

PROMPT
GUIDES



3 days



3-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.



Other Destinations

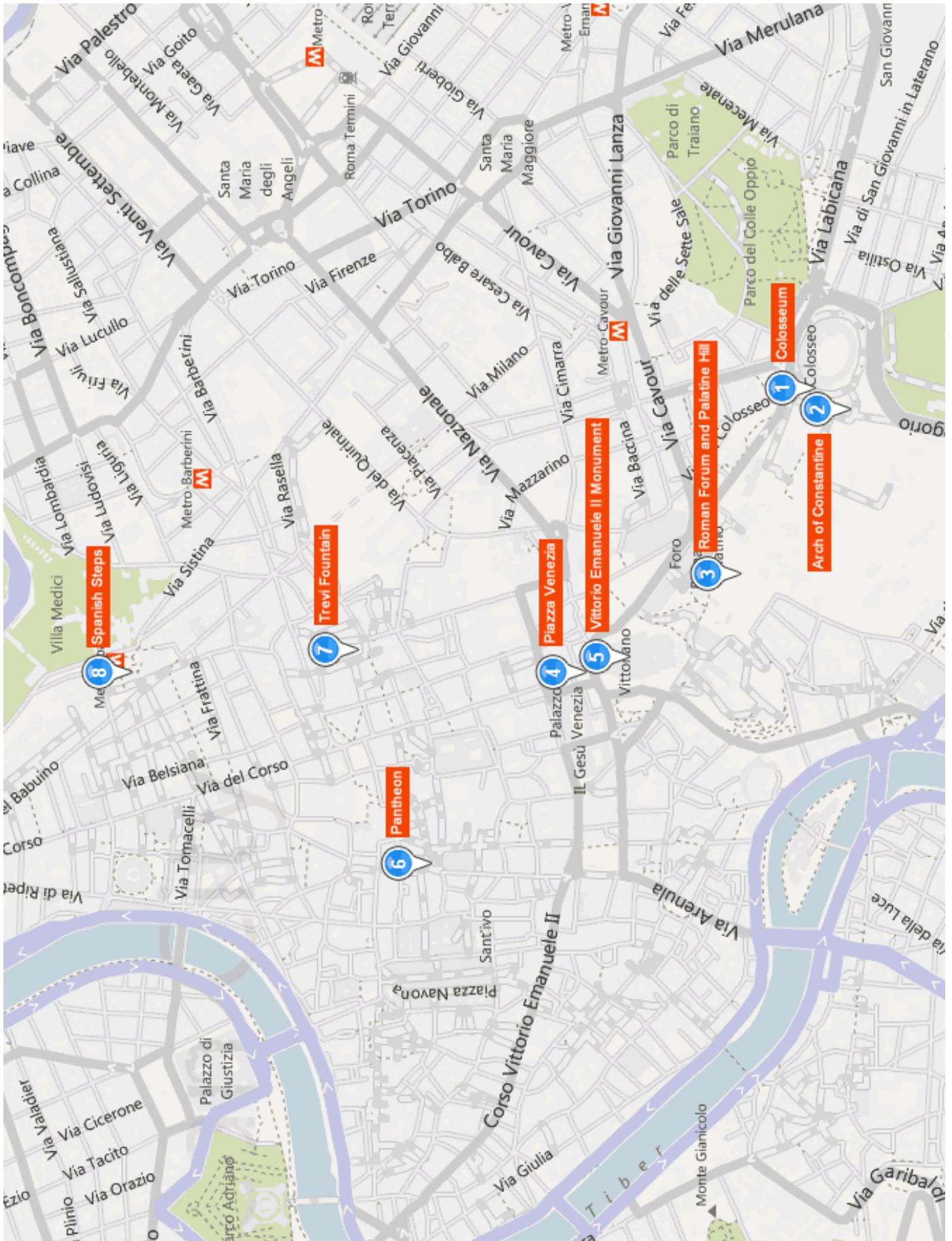
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Overview of Day 1

