

PROMPT
GUIDES



1 day



1-day Rome City Guide

A preplanned step-by-step time line
and city guide for Rome.
Follow it and get the best of the city.



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Overview of Day 1

| | | | |
|-------------|--|--|--------|
| | LEAVE HOTEL | Tested and recommended hotels in Rome > | |
| | Take Metro Line A to Ottaviano San Pietro station | | |
| 09:00-10:10 | St. Peter's Basilica | Largest Christian church in the world | Page 5 |
| 10:10-10:40 | Piazza di San Pietro | One of the best known squares in the world | Page 5 |
| | Take Metro Line A from Ottaviano San Pietro station to Termini station (Direction: Anagnina) Change to Metro Line B from Termini station to Colosseo station (Direction: Laurentina) - 30' in all | | |
| 11:10-12:40 | Colosseum | Iconic symbol of Imperial Rome | Page 6 |
| | Take a walk to Arch of Constantine - 5' | | |
| 12:45-12:55 | Arch of Constantine | Majestic monument | Page 6 |
| | Lunch time Take a walk to Piazza Venezia | | |
| 14:30-14:50 | Piazza Venezia | Focal point of modern Rome | Page 7 |
| | Take a walk to the Pantheon - 15' | | |
| 15:05-15:35 | Pantheon | The world's largest unreinforced concrete dome | Page 7 |
| | Take a walk to Piazza Navona - 10' | | |
| 15:45-16:15 | Piazza Navona | One of the most beautiful squares in Rome | Page 7 |
| | Take a walk to Trevi Fountain - 25' | | |
| 16:40-17:10 | Trevi Fountain | One of the most familiar sights of Rome | Page 8 |
| | Take a walk to Spanish Steps - 20' | | |
| 17:30-18:00 | Spanish Steps | Rome's most beloved Rococo monument | Page 8 |
| | END OF DAY 1 | | |

Attraction Details

09:00-10:10

St. Peter's Basilica (Piazza San Pietro, Vatican City)

Opening hours: April - September, Basilica: 7am - 7pm, October - March, Basilica: 7am - 6pm, April - September, Cupola: 8am - 6pm, October - March, Cupola: 8am - 4:45pm • **Admission:** Free



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- St. Peter's Basilica is a Late Renaissance church located within Vatican City
- It can hold 60,000 people and has the largest interior among all Christian churches in the world
- Its construction started in 1506 and finished in 1626
- Not being the seat of a bishop, Saint Peter's not a cathedral, but a papal basilica. Rome's Cathedral is the Basilica of St. John Lateran
- There has been a church on this site since the 4th century and tradition and some historical evidence suggest that Saint Peter is buried directly below the altar
- The church features a number of not-to-be-missed treasures such as Michelangelo's Pietà, the dome, the Baldacchino, its impressive altar, and the crypt that is the burial place for popes
- The basilica is 132-m (435-ft) high

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Enter the basilica and immediately head to your right to take the elevator up to the dome (cupola)
- The elevator takes you to the first level, to the church roof just above the facade. Go inside the gallery ringing the interior of the dome, where you can look down inside the church

- From this level continue all the way up to the top of the dome
- It's a 15-minute, 323-step climb. The view from the summit is sublime
- Admire the arms of Bernini's colonnade encircling St. Peter's Square
- After descending to the basilica walk around and do not miss the highlights: Michelangelo's Pietà, the 13th century bronze statue of St Peter, the huge bronze canopy (designed by Bernini)
- Descend to the Crypt. Look at St. Peter's tomb and walk by the simple tomb of Pope John Paul II

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Most of the time the long queue is caused by the security check (airport style, before entering St Peters)
- Taking photos is not permitted inside the basilica
- Men and women in shorts, above-the-knee skirts, or bare shoulders will not be admitted to the Vatican City basilica. This dress code is strictly enforced

