nileGUIDE
ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

Contemporary Art in Rome

Rome, 3 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Rome isn't just about Michelangelo and Caravaggio. Some of its very best artists are alive, kicking and screaming amazing contemporary pieces to the world. Learn about the development of Italy's contemporary art scene from the very beginning of Modern.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Rome

DAY NOTE: Begin with the birth of modern Italian art--Macchiaioli and Futuristi-- at the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art.

National Gallery of Modern Art (Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna)
A dive into the present

Quadriennale Nazionale D'Arte di Roma
Progressive Italian art

Day 2 - Rome

DAY NOTE: Catch a contemporary exhibition at Palazzo delle Esposizioni, making sure to have a drink at OpenColonna, the top floor designer restaurant. And then head to the centro storico for photography at Gallery Valentina Moncada and contemporary pieces at Valentina Bonomo.

Palazzo delle Esposizioni
Contemporary art exhibitions

Valentina Bonomo Gallery
Art Fare

Galleria Valentina Moncada
Global Ties

Day 3 - Rome

DAY NOTE: The recently opened MAXXI showcases Italy's very best artists of the 21st century while the MACRO's contemporary projects and installations are always thought-provoking.

MAXXI (National Museum of Art of the XXI Century)
Contemporary Art Museum

Museo Carlo Bilotti
Roman Arts

MACRO (Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma)

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Day 1 - Rome

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Begin with the birth of modern Italian art-- Macchiaioli and Futuristi-- at the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art.

contact:
tel: +39 6 32 2981
fax: +39 6 322 1579
http://www.gnam.arti.beniculturali.it/gnamco.htm

location:
Viale delle Belle Arti 131
Rome 00196

hours:
8:30a-7:30p Tu-Su

1 National Gallery of Modern Art (Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna)

DESCRIPTION: The collection housed in this Neo-classical building includes works from the 19th and 20th centuries. The 19th century works are mostly those of the macchiaioli (Florentine impressionist painters), a similar movement to puntinismo (pointillism), a style based on the use of spots of colour to create paintings whose subjects were distinguishable only from a certain distance. Among the 20th century artists are works from De Chirico, Carrà, Sironi, Casorati, Marini and many others. The museum often organises temporary exhibitions and has its own shop. Disabled access from via Gramsci, 71. © wcities.com

wcities

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contact:
http://www.palazzoesposizioni.it/

location:
194 Via Nazionale
Rome I-00184

2 Quadriennale Nazionale D'Arte di Roma

DESCRIPTION: The Palazzo delle Esposizioni di Roma, headquarters of the best Capitoline exhibitions, hosts the Quadriennale Nazionale d'Arte di Roma (held every four years from March to May). Its purpose is to show Italy's best works of art to the public, especially trends and new expressions from the previous years. © wcities.com

Photo courtesy of Quadriennale Nazionale D'Arte di Roma

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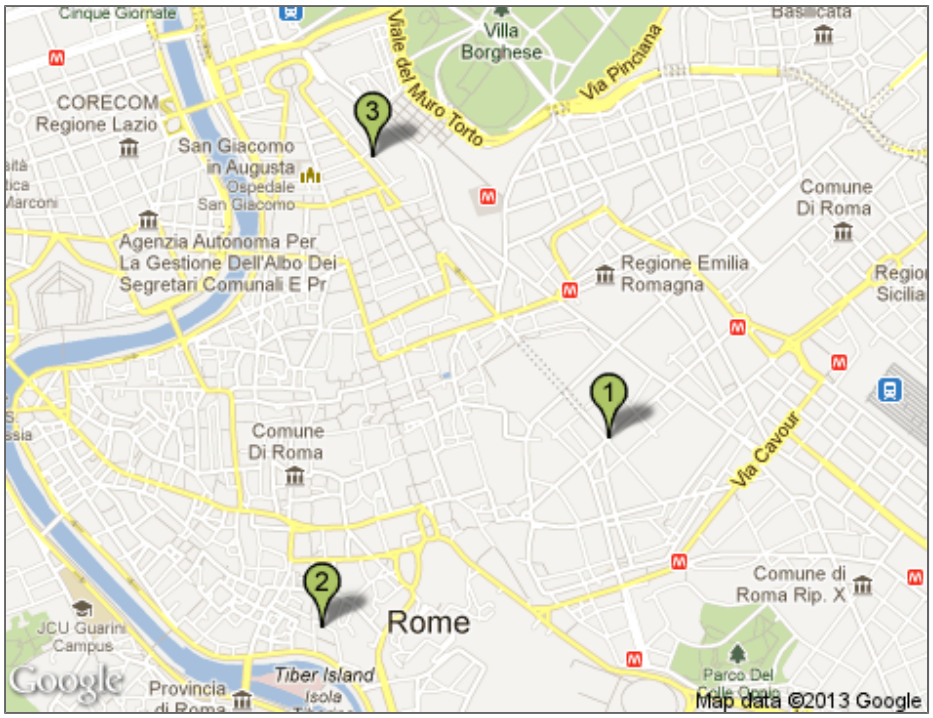
Day 2 - Rome