| | | | |
|-------------|---|--|--------|
| | LEAVE HOTEL | Tested and recommended hotels in Rome > | |
| | Take Metro line B to Colosseo station | | |
| 09:00-10:30 | Colosseum | Iconic symbol of Imperial Rome | Page 5 |
| | Take a walk to Arch of Constantine - 5' | | |
| 10:35-10:45 | Arch of Constantine | Majestic monument | Page 5 |
| | Take a walk to Roman Forum - 5' | | |
| 10:50-13:20 | Roman Forum and Palatine Hill | Center of the ancient world | Page 6 |
| | Lunch time | | |
| | Take a walk to Piazza Venezia | | |
| 15:30-15:50 | Piazza Venezia | Focal point of modern Rome | Page 6 |
| 15:50-16:20 | Vittorio Emanuele II Monument | Spectacular view of Rome | Page 7 |
| | Take a walk to the Pantheon - 15' | | |
| 16:35-17:05 | Pantheon | The world's largest unreinforced concrete dome | Page 7 |
| | Take a walk to Trevi Fountain - 15' | | |
| 17:20-17:50 | Trevi Fountain | One of the most familiar sights of Rome | Page 7 |
| | Take a walk to Spanish Steps - 20' | | |
| 18:10-18:40 | Spanish Steps | Rome's most beloved Rococo monument | Page 8 |
| | END OF DAY 1 | | |

Overview of Day 1



Attraction Details

09:00-10:30

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 >](#)



10:35-10:45

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 >](#)



Attraction Details

10:50-13:20

Roman Forum and Palatine Hill (Via dei Fori Imperiali, Rome)**Opening hours:** Daily: 8:30am - 1 hour before sunset, Jan 1 and Dec 25: Closed • **Admission:** 12 €**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- The Forum was the political, religious, and commercial center of the city; as the empire expanded, it became the center of the civilized world
- Rome's most important temples and halls of justice were here
- Religious processions, political demonstrations, elections, important speeches, and parades by conquering generals took place here
- Today it is a site scattered with the ancient ruins of the buildings, monuments and sculptures that once stood here
- According to the legend, Palatine Hill is where Romulus founded Rome (the centermost of the Seven Hills of Rome)
- This is where emperors and other ancient notabilities built their palaces
- Today it is a quiet garden scattered with ancient ruins and shady spots to relax

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Enter the Palatine Hill first on Via di San Gregorio entrance (the Palatine Hill ticket office)
- Walk around the hill and discover the ancient ruins



- Do not miss the great view to Circus Maximus, Roman Forum and the Colosseum
- Walk towards the Roman Forum to see the remains of the center of the ancient world
- Do not miss the highlights: the Temple of Vesta, the Arch of Titus, Via Sacra and the Arch of Septimius Severus
- Exit the Forum towards Capitol Hill

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- With a combined ticket you can see the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, and the Palatine Hill
- Carry a water bottle and refill it at the Forum's public drinking fountains
- Wear comfy shoes
- There are no dining facilities inside so plan accordingly
- If you need a guide to tour the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill then choose a professional guide: [Antiquatours](#), [Rome Tour](#)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:30-15:50

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 >](#)**

15:50-16:20

Vittorio Emanuele II Monument (Piazza Venezia, 00186 Rome)

Opening hours: Daily: 9:30am - 7:30pm • **Admission:** 7 €

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Vittorio Emanuele II Monument honors the Italian Unification and Victor Emmanuel II, the first king of the unified Italy
- Construction began in 1855 and finished in 1935, although it was inaugurated in 1911
- The monument is built of pure white marble
- The black center statue shows Victor Emmanuel on horseback
- The two statues on the top of the monument feature goddess Victoria riding on quadrigas
- The structure is 135 m (443 ft) wide and 70 m (230 ft) high
- The base of the structure houses the museum of Italian Reunification

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Climb the steps and head towards the outdoor café (on your left side when facing the monument)
- Take the glass elevator to the rooftop for the grandest, 360-degree view of the center of Rome
- Helpful panoramic diagrams describe the skyline, with powerful binoculars available for zooming in on particular sights

