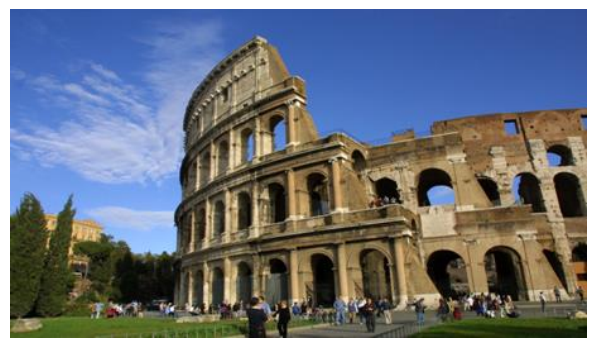


WELCOME TO ROME!



Some practical information to make life easier during your visit to Rome.

Once the capital of the Roman Empire, the most powerful of the ancient western world, Rome has retained its impressive cultural, historical and artistic importance and is still, centuries later, an important protagonist on the world scene. Today it is the religious and political centre of Italy. No other city in the world has so many different artistic eras represented. 2000 year old buildings are a testimony to the high culture of the ancient Romans. Important archaeological monuments such as the Coliseum and the Roman Forum are still there to be seen after almost 2000 years. Among the ruins are the Medieval Rome, the Renaissance Rome, the Baroque Rome, the modern Rome, represented in the living city of today with plenty of fountains, squares, narrow streets, shops, restaurants, bars and more than 500 churches.





Museums abound from all periods from the Etruscans Museum in Villa Giulia to the last modern art centre like MAXXI. There are monumental buildings such as the Pantheon, constructed during the second century, and modern buildings by famous architects like Renzo Piano, Richard Maier and Paolo Portoghesi, just to mention a few. The city has approx. 2.7 million inhabitants today but the historical centre of Rome is concentrated in quite a small part of the city and easy to explore on foot.



ARRIVING IN ROME

Rome has two international airports:

Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Fiumicino, the main airport west of Rome where the majority of flights arrive. This airport has 4 different terminals and is connected to the city centre by train. One nonstop train connects the airport with Rome Termini central railway station.

Trains depart the airport every 30 minutes and take 31 minutes to Rome Termini. Tickets can be purchased at the railway station inside the airport and the fare is €14,00 one way. The train arrives into Rome Termini central station on track n° 24 from where it also departs.

Ciampino Airport south of the city centre is normally used by some low-cost carriers, mainly Ryanair. It is connected to Rome city centre (Termini railway station) by different coach companies offering frequent departures; the fare is approximately €4,00 – €6,00 one way. Tickets are sold in the arrival hall and are also available before boarding the coaches. Duration of transfer is approximately 30 minutes.

Railway:

Italy has two companies operating on the high-speed railway system, Trenitalia and Italo. Trenitalia operates into Termini station and Italo operates into Ostiense and Tiburtina stations. All 3 stations are served by metro lines.

METRO / UNDERGROUND

Rome has only two metro lines, line A and line B. These two lines are interconnected under the Termini railway station.

The central part of Rome is served by the following metro stations:

Line A Nearest station to the Hotel Ergife Palace is 'Cornelia' connected to the following stops: Baldi degli Obaldi, Cipro/Musei Vaticani (Vatican Museums), Ottaviano (St. Peters Church), Lepanto, Flaminio (Piazza del Popolo), Spagna (Spanish Steps), Barberini (Piazza Barberini and Via Veneto), Termini (for connections to line B), Vittorio (Piazza Vittorio), Manzoni, San Giovanni (The Lateran Church).

Line B: Termini, Cavour, Colosseo, Circo Massimo, Piramide (with trains to Osti and connection to trains from Ostiense railway station).

Directions from Ergife Palace to the metro station Cornelia:

Exit the hotel and walk up to the main road 'Via Aurelia', cross the Via Aurelia and turn right and walk along the Via Aurelia until you reach McDonalds. Turn left around the corner from McDonalds, you will see the big red sign with a white M indicating the metro station.



Fare is €1,50 and tickets can be purchased in the ticket machines in most stations and in most newspaper and tobacco shops.

PUBLIC BUS

In the central part of Rome most streets are too narrow for coaches, so you will find the local buses on the few larger streets crossing through the historical centre, streets like; Via del Tritone, Via del Corso, Via Nazionale, Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Via Fori Imperiali.

There are also some small electrical buses passing through the narrow streets, but moving very slowly. There are ticket machines on some of the coaches, but better to be sure and buy the ticket before entering the bus. Ticket machines are to be found at some bus stops and tickets could also be purchased in tobacco and newspaper shops. Same ticket is valid for metro, bus and tram.

Cost: €1,50 for ticket with value 100 minutes from the time you start your first trip. You could change to other bus lines within the 100 minutes. Tickets must be obliterated in the appropriate yellow boxes on the buses starting the first trip. For more info see: www.atac.roma.it

TRAM

Very few lines in Rome, but if you want to travel by tram, the tickets are the same as for the buses.

TAXI

Taxis in Rome are white and have 'TAXI' written on the top. Meters display amount to be paid. During the night or bank holidays supplements and special rates are applicable.

