



TRIP GLOBAL

3 Days in Rome: A First-Timer's Itinerary

Rome, Italy · April · 3 days

Tailored for couples - includes romantic spots, intimate dining, and couple-friendly activities

Three days in Rome that start with the Colosseum and the Forum, give a full day to the Vatican, and finish with Campo de' Fiori and the Jewish Ghetto. Save room for lunch at Sora Margherita and a pizza stop at Bonci.

Open the interactive trip: live map, photos and links

Before you go:

Get a Italy eSIM: data on landing

What this trip might cost, per person for 3 days, flights extra:

Budget \$210 · Mid-range \$390 · Comfort \$650

Opening hours, prices and transport change. Please double-check bookings and times before you go.

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

1

DAY 1

Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill

Centro Storico (Monti/Colosseum area) · 3 nights

2

DAY 2

Vatican Museums, St. Peter's and Castel Sant'Angelo

3

DAY 3

Campo de' Fiori, the Ghetto and Trastevere

?

AFTER THE LAST DAY

Before you go: Rome

Colosseum, Roman Forum and Palatine Hill

Arrival day: an easy start close to your stay

Sunrise 6:31 AM

Golden hour 7:13 PM

Sunset 7:50 PM

Your base for 3 nights: Centro Storico (Monti/Colosseum area)

Start at the Colosseum, walk through the Forum and up Palatine Hill, then end the day with a slow dinner along Via dei Serpenti.

GO

12:00 PM · 1 hour

Fiumicino Airport to Monti, Centro Storico

Take the Leonardo Express train from Terminal 3 (platform level) directly to Termini station in 32 minutes (EUR 14). From Termini, walk or take metro line A one stop south to Cavour station. Follow signs to Monti neighbourhood, about 10 minutes on foot.

- Leonardo Express Train · 32 minutes · \$16-20 per person
- Shared shuttle or bus · 45-60 minutes · \$9-13 per person
- Private transfer · 40 minutes · \$55-66 total for two people

[Book a transfer](#)

1



2:30 PM · 1.5 hours

[Book ahead](#)

Colosseum

\$20 per person skip-the-line ticket; \$13 standard entry · Open 8:30 AM-7 PM (April)

Get here by 2:30 PM to skip the worst of the afternoon heat and crowds. You'll walk around the outside, see the arches and tiers, and understand why Romans built monuments to last. The exterior is free; queues for entry are short mid-afternoon. From Cavour metro, walk south 10 minutes on Via Cavour.

Insider tip: Buy your timed ticket online at coopculture.it before you leave your hotel. It covers the Colosseum, Roman Forum, and Palatine Hill, and costs EUR 18.

[Book tickets](#)

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2



4:15 PM · 1.5 hours

Roman Forum

Included with Colosseum ticket · Open 8:30 AM-5 PM (April)

Walk straight from the Colosseum through the main gate into the heart of ancient government. You'll see ruined temples, the House of the Vestal Virgins, and the path where Caesar walked. Use your timed ticket; no extra booking needed. Allow 1.5 to 2 hours here.

Insider tip: Pick up a free map at the gate. Walk uphill to the Temple of Saturn first to catch the best light on the columns at golden hour.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

DAY 1: COLOSSEUM, ROMAN FORUM AND PALATINE HILL (CONTINUED)

3



5:50 PM • 1 hour

Palatine Hill

Included with Colosseum ticket • Open 8:30 AM-5 PM (April)

The emperors lived here. Climb the ramp from the Forum (included in your ticket) to wander through palace ruins, gardens, and olive groves with views across the whole site below. It's less crowded than the Colosseum and worth at least 45 minutes. Finish just before sunset.

Insider tip: The Farnese Gardens have the best sunset views. Head there first, then descend through the palace ruins as the light softens.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

4



7:00 PM • 45 minutes

Via dei Serpenti

Free

Head back to Monti through the backstreets and walk this narrow lane lined with vintage shops, galleries, and locals heading home. No heavy lifting, just the real rhythm of the neighbourhood. A 15-minute walk from Palatine Hill via Via Cavour.

Insider tip: Stop at a bar for an aperitivo around 7:15 PM. Mostartshop or Bar Locale both pour good Negronis and have locals sitting outside.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5

8:30 PM • 1.5 hours

Book ahead

Armando al Pantheon

\$65-87 per person for dinner • Open 12:30 PM-3 PM, 7:30 PM-11 PM

A family-run Roman trattoria in business since 1961, known for cacio e pepe and carbonara made the traditional way. Book a table for 8:30 PM. It's on a quiet corner near the Pantheon, walkable from Monti (12 minutes via Via dei Serpenti and Via Ghibellina).

