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Three Perfect Days in Rome - A Journey Connected Travel Guide

Trip Summary

Day 1

Vatican City - Vatican City

Castle of the Holy Angel - Castle of the Holy Angel

St Peter's Basilica - St Peter's Basilica

Day 2

Pantheon - Pantheon

Colosseum - Colosseum

Roman Forum - Roman Forum

Day 3

Borghese Gallery & Museum - Borghese Gallery & Museum

Spanish Steps - Spanish Steps

Trevi Fountain - Trevi Fountain

Pasta Cooking Class in Rome - Pasta Cooking Class in Rome

Rome City Guide

Rome - The City

Top things to See in Rome

Rome - Do & See - Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Roman Forum, Pantheon, Vatican City, St Peter's Basilica, Castle of the Holy Angel, Piazza Navona, Spanish Steps, Pasta Cooking Class in Rome, Vespa Tour by Night, Day Trip to Mount Vesuvius & Pompeii from Rome, Mostra Leonardo da Vinci, Baths of Caracalla, Borghese Gallery & Museum, Hadrian's Villa, Villa d'Este, Domus Aurea — Nero's Golden House, Rome Opera House, Museum of Rome, Park of the Aqueducts, Santa Costanza, National Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia, Basilica of San Clemente, Cinecittà, Ara Pacis Museum, Aventine Hill, VIGAMUS — The Video Game Museum of Rome, National Roman Museum — Palazzo Massimo, Sant'Agnese in Agone, The Keats-Shelley House, Goethe House, Wax Museum, Scuderie del Quirinale, MAXXI: National Museum of 21st Century Art, Explora: The Children's Museum of Rome, Villa Farnesina, Palazzo delle Esposizioni

Rome Top 10

Colosseum - Colosseum

Trevi Fountain - Trevi Fountain

Roman Forum - Roman Forum

Pantheon - Pantheon

Vatican City - Vatican City

St Peter's Basilica - St Peter's Basilica

Castle of the Holy Angel - Castle of the Holy Angel

Piazza Navona - Piazza Navona

Spanish Steps - Spanish Steps

Pasta Cooking Class in Rome - Pasta Cooking Class in Rome

Rome Tourist Resources

Rome - Tourist Information - Fiumicino International Airport (FCO), Ciampino Airport (CIA), Best Time to Visit, Frequently Asked Questions About Rome (FAQs), Passport / Visa, Public Transport, Taxi, Post, Pharmacy, Telephone, Electricity

Day 1



Vatican City

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Vatican City, Rome

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+39 06 681 9111

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+39 06 6982

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+39 06 6830 0230

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Today, the Colosseum is Rome's most visited sight, which never fails to leave visitors awe-struck. Be sure to also come here at night when it looks even more magical.



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Colosseo, piazza del Colosseo 1
+39 06 3996 7700

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Roman Forum

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Roman Forum

Foro Romano, via della Salara Vecchia 5/6
+39 06 3996 7700

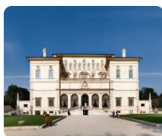
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Spanish Steps

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Trevi Fountain

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Pasta Cooking Class in Rome

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Rome City Guide



Rome - The City

Where should one begin to summarise the history of the Eternal City? A good date might be 21 April 753 BC, when Romulus founded the city after murdering his twin brother Remus. During the following centuries, Rome grew into a powerful empire, peaking during the rule of Marcus Aurelius in 161-180 AD.

Like the ancient city, today's Rome is built on seven hills: Capitolino, Palatino, Quirinale, Viminale, Esquilino, Celio, and Aventino. The central area is called Campo Marzio, named after the Roman God of war, and was the ancient army's training grounds. This is where many of the famous sights are located. Other well-known areas are Trastevere, on the other side of the Tiber River, and Monti. Little Pigneto is considered to be the most typical Roman neighbourhood.



Top things to See in Rome



Rome - Do & See

Rome is one of a kind. No other city — not even Athens, Istanbul, London, or New York — has as many world-class sites as the Eternal City. Walking down Via del Fori Imperiali towards the Colosseum will impress even the most spoiled and shopping-crazed teenager. The city has so much to offer: besides the Roman heritage, there are also medieval neighbourhoods, well-designed squares, colourful markets, and the Vatican City with St Peter's Basilica and its incredible museums.

To help you make the most out of your visit to the city, our travel experts have created a list of the top-rated tourist attractions you simply cannot miss in Rome.