Many drivers do take credit cards, but again it is better to have cash to be on the safe side.

It could often be difficult to stop a taxi along the street. Better to go to a taxi rank where they are normally parked when free. You could also call and ask for a taxi on the following telephone number: 06 3570 and 06 4994

NEWSPAPERS

Newspaper stands close to the main tourist attractions do sell different international newspapers.

RESTAURANTS

We have approximately 3,000 places that serve food in Rome. Most of them with Italian food as the Italians still prefer their own kitchen. But there are of course some other countries represented like China, India, Thailand etc.

Restaurants are normally open:

Lunch 12.30 – 15.00

Dinner 19.30 – 23.00.

Between 15.00 – 19.30 most restaurants are closed.

The menus are divided into 4 main parts:

“Antipasto”: hors d’oeuvre

“Primi” or “Primo piatto”: Starter consisting of pasta or risotto or soups.

“Secondi” or “Secondo Piatto”: Main course normally meat (carne) or fish (pesce).

No vegetables or salad is served if you do not ask for it. A list of vegetables available can be found under “Contorni” which are then served on a separate plate.

Pizza: Traditionally eaten as an evening meal. Many “Pizzerias” are for this reason open only in the evening.

Wine: National wines are served in all restaurants. Only expensive restaurants have wines from other countries. Local wines are from Frascati, south of Rome, or from Cervetri, north of Rome. These areas are famous for white wines.

Water: Tap water is O.K. to drink in Rome, but most restaurants serve bottled water with or without gas (Frizzante = with gas, naturale = without gas).



BARS

There are plenty of bars in Rome. The Italians do often go to the bar more than once a day, starting with a bar breakfast consisting of a briosch and a Cappuccino. Coffee break at work is normally taken at the bar.

Coffee for an Italian is espresso. Coffees with milk are usually taken in the morning or between meals. After a meal espresso is served.

For a quick lunch the bars are a good solution. Most of them serve sandwiches and occasionally even some warm plates.



The bars have two different prices: One lower price when you stand by the counter consuming what you have ordered. To do this you need to pay first and present the receipt to the counter staff and ask for what you want to have.

The more expensive version is sitting at a table where you will have waiter service who will take orders and deliver. Payment in this case is made directly to the waiter.

TIPPING

Tipping in bars and restaurants is still quite normal in Italy. It is not compulsory but common to leave approx 1-2 euro in a normal middle class restaurant, 0,10 – 0,20 euro in the bar when getting served at the bar counter.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Electricity supply in Italy is 220V, 50Hz. The 2-pin or 3-pin connecting plugs are different from those used in some countries, e.g. USA, UK , or Japan . Some hotels may provide suitable adaptors for electric appliances. But please note that power converters are often separate from adapters, and you may require both a converter and an adapter.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Country code for Italy is 0039 and area code for Rome is 06. Public telephones are available for local, long distance and international calls, operating with phone cards (available at news stands, tobacconists and coffee shops), credit cards or coins.

BANKING SERVICE

Official currency in Italy is the Euro. Banks are usually open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm and from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Exchange facilities are available at the airport, in hotels, and at exchange counters. Major credit cards are accepted in Italy. Some places do only take cards with a microchip. Please check with your bank or credit card provider about obtaining one of these types of credit cards.

MUSEUMS

There are no standard hours of operation for all the museums, and times differ from museum to museum. Most of them are closed on Mondays with the exception of the Vatican Museums that are closed on Sunday (with the exception of the last Sunday of each month). A lot of museums are open only in the morning.

Some of the most important museums:

Vatican Museums www.vatican.va

Capitoline Museums (Musei Capitolini) on the Capitol hill. www.museicapitolini.org

Villa Giulia (Etruscan Museum)

Galleria Borghese www.galleriaborghese.it/

CHURCHES

Rome has more than 500 churches and most of them contain valuable art such as statues, paintings and mosaics. Most churches close at lunch time but are open morning and afternoon. The main churches belonging to the Vatican are open all day; St. Peters Basilica, Santa Maria Maggiore, San Giovanni in Laterano to mention just a few. These 3 churches are the most important in Rome.

IMPORTANT: To visit a church you have to dress properly.

Women: No naked shoulders and legs covered to the knee.

Men: Long trousers.

At the entrance of the main churches guardians stop persons that are not dressed according to above rules.

SHOPS

Most shops are open 09.30 /10.00 to 13.00 and close for lunch to open again 16.00 and close 19.30/20.00. Some shops in the historical centre of the city are open 24 hrs.

Food shops open earlier in the mornings and are closed on Thursday afternoon.

Most other shops are closed on Monday morning and open after lunch.

On Sunday most shops are closed, but quite a few remain open until lunch time in the historical centre; very few are open after lunch. Most shops do take credit cards.

PICKPOCKETS

As in all big cities, Rome also has its share of pickpockets. Be careful travelling on local busses, metro-trains and anywhere where there are large gatherings of people.

WHAT'S ON

You will find on the Internet or in the monthly paper editions distributed to the hotels:

UN OSPITE A ROME. www.unospitearoma.it with information about operating hours of monuments and museums, concerts and other events.

