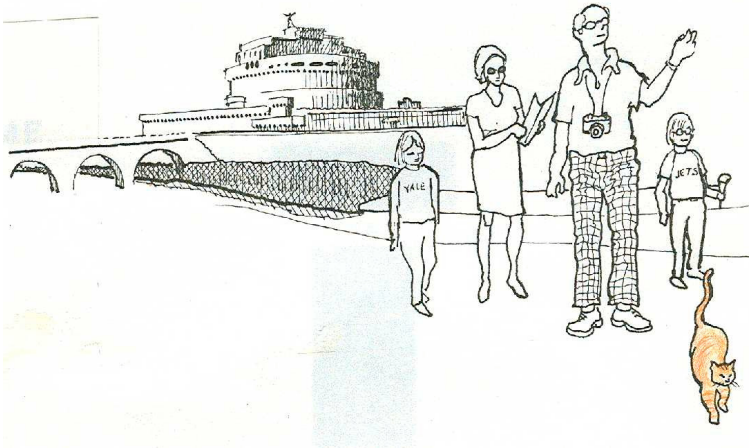


SEEING ROME

There is no shortage of guidebooks on Rome and we haven't the space to duplicate them or provide extensive descriptions of the attractions. However, we will offer a few suggestions for the uninitiated on what to see and how.



The major tourist attractions can be loosely grouped under a few headings and we'll list some of the most important of each.

I. Roman buildings and ruins

1. Colosseum- The most famous Roman landmark. Open 9-5 or till 7 in the summer.
2. The Roman Forum- Adjacent to the Colosseum but not as easily visible. Open 9 to an hour before sunset except Tuesdays. In this general area you'll also find the Arch of Constantine, the Palatine Hill and the Circus Maximus. The Basilica di Massenzio is the site of many summer evening outdoor concerts and movies.
3. The Pantheon-The best preserved of the Roman buildings and an incredible structure. Do not miss this 2000 year old building. It's open from 9 to one hour before sunset.
4. Castel Sant'Angelo- Open 8:30 to 1 except Mondays, this started as the mausoleum for the Emperor Hadrian, later became a fortress, prison, refuge for popes, and now a museum. Covering so many historic periods, it is one of the most interesting places in the city. (pictured above)
5. Catacombs- There are numerous catacomb locations in Rome but most are out on the via Appia Antica on the south side of the city. Most are open from 8:30 to 12 and 2:30 to 5:30.
6. Baths of Caracalla- A huge structure now used in summer as an outdoor theater for opera and ballet. Women shouldn't walk around this area alone at night as they risk being taken for the members of the oldest profession.
7. Baths of Diocletian- Across the street from the railroad station, this complex houses the Museum of Roman Art. Open 9:30 – 2:00 (1:00 on Sundays). Some of the complex was reworked by Michelangelo into the Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli. The museum's Greek and Roman sculptures are worth a visit.
8. Mausoleum of Augustus- A large mound, which also contains the remains of the Emperors Tiberius, Caligula and Claudius. This area, containing

the Ara Pacis Museum has been restored by Richard Meier early in the new millennium making it one of the oldest and newest monuments in Rome. Open 9-1.

II. Churches- There are over 300 in Rome. Look inside them as you go by. Many are fascinating. Among the most important:

1. St. Peters- For the energetic we recommend the climb to the top of the dome, the highest point in Rome. The church is too well known for us to add anything. Wednesday is the day to see the Pope in the piazza. Get tickets Tuesday afternoon at Santa Susanna or the North American College.
2. Santa Maria Maggiore- started in 440, it has been rebuilt several times. Famous for its 5th century mosaics.
3. San Giovanni in Laterano- The Cathedral of Rome, started in 311 and rebuilt and added to over the centuries, it was once the Pope's residence.
4. St. Paul Outside the Walls- Rebuilt in the 19th century on a site thought to contain the tomb of St. Paul, it has a richly decorated interior and an attached 13th century cloister.
5. San Clemente- built in the 4th century over a pagan temple, it was rebuilt in the 11th century and revised in the 17th. You can see a lot of history here, including catacombs down at the bottom, just down the street from the Colosseum below Nero's Domus Aurea.