Insider tip: Call ahead and ask for a table outside if the weather holds. Order the cacio e pepe and the guanciale appetizer. Their house wine is decent and cheap.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

If you land early (optional, close to your stay, before the plan above)

Mercato Monti Urban Market: If you land early, this weekend vintage and craft market opens at 10 AM on Saturdays and Sundays (closed weekdays). Browse local designers and secondhand finds in the old car park. Five minutes walk from where you'll stay in Monti.

Sant'Agata dei Goti: A quiet baroque church with its own courtyard garden. Ten-minute walk south from Monti via Via Panisperna. Arrive around 9 or 10 AM before anyone else, sit on the bench, and ease into Rome.

[Open Day 1 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to stay in Centro Storico (Monti/Colosseum area)

Book in Monti, the grid of streets east of the Colosseum. It's walkable to all three days' sights, has the best local restaurants and bars, and the metro station (Cavour) is two minutes away.

The Student Hotel Rome

Budget · Hostel · \$

Private rooms available, social vibe, near Termini. Budget without sacrificing comfort.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

The Beehive

Budget · Hostel · \$

Private rooms available. Friendly staff, good breakfast. Budget option without skimping on comfort.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Hotel Artemide

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Four-star comfort, rooftop bar views, Colosseum walk. Good value for location.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Daphne Trevi Hotel

Mid-range · Guesthouse · \$\$

Intimate boutique guesthouse, Monti neighbourhood, 10 mins to Forum. Quiet and central.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Nerva Boutique Hotel

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Quiet Monti street, great breakfast, 10-minute walk to metro for Vatican. Reliable choice.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

Residenza Rione VIII

Mid-range · Guesthouse · \$\$

Monti townhouse. Homey and quiet. Owner gives real tips. Walk to Colosseum in 10 minutes.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

[All stays in Centro Storico \(Monti/Colosseum area\)](#)

[Holiday rentals](#)

Where to eat

Caffetteria Centrale

Italian Cafe · Breakfast · \$

Espresso and cornetto near Termini. Grab fast, eat standing. Local pace.

[Google Maps >](#)

Armando al Pantheon

Roman Trattoria · Lunch · \$\$

Cacio e pepe, carciofi alla romana. Book ahead. Family-run since 1961.

[Google Maps >](#)

Flavio al Velavevodetto

Roman · Dinner · \$\$

Rigatoni alla gricia, saltimbocca. Monti side street. Warm, unpretentious, locals eat here.

[Google Maps >](#)

DAY 1: COLOSSEUM, ROMAN FORUM AND PALATINE HILL (CONTINUED)

TOURS & DAY TRIPS FROM ROME

3 HOURS

Colosseum and Roman Forum early morning tour

A guide makes the rubble readable, and you'll beat the crowds by starting at 7am before ticket-line chaos begins.

[Book now](#)

2-3 HOURS

Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel skip-the-line ticket

The queues without this can hit 3 hours even in April. Book online and go before 9am.

[Book now](#)

3 HOURS

Food tour in Testaccio neighborhood

You'll find where Romans actually eat, not tourists: hole-in-the-wall suppliers, neighborhood bars, and a working food market that's been there for a century.

[Book now](#)

2-3 HOURS

Trastevere food and wine evening

Skip the group tours. Book a table at a small trattoria through your hotel and walk the backstreets at golden hour before dinner.

[Book now](#)

Vatican Museums, St. Peter's and Castel Sant'Angelo

Sunrise 6:31 AM

Golden hour 7:13 PM

Sunset 7:50 PM

Sleep in Centro Storico (Monti/Colosseum area) · night 2 of 3

Spend the morning in the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's, grab a slice at Bonci, then walk over to Castel Sant'Angelo.

1



7:30 AM · 3 hours

Book ahead

Vatican Museums

\$22-23 per person skip-the-line; \$19 standard entry · Open 9 AM-7 PM (April; closed Sundays)

The Sistine Chapel ceiling is the draw, but the Raphael Rooms and Egyptian galleries matter too. You'll need 2.5 to 3 hours minimum. Take the Metro Line A from Colosseo towards Ottaviano-San Pietro (30 minutes, EUR 1.50).

