



## Welcome to Rome!

This long tour (around 9km in distance and 8 hours walk) will allow you to get a glimpse of what the Eternal city can offer you. Remember to [book a Tour with us](#) if you'd like an English speaking guide to accompany you.

**You can also find the itinerary on Google maps by clicking [here](#) and following the GPS on your smartphone.**

### 1) **Colosseum** - Metro/Subway line B stop: Colosseo

The tour begins in Rome's most iconic building, where emperors wooed the masses with public spectacles, epic entertainment and bloody games. Construction of the Colosseum began in A.D. 72 under Emperor Vespasian. Eight years later it was inaugurated by his son, Titus. Also known as the Flavian Amphitheater for this imperial family, the theater took on the nickname Colosseum in the Middle Ages due to its proximity to a colossal 35 meters statue of Emperor Nero. After the fall of the Roman Empire - and more than 450 years of wild-beast hunts, executions and gladiatorial combat - the Colosseum's arcades were filled with hovels, stables, and fortresses...and its stones were pillaged.

You can buy the tickets to visit the inside of the Colosseum online ([coopculture.it](http://coopculture.it)), 2 Euro booking fee but the ticket also covers entry to the Roman Forum and the Palatine.

2) **Roman Forum** - leaving the Colosseum turn right, then leave the Arco di Costantino on your left and walk up the Via Sacra to the entrance of the Foro Romano and the Arco di Tito. Here you'll have the chance to explore the surviving monuments in the ancient city center. The Roman Forum sits in a valley beneath the Palatine hill (one of the 7 sacred hills of the city), during the thousand years it was in use, the Foro Romano evolved from a primitive marketplace into the command center of an Empire. The forum also served as an area for public gatherings and celebrations. Unfortunately only five buildings are still reasonably intact: The Triumphal Arches, The Curia, The Divine Rulers, The House of the Vestal Virgins and the Court of Law.

- 3) **Piazza del Campidoglio** - Exit the Roman Forum from the northwestern end and climb the staircase to the top of the Capitolino. Michelangelo designed this elegant square in 1536, many consider it Rome's most beautiful area together with the surrounding palaces. Facing each other across the square the Palazzo dei Conservatori and the Palazzo Nuovo form the Musei Capitolini. The Palazzo Senatorio, the third palace on the square, is the modern-day Mayor's office. A 1996 copy of a second-century A.D. Roman bronze statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius adorns the center of the piazza. The original can be found inside the Musei Capitolini.
- 4) **Musei Capitolini** - Enter the Musei Capitolini from the western side of the square. Peruse the unrivaled collection of ancient statues in one of the world's oldest museums. (visit [museicapitolini.org](http://museicapitolini.org) for info and bookings).
- 5) **Pantheon** - Descend to Piazza Venezia, head west to Largo di Torre Argentina, and take Via de' Cestari to the Pantheon, Rome's most intact building and one of the world's most influential structures. The Pantheon's name derives from the Greek *pan theios* (of all the Gods), and it may have served as a temple, though no one knows for sure. The current Pantheon is the third such building to stand on the site, the previous two were destroyed in fires. The structure began around A.D. 117 and completed A.D. 126 to 128, it was formed using a wooden frame to support poured concrete. In 609, the Pantheon was consecrated as a church to the Virgin Mary, which may explain why it is ancient Rome's best preserved building. The Dome is 43.3 meters above the floor, it was once decorated with bronze but Emperor Constantine II got it removed in the early 7th century. At its center, a 9 meters hole, called the Oculus, lets in light, air and rain. When it's sunny, a breathtaking beam of light moves across the walls. When there's rain, a sheer sheet of raindrops falls from the opening in what is one of Rome's most beautiful sights. Above the colonnade, a Latin inscription states: "Marcus Agrippa, the son of Lucius, three times consul, built this", Agrippa actually only built the first Pantheon. The current building's patron - Emperor Hadrian - invoked Agrippa's name to link himself with an earlier period of imperial glory.
- 6) **Piazza Navona** - from the Pantheon walk a few blocks west to Piazza Navona. This is one of Italy's largest squares, its oblong shape relates to the stadium built here by Emperor Domitian in the late first century A.D. The surrounding buildings are primarily from the 16th and 17th centuries. Pope Innocent X is responsible for the square's current appearance and Palazzo Doria Pamphili (now hosting the Brazilian Embassy), was his preferred residence. Next door, the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone's dome rises above the columns and towers of its white facade. Innocent X commissioned Francesco Borromini to design the Church, but his rival, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, completed it. Bernini designed the central figure of "The Moor" for the square's Fontana del Moro, as well as the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi.
- 7) **Campo dei Fiori** - This Renaissance square hosts a lively fruit and vegetable market in the morning and accommodates outdoor cafés all day and evening. Meeting point for young people and expats. In the center of the square is a bronze statue of Giordano Bruno, a Dominican philosopher and occultist who was burned at the stake in 1600 during the Roman Inquisition.
- 8) **St. Peter's Basilica** - Backtrack two blocks to Corso Vittorio Emanuele II and take the 62 bus four stops to San Pietro. The large elliptical St. Peter's square in front of St. Peter's Basilica was laid out by Gian Lorenzo Bernini from 1656 to 1667. Bernini's

great porticoes made from four rows of columns embrace the square like welcoming arms, creating space fit for tens of thousands of pilgrims. Above the porticoes are 140 larger-than-life limestone saints, also designed by Bernini. The square is the usual setting for the pope's general public audiences, held every Wednesday, when he is in residence, usually at 10:30 am. He gives a short address to the crowd in at least six languages and delivers the Apostolic Blessing. On Sunday, when in residence, the pope appears at the window of his apartment at noon for the Sunday Angelus, giving a short blessing and addressing the crowd in the square. Security checks begin around 8:30 am, no tickets are needed for the Sunday Angelus, ask the Swiss Guards for info. Now you can visit the Basilica and admire Michelangelo's statue of "La Pietà", the Papal Altar, the Chapel of Cathedra and the Crypt.

**9) Fontana di Trevi** - Head to the Trevi Fountain by taking again the bus number 62 to Via del Corso, or the metro line A from Ottaviano to Barberini stop. If you take the bus don't forget to take a few pictures to Castel Sant'Angelo, Emperor Hadrian's mausoleum later converted into Papal fortress. The Trevi fountain is tucked between narrow streets, a beauty commissioned by Pope Clement XII to celebrate the importance of water in the City. Bas-reliefs illustrate the legend that the Romans discovered the aqueduct's rural source with the help of a young girl. The central figure, the Ocean, is flanked by statues of Abundance and Good Health. The water was so sweet that whoever drank it would return to Rome. This may have given rise to the modern legend that whoever throws a coin (backward over their left shoulder) into the fountain will return one day to the city. The light and the atmosphere around the Trevi Fountain are unforgettable after sunset - is the nighttime view of the city from the top of the very close Spanish Steps.

Our mini-tour has finished! This is not a complete tour of the city and certainly not the best one! Give us feedback and choose where to stop depending on your time and interests. We are always available for infos on guided Tours of Rome and its surroundings, click [here](#) if you want to book a Tour with us.



**Explore Rome**

Explore Rome

Guided Tours of the City in English

<https://exploreromeblog.wordpress.com/>

[exploreromeblog@gmail.com](mailto:exploreromeblog@gmail.com)

0039/3938796197