III. Piazzas and Fountains

1. Piazza Navona- Rome's most beautiful and famous square, with Bernini's fountains and Borromini's Church of Santa Agnese in Agone, has much street life and holds numerous cafes and restaurants.
2. Piazza del Campidoglio- The capitoline hill was designed by Michelangelo. Visit the Capitoline Museum on the left, but also, don't miss the view at the rear, of the Roman Forum.
3. Trevi Fountain- Built by Bernini and Nicola Salvi between 1640 and 1730, this is the one you throw a coin into to make sure you will return to Rome. You've seen it in movies and you've got to go there to feel like you've really visited Rome.
4. Piazza di Spagna and the Spanish Steps- One of the best known and charming sights in Rome. I also give it my personal recommendation as the best place in the world to meet women. But then, the Red Cat is one lucky cat.
5. Piazza del Popolo- Historically the main entrance to the city from the north. A vast square with an Egyptian obelisk from the 13th century BC in the center and twin churches on the south. On the hill above the piazza is the Pincio Garden, a lovely park with a good view of the city, and a nice place to relax after too much sightseeing. The Piazza del Popolo area also supplanted the via Veneto as the city's fashionable loitering zone.

IV. Palaces and Museums- We put them together because many are both.

1. Palazzo Farnese- Rome's most distinguished Renaissance palace houses the French Embassy. It can be visited on Sunday mornings only, but, if nothing else, at least go and have a look at the façade.
2. Villa Borghese Gallery- open weekdays except Monday, 9-2 and every other Sunday. One of the great collections of 16th to 19th century painting and sculpture, this museum sits in the midst of the Villa Borghese Gardens, one of Rome's largest and most beautiful parks. In the park there are lakes, formal gardens, a horse area, restaurants and even the Zoo of Rome.
3. Vatican Museum- open 9-1. Home of the Sistine Chapel and one of the world's great museums. It can be a little overwhelming. Allow at least half a day for a visit.
4. Museo di Palazzo Venezia- open Tues.-Sat. 9-2; Sundays 9-1. A varied collection of tapestries, paintings, pottery etc. in the earliest major Roman Renaissance palace, situated in Piazza Venezia, the central square of the city. Across the street is the ever visible Victor Emanuele Monument, or "the wedding cake", Rome's least loved monument, which from time to time houses some interesting temporary exhibits.
5. National Etruscan Museum in Villa Giulia- Tues.- 9-1. Located in the villa of Pope Julius III, designed by Vignola, this museum displays the largest collection of Etruscan artifacts anywhere.
6. Galleria Spada- open 9-1 except Mondays A fine Renaissance palace with a collection of important paintings.
7. Galleria Doria-Pamphili- Open 10 to 1 on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday only. The gallery contains many paintings by famous artists but the palace itself, dating from the 15th century, together with its furnishings, is fascinating in its own right.

These are just a few of Rome's attractions, but some that you really shouldn't miss. We've underlined those that we consider to be particularly rewarding.

How to see all or most of the above?

There are two practical possibilities:

1. By tour. C.I.T., American Express and Cook's operate similar sightseeing tours. Your hotel can arrange it and will have information. The tours may be superficial but they will take you to a lot of places quickly and comfortably, and they are useful as an introduction.

2. By foot. Central Rome isn't terribly large and if you have time and energy you can see it best walking. You can obtain a free map of Rome with a three day walking tour itinerary at the Ente Provinciale per Turismo, via Parigi 5 (near the Baths of Diocletian and the Grand Hotel). It's been simplified and shortened here but used to suggest the following:

- 1st day- -AM. Palazzo Venezia, Capitoline Hill and the Roman Forum.
-PM Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona
- 2nd day -AM Castel Sant'Angelo, St. Peter's and Vatican Museum, then up to the Gianiculum Hill for a view of all Rome.
-PM Baths of Caracalla, then out the old Appian Way to the Catacombs and Tomb of Cecilia Metella.
- 3rd day -AM Visit the major basilicas: Santa Maria Maggiore, San Giovanni in Laterano, St. Paul's Outside the Walls. Then a quick trip to EUR, the modern section of Rome (by subway). There you'll find three or four museums.
-PM Villa Borghese, Pincio, Piazza del Popolo, then shopping in the center and along via Cola di Rienzo across the river north of the Vatican.
- 4th day -Salvador Mundi International Hospital (optional). The groupings are good but if you follow this plan you will either:
- a. see very little of anything in depth
 - b. be ready for the next Olympics
 - c. be ready for the hospital
 - d. be recipient of the Red Cat Medal for Valor beyond the call of duty

Therefore, follow the tour but take six days, not three, and more if you can.