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contact:
tel: +39 6 48 9411
fax: +39 6 6830 1087
http://www.palazzoesposizioni.it

location:
via Nazionale 194
Rome 00184

1 Palazzo delle Esposizioni

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
With kids? Visit the laboratorio which has daily didactic events.

DESCRIPTION: This palazzo with its statues and Corinthian columns, designed by Piacentini, hosts temporary exhibitions of paintings, sculpture and graphics, which are changed every three months. There is also a small cinema that shows foreign-language films and the occasional theatrical performance. In addition, there is a well-stocked bookshop, a design shop, a bar and a restaurant on the terrace. Next to the complex is the Visual Arts Research and Documentation Centre, an archive that contains data on contemporary Italian and international art. © wcities.com

Palazzo delle Esposizioni

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contact:
tel: +39 06 683 2766
http://www.galleriabonomo.com/

location:
via del Portico d'Ottavia 13

2 Valentina Bonomo Gallery

DESCRIPTION: If you are in a mood to engage in some serious art watching, Valentina Bonomo Gallery is the place to be. Artists like Carla Accardi, Janis Kounellis, Charlotte Dumas, Matteo Montani, Enzo Cucchi and the likes of renowned artists adorn the walls of this vast space. Art lovers and connoisseurs keep flocking in to admire the innovative and artistic frameworks

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Rome 00186

showcased in the exhibitions held here. The charming ambiance adds to the whole delightful and thought-provoking experience. All in all, a great place to get inspired with the displayed pieces of art. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +39 06 320 7956
fax: +39 06 320 8209
http://www.valentinamoncada.com

location:
via Margutta 54
Rome 00187

3 Galleria Valentina Moncada

DESCRIPTION: Art in any form, in any part of the world is eternal and forever to stay. It transcends boundaries and barbed wires and does not know of partitions created by man. Valentina Moncada has tried her best in accumulating and exhibiting art in all its glory at her gallery. Apart from the distinct art and vivid colors you can also find books on the various nuances and forms of art out here. The modern and imaginative brush strokes and designs are sure to impress you. Tony Cragg, Anne Marie Jugnet, Karen Kilimnik, Anish Kapoor, Brad Lochore and Robert Yarber are some of the names who have showcased their experimental designs here. Take a trip to Valentina Moncada and view the works of gen X. © wcities.com

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Day 3 - Rome

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: The recently opened MAXXI showcases Italy's very best artists of the 21st century while the MACRO's contemporary projects and installations are always thought-provoking.

contact:
tel: +39 06 3996 7350
http://www.fondazionemaxxi.it/

location:
Via Guido Reni 10
Rome 00196

hours:
Tues-Sun 11am-7pm

1 MAXXI (National Museum of Art of the XXI Century)

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Not up for an indoor adventure? Kids roam free in the MAXXI's outdoor courtyard Tuesdays through Sundays.

DESCRIPTION: The city of Michelangelo has gone modern with the opening of this stunning building constructed on the site of former army barracks. The complex, costing 60€ million, was the creation of an Iraqi-born architect, Zaha Hadid, who is known for her daring architecture. MAXXI (the first two letters stand for the Museum of Art), with the Roman numerals denoting the 21st century, houses Italy's growing national collection of contemporary art. In addition to its permanent collection, MAXXI will also host the most avant-garde exhibitions of modern art in Italy. The museum is divided into two sections -- MAXXI art and MAXXI architecture. © Frommer's

Photo courtesy ofMAXXI (National Museum of Art of the XXI Century)