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



16:35-17:05

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

THINGS TO DO THERE

- 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)
- 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 >](#)



17:20-17:50

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 >](#)



Attraction Details

18:10-18:40

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 Trinita 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

[**MORE Info and Photos >**](#)



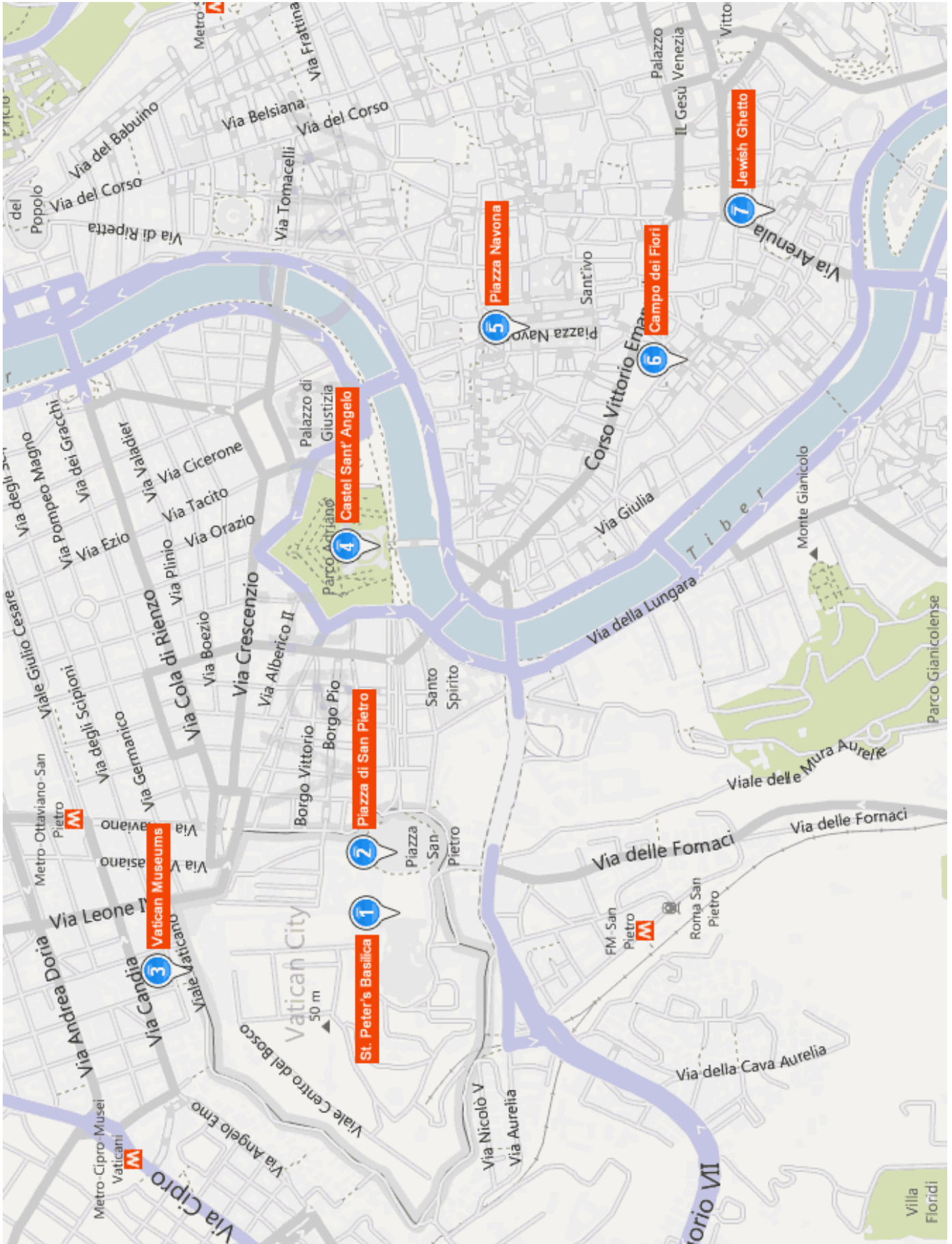
Spice up your holiday

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See all fun activities in Rome. [Click here >](#)