Colosseum

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Piazza Navona

Piazza Navona, Rome

The elongated Piazza Navona with its three impressive fountains, including the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi with the Egyptian obelisk at its centre, is Rome's most famous and vibrant square. Built in the 1st century AD, the square used to be a stadium for athletic competitions and could accommodate over 20,000 spectators. The backdrop of Baroque architecture, tourists, street artists, restaurants, and bars make it the perfect setting to cherish the moment.



Spanish Steps

Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti, piazza di Spagna

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Vespa Tour by Night

Hop on a vintage Vespa and explore the wonders of Rome, just like Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck in the film "Roman Holiday", in this fun and memorable evening tour. It's a 3-hour sightseeing tour with a professional guide, which will take you around the Eternal City's most famous landmarks, including the Colosseum, the Mouth of the Truth, Circus Maximus, Palatine Hill, Saint Peter's Square, and the stunning Trevi Fountain. A quick stop for gelato and coffee is also included.



Day Trip to Mount Vesuvius & Pompeii from Rome

Explore one of the world's most fascinating archaeological sites on a day trip to Pompeii from Rome. Gain interesting insight from your expert guide into the eruption of Mount Vesuvius that buried the city of Pompeii and the surrounding area. Walk through the cobblestone streets to see the ruins of the forum, bathhouse, individual homes, and even a brothel. Plus, hike up the side of the volcano, walk along its ridge, gaze into the crater, and then enjoy dramatic views over the Bay of Naples.



Mostra Leonardo da Vinci

Piazza della Cancelleria 1, Rome
+39 06 6988 7616

The Mostra Leonardo da Vinci in Rome is a fascinating exhibition that pays homage to one of history's most brilliant minds, Leonardo da Vinci. Located in the heart of Rome, this extraordinary showcase celebrates the Renaissance master's unparalleled contributions to art, science, and invention. Through a remarkable collection of his drawings, inventions, and artworks, visitors are transported into the world of da Vinci, gaining a profound appreciation for his innovative ideas and visionary concepts.



Baths of Caracalla

Terme di Caracalla, viale delle Terme di Caracalla
+39 06 3996 7702

Built under the reigns of Emperors Septimius Severus and his son Caracalla, the Terme di Caracalla is what remains of once functioning ancient public baths. It is, as of today, one of the best (and largest) remaining examples of a similar structure.



Borghese Gallery & Museum

Galleria Borghese, piazzale Scipione Borghese
+39 06 841 3979

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Hadrian's Villa

Largo Marguerite Yourcenar, 1
+39 0774 530203

Once the temporary retreat and later home to decorated Roman Emperor Hadrian, Villa Adriana dates back millennia when it was conceived as an 'ideal city' with baths, pools, fountains and lush gardens. The structure combined elements of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian influences. Since 1999, Villa Adriana belongs on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.



Villa d'Este

Piazza Trento, 5

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Villa d'Este is an unparalleled example of Renaissance architecture, located just under an hour away from the city centre in Tivoli (next to Hadrian's Villa). Marvel at its fountains, terraces, and gardens, explore the building from the inside and feel like one of the many artworks featuring Villa d'Este has come alive.



Domus Aurea — Nero's Golden House

Viale Serapide, Rome

+39 06 3996 7700

In the year 64 AD, Emperor Nero built a palace almost one mile long — stretching from Palatine Hill all the way to Oppio Hill. Some parts were covered in gold, precious stones and featured splendid decor. After Nero's death, it was filled in with earth to obliterate the tyrant's memory. It was accidentally rediscovered in the 15th century, and today, you can walk through 30 of Nero's 150 underground rooms.



Rome Opera House

Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, piazza Beniamino Gigli

+39 06 481601

Teatro dell'Opera di Roma is an Opera House that still preserves its distinctive features of the 19th century. Since opening its doors in 1880, this historic venue has hosted numerous notable productions, including the world premiere of Puccini's iconic opera, *Tosca*. Its resplendent red-and-gold interiors and rich historical significance make it a captivating destination, appealing even to those not particularly drawn to opera. Note that during summer, the ravishing ruins of the Baths of Caracalla are the venue for the opera company's outdoor performances.



Museum of Rome

Piazza di San Pantaleo, 10

+39 06 0608

The Museo di Roma, housed in the neoclassical 18th century Palazzo Braschi — the former headquarters of the National Fascist Party — receives critical acclaim for its exclusive collection. The museum holds approximately 40,000 pieces of artwork, all depicting Rome's history from the Middle Ages until the 20th century. After the Second World War, 300 families were evacuated to this location, and many of the frescoes were damaged by the fires that were lit in order to keep them warm.