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contact:
tel: +39 06 060 608(Tourist Information)
http://www.museocarlobilotti.it/index.php

location:
viale Fiorello La Guardia
Rome 00100

hours:
Tues-Sun 9am-7pm

2 Museo Carlo Bilotti

DESCRIPTION: The aristocratic collector of modern art, Carlo Bilotti, who made a fortune in international cosmetics, donated his celebrated collection to the city of Rome upon his death in 2006. He not only purchased great pieces of modern art but also became friends with many of the artists, including Andy Warhol, Lichtenstein, Dalí, Rivers, Rotella, and de Chirico. The works are displayed in a restored orangery that had been allowed to decay for many years. Works donated by Bilotti are displayed in rooms arranged specifically for a certain artist; other salons are devoted to changing exhibits of some of the major modern artists in the world. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: 06-6710-70400
www.macro-roma.museum

location:
Piazza Orazio Giustiniani 4
Rome

hours:
Tues-Sun 9am-7pm

3 MACRO (Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma)

DESCRIPTION: Opened in a former brewery, this daringly avant-garde museum took over a striking industrial space near Piazza Fiume. Even Romans travel to see Rome's first contemporary art museum. "We're not all ancient," said the curator. "We can be on the cutting edge of moderno as well." There are galleries for temporary art shows, an art studio, a bookstore, and a cafe -- all a dynamic center for cultural activity. There is also a permanent collection of modern art. MACRO overflows into a cutting-edge annex, MACRO al Mattatoio housed in the city's former slaughterhouse in Testaccio, south of the center. The Testaccio annex, Piazza Orazio Giustiniani, is surrounded by an enclave of underground music clubs and late-night restaurants, so this MACRO here keeps houses in tune with the neighborhood -- 4pm to midnight Tuesday to Sunday. © Frommer's

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Rome Snapshot

Local Info

Rome is a city that cannot be described in few words. With more than 2,500 years of history, hundreds of thousands of art works, monuments, and beautiful views, the aptly named Eternal City is interwoven with unparalleled history, beauty and drama. Every monument, palazzo, park and piazza are testament to the many rises and falls of Rome, from its early Republican birth and Imperial age through to its 21st century incarnation. Likened to a gigantic open-air museum, Rome is living history, and every year the city hosts millions of visitors-- tourists, scholars and pilgrims-- from all over the world. It is chaotic, friendly, aggressive and relaxed; in essence a charming contradiction that wins the hearts of its visitors, who always return.

Rome is famously noted as being built on seven hills-- the Quirinale, Viminale, Esquilino, Celio, Aventine, Capitoline, and Palatine. The birth of Rome starts on thePalatine, a small shepherding settlement where, as tradition says, Romulus lived when he founded the city. Historically, the Palatine was the"it" hill where Rome's celebrated leaders lived from the kings of 7th to 5th centuries, to the Republican senators and patricians and the Imperial Age's emperors. TheCapitoline hill represents Rome itself. It was the center of the Empire, home to the most important temples(which served for religious as well as political significance) from the 7th century BC through Rome's changing times. Today, the Capitoline hill is centered by the Michelangelo-designed Piazza del Campidoglio, with the statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius on horseback at the very center. Lining the piazza are the Capitoline Museums, Italy's most precious sculpture collection and Rome's city hall.

The highest of Rome's seven hills, theQuirinale, is home to Palazzo del Quirinale, a former papal and monarchy residence and now the palace of Italy's reigning president. Noteworthy is the open piazza, with its looming obelisk and equestrian statues. Opposite the Palazzo is theScuderie, formerly stables and now a gorgeous temporary exposition space for international exhibitions. The base of the Quirinale was partially dismantled by Emperor Trajan at the beginning of the 2nd century. What remains are the markets of Trajan and Trajan's column, marking the height of the hill. TheViminale stands next to Quirinale and is smaller in size. The hill is bisected by Via Nazionale, a shopping street where the early 20th century Palazzo delle Esposizioni building resides, and leads upward to the majestic Piazza della Repubblica, a favorite piazza for its double-sided arcade of columns and playful Naiad fountain. Just behind the piazza is Rome's principal railway station, Stazione Termini. Roman poets Virgil and Horace lived on theEsquiline hill, now a very busy neighborhood which encompasses the popular Monti district. The Esquiline's terrain includes three peaks, one of which is Monte Oppio, where Nero built his infamous Domus Aurea. Below the Esquiline and behind the Colosseum is theCelio, Rome's greenest and most charming hill where the lovely Villa Celimontana park is located. TheAventine, seen from the peak of the Palatine, past the Circus Maximus, is a quiet, residential neighborhood, with remains of Rome's original 3rd century wall.