Overview of Day 2

| | | | |
|-------------|--|--|---------|
| | 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 12 |
| 10:10-10:40 | Piazza di San Pietro | One of the best known squares in the world | Page 12 |
| | Take a walk to Vatican Museums - 20' | | |
| 11:00-13:30 | Vatican Museums | One of the most known museums in the world | Page 13 |
| | Lunch time | | |
| | Take a walk to Castel Sant' Angelo | | |
| 15:30-15:50 | Castel Sant' Angelo | Magnificent historical monument | Page 13 |
| | Take a walk to Piazza Navona - 10' | | |
| 16:00-16:30 | Piazza Navona | One of the most beautiful squares in Rome | Page 14 |
| | Take a walk to Campo dei Fiori - 15' | | |
| 16:45-17:15 | Campo dei Fiori | Lively square | Page 14 |
| | Take a walk to the Jewish Ghetto on Via del Giubbonari - 15' | | |
| 17:30-18:30 | Jewish Ghetto | Charming and eclectic neighborhood | Page 15 |
| | END OF DAY 2 | | |



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

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

11:00-13:30

Vatican Museums (Viale Vaticano, 00165 Rome)

Opening hours: Mar - Oct, Mon-Fri: 8:45am - 3:20pm, Mar - Oct, Sat: 8:45am - 12:20pm, Nov - Feb: 8:45am - 12:20pm, Sun, except the last Sun of each month: Closed, Many holidays: Closed
Admission: 15 €



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The Vatican Museums are among the greatest and richest museums in the world
- Pope Julius II founded the museums more than 500 years ago by displaying the sculpture of Laocoon to the public
- It features some of the most renowned classical sculptures and most important Renaissance masterpieces
- Highlights include The Sistine Chapel, the Gallery of maps and works from Caravaggio, Leonardo da Vinci, Fra Angelico, Giotto, Raphael, Nicolas Poussin and Titian or the red marble papal throne
- The Sistine's frescoes were decorations by some of the greatest Renaissance artists
- Pope Sixtus IV commissioned wall frescoes for the Pope's Chapel in 1481-83
- The frescoes were intended to underscore papal authority, in question at the time, by displaying a line of power from God to the pope

THINGS TO DO THERE

- The Museums are made up of 10 collections plus the Sistine Chapel and papal apartments

- To see highlights only, first visit the Pinacoteca, to the right of the entrance turnstile
- The Sistine and other collections (Raphael Rooms, Apollo Belvedere, Laocoon) are to the left

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- In order to avoid the very long queues [book your ticket online](#). Note that an additional 4 € is charged
- Be prepared for a huge crowd inside the museum
- You can reach St Peter's basilica from here (the right rear door of the Sistine Chapel)
- Recommended guided tour: [Italywithus](#), [Vaticantoursinc](#), [Easitalytours](#)
- [Map of the museum](#)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:30-15:50

Castel Sant' Angelo (50 Lungotevere Castello, Rome)

Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 9am - 7pm, Monday: Closed, Jan 1 and Dec 25: Closed • **Admission:** 8 €



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Castel Sant' Angelo is a fortress on the left bank of River Tiber
- Originally it was a massive circular building erected by Emperor Hadrian as a mausoleum for himself and his family
- After Hadrian's ashes were placed here, many succeeding Emperors were buried on the site
- After being converted into a fortress it was used as the papal castle for about 1000 years
- A covered fortified corridor, called the Passetto di Borgo, connects the castle to St. Peter's Basilica
- It takes its name after Pope Gregory the Great's vision of St Michael announcing the end of a plague from the castle's tower in 590

- The bronze statue of a sword-bearing archangel on the top commemorates this event

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk through the bridge lined with Bernini angels
- Take some great photos of the castle and St Peter's basilica from the bridge