Insider tip: Arrive by 7:30 AM before the queues form. Skip the main entrance line; book tickets online in advance (EUR 20 plus EUR 4 booking fee). Enter via the north side.

Book tickets

Open in Google Maps >

2



10:45 AM · 2 hours

St. Peter's Basilica

Free (dome climb EUR 8/\$9 extra) · Open 7 AM-7 PM (April)

The dome is the main event. Climb 551 steps for views across Rome, or take the lift halfway and walk the final stretch. The basilica itself is free to enter; dome climb is EUR 10. A 5-minute walk from the Museums exit.

Insider tip: Climb the dome in late morning while the light is overhead and lines are shorter. Bring water. The stairs are tight; take your time.

Book tickets

Open in Google Maps >

3

1:00 PM · 45 minutes

Bonci Panificio

\$5-9 per person for pastries and coffee · Open 7 AM-8 PM

Roman pizza by the slice, Roman-style. Get a few slices and a cold drink. A 10-minute walk south from St. Peter's along Via della Conciliazione, then left on Via Properzio.

Insider tip: Order pizza al taglio (by the slice); the rosemary and salt or the tomato are classics. Eat standing at the counter or find a bench nearby.

Open in Google Maps >

4



3:30 PM · 2 hours

Castel Sant'Angelo

\$16 per person entry; \$9-11 drinks on terrace · Open 9 AM-7:30 PM (closed Mondays in April)

A 2nd-century mausoleum turned fortress with a terrace offering 360-degree views of the city. The interior spans Renaissance art and Roman history. About 15 minutes walk south from your lunch spot along the Tiber's left bank.

Insider tip: Visit the terrace at 7 PM during golden hour for the best light and fewer tourists. The interior can feel rushed; prioritize the terrace and one upper floor.

[Book tickets](#)

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5

8:00 PM · 2 hours

[Book ahead](#)

Flavio al Velavevodetto

\$55-76 per person for dinner · Open 12:30 PM-3 PM, 7:30 PM-11 PM

Trastevere dinner in a narrow cobbled alley. Roman classics: cacio e pepe, carciofi alla giudia, roasted meats. Intimate, no-frills, locals' pace. A 20-minute walk or 10-minute tram ride south from Castel Sant'Angelo; take tram 8 from Castel Sant'Angelo towards Trastevere.

Insider tip: Book a table online the morning of. Order cacio e pepe and the roasted lamb. Sit outside if the weather holds; the alley lights up beautifully at night.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

[Open Day 2 as a route in Google Maps](#)

Where to eat

Bonci Pizzarium

Pizza al Taglio · Breakfast · \$

Grab a slice of pizza bianca before the museums open. Sharp, early start.

[Google Maps >](#)

Armando al Pantheon

Roman · Lunch · \$\$

Cacio e pepe and carciofi alla romana. Book ahead, eat quickly, catch afternoon light.

[Google Maps >](#)

Flavio al Velavevodetto

Roman · Dinner · \$\$

Back near your hotel. Rigatoni alla gricia, roasted lamb. Neighbourhood vibe, no fuss.

[Google Maps >](#)

Campo de' Fiori, the Ghetto and Trastevere

Sunrise 6:31 AM

Golden hour 7:13 PM

Sunset 7:50 PM

Sleep in Centro Storico (Monti/Colosseum area) · night 3 of 3

Browse the Campo de' Fiori market, visit the Synagogue and Jewish Ghetto Museum, then cross to Santa Maria in Trastevere and eat at Sora Margherita.

1



7:00 AM · 1 hour

Campo de' Fiori

Free

Rome's most chaotic market: flowers, vegetables, tourists, locals, all shouting at once. You'll see why Romans love it. A 15-minute walk or short bus ride (line 116) from Monti.

Insider tip: Arrive before 8 AM when it's still packed with vendors and energy; by noon it's mostly tourists.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2



9:00 AM · 1.5 hours

Book ahead

Synagogue of Rome and Jewish Ghetto Museum

\$14 per person entry · Open 10 AM-6:30 PM (closed Saturdays; Sunday 10 AM-4:30 PM)

The only synagogue the Nazis allowed to stand in Rome, now a museum and working place of worship. Tight alleys, Renaissance palaces, and centuries of Roman Jewish life. A 10-minute walk west from Campo de' Fiori.