Rome has expanded these seven hills, and in a city full of hundreds of rooftops and domes like San Pietro(St. Peter's Basilica), some of the most beautiful panoramas can be seen from the hills of Montemario, the Pincio and the Janiculum.
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History

The history of Rome is based on myth, which Romans proudly celebrate April 21. Rome's beginnings start with the fall of Troy and Aeneas's escape from the burning city. Fleeing by ship, Aeneas landed on the Italian peninsula and establishes Albalunga, a community in Lazio. As myth recounts, Aeneas' descendant Rhea Silvia was forced to become a Vestal Virgin so as not to bear children. However, Rhea Silvia was loved by the god Mars and bore him twin sons, Romulus and Remus, who were placed in a basket in the Tiber River to be killed. But the twins washed ashore close to the Palatine hill and were nurtured by a she-wolf and eventually raised by a shepherd. Romulus and Remus grow up and take residence on the Palatine and Aventinte hills, respectively. According to the myth, the brothers argued over who would be the foretold founder of an empire so Romulus killed Remus and founded the city of Rome on April 21, 753 BC.

Rome's ancient history covers three distinct periods—the Age of the Kings, the Republican Age and the Imperial Age. From Romulus, the small hillside community was ruled by the"king of the hill" until 510 BC. Seven historic kings who change Rome from a small shepherding town into a cosmopolitan city with complex governing and trading programs and an impressive drainage system. With its constant exposure to far more democratic states, especially Greece, Rome's kings were ousted and in its place was an advanced republic, which is the blueprint for all future democracies. The republic was also characterized by internal struggles that eventually due to the rise of the plebeians(lower class Romans).
The Republic was not just city, but a concept that expanded through Lazio, the Italic peninsula and eventually the Mediterranean. For almost four centuries, Rome built unparalleled and nearly infallible republic, accomplishing what Greece, Persia and Egypt could not-- the unification of the East and West.

Corruption was rampant, likewise egos and the Republic was shattered with the death of Julius Caesar on March 15, 44 BC. Chaos reigned but 31 BC marks the beginning of the Empire, under Augustus Caesar. The imperial age opened with a long period of peace, Pax Romanus, under the iron grip of Augustus. And by the beginning of the 2nd century under Trajan, the empire's expanse was in its full glory. However, instability and corruption were popular within the empire and likewise within the psyche of the Emperors.
Centuries forward brought dilution of the boundaries and of the emperors. Christianity, legalized under Constantine in 312 AD, began to spread and create a strong presence that challenged imperial regime.

The official fall of Rome is marked at 476 AD, but its decline was seen much earlier. The causes are many: constant relocation of the capital, uncontrollable subjects,

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quixotic social and economic changes, and finally the arrival and strength of the barbarian tribes. Rome was left as a bandit town, a gangland and an abyss through the Middle Ages. The only ruling party was papal, but again, the city was anarchy. However, the Pope's power evolved from religious to military, and through out the centuries grew exponentially. In 1377, Rome was established as official papal headquarters and by the end of the 15th century, its cultural impact on the city was seen in the papal beautification programs —essentially urban planning. The face of the city changed, as palaces, villas, piazzas and churches were built. New streets were created and the basilica of Saint Peter was leveled and rebuilt, followed by two more centuries of expansion and beautification. Clashes continued between the papacy and Rome's people, and in the beginning of the 1800s, Napoleon changed the landscape as church's estates were confiscated and divided amongst French officials and Italian laymen. The 1800s were an era of unrest through out the Peninsula, with the rising campaign to overthrow the pope and install a monarchy. In 1870, the campaign succeeded and Italy was established as a country free of papal rule, led by both a king and parliament with Rome as its capital. In 1923, Mussolini was elected to Parliament and eventually becomes 20th century tyrant heralding Fascism. World War II caused tantamount strife in Italy as Italy was first part of the axis and then surrendered to the Allied forces in 1943, leading Germany to occupy Rome for over 9 months as the King fled. The city was bombed by the Allies and in April 1944 it was liberated. In 1946, Italy became once again a republic, exiling its monarchy, and ever since, Rome has been the hotbed of Italy's whimsical politics.
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Hotel Insights

The"Eternal City" holds a fascination for anyone in search of history or just plain beauty. Students, tourists, businessmen and pilgrims visit Rome at any time of the year, maintaining an uninterrupted flow of tourism that redefines the Eternal moniker.

Despite Rome's abundance of hotels, it is not always easy to find a last-minute room, so make sure to research and reserve in advance.

Centro Storico(Historic Center)

The majority of hotels, both luxury and lax, are found Rome's historic center. Traditionally,Via Veneto is home to Rome's most expensive and luxurious including theAmbasciatori Palace, theHotelMajestic, theWestin Excelsior and theEden— all making deserved appearance in Federico Fellini's filmLa Dolce Vita.

Heading down the hill, Rome's other exclusive addresses are the Bernini Bristol overlooking theFountain of Triton, and the omnipotentHassler Villa Medici, at the top of the Trinità dei Monti steps. Now luxury can be found all over the city, from the majesticExedra at Piazza della Repubblica to the celebrity favoriteDe Russie at Piazza del Popolo. For those wanting a little Grand Tour charm, theValadier inPiazza del Popolo, theD'Inghilterra and theDei Borgognoni near the lively Piazza di Spagna, all provide a room with a very beautiful view.