Park of the Aqueducts

Via Lemonia, 221

Away from the bustle of Rome, this park area is marked by what is left of two ancient aqueducts that once carried water. Both aqueducts were built by the Romans and are worth the ride out into Rome's suburbs.



Santa Costanza

Via Nomentana, 349

+39 06 861 0840

Rome is home to many astonishing churches that boggle the mind, such as the Mausoleum of St Costanza. Tucked away outside the Aurelian Walls, this 4th-century church is an example of early Christian art and architecture. Its mosaics of natural elements, such as birds, palms, and plants, along with the dome and the unusual design make it the perfect setting for couples to exchange their wedding vows.



National Etruscan Museum of Villa Giulia

Piazzale di Villa Giulia 9, Rome

+39 06 322 6571

Set in what used to be the country retreat for Pope Julius III, the Etruscan museum in Rome stores some impressive artefacts of the mysterious Etruscan and pre-Roman treasures. The Sarcophagus of the Spouses depicting a reclining man and woman on its lid is the masterpiece here and a true example of art from the 6th century BC.



Basilica of San Clemente

Piazza di San Clemente, Rome
+39 06 774 0021

The Basilica of San Clemente is more than a simple church; it is a real museum that houses layers and layers of history. Behind the humble doors of this 12th-century church lie the remnants of the original basilica dating back to the 4th century, the remains of a 1st-century Roman villa, and breathtaking Byzantine mosaics beautifully adorning the ceiling.



Cinecittà

Via Tuscolana 1055, Rome

Explore the secrets of the cinema through the exhibition of the story of Cinecittà. Monumental film sets and costumes worn by stars like Sophia Loren and Alberto Sordi will fascinate the visitors inside this dream factory. Inside the exhibition, you'll find an elegant restaurant, decorated like a film studio and a bookshop immersed in the big green park.



Ara Pacis Museum

Lungotevere in Augusta, Rome
+39 06 0608

Built in honour of Emperor Augustus after his triumphant return from the wars in Spain and Gaul, the Museum of the Ara Pacis houses the Ara Pacis Augustae, an ancient altar dedicated to Pax, the Roman goddess of peace. Visitors can explore the well-preserved marble reliefs and intricate carvings on the Ara Pacis, offering a glimpse into ancient Roman art and symbolism.



Aventine Hill

The Aventine Hill is one of the Seven Hills on which ancient Rome was built. The real off-the-beaten-path gem offers magnificent views of the city and leads to fabulous rose gardens and impressive religious structures, including the Basilica of Santa Sabina — the oldest Roman Basilica in Rome. The highlight here is the keyhole of the Knights of Malta, where people line up to enjoy the stunning view over the Dome of Saint Peter's.



VIGAMUS — The Video Game Museum of Rome

Via Sabotino 4, Rome
+39 06 3751 8325

If you love video games, you cannot miss the opportunity to visit VIGAMUS. Discover well-known characters, look back on video games' history, and explore the various interactive areas the museum has to offer.



National Roman Museum — Palazzo Massimo

Museo Nazionale Romano, Largo di Villa Peretti
+39 06 480201

Featuring one of the world's most important archaeological collections, The Museo Nazionale Romano, located across four different sites: Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, Palazzo Altemps, Therm di Diocleziano, and Crypta Balbi, displays exhibits from the pre- and early history of Rome, with a focus on archaeological findings from the period of ancient Rome.



Sant'Agnes in Agone

Via di Santa Maria dell'Anima, 30/A
+39 06 6819 2134

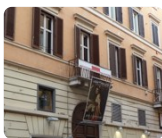
Located in the beautiful Piazza Navona, Sant'Agnes in Agone is a stunning 17th-century Baroque church with frequent live music concerts. Marvel at its beautiful, fresco-adorned insides, and enjoy the sounds of 17th-century melodies.



The Keats-Shelley House

Piazza di Spagna 26, Rome
+39 06 678 4235

Dedicated to the Romantic poets — Keats, Shelley, and Byron — who each stayed in Rome and died tragically young, this charming period house contains a chain of rooms lined with rare books and relics, including Keats' last resting place. There's also a gift shop, an introductory film, and a spacious terrace.



