

## Rome



Rome, the city founded on the seven hills, is the capital of Italy and the Latium region. It lies on the same latitude as New York and is situated some 28 kilometers from the sea.

It is home to the independent state of Vatican City, which is governed by the Pope, who is the bishop of Rome and supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church. Rome is also the seat of the Order of Malta, an independent sovereign subject of international law. Rome is therefore a triple capital. In historical terms, it is known primarily for its role as the center of the “Imperium Romanum” and the seat of the pope.



Most visitors arriving in Rome find themselves gripped by a strange kind of euphoria. Like Amor, the god of love, “the most beautiful city in the world” has many “arrows in its quiver”, ready to shoot straight into the unsuspecting promenade’s heart. Don’t bother trying to resist – you will unfailingly succumb to the charm of this outdoor museum city, this head atmosphere that’s impossible to pin down, but totally intoxicating, all the same. Inevitably, it all ends in a love affair. And nine times out of ten, the romance is sparked as you travel back through the centuries.

Jumping back and forth through time is an easy game as you wander from district to district – past and present are bosom buddies here. History blends with legend against Rome’s theatrical décor, and the delighted visitor is all the more pleased with the breezy vivacity of the city, which treated itself to a full-scale makeover in preparation for the millennium celebration.



Romans detest routine as much as they love spontaneity. They are determined to live each day to the full, despite the frustrations of the monstrous mass of traffic on the edge of the historical center, which is closed to vehicles. And it is indeed a nerve-racking chaos of hooting cars, buzzing scooters and whining ambulance and police sirens. Disagreeable though it may be, it is easy to pardon, for Rome is a city that proffers its stunning treasures with unstinting generosity. Rome does not overwhelm its visitors, it sweeps them up. Makes you feel comfortable, at home – a bit of a real Roman, in fact.



In a city dominated by art, where the Colosseum, the Pantheon, St. Angel's Castle and St. Peter's are all part of the scenery, look beyond the historical center and you will find the far-flung, densely populated Rome of the suburbs. One of the most recent additions to the tourist circuit is the Tiber River, which you can now navigate in pleasure boats inspired by the "bateaux mouches" that cruise along the Seine in Paris, Rome's sister city.

Rome is a capital with a legendary past that looks to the future with unshakeable optimism and – most of the time – unrestrained enthusiasm.

#### "Other" Things to do in Rome

Here are some different things to do when you're in Rome

Hover above the Eternal City for fifteen minutes in the Aerophile 5500, the largest tethered air balloon in the world. It flies from the Villa Borghese Gardens to a height of 150 meters, securely anchored to the ground by a steel cable. Private flights are also available  
Telephone information: +39 06 32 11 15 11.

Visit Maurizio Grossi at Via Margutta 109 to admire the colors and shapes of the works of art in marble available at this gallery.

Stroll through Rome's biggest and best-known Roman flea market in Trastevere on Sundays between 7am-2:30pm – from the Piazza di Porta Portese to the Piazza Ippolito Nievo.

Visit the stunning Auditorium Parco della Musica built by Renzo Piano and opened in 2002.

For information on concerts, theater performances, shows and exhibitions, call:

+39 06 80 24 12 81 or visit:

[www.auditoriumroma.com](http://www.auditoriumroma.com) 

Browse for the latest literary offerings and the most sumptuous art books at Feltrinelli, Largo Argentina 5A, or at Franco Maria Ricci, Via del Babuino 49.

Step into the "Time Elevator Roma" – a 4-dimensional attraction - at the Via de SS. Apostoli 20 for a thrilling journey through Rome's 3,000 years of history from Romulus and Remus to the present day.

[www.time-elevator.it](http://www.time-elevator.it) 

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