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

10:10-10:40

Piazza di San Pietro (Piazza di San Pietro, Rome)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Piazza di San Pietro is the impressive square right in front of St. Peter's Basilica, the world's largest Catholic church
- Bernini's colonnade on both sides of the square was designed to mimic a human embrace
- The Obelisk in the center comes from Egypt and once stood at Nero's Circus where St. Peter was martyred in A.D. 64

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the huge square
- Admire Bernini's remarkable colonnades

- On the square you will find the Vatican Post Office famous for its stamps. You can send a postcard from there

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Beautiful day or night
- When in the town the pope gives a mass audience on Wednesday morning. You have to book a free ticket by calling this number: +39-669-884-857

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Attraction Details

11:10-12:40



Colosseum (4/a Piazza San Pietro in Vincoli, 00184, Rome)

Opening hours: Daily: 8:30am - 1 hour before sunset, Jan 1 and Dec 25: Closed • **Admission:** 12 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Colosseum is an iconic symbol of the Imperial Rome
- Its construction started between 70 and 72 AD and finished in 80 AD
- It was the largest Amphitheatre ever built in the Roman Empire
- Jewish slaves built the Colosseum who were brought to Rome after their revolt in Judaea was suppressed
- Romans used the Colosseum to entertain the masses with gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions, replay of famous battles, and dramas based on Classical mythology
- It was capable of seating more than 50 000 spectators. Its structure is still the model for the world's sports stadiums
- Earthquakes, the environment, metal and stone robbers all played a part in the building's decay

THINGS TO DO THERE

- If you already have your ticket skip the long line and head straight to the entrance
- Discover the lower deck

- Climb to the upper deck, where you'll find a more colossal view of the arena and a nice look on the Arch of Constantine

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- 12 € combo-ticket includes Palatine Hill and Roman Forum, tickets valid for two days (one entry per sight)
- You can avoid the long queues if you have a Roma Pass or Archaeologia Card
- Or you can buy your ticket first at the less-crowded Palatine Hill entrance on Via di San Gregorio
- Or [buy and print your ticket online](#) (you'll have to pay a 1.50 € booking fee)
- We do not recommend the audio guide. It costs 4 additional Euros and doesn't give much interesting information
- Avoid the "tour guides" hassling the tourists while standing in the queue for your ticket
- If you need a guide to tour the Colosseum then choose a professional guide: [Antiquatours](#), [Rome Tour](#)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

12:45-12:55



Arch of Constantine (Piazza del Colosseo, Rome)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Arch of Constantine is a triumphal arch in Rome erected in A.D. 315
- It is the latest of the existing triumphal arches in Rome and much of its decorations were looted from earlier emperors' monuments
- It commemorates the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in A.D. 312 when Constantine I defeated Maxentius, his rival and co-emperor
- Supposedly, the victory came after Constantine having a vision of the Christian cross

- The superstitious Constantine, for this reason, legalized Christianity in A.D. 313 ending centuries of persecution
- Later Constantine himself converted to Christianity becoming the first Christian Roman emperor

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a look at the monument from all sides

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

14:30-14:50

Piazza Venezia

(Piazza Venezia, 00186 Rome)



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Piazza Venezia is a large square and transportation hub almost in the 'geometric center' of Rome
- Rome's major avenues meet here: Via del Corso, a Via Quattro Novembre, a Via del Plebiscito
- It takes its name from Palace Venezia (West side) that used to be the embassy of the Republic of Venice
- The square is dominated by the imposing white Monument of Vittorio Emanuele II (South side) built between 1855 and 1911 to celebrate the Italian Unification

- The larger palace on the North end (left of Via del Corso) is Palazzo Bonaparte where Napoleon's mother lived
- In the 1930s, Benito Mussolini used this square to deliver a number of speeches to the Fascist masses filling the whole square and shouting their support to the dictator

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the imposing Monument of Vittorio Emanuele II

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:05-15:35

Pantheon

(Piazza della Rotonda 12, Rome)

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 8:30am - 7:30pm, Sunday: 9am - 6pm • **Admission:** Free