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- Castel Sant'Angelo currently houses the Museo Nazionale di Castel Sant'Angelo museum. The collections include ceramics, sculptures, a picture gallery and the Armory

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

Attraction Details

16:00-16:30



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'Agnese 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 >](#)

16:45-17:15



Campo dei Fiori (Piazza Campo de' Fiori, 00182 Rome)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Campo dei Fiori is a lively square in Rome
- In ancient times, the square was the open space in front of Theatre of Pompey, Rome's first stone theater and place of Julius Caesar's murder
- Since medieval times, it has been one of Rome's liveliest areas
- The square has its dark side as having been the location of Inquisition's executions
- The statue of the hooded philosopher Giordano Bruno, burnt here in 1600, reminds all of these horrible and cruel acts
- During the day the square hosts a lively market selling fruit, vegetable, and trinket (Mon-Sat)

- In the evening it becomes a busy outdoor salon of carefree atmosphere

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Take a break here
- Have a pizza or a drink
- Do some people watching

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- In the morning there is a great market here

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:30-18:30

Jewish Ghetto (Piazza Costaguti, 00186 Rome)

Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 5pm

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The area between the Capitoline and the Tiber used to be Rome's Jewish Ghetto
- Pope Paul IV's bull in 1555 established the ghetto, segregated the Jews, who had lived freely in Rome since Antiquity, in a walled quarter, and imposed further limitations on their personal freedom
- Jewish were forbidden to pursue certain professions and had to hold certain Catholic sermons on Shabbat
- In 1870, after the Papal State was finally overthrown, limitations on Jewish were lifted
- The ghetto of Rome was the last remaining ghetto in Western Europe until its later reintroduction by Nazi Germany
- The walls of the ghetto were torn down in 1888 and the whole neighborhood was reconstructed
- Today the area is one of Rome's most charming and eclectic one with many hidden gems such as the ancient ruins of Theater of Marcellus, sculptural gems like the Fountain of the Tortoises or the synagogue

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Explore the charming neighborhood
- Start your walk on Piazza Costaguti: taste something delicious in the nearby traditional Jewish bakery
- Continue the visit on Via del Portico Ottaviano. You will see the Portico d'Ottavia, Largo 16 Ottobre 1943 square, the Synagogue, the Jewish Museum and Santa Maria della Pieta church

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- If you would like to participate in a guided tour [we recommend this one](#)

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Don't know which hotel to book?

