



BLUE GUIDES ROME BG10



10 sights, 10 dates, 10 hotel and restaurant recommendations to help you plan your trip.

ROME: 10 SIGHTS

- 1. The Capitoline Hill:** The best starting point is Michelangelo's piazza overlooking the forum, its Capitoline Museums are home to the oldest collection of Classical sculpture in the world. *Museums open 9–8, closed Mon.*
- 2. The Forum:** The heart of ancient Rome and one of the most evocative places in the city to explore. *Open daily 8.30–dusk.*
- 3. The Colosseum:** The largest amphitheatre of its time, and the model for countless others across the Roman Empire. *Open daily 9–dusk.*
- 4. Galleria Pamphilj and Galleria Colonna:** Rome's most important private art collections, housed in sumptuous palaces. *Open 10–5, closed Thur.*
- 5. Santa Maria del Popolo:** A display of significant artworks, including two Caravaggio masterpieces (*Crucifixion of St Peter* and *Conversion of St Paul*), the Chigi Chapel designed by Raphael, and the famous *Habakkuk* by Bernini. *Open daily 7–12 and 4–7.*
- 6. Villa Borghese:** Expansive park which is home to Italy's key collection of modern art, an extensive Etruscan museum, and the Museo and Galleria Borghese displaying Bernini's *David* among other masterpieces. *Tickets must be booked in advance: T: 06 32810, or www.ticketeria.it, open 9–7.30, closed Mon.*
- 7. The Pantheon:** The best-preserved and most magnificent symbol of the Roman Empire: a secular Imperial monument from AD 125 converted into a Christian church in AD 609. *Open Mon–Sat 8.30–7.30, Sun 9–6.*
- 8. Piazza Navona:** The city's most spirited square, lined with cafés and restaurants, and the arena for Rome's great artistic rivalry between Gian Lorenzo Bernini (*Fountain of the Four Rivers*) and Francesco Borromini (façade of Sant'Agnese in Agone).
- 9. The Vatican Museums:** Home to some of the world's greatest art treasures including the largest collection of Ancient Greek and Roman sculpture, a picture gallery housing famous Raphael works (*Coronation of the Virgin, Madonna of Foligno, and Transfiguration*), collections of tapestries and early Christian art, and, of course, Michelangelo's painted ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. *Open Mon–Sat 8.30–4, closed Sun and major religious holidays.*
- 10. The city of Ostia:** The excavated site of the ancient city of Ostia (an easy train ride from central Rome) is a study of urban Roman life to rival that at Pompeii and Herculaneum. *Open 8.30–4, or 6 in summer, closed Mon.*

ROME: 10 KEY DATES

- 753 BC Romulus founds Rome, according to legend;
- 44 BC Julius Caesar murdered on the Ides of March and cremated in the Forum;
- 65 AD St Peter martyred and buried on the site of the present St Peter's Basilica;
- 476 The last Emperor of the West, Romulus Augustulus, abdicates and Rome is taken over by the Goths;
- 800 Charlemagne, King of the Franks, is crowned Holy Roman Emperor giving him, along with the pope, supreme rule over the Empire;
- 1797 Napoleon Bonaparte leads the French armies into Rome;
- 1849 Republic of Italy established by Mazzini and Garibaldi in Rome;
- 1922 Mussolini marches on Rome and seizes power;
- 1957 Italy one of the six founder nations signing the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (later EU) in the *Palazzo dei Conservatori* on the Capitoline Hill;
- 2005 Death of the Polish Pope John Paul II after a pontificate of 27 years, succeeded by the German Benedict XVI.

ROME: 10 HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Hotels

€€€ Arco dei Tolomei

Via Arco dei Tolomei 27, T: 06 5832 0189; www.inrome.info

€€€ Hassler Hotel

Piazza Trinità dei Monti 6, T: 06 699 34730, www.hotelhassler.it

€€€ Inn at the Spanish Steps

Via Condotti 85, T: 06 6992 5657, www.atspanishsteps.com

€€ Hotel Gregoriana

Via Gregoriana 18, T: 06 679 4269, www.hotelgregoriana.it

€ II Covo

Via del Boschetto 91, T: 06 481 5871, www.vogliadiroma.it

€ Hotel Bramante

Vicolo delle Palline 24, T: 06 688 06426, www.hotelbramante.com

Restaurants

€€€ Dal Bolognese Piazza del Popolo 1/2, T: 06 361 1426.

Elegant Bolognese cuisine and surroundings.

€€€ Le Colline Emiliane Via degli Avignonesi, T: 06 481

7538. Classic Roman restaurant with Emilian specialities.

€€ Piperno Monte dei Cenci 9, T: 06 6880 6629. Jewish-style, home-cooked specialities.

€ Da Oio a casa mia Via N. Galvani 43, T: 06 578 2680.

Simple trattoria, meat specialities.

Longer lists and more information on blueguides.com/recommended

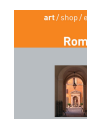
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