

## Rome Today

Rome is the capital city of Italy and is a very popular place to visit. In fact, it is the most visited place in Italy and one of the most visited places in the whole of Europe. Rome is unique in that it has a country (The Vatican City) within the walls of the city. Rome is located in the Lazio region of central Italy and is a heavily populated city with around 2.9 million residents.

This fascinating city is steeped in history and has many interesting and beautiful places to visit.



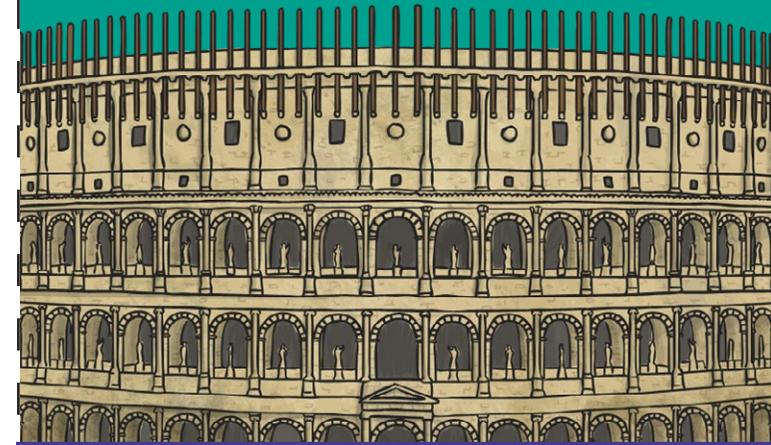
The winters are cool (with an average temperature of 8°C in January) and the summers are hot and dry (with an average temperature of 26°C in July).

## So Much to See!

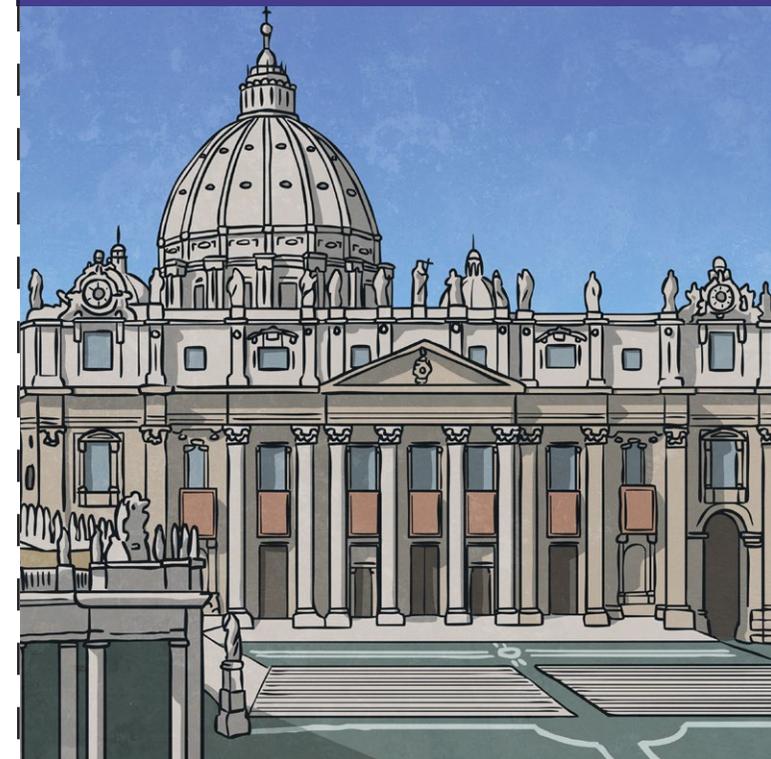
These are just some of the wonderful sights and attractions there are to see and visit in the alluring, historic city of Rome. It will certainly take more than one day to see what Rome has to offer so stay for the weekend or longer if you can. You won't regret it!



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# VISIT MODERN ROME



## The Pantheon

This is one of the most beautiful buildings in Italy, which is now a Roman Catholic church but was originally a temple. It has survived better than other buildings in ancient Rome, probably because it has always been used by people over the centuries. Its style has been copied many times by architects all over the globe.

Two Italian kings are buried here - Vittorio Emanuele II and Umberto I. Regular worship is held at the Pantheon and weddings occasionally take place.

There is no entry fee for this attraction but be aware that you may need to queue for a short time to enter as it does tend to get very busy.

## The Catacombs

The Catacombs of Rome are underground burial areas located a little way outside of the city. Due to the beliefs of the ancient Romans, burials were not permitted within the walls of the city. As a result, a series of underground tunnels were cut from volcanic rock beyond the city walls to bury those who could not afford their own grand tombs. As more and more people wanted to be buried there, they extended the tunnels in all different directions. There are five sets of catacombs which are open to the public. A guided tour of one of these takes about twenty minutes.

## The Colosseum

This is surely one of the most famous Roman buildings and attracts many visitors each year. It is also sometimes known as the 'Flavian Amphitheatre'. In Roman times, up to 50,000 people would sit here to watch performances, including 'sporting events' like gladiators fighting (sometimes to their death!). Today, you can still see some Roman numerals on the walls as each of the arches, from which the gladiators used to emerge, were numbered. It is an awe-inspiring building to look at from the inside and from the outside.

It is free to walk around the outside but to enter you need to pay. The Colosseum opens daily at 9 a.m. and closing times vary depending on the time of year. In the interests of safety, the Colosseum can now only accommodate 3000 people at any one time. Even if you have a pre-booked ticket, you will still probably need to queue to enter.

## The Trevi Fountain

There are over 2000 fountains in Rome but the Trevi Fountain is one of the most beautiful and most famous in the world. It is so popular that the area around the fountain can get very crowded so visitors would be wise to visit the fountain at quieter times of day. Legend has it that if you toss a coin into the fountain, you will one day return to Rome. Tourists are supposed to turn their back to the fountain as they toss their lucky coin over their left shoulder into the water. The fountain is closed to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the morning, and it is then that the coins are collected. Approximately 24,000 euros are collected each week. This money goes to the Roman Catholic charity, Caritas, which works to provide for those in need in the city.

## The Roman Forum

The Roman Forum is a collection of impressive ruins near to the Colosseum. In ancient Roman times, this area was a hub of activity and there are several famous temples to view here. There is very little information to read at the ruins so visitors are advised to pay extra for a tour guide to take them around, or to take an audio tour. Climbing Palatine Hill, where tradition says Romulus founded the city, will give you a wonderful view of the ruins. To buy a ticket to visit The Roman Forum, Palatine Hill and the Colosseum, it costs around 12 euros but children can enter for free. There is also free admission for everyone to these attractions (and the Colosseum) on the first Sunday of each month.

## Rome Zoo

Should you wish to have a change from viewing all the glorious architecture of Rome, the city does have a zoo. Bioparco Zoo has over one thousand animals belonging to over 222 different species. When the zoo first opened in 1911, it was not designed with the comfort of the animals in mind but rather to entertain visitors. A major redesign in the 1990s saw the zoo renamed and reimagined with conservation at the heart of its aims and the happiness of the zoo's residents now having much greater importance. It costs 16 euros for adult admission and 13 euros for children. Entry is free for children who are less than one metre tall and for carers accompanying disabled visitors.