Affordable accommodations pepper the city, and some popular pads are found in and around the nooks of Campo dei Fiori, the Pantheon and Piazza Navona, likeHotel Teatro di Pompeo, Albergo del Sole and Relais Palazzo Taverna. If antiquity is of most importance, theForty-Seven,Inn at the Forum and Hotel Gladiatori, with amazing forum and colosseum views, may just fit your needs.

Termini

Manypensioni and bed& breakfasts are found around Termini station. They are almost always privately run, simply and cheap, making them an ideal choice for budget traveling. The Bee Hive is Rome's favorite for atmosphere and affordability.

Trastevere

The Trastevere neighborhood has a broad range of hotels, from the luxurious Hotel Donna Camilla Savelli to the more outrageous Goodnight Garibaldi.

Parioli/Flaminio

For less chaos and green, the upperclass and very residential Parioli neighborhood has the swankyLord Byron hotel, a favorite among business travelers and tryst-seekers.
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Restaurants Insights

There is a wide, varied selection as far as gastronomy is concerned in Rome; choices range from exclusive high-level cuisine, developed by some of the most famous chefs on the international scene to traditional, heartyRomanesca fare in all its manifold variations; from Jewish cuisine andtestaccina recipes to the specialties of Lazio and ethnic dishes, which can be sampled in the plethora of restaurants that offer delights from all over the world.

The only way to really understand the heart and soul of Rome is by tasting its culinary splendors in a popular restaurant, this allows you to steep yourself in Roman culture while you discover the tastes and flavors of traditional cooking through the ages.

Delicious Roman cuisine stems from a time when people were unable to afford a meal made with meat, and therefore had to use offal, which at that time was considered less"prestigious" but definitely more affordable. Over the centuries, traditional dishes likecoda alla vaccinara(oxtail cooked with wine, tomatoes and peppers),la pajata,(veal's offal cooked in a tomato sauce),l'abbacchio alla scottadito andla trippa alla romana(tripe), have come to be considered as delicacies and are eaten by even the most refined palates.

Centro Storico(Historic Center)

If in search of high-class food, Rome offers a great choice of quality restaurants. There are elegant places in the more exclusive hotels, such as La Pergola dell'Hotel Hilton, the Terrazza dell'Hotel Eden or La Veranda dell'Hotel Majestic. You can also try the delights of creative haute cuisine at restaurants such as Quinzi& Gabrieli, Alberto Ciarla, and Le Sans Souci. Tucked away down a small alley, the exclusive Il Convivio Troiani can be hard to fine, but if you are looking for Italianalta cucina this is your place. Agata e Romeo have offered family run fine dining for three generations. Romeo is an expert sommelier and the

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restaurant has over 1500 labels in its cellar. Romolo nel Giardino della Fornarina in Trastevere is the perfect setting for a romantic evening; dine outside in the low-lit courtyard where Raphael is said to have courted his lady La Fornarina. Nino is a cozy option, offering classic Roman and Tuscan cuisine in a warm environment. Or, if you are looking for pizza in the center, try Da Baffetto, which has been serving up some of best around since the 1960s.

Inspired by the popular filmBabette's Feast, Ristorante Babette has the feel of a 1920s French bistro. Gusto 28 also has a chic early 20th-century feel, and is especially known for its seafood dishes and variety of vegetarian plates. Ancient meets modern at L'Acino Brillo, where creative cuisine and contemporary decor blend delightfully in this hip restaurant and wine bar.

Rosati is also in the center and offers great views with their coffee. A celebrity hot spot during the 1960s and 1970s, they also have a dining room if your espresso leaves you wanting more. Obika off Piazza Navona offers something unique yet stillveramente italiano- a fresh mozzarella bar. A number of varieties of one of Italy's most famous cheeses are served here, accompanied by a nice selection of meats, vegetables and sauces.

A relaxing way to enjoy a snack or evening coffee is at one of Rome's many cafés, usually serving coffee, gelato, panini and snacks. The elegant Ciampini is located atop the Spanish Steps, and offers amazing views of the city. The famed Antico Caffè Greco is one of Rome's oldest(open since the 1760), and is definitely one of its most exclusive.