Goethe House

Via del Corso 18, Rome
+39 06 32 65 0412

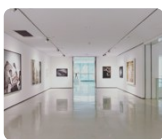
From 1786 to 1788, the great poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749-1832) lived with other German artists in the centre of Rome. Today, the museum Casa di Goethe commemorates the famous guest and his Italian journey with exhibitions and cultural events.



Wax Museum

Museo delle Cere, piazza dei Santi Apostoli 68A
+31 06 679 6482

While a wax museum might not be among the Eternal City's top attractions, it will probably interest second and third-time visitors with its curious collection of well-known Italian and international figures — from former Popes and ancient Romans to Pavarotti and Winston Churchill — plus a waxworks laboratory open to guests.



Scuderie del Quirinale

Via Ventiquattro Maggio, 16
+39 02 9289 7722

Housed in an 18th-century carriage and stable house, the Scuderie del Quirinale is now an impressive exhibition space of nearly three thousand square metres hosting regular and varied art exhibits. The complex is located right next to the Palazzo del Quirinale, where the Italian president currently resides.



MAXXI: National Museum of 21st Century Art

Via Guido Reni 4A, Rome
+39 06 320 1954

MAXXI, Italy's first national museum devoted to the arts of the XXI century and designed by Zaha Hadid, is a platform open to all forms of contemporary creativity, from art to architecture, from photography to design, from fashion to cinema. A place for meetings, exchange, and collaboration.



Explora: The Children's Museum of Rome

Via Flaminia 82, Rome
+39 06 361 3776

A few hours of challenging entertainment for Rome's youngest visitors await at Explora: Il Museo dei Bambini di Roma (The Children's Museum of Rome). Here, kids will learn all about the workings of the adult world, including jobs, wages, and personal budgets. The interactive experience is both engaging and educational.



Villa Farnesina

Via della Lungara 230, Rome
+39 06 6802 7268

Villa Farnesina, considered one of the most magnificent creations of the Italian Renaissance, was built by Baldassare Peruzzi for the rich Sienese banker Agostino Chigi, called the "magnifico". He lived the splendid life of a Renaissance merchant in a setting of pomp and splendour, entertaining artists, poets, and noblemen with sumptuous banquets. The interior is richly decorated with frescoes by great masters such as Raphael, Sebastiano del Piombo, Giovanni Antonio Bazzi, known as Sodoma, and Peruzzi himself.



Palazzo delle Esposizioni

Via Nazionale 194, Rome
+39 06 696271

The Palazzo delle Esposizioni is an art and cultural event venue that frequently hosts various events, ranging from film screenings to book readings and exhibitions of modern art, along with musical and theatrical performances. There is also a pleasant Italian restaurant on the rooftop.

Rome Top 10



Colosseum

Built under Emperor Vespasian in A.D. 70-72 and completed by his son Titus 10 years later, the Flavian Amphitheatre, or the Colosseum, is a massive stone arena, which at its peak, could accommodate 80,000 spectators.

As in the movie 'Gladiator,' the Colosseum has hosted violent and brutal displays of gladiatorial combats and wild animal fights, all just for the delight of crowds. The inauguration lasted one hundred days, and approximately 9,000 animals and 2,000 gladiators were killed during the event.

Today, the Colosseum is Rome's most visited sight, which never fails to leave visitors awe-struck. Be sure to also come here at night when it looks even more magical.



Colosseum

Colosseo, piazza del Colosseo 1
+39 06 3996 7700

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Trevi Fountain

Designed by Salvi and completed by Pannini in 1762, the striking Fontana di Trevi amazes onlookers with its 26.3-metre (86 ft) height and 49.15-metre (161.3 ft) width, making it the largest Baroque fountain in the city and the most famous one in the world. Several movies, including "Roman Holiday" and Fellini's "La Dolce Vita", have certainly contributed to its fame. In 2016, Fendi chose the fountain as the stage of one of its most memorable shows ever, wherein a clear plexiglass runway stretched across the Trevi Fountain.



Trevi Fountain

Fontana di Trevi, piazza di Trevi
+39 06 0608

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Roman Forum

Sandwiched between the Palatine and Capitoline hills, the Forum Romanum (Roman Forum) is an open-air forum that was once the commercial, political, social, and religious hub of ancient Rome. Throughout the Imperial period, Emperors like Julius Caesar and Augustus expanded the Forum to include temples, statues, monuments, a senate house, and law courts. Today, the Forum Romanum is one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world and offers fascinating insights into Roman civilisation.



