



Colosseum

The Flavian Amphitheater, commonly known as the Colosseum, is probably the most famous Roman monument in the world. The name Colosseum derives from the emperor Nero's colossal bronze statue erected close to the monument in the second century A.D, even if its given name was The Flavian Amphitheater due to the Flavius emperor constructing the landmark.

Its construction was started by Vespasian and then completed by his son Titus in 80 A.D. The Amphitheater was built with the aim to hold games and fights among gladiators (munera in Latin) as well as to entertain audiences with wild and exotic animals hunting's simulations (venationes in Latin).

The external structure consists of four architectural orders, one above the other, which the first three orders have eighty archways, framed by assembled columns, whilst the fourth one is divided into sections interspersed with windows. On this level both stone and wooden were placed as a base in order to hold an enormous canopy (velarium in Latin) that was used to protect the audience in the seating area from various elements. On the inner building (called cavea) there were brick stairways coated with a marble veneer. The arena was a huge wooden floor covered with sand. Underneath the floor were subterranean passages that were made up of a series of tunnels for storage of beast and the equipment used during shows. At certain times of the year you can go down into the depths of the Amphitheater and visit the most famous areas in which have been preserved objects which were buried at the end of the 5th century A.D. Equipment and artifacts found in this area are in pristine condition and have not suffered from damages or manipulations over the centuries. This makes the underground distinguished in comparison to the upper area of the amphitheater. With two thousand years of history, the Colosseum is still the symbol of the Eternal City where thousands of visitors come to visit every year. In order to avoid long queues, purchase tickets in advance by contacting the tourist center via phone at 060608 or by visiting the online website at <http://www.coopculture.it/en/>

You can also buy one of the two tourist card options featured as the Rome pass or Archeologia card (Rome archaeological card) for greater flexibility.



Distance: 18 mins walk

The Aurelian Walls

The Emperor Aurelian built the ancient city walls, well known as The Aurelian Walls, between 270 A.D. and 275 A.D. in order to protect the



MONUMENTS

capital of the Roman Empire from possible savage attacks by outside barbarians. After having been restored many times in both the ancient and modern eras, most parts of the walls remain in good condition. In ancient times these were long structured to nearly 19 km but are currently only 12,5 km long. Having been built over 1700 years ago, the Aurelian Walls represent the longest and most-preserved ancient city walls in the world.

As the city has maintained the same walls throughout the centuries, the Aurelian Walls have attributed a vast amount of gates. It is recommended that you to visit Porta San Giovanni which owes its name due to the proximity to the Arch basilica of St. John Lateran.

Porta San Giovanni was inaugurated in 1574 and was included in a project for restructuring of the entire Lateran area in order to facilitate road traffic to and from Southern Italy. This marked the definitive closedown of the nearby Porta Asinara, which has a gate that is even more majestic than Porta San Giovanni. Built in the Aurelian age, Porta Asinaria has now almost become inaccessible because of the progressive rising of the surrounding street level. Within this area the street traffic and total volume has contributed to make the gate totally inaccessible by vehicles.

Porta Asinara looks more like the entrance to a unique villa than a typical defensive gate since there aren't any side towers, bastions or battlements. Now you can access to Via Campana, now known as Appia Nuova by heading not only to the Campania region but also to the Castelli Romani countryside.

For further information, we highly suggesting taking a guided tour! San Giovanni Laterano and Aurelian Walls are typically included in a holiday package offered.



Distance: 6 mins walk

Villa Celimontana

This Villa was originally a private property of the Mattei family built on the Celio Hill in the last decades of the 16th century. It has been continually renovated over the years. Thanks to Ciriaco Mattei who employed architects and specialists in restructuring the building, the previous vineyards were transformed in a wonderful garden embellished with statues and fountains. On the occasion of the traditional annual pilgrimage to the "Seven Churches", Matteo used to open the park to the public and allow the Romans to visit his distinguished gardens. The Villa was owned by the Mattei family until the beginning of the 19th century.