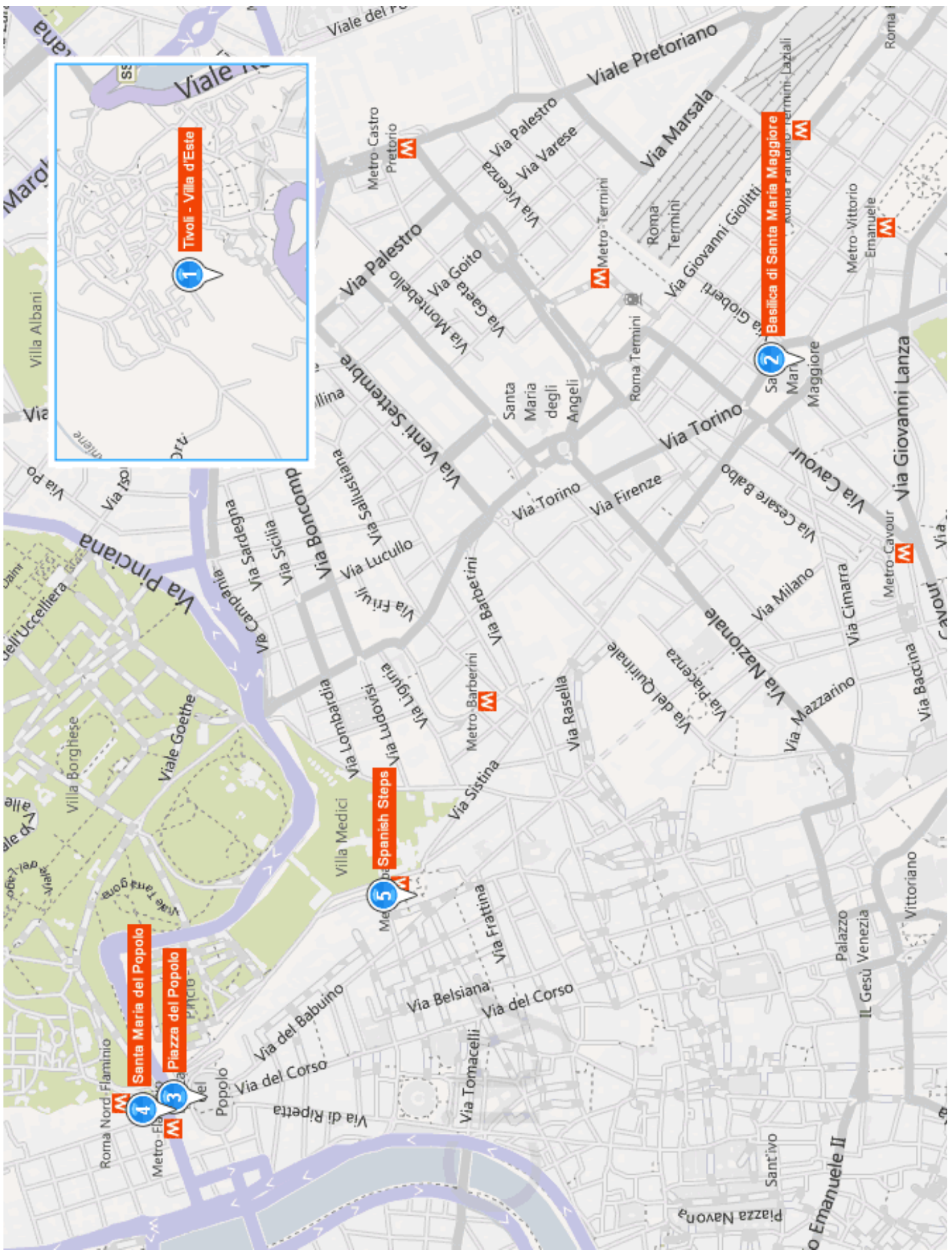
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Overview of Day 3

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | <p>LEAVE HOTEL Tested and recommended hotels in Rome ></p> <p>Take Metro Line B to Ponte Mammolo station (Direction: Rebibbia) Change to local blue Cotral bus to Tivoli Center (Direction: Tivoli) - 60' in all</p> | |
| 09:30-12:30 | <p>Tivoli - Villa d'Este</p> <p>Take local blue Cotral bus from Tivoli Center to Rome Ponte Mammolo metro station (Direction: Rome) Lunch time Take a walk from Termini metro station via Via Torino</p> | <p>Part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site</p> <p>Page 19</p> |
| 15:30-16:00 | <p>Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore</p> <p>Take a walk to Termini metro station via Via Torino Take Metro Line A to Piazza del Popolo station (Direction: Battistini) - 45' in all</p> | <p>One of Rome's greatest basilicas</p> <p>Page 19</p> |
| 16:45-17:00 | <p>Piazza del Popolo</p> | <p>Houses the unique twin churches</p> <p>Page 20</p> |
| 17:00-17:20 | <p>Santa Maria del Popolo</p> | <p>Perfect example of Roman art</p> <p>Page 20</p> |
| | <p>END OF DAY 3</p> | |

Overview of Day 3



Attraction Details

09:30-12:30

Tivoli - Villa d'Este (5 Piazza Trento, 00019 Tivoli)

Opening hours: Tuesday - Sunday: 8:30am - 1 hour before sunset, Monday: Closed, Jan 1, May 1 and Dec 25: Closed • **Admission:** 7.8 €