Insider tip: Book the guided tour (EUR 16, 40 mins) for the rooftop terrace view and context; otherwise entry is EUR 12.

[Book tickets](#)
[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3



6:30 PM · 1 hour

Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere

Free · Open 7:30 AM-8:30 PM

Golden mosaics, cream-coloured stone, and the slowest piazza in Rome at dusk. Sip a spritz at a table and watch the light hit the church facade. A 20-minute walk or tram 8 from central Monti.

Insider tip: Arrive at 6:45 PM to catch the last warm light on the mosaics; sit on the piazza edge with a drink, not inside.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

4

8:00 PM · 1.5 hours

Book ahead

Sora Margherita

\$44-65 per person for dinner · Open 12:30 PM-3 PM, 7:30 PM-11 PM

Hidden Trastevere dinner spot: no sign, locals only, roasted chicken and Roman sides. One small room, communal vibe. Inside the piazza but tucked away.

Insider tip: Arrive at 8 PM or book ahead (phone +39 06 581 4379); pollo arrosto with potatoes, no menu printed.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

Open Day 3 as a route in Google Maps

Where to eat

Flavio al Velavevodetto

Roman · Breakfast · \$

Cornetto and espresso standing at the bar. Start early before the market crowds hit.

[Google Maps >](#)

Forno di Campo de' Fiori

Bakery/Takeaway · Lunch · \$

Grab pizza al taglio and focaccia. Eat at the market square, people-watch for an hour.

[Google Maps >](#)

Sora Margherita

Roman Jewish · Dinner · \$\$

No sign outside. Artichokes, salt cod, carciofi alla giudia. Book ahead, ask for table upstairs.

[Google Maps >](#)

When should I visit the Colosseum to avoid queues?

Go before 8am or after 4pm. If you buy a Roma Pass or book online (EUR 21), you skip the line anyway. April crowds ease off after Easter, so mid-to-late April is easier than early April.

Do I need to book the Vatican Museums in advance?

Yes. Book online at [vatican.va](https://www.vatican.va) to skip the queue and guarantee entry (EUR 21). Thursday evenings are quieter and a different experience. Without booking, expect 90-minute waits even in April.

What's the best way to do Trastevere dinner as a couple?

Go after 8.30pm when tables turn over and prices settle. Avoid restaurants directly on the main drag with picture menus; walk one street back and eat where you see Romans. Budget EUR 25-40 each for three courses and wine. Book ahead on weekends.

Do I need cash in Rome?

Card is fine almost everywhere, but keep EUR 20-30 cash for small vendors, tips, and the occasional place that claims card machine is broken. ATMs are everywhere.

What's the weather like in Rome in April?

Expect 15-22°C (59-72°F) with occasional rain early in the month. Pack layers, comfortable walking shoes, and a light rain jacket. Sunscreen matters even when it's cool.

Do people speak English in Rome?

Spoken here: Italian. English works in hotels, restaurants, and major attractions, but less so in local markets and smaller shops. A translation app helps.

Useful phrases:

- Ciao (CHOW): hello or goodbye
- Grazie (GRAHT-see-eh): thank you
- Scusi (SKOO-zee): excuse me or sorry
- Un caffè, per favore (oon kah-FEH, pair fah-VOR-eh): a coffee, please
- Quanto costa? (KWAN-toh KOS-tah): how much does it cost?

Is Rome safe for visitors?

Rome is generally safe, but watch for pickpockets on crowded metro lines and at major sites like the Colosseum. Keep bags zipped and phone secure.

What's the emergency number in Italy?

Call 112 for police, ambulance or fire. It's free and works from any phone, including a foreign mobile.

Do you tip in Italy?

Tipping isn't expected but is appreciated. Leave 5-10% at restaurants if service was good, or just round up the bill. Tip taxi drivers 5% and hotel staff a euro or two.

What do only locals know about Rome?

- Buy a 3-day Roma Pass (EUR 38.50) for free entry to two sights and discounted entry to others. The Colosseum skip-the-line alone saves you 90 minutes and EUR 2.
- Eat lunch early (12-1pm) and dinner late (8pm+). Most Romans don't sit down before 8.30pm, and restaurants are quieter and less touristy if you follow the rhythm.
- Trastevere's main cobbled streets fill with tour groups. Walk two blocks south toward the river to find locals eating at tiny trattorias with no menus and better wine.
- The Vatican Museums are less crowded before 9am or after 4pm. Wednesdays are busier because of papal audiences.