Trastevere

Pizzerias and trattorie are definitely the most popular places to dine in Rome: informal, economical and with speedy service, they are home topizza alla romana, pizzas with a thin crust and a crispy edge, as opposed to the soft raised crusts of the Neapolitan pizza; however, if you are craving a taste of bella Napoli, you can't do any better than Da Vittorio. You will find pizzerias in every corner of the city, but Trastevere offers an especially wide choice of pizza restaurants with wood fueled ovens(these give the pizza a more intense flavor). Panattoni, Ivo, Dar Poeta, Roma Sparita, Arco di San Calisto, are just some of the places from a wide selection of high quality pizza parlors. Remo, in the heart of Testaccio, offers outdoor seating and hip younger crowd. In addition to pizza, don't miss other delicious Roman offerings found at pizzerie and trattorie, such asSupplì al telefono, fried rice balls filled with mozzarella, potato croquettes, fried cod fillets, fried pumpkin flowers, andbruschette,(slices of toasted bread with tomato or oil and garlic).

Termini

Est! Est!! Est!!! has been around since the early 1900s, and serves thick-crusted pan pizzas as opposed to traditional Roman thin crusted pies. This is a great option if you are in the center of the city and don't feel like heading over to the many pizzerie over in the Trastevere.

Vaticano

For gelato, Gelateria Pellacchia in the historical center offers some of Rome's best, as well as coffees and panini.
©

Nightlife Insights

Rome's beauty is accessible both day and night and the same is to be said for its vast range of entertainment—theater, cinema, opera, discos; the list is(almost) endless.

Theater

The theatrical season lasts from October to May and it can often continue through the summer months. Most theatres offer a range of plays and productions, but there is one very special exception: The Sistina is the undisputed home of musicals. There are numerous private, experimental and avant-garde theatres often hosting young artists and offering stimulating, thought-provoking works. The Abraxa Teatro, is home to an innovative company, who seek to express themselves and their ideas by using their bodies rather than speech. If your tastes are a little more traditional, historic theatres such as Teatro Argentina, Valle and the Nazionale offer high quality performances by famous actors and theatre companies. The Teatro della Cometa and the Teatro Flaiano offer light comedies.

Cinema

The cinemas in Rome have greatly improved over the past few years. Many new multiplexes have been built and other cinemas have been completely restored. The cinema scene in Rome today is characterized by a fair amount of small, independent cinemas and many large, modern multiscreen cinemas; these cinemas almost exclusively show commercial films. Some of the better known independent cinemas such as the Greenwich, the Intrastevere, and the Labirinto have united to formCircuito Cinema, a society interested in promoting innovative films, created in an attempt to confront the supremacy of the large distribution companies. Warner Moderno, Metropolitan, Nuovo Sacher and Alcatraz often show English-language films. Summer is definitely the most romantic time to enjoy a film at the outdoor cinema on Isola Tiberina.

Live Music

Live music is popular in Rome. There are an increasing number of places offering live music from Italy, America, England, Africa and South America. The most successful venues are concentrated in certain areas such as the Testaccio quarter, including places like Akab and Radio Londra. The Trastevere quarter is the home of the historic Big Mama. The Alexanderplatz in Trionfale is also recommended.

Classical Music

Classical music lovers are also catered for, the city has a varied concert season; there is chamber music at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia and the Gonfalone organizes delightful baroque music concerts. The"symphony season" at the Teatro dell'Opera takes place in Terme di Caracalla during the summer, but the Associazione Il Tempietto offers concerts throughout the year. The elegantly furnished and imposing Teatro dell'Opera is the only theatre in Rome, which offers an operatic season of any importance and in summer, opera is performed outdoors in the enchanting Terme di Caracalla or the Piazza di Siena.

Discotheques

Discos are very popular amongst the glamorous Romans; the elegant, formal crowd(politicians, actors and VIPs) often like to go to 1980s style clubs. The more"serious" clubbers frequent Via Galvani in Testaccio, the heart of Rome's night life. During the summer months, many discos relocate to the beaches of Fregene and Ostia, and some even to the Tiber banks for RomaEstate.

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Pubs& Bars

Discos aren't the only places that are popular on the weekend; pubs, beer gardens, restaurants and bars all teem with life. Many of theselocali perform more than one function. For example, a cocktail bar will sell beer or allow you to surf the Internet before you hit the dance floor. Many cafés stay open late. The most popular and lively cafés are in the splendid Trastevere district in Via Veneto and Piazza Navona like the classic Caffe della Pace. Wine bars tend to be laid-back, informal and welcoming. These are great places to have a snack while sipping some excellent wine. Try the Trimani Il Wine Bar and the Cul de Sac in Piazza Navona. Pubs and beer gardens in Rome tend to have a British theme, they serve many different beers, and true to the good old'Brit' style, you can enjoy a game of darts with your pint! Places to be"seen" in include the Fiddler's Elbow and the Victoria House.
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Things to Do Insights

Colosseum

Heading the list of Rome's ancient monuments is of course the Colosseum. Inaugurated in 80 AD, it is the symbol of the Imperial Capitol and draws visitors from all over the world. Even if the lines are long, a tour of this ancient arena is well worth it.