In 1926 the House of the Villa (palazzina Mattei) was assigned to the Italian Geographic Society, which preserves some of the most important and prized collections of maps in Italy.



Opening days: every day
Openings times: 7 am to sunset
Distance: 15 mins walk



MONUMENTS

In 1928 the Villa became a public park. In our modern day a series of jazz concerts are held here that gather a lot of passionate jazz annually from all over the world.

Church of Santa Maria in Domnica

Dating from the 7th century, this church was built on the site in which there was an ancient Roman military barrack featured. The church was reconstructed by Pope St Paschal I in the 9th century and was restored by Pope Leo X in the early 16th century according to a design by the Italian architect Andrea Sansovino. It takes its name from the Latin word dominicum which was used to name the first Christian places of worship in ancient Rome.

On the left side of the church there is the main entrance for Villa Celimontana and on the right side you can see the 13th century gate of the St. Thomas in Formis hospital with the mosaic depicting Jesus between two slaves.

The church, also known as Santa Maria alla Navicella (which means little boat), overlooks the Piazza della Navicella and takes its name from the Roman boat fountain that is just in front of the church. According to ancient legend, this little boat was found close to the Colosseum and it is thought it was an ex-voto offering to the Egyptian goddess Iside, who was the protector of travellers.

If you want to celebrate your wedding in this church, book in advance and avoid a very long wait, which can sometimes lasting up to year. Book ahead and save time!



Opening times:

Thursdays 6pm to 8pm

Saturdays 9am to 11am

Distance: 15 mins walk

The Baths of Caracalla

The Thermae Antoninianae (also known as The Baths of Caracalla) are some of the largest and best preserved thermal complexes of the ancient time. The emperor Caracalla had them built in 216 A.D.

As the "great imperial baths" has a rectangular plan that reflects the featured structured of the "great imperial baths". The thermae structures were not only a place for bathing, sports and wellness but were also a place for walking in leisure and studying. The water was supplied by the Aqua Antoniniana, which was a specifically constructed branch of the Acqua Marcia aqueduct. After being reconstructed several times, it stopped operating in 537 A.D.

We suggest a brisk jog where you can be immersed in the Bath Caracalla's Boulevard along with those who love practicing sports in the open air. If you are looking for a little romance to spice things up, don't miss to visit the beautiful deconsecrated church of Santa Maria in Tempulo in which civil marriage ceremonies are celebrated to this very day.



Opening times:

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm

Saturday 9am to 2pm

Distance: 15 mins walk



Appian Way

Running along the coastal sea areas and more distant from the frontline conflict zones, the Appian way was faster and safer than the Via Latina. That's why it became a strategic and military area very quickly. Almost immediately, after its creation, the first tombs were constructed along the roadway and Christians continued constructing the most important catacombs here as a tradition.

In the most preserved ancient stretch, the road surface is known as basolato (paving). It takes its name from the antique floor slabs made of huge blocks of volcanic basalt. With the fall of the Roman Empire, the road was abandoned and unused for a long time. Throughout the Middle Ages a large number of pilgrims walked along the road both because of the catacombs and because it led to Brindisi from where they could embark on for the Holy Land.

It was reassessed only during the Renaissance thanks to the efforts of many archeologists and experts. They contributed and undertook, along with more recent works, efforts to restore the Appian Way to its former glory.

You can't miss this great opportunity and if you are inclined to cycling, we suggest you to visit this great area by bike.

If you need to rest, take the opportunity to visit some of the most attractive and deep in historical underground passages in Rome, The Catacombs!

The long underground passages features preserved sculptures, frescoes and epigraphs, offering insight to habits and customs of the early Church in Rome.

To see the Catacombs and find out more click here

<http://www.turismoroma.it/cosa-fare/catacombe?lang=en>



Distance:

30 mins by bus (line 118)