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Pantheon was built by Marcus Agrippa as a temple to all gods of Ancient Rome around 27 BC
- The building burnt down twice, it was rebuilt in its current form by Emperor Hadrian around 126 AD
- It is one of the best preserved of all Roman buildings
- In the 7th century Pantheon became a Roman Catholic church dedicated to St. Mary and the Martyrs
- Almost two thousand years after it was built, the Pantheon's dome is still the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome

- The height to the oculus (the central opening in the dome) and the diameter of the interior circle are the same, 43.3 metres (142 ft)

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Start your tour on the square of Piazza della Rotonda in front of the pantheon
- Take a view of the Obelisk-topped fountain
- Walk around in this almost perfectly preserved dome but do not miss: the Main Altar, the Oculus, the Tomb of Rafael and the Tomb of Victor Emanuel II

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



15:45-16:15

Piazza Navona

(Piazza Navona, Rome)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Piazza Navona is an impressive city square in Rome
- Stadium Domitian, an arena mostly used for athletic contests (built in 1st Century AD), used to stand here, and the square still follows the form of the open space of the stadium
- It features a number of fine examples of Roman Baroque architecture and art
- In the central stands Fountain of the Four Rivers (1651) by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Two other fountains decorate the square: Fontana del Moro (southern end) and the Fountain of Neptune (northern end)
- The beautiful building towering above the central fountain is the church of Sant'Agnes in Agone by Francesco Borromini and Girolamo Rainaldi
- In the 15th century, the city market was held in the square that still hosts Rome's Christmas market

- Street artists, such as cartoonists, pantomime artists and human statues, gather in the square and create its pleasant atmosphere

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Enjoy this pedestrian paradise filled with cafés, street performers, artists, and splashing fountains
- Take a walk around the square
- Take some photos of the statues and fountains
- Sit down and relax while doing some people watching

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Beautiful day or night

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Attraction Details

16:40-17:10



Trevi Fountain (Piazza di Trevi, Rome)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The 25.9 meters (85 feet) high and 19.8 meters (65 feet) wide Trevi Fountain is an impressive Baroque fountain in Rome completed in 1762
- The Trevi marks the end point of the aqueduct, Acqua Vergine, that still feeds it with water
- The medieval Acqua Vergine is the renewed and lengthened version of the ancient Aqua Virgo built in 19 B.C. that supplied Rome with clean water
- Legend has it; the spring that feeds the aqueduct was discovered miraculously by a virgin
- The story is illustrated in the fountain by the female figures on both sides of the central figure
- The figure standing in the middle is Oceanus who was believed to be the world-ocean in ancient mythology

- Tradition holds, if one throws coins into the fountain, he will return to Rome
- About 3,000 Euros are thrown into the fountain each day and collected at night. The money is used to help Rome's poor

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Admire the beautiful fountain
- Have some coins ready for tossing in - backwards over your shoulder - to ensure your return to Rome
- It's also a perfect opportunity to make any wishes you may have in mind, the more romantic the better

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Too often thronged with tourists, yet the sheer beauty and power of this creation are nevertheless overwhelming, day or night

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:30-18:00



Spanish Steps (Piazza di Spagna)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Spanish Steps is a monumental stairway in Rome connecting two squares: Piazza di Spagna (at its base) and Piazza Trinity dei Monti (at the top)
- Piazza di Spagna (lower square) means Spanish Square, hence the name of the stairway
- The square took its name after the fact that the Bourbon Spanish Embassy to the Holy See was located here; the Spanish embassy is still housed in the same building, Palazzo Monaldeschi
- The stairway was built in 1723-25; it has 138 steps and it is the widest staircase in Europe
- The Early Baroque fountain at the foot of the stairs is called Fontana della Barcaccia (Fountain of the Old Boat) designed by the father of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, the creator of the altar of St Peter's Basilica

- The church above the stairway is called the Trinita dei Monti
- The church and the surrounding area is the property of the French state

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Have a break, sit down and enjoy the piazza's vibrant life
- Do some people watching

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- In the summer it can be very crowded
- It is the most beautiful in the summer when the steps are full of flowers

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<http://www.bing.com/maps>

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