The Forum

The Palatine is the oldest part of the city and home to the many of the ancient sites. To the North of the Palatine hill are the vast remains of the Roman Forum, once the social, political, and economic center of the city.

Pantheon, Trevi& Navona

The Pantheon, with its rotund interior and open ceiling, was constructed circa 125 BC and is now used as a Christian Church. One of Rome's famous landmarks is the Trevi Fountain, immortalized in Fellini's filmLa Dolce Vita. Although you are not allowed to wade through the fountain as Anita Ekberg famously did, legend has it that throwing a coin in ensures a return trip to Rome. On the other side of the Pantheon is the oval0shaped Piazza Navona which was once a Roman circus(hence its shape) but designated as a square in the 15th Century. Bernini's famous Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi is located here, along with Fontana del Nettuno. Piazza Campo de' Fiori is also close by. By day the square hosts one of the most famous street markets in Italy, and is a popular meeting place for tourists as well as local youth during evening hours. The Spanish Steps or Scalinata Trinità dei Monti, at Piazza di Spagna, are another of Italy's most famous meeting places.

Vatican

Many of the works that were uncovered during the original excavation can now be seen in the Vatican Museums. St. Peter's Square is one of the most visited places on Earth. People come from all over the world to see Saint Peter's Basilica and receive the Pope's blessing, traditionally given Sundays at noon. Leave plenty of time to tour the Musei Vaticani(Vatican Museums), which house numerous masterpieces, including Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel and Rapahel's School of Athens. Just east of the Vatican on the Tiber is Castel Sant'Angelo. Originally constructed as a mausoleum for Emperor Hadrian in 139 CE, the fortress was used as a castle during the 10th Century and eventually as a papal residence. The last act of Puccini's masterworkTosca took place here, and today the building has been turned into a museum. The Ponte Sant'Angelo stretches over the Tiber and was also constructed by Hadrian, intended to link the tomb with the center of Rome.

©

Travel Tips

Airports

Fiumicino Leonardo da Vinci(FCO) International airport and Ciampino(CIA) airport(www.adr.it) are Rome's two hubs for air travel. Fiumicino is the transatlantic traveler's delight with its numerous shops and restaurants. Fiumicino has long and short term parking, and easily connected to Rome by a thirty minute train ride, bus or taxi. Ciampino is hub for European travel, especially for budget airlines like Ryan Air and Easy Jet. Ciampino is connected to Rome by bus, shuttle and taxi.

From the Airport

Fiumicino-Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport (FCO)

Train: The Leonardo Express runs directly from the airport to the main rail terminal,Termini, as well as Tiburtina and Trastevere stations, with trains every 30 minutes from 6:35a-11:35p. Tickets are purchased either from teller or automated machines, and must be validated prior to boarding. Children under 12 accompanied by an adult ride free. Follow signs for"Stazione FS/Railway Station," located on the second floor.

Bus:"Sit Bus Shuttle" to and from airport to city center(Piazza Cavour e Stazione Termini, in Via Marsala). Bus stop is found in front of Arrivals at Terminal 3. Tickets are purchased on bus.http://sitbusshuttle.it Taxi: Rome's official taxis are white with black identity codes on the door. A ride from the airport the city center is EUR40, with supplemental baggage fees. Wait in the official-regulated taxi lines rather than falling prey to non-licensed drivers.

Ciampino Airport(CIA)

Bus: to and from Ciampino to Termini Station by busesATRAL, COTRAL, SIT and TERRAVISION. The buses are parked in dedicated bus bays opposite International Departures.

Train

Rome is a major hub for Italian rail, at Termini Station. It is managed and maintained by the Italian State Railway(http://www.trenitalia.com/) and offers a variety of options for continental as well as local travel. The EuroStar and Freccia Rossa are the high speed lines traveling up and down the peninsula. Most of the trains arrive and depart at Rome's Termini station, including all InterCity, regional and national trains, with a few international trains stopping at Ostiense and Tiburtina stations.

Bus

Tiburtina Station(http://www.romatiburtina.it/), north eastern part of Rome, is the base for most intercity buses. The bus terminal is located adjacent to the rail station. Euroline(http://www.eurolines.it/) and Cotral services bus lines that run internationally.

