book stores, newspaper offices and bank offices appeared, making the street and its surroundings one of the most fashionable area in the world.

**Address:** Via del Corso

## Fontana di Trevi Stop

### Trevi Fountain

This is the most famous among the fountains in Rome. It is a recent work, dated 1672, designed by Nicola Salvi. The central statue in the fountain represents Neptune, surrounded by two tritons riding sea horses. According to legend, if a tourist wants to return to Rome, he/she should throw a coin backwards over his/her shoulder into the fountain.

**Address:** Piazza di Trevi

### Piazza Barberini

At the end of Via del Tritone is Piazza Barberini, where there is the splendid fountain of Triton, created by Bernini in 1643 for Maffeo Barberini, elected Pope with the name of Urban VIII. He was nicknamed Pope "Gabella" (Tax) because of the frequent taxes he imposed, in order to beautify the city. When he went so far as to use the bronze in the Pantheon to make the canopy known as the Baldacchino in St. Peter's, the people mocked him with a saying that has passed into history: "What the barbarians did not do, the Barberini did!" This type of anonymous satires against the aristocracy and clergy was called a "pasquinata" because people use to attach them to the statue called "Pasquino", behind Piazza Navona. The square takes its name from the nearby Palazzo Barberini, which was purchased by the Italian State in 1949 to house the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Antica, the national gallery of ancient art.

**Address:** Piazza Barberini

## Via Veneto Stop

### Via Vittorio Veneto

Via Veneto owes its name to the battle in 1918 which marked the Italian victory during the first world war. This is the most famous and elegant street in Rome, full of luxurious cafes, restaurants, and shops. It became famous in the '60's because it was a favourite spot for movie stars. It was the setting for Federico Fellini's film "La Dolce Vita," which became the document of an era.

**Address:** Via Vittorio Veneto

### Fontana delle Api

The fountain, now at the beginning of Via Veneto, was first located in the corner between the Square and Via Sistina. It was built by Bernini for Pope Urbano VIII and it represents the Barberini's coat of arms with its three bees.

**Address:** Piazza Barberini

## Santa Maria della Concezione

Santa Maria della Concezione, called the Capuchin church, was built for Cardinal Antonio Barberini, a Capuchin who was the Pope's brother. It is famous for its five underground chapels decorated with the bones and skulls of 4,000 Capuchin monks. The idea may seem a bit gruesome, but a visit to it is an unforgettable experience.

**Address:** Via Vittorio Veneto, 27

**Timetables:** Visit hours to the excavations: from May to October 9.00 - 12.00 am; 3.00 -6.30 pm.

### Palazzo Margherita

This work of Gaetano Koch was built at the end of the 19th century. Palazzo Margherita, once the residence of Queen Margherita of Savoy, now houses the American Embassy.

**Address:** Via Vittorio Veneto, 119/A

**Timetables:** 8.30 am - 5.30 pm, everyday except on Saturday and Sunday.

**Useful information:** For information tel. 06/46741.

## Termini Stop

### Mura Serviane

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.

**Address:** Piazza dei Cinquecento

### Piazza dei Cinquecento

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