



Welcome to Rome



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The COLOSSEUM



It may be two thousand years old but the Colosseum is still the symbol of the eternal city, every year drawing thousands of visitors.

Its name actually derived from a nearby over 35 metre high colossal bronze statue of the Emperor Nero. Symbol of Rome worldwide, the Colosseum was built by emperors of the Flavian dynasty between 72 and 80 A.D. on the site already occupied by an artificial lake which was part of the huge *Domus Aurea* (a compound of buildings and gardens built by Nero of which just the decorated ruins that inspired Renaissance artists)

The Colosseum was built by emperors of the Flavian dynasty 100,000 square metres of travertine from the quarries in Tivoli were used for this amphitheatre, the largest ever built in the Roman empire. A capacity crowd of 75,000 was entertained to contests between gladiators, animal hunts, executions, etc. The arena was also flooded to become an artificial lake in order to stage mock sea battles. The architect who designed the Colosseum “as a reward for his work” is said to have been thrown alive to the wild beasts, inaugurating in a way the long tradition that was to follow of cruelty and bloodshed in the very building he had conceived.

In the Medieval era, it was turned into a fortress, then into a make-shift quarry to be stripped of material to build housing, workshops, quarters for a religious order, hospitals. The pillaging was only put to an end when Pope Benedict XIV declared the Colosseum a sacred site.

The Forums

The Roman Forum is Rome's most important archaeological site, stretching from Campidoglio to the Palatine. As early as in VII A.D. this area was already teeming with religious, business and political activity.

Added to Roman Forum were at later dates the Imperial Forums: the Forum of Julius Caesar, of Augustus, of Nerva, Vespasian, and the domineering Trajan Forum, whose Column and Markets are today still standing, unfailingly attracting the admiration of visitors worldwide.



Campidoglio (Capitol Hill)



Right from the early beginnings of Rome its famous hill was the site of the

ruling authorities and theatre for official public celebrations. Michelangelo's stunning piazza is flanked by three buildings: Palazzo Senatorio, which serves as the seat of the Mayor of Rome, stands in the centre; while on each side are the identical Palazzo dei Conservatori and Palazzo Nuovo, home to the Capitoline Museum. More than 200 paintings from the fourteenth to eighteenth centuries are on display in The "Musei Capitolini's"

The Trevi Fountain