Car

All roads lead to Rome. The A1, Italy's famed superhighway running from Milan to Naples, makes sure to pass through Rome. The A24 spans east and the SS1 Aurelia coastal route splits the A12/E80 between Genoa and Rome. All converge with

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Rome's ring road, the Grande Raccordo Anulare(GRA). With gas prices paid by the liter and toll roads littering the motorways, driving can be quite expensive. Check out the Autostrada website(http://www.autostrade.it/) for toll info throughout the country.

Driving in Rome can be a harrowing experience. The historical center is a restricted driving zone(Zona Trafica Limitata- abbreviated ZTL), and non-resident vehicles are prohibited M-F 8a-6p and Sa 8a-1p, enforced by major fines. Paid parking spaces are marked by blue lines and are all over the city. Parking Termini is located in front of the main train station and is open from 6a-1a. ParkSi and Parking Ludovisi are located near the Villa Borghese. Another option are theparcheggi di scampio lots, located farther outside the city center usually near metro stops. Around EUR2 a day, this is a very economical but riskier option as lots are unattended.

Public Transport

ATAC is Rome's public transportation provider for buses, trams and metro line. Tickets are 1 euro, and require validation before travel. Duration is 75 minutes. Buses run 24 hours a day throughout the entire city. TheMetropolitana or metro has two lines(A and B) recognizable by large red signs marked"M". The lines criss-cross through the city, intersecting only at Stazione Termini and run from 5:30a-11:30 everyday, and until 12:30a on Saturdays.

Children under ten years ride free. For information about special tickets like the all-day pass and to plan your route, visithttp://www.atac.roma.it/(Italian only site).

Taxi

Rome's official taxis are white and have a black identification number on the door reading Comune di Roma. Use only these authorized taxis, as they are metered and regulated-- and make sure to keep a close eye on the meter. Normal starting fare(between 7a-10p) is EUR2.80; night fares are higher(10p-7a) EUR5. Remember that Sunday and holiday fares also apply between 7a-10p, and rate per mile increases if you travel outside the city limits. Bring plenty of small bills as Roman taxi drivers are notorious for not having change! Taxi Companies include:

Cooperativa Radiotaxi Samarcanda
Radiotaxi 3570

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Fun Facts

Interesting Fact: SPQR, Rome's nearly 2500 year-old mottoSenatus Populus Romanus(aka the Senate and the People of Rome) is also the motto of Rome's waste removal organization.Fun Fact: Rome is a capital city which contains the world's smallest country, Vatican City, of 108 acres, within the boundaries of the Eternal City's original urban sprawl.Weird Fact: Visitors have the opportunity for a sneak peak at purgatory. The Museum of the Souls in Purgatory sits in side room of the Church of Sacred Heart of Suffering, just across the river from Piazza Navona. The museum showcases artefacts that have traces from souls suffering in purgatory. Not limbo, but purgatory, the 8000 year waiting room between heaven and hell.

Random Fact: the majority of all souvenir sellers are named either Marco or Massimo/Massimiliano.University Fact: Rome's first university, La Sapienza(est. A.D. 1303), is the largest in Europe with over 100,000 enrolled students and the second largest in the world.Soccer Fact: Most Romans lovecalcio(soccer), and Rome sports two teams: Roma, the traditional anti-establishment, working class team and Lazio, the slightly more staid club. Make sure you know which colors to wear(red/yellow or blue/white) and how to identify team symbols– very useful when arguing with a taxi driver.Museum Fact: Rome's museum traverse ancient to contemporary art, but there are several offbeat culture caches as well including: a Pasta museum, Horror museum(by director Dario Argento), a Purgatory museum, Carabinieri museum(military police), and the museum of police cars and uniforms.Ancient History Fact: Rome celebrates its 753 BC foundation every April 21st. All shops, businesses and schools are closed in celebration of Romulus' foundation of the city.Fake Fact: Most Romans can trace their lineage back to Julius Caesar and his merry men. More likely, the true Roman is someone who can trace his family heritage in Rome only back seven generations.Bridge Fact: The Ponte Rosso is Rome's oldest bridge from the first century BC. It has been damaged and repaired several times, but to no success. Even Michelangelo Buonarotti could not keep that bridge from falling down.Food Fact: Rome has an ice cream shop,gelateria, on ever corner which feature flavors from traditionalcioccolato to more fanciful tomato and basil. Everyone has a favorite gelateria and everyone has an opinion. Tanning Fact: Rome is approximately 13 miles from the beach-Ostia- an easy and inexpensive train trip for a quick tan- 20-minute and 1 euro via ATAC, Rome's public transport
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