Roman Forum

Foro Romano, via della Salara Vecchia 5/6
+39 06 3996 7700

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Pantheon

An astonishing 2,000-year-old temple, now a church, the Pantheon is a remarkable building to visit when in Rome. Built as a temple to all gods, the Pantheon is the best-preserved marvel from ancient Rome. Its main and most fascinating feature is the design of the dome and open oculus, the only source of natural light. Tourists from around the world flock here to see what Michelangelo defined as an "angelic and not human design". The Pantheon also houses the tomb of the great painter Raphael.

The square in front of the Pantheon is called Piazza della Rotonda. It is located near Piazza Navona and Campo de Fiori, so take the opportunity to stroll around in this area, there is much to see.



Pantheon

Piazza della Rotonda, Rome
+39 06 6830 0230

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Vatican City

Headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and home to the Pope, the Vatican City is an ecclesiastical state and the smallest state in Europe, both in dimension and population. Though teeny tiny, the state holds 11 noteworthy museums, including the Michelangelo-decorated Sistine Chapel (perhaps the greatest gem), St Peter's Basilica, and St Peter's Square. Marvel at Vatican's treasures with your booked-ahead tour and avoid lining in notoriously slow-moving queues.





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Vatican City, Rome

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St Peter's Basilica

The late Renaissance St Peter's Basilica is an iconic landmark of the Vatican City, a monumental structure that the likes of Michelangelo helped bring into existence. Today, the basilica is open to visitors wishing to explore its inside naves and chapels and see works of art by great masters such as Raphael and Bernini. While here, don't miss out on climbing to the top of the dome, where the stunning view of St Peter's Square awaits you.



St Peter's Basilica

Basilica Papale di San Pietro in Vaticano, piazza San Pietro
+39 06 6982

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Castle of the Holy Angel

Located on the right bank of the Tiber River, guarding one of Rome's oldest bridges, the Castel Sant'Angelo is an imposing cylindrical building, initially commissioned by Emperor Hadrian as a mausoleum for himself and his family. It was later converted into a fortress, a papal residence, and a prison. Now, it's a museum offering beautiful views of Rome.





Castle of the Holy Angel

Castel Sant'Angelo, lungotevere Castello
+39 06 681 9111

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Piazza Navona

The elongated Piazza Navona with its three impressive fountains, including the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi with the Egyptian obelisk at its centre, is Rome's most famous and vibrant square. Built in the 1st century AD, the square used to be a stadium for athletic competitions and could accommodate over 20,000 spectators. The backdrop of Baroque architecture, tourists, street artists, restaurants, and bars make it the perfect setting to cherish the moment.



Piazza Navona

Piazza Navona, Rome

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Spanish Steps

Named after the nearby Embassy of Spain, the Spanish Steps link Piazza di Spagna with Piazza di Trinità dei Monti. The monumental stairway is famous for being a gathering point for both tourists and locals who grab a front-row seat to the spectacle of Rome's street life after an exhausting day of shopping or sightseeing. During spring, the Spanish Steps bloom with azalea flowers, making it one of the most photogenic attractions in Rome. The steps became famous all around the world thanks, in part, to Audrey Hepburn's film "Roman Holiday" and Bob Dylan's song "When I Paint My Masterpiece".





Spanish Steps

Scalinata di Trinità dei Monti, piazza di Spagna

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Pasta Cooking Class in Rome

Italy does not only attract tourists with the beauty of its landscapes and mesmerising ancient sites. Italy's exquisite cuisine and passion for all things culinary is, arguably, an even more powerful draw. And for a truly memorable experience in Rome, consider joining a cooking class. This one, in particular, will teach you how to make your own pasta by hand with the help of an expert Italian chef.



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Rome Tourist Resources



Rome - Tourist Information





Fiumicino International Airport (FCO)

Aeroporto Internazionale di Roma–Fiumicino "Leonardo da Vinci", via dell'Aeroporto
+39 06 65951

Rome's main airport, Leonardo da Vinci (FCO), is located in Fiumicino, 30 kilometres from the city. There are several ways to get into the city centre from the airport:

Leonardo Express: The Leonardo Express leaves every half hour in each direction and connects the Roma Termini station with Fiumicino airport. Tickets can be bought at machines, travel agencies, ticket desks, and on the Trenitalia website. The journey takes 32 minutes.

Train: You can reach Rome by train directly to the Termini railway station.