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Villa d'Este is a Renaissance villa surrounded by a picturesque terraced garden
- Spectacular water fountains dominate the gardens and create an unbelievable fairytale-like atmosphere
- The creation of the gardens required dramatic innovation of hydraulic engineering to provide sufficient water supply throughout the park
- The gardens of the Villa d'Este had a profound influence on the development of many other gardens in Europe
- Cardinal Ippolito II d'Este commissioned the development of the estate (1550-72)
- In the 18th century the villa fell into decay, after it passed to the House of Habsburg who neglected it. Now it belongs to the Italian State
- Villa d'Este is a UNESCO world heritage site

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Start your visit in the Villa: walk around and admire the frescoes
- Do not miss the main attractions: the gardens and the fountains
- Be prepared for a bit of hiking as the gardens are on the side of a hill
- To help with the orientation keep in mind that the garden plan is laid out on a central axis with subsidiary cross-axes of carefully varied character, refreshed by some five hundred jets in fountains, pools and water troughs

TIPS & INSIGHTS

- The organ fountain plays every two hours
- It is most enjoyable in the summer
- Wear comfortable shoes

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

15:30-16:00

Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore (Piazza di Santa Maria Maggiore)

Opening hours: Daily: 7am - 7pm • **Admission:** Free

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore is one of the greatest basilicas and one of the 4 papal basilicas in Rome
- It dates back to the 5th century
- It displays an interesting mixture of architectural styles
- The nave and its mosaics are from the 5th century; the Cosmatesque work, the apse mosaics and the Romanesque bell tower are medieval; the coffered ceiling (of New-World gold) is Renaissance; and the twin domes and front and back façades are Baroque
- Santa Maria Maggiore is the only Roman basilica that retained the core of its original structure despite a number of reconstructions over its history

- After the papacy returned to Rome (from Avignon), the church served as the papal palace for a while

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Discover the impressive church both from the inside and outside
- Do not miss the highlights: Tomb of Sixtus, Bernini's Tomb, Apse Mosaic

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)



Attraction Details

16:45-17:00



Piazza del Popolo (Piazza del Popollo, Rome)

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Piazza del Popolo is a large oval shaped pedestrian square in central Rome
- Its name literally means People's square but it actually derives from the Latin word for poplars
- This was the starting point of the Via Flaminia, the most important route to the North. Porta del Popolo or Porta Flaminia on the North side of the square used to be the entrance to Rome
- The 4000-year-old obelisk in the center originates from Alexandria and commemorates Augustus' conquest of Egypt in 10 BC
- Close to Porta del Popolo stands the church Santa Maria del Popolo that features artworks of such masters as Pinturicchio, Bramante, Raphael, Caravaggio and Bernini

- Another feature making the square remarkable is the Neoclassic twin church (Santa Maria di Montesanto and Santa Maria dei Miracoli) on the South side, opposite of Porta del Popolo
- To the east, the square is bordered by the Pincio gardens, one of Rome's most romantic spots

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Walk around the large square
- Admire the Egyptian obelisk of Ramesses II that stands in the center of the Piazza, the "twin" churches of Santa Maria in Montesanto (on the left) and Santa Maria dei Miracoli (on the right) and the fountains

TIPS & INSIGHTS

[MORE Info and Photos >](#)

17:00-17:20



Santa Maria del Popolo (Piazza del Popolo 12, Rome)

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 7am - 12noon, 4pm - 7pm, Sunday: 7:30am - 1:30pm, 4:30pm - 7:30pm • **Admission:** Free

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Santa Maria del Popolo is an Augustinian church in Rome
- First a chapel was erected here in 1099 by Pope Paschal II
- According to tradition, the site was haunted by Nero's ghost in the form of black crows; therefore the pope felled down the tree sheltering the crows and built the chapel in its place
- In the 15th century the chapel was turned into a Renaissance church, and later updated to Baroque style
- Santa Maria del Popolo is a perfect primer to Roman art and architecture

- The church features artworks of Early and High Renaissance and Baroque masters such as Pinturicchio, Bramante, Raphael, Caravaggio and Bernini

THINGS TO DO THERE

- Discover the church from the inside
- Do not miss the famous masterpieces of Raphael, Caravaggio and Bernini in the low-ceilinged interior

TIPS & INSIGHTS

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