Metro: The metropolitan train FM1 links the airport with regions like Fara Sabina, Orte, and Poggio Mirteto. Please note that the Metro does not stop at central station Termini.

Terravision Shuttle Bus: This bus line takes you to the central station Termini.



Ciampino Airport (CIA)

Aeroporto Internazionale di Roma–Ciampino "G. B. Pastine", via Appia Nuova 1651

The city's second airport Ciampino (CIA) is situated 12km southeast of central Rome and is mainly served by low-cost and charter airlines.

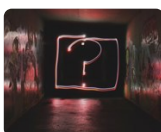
Bus: Some low-cost airlines have their own buses. The regular buses depart from the nearby underground station Anagnina.

Taxi: A taxi ride from the airport and central Rome takes 20 minutes.



Best Time to Visit

Rome is a traveller's darling throughout the year. The summer brings peak visitor numbers to Rome, and some of the year's highest temperatures fall in July and August. If your visit happens to be during these two months, make sure to check that your accommodation is equipped with air conditioning. Having said that, the best time to visit Rome is from October to April when there are fewer tourists and airline fares and accommodation tend to be lower.



Frequently Asked Questions About Rome (FAQs)

Is Rome safe?

Despite being a major European capital and one of the most visited cities in the world, Rome is a fairly safe city for travellers. However, as with most main tourist destinations, pickpocketing and scams are the biggest concerns here. So be careful with your belongings when taking public transport and around the city's main attractions, and avoid canvassers.

Is Rome expensive?

Yes, Rome is quite an expensive city to visit but slightly cheaper than other European destinations, such as London and Paris, especially when it comes to accommodation. As of today, the average cost per traveller in Rome is between €80-130 per day.

Does Rome have Uber?

Yes, the Uber app does work in Rome, and it is totally legal to take one, despite what a few taxi drivers may tell you. However, because there is no UberX or UberPOOL and only Uber Black, Uber Van, and Uber Lux, fares do tend to be higher.

For more information on how to get around in Rome, read our sections on Taxi and Public Transport.



Passport / Visa

Italy can be visited visa-free for up to 90 days by citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Israel, UAE and most countries in America. If you are unsure whether or not you need to apply for a visa, we recommend contacting the embassy or consulate in your country. International (non-Schengen) travellers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip to enter the Schengen zone. Citizens of Schengen countries can travel without a passport but must have a valid ID with them during their stay.



Public Transport

Getting around Rome is very affordable if you use public transport. The system includes three metro lines, buses, trams, and an urban railway (Ferrovie Urbane).

The Termini station is the hub of Rome's transportation network. The name of the local bus and streetcar company is ATAC. All tickets must be purchased from ATAC ticket machines, newsagents, or ticket outlets on the underground. The underground runs until midnight. Night buses stop at stations marked "N". There are also different choices of travel passes for 1, 3 or 7 days that are valid on all public transportation.



Taxi

Taxi stands can be found throughout the city centre. Ensure to use only licensed yellow and white taxis and that the cab has a meter for a safe and reliable ride. An extra fee is payable per suitcase to and from the airport. There is also a surcharge at night, on public holidays, and Sundays. It is cheaper to hail a taxi on the street than get one at a taxi stand or book via telephone.

Regarding the Uber app, in Rome, you can only request an Uber Black, which means nicer vehicles but also higher prices.

Below are a couple of taxi companies in Rome:

Taxi NCC Rome
+39 389 510 6334

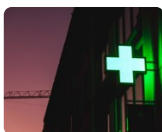
Cheap Taxi N.C.C
+39 375 542 7433



Post

Poste Italiane — Via di Porta Angelica 23, Rome

Post offices in Rome are usually open from 9am to 2:30pm, from Monday to Friday and between 9:30am–1pm on Saturdays. Stamps can be bought at tobacconists that either carry a blue and white "Tabacchi" sign or are simply marked by the "T" sign.



Pharmacy

You recognise a pharmacy in Rome by a green sign with a cross. They are usually open Mon–Fri 8:30am–1pm and 3:30pm–7pm. On Via Nazionale 228 (Farmacia Piram), Via Arenula 73 (Farmacia Arenula), and Piazza Barberini, there are pharmacies open during the night time.



Telephone

Country code +39

Rome area code: 06 (also dialled in Rome)

If you call Italy from abroad, you must always dial zero in the area code (do not omit it as is the general practice when making international telephone calls), e.g. +39 06 + the number.



Electricity

The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. Plugs and outlets are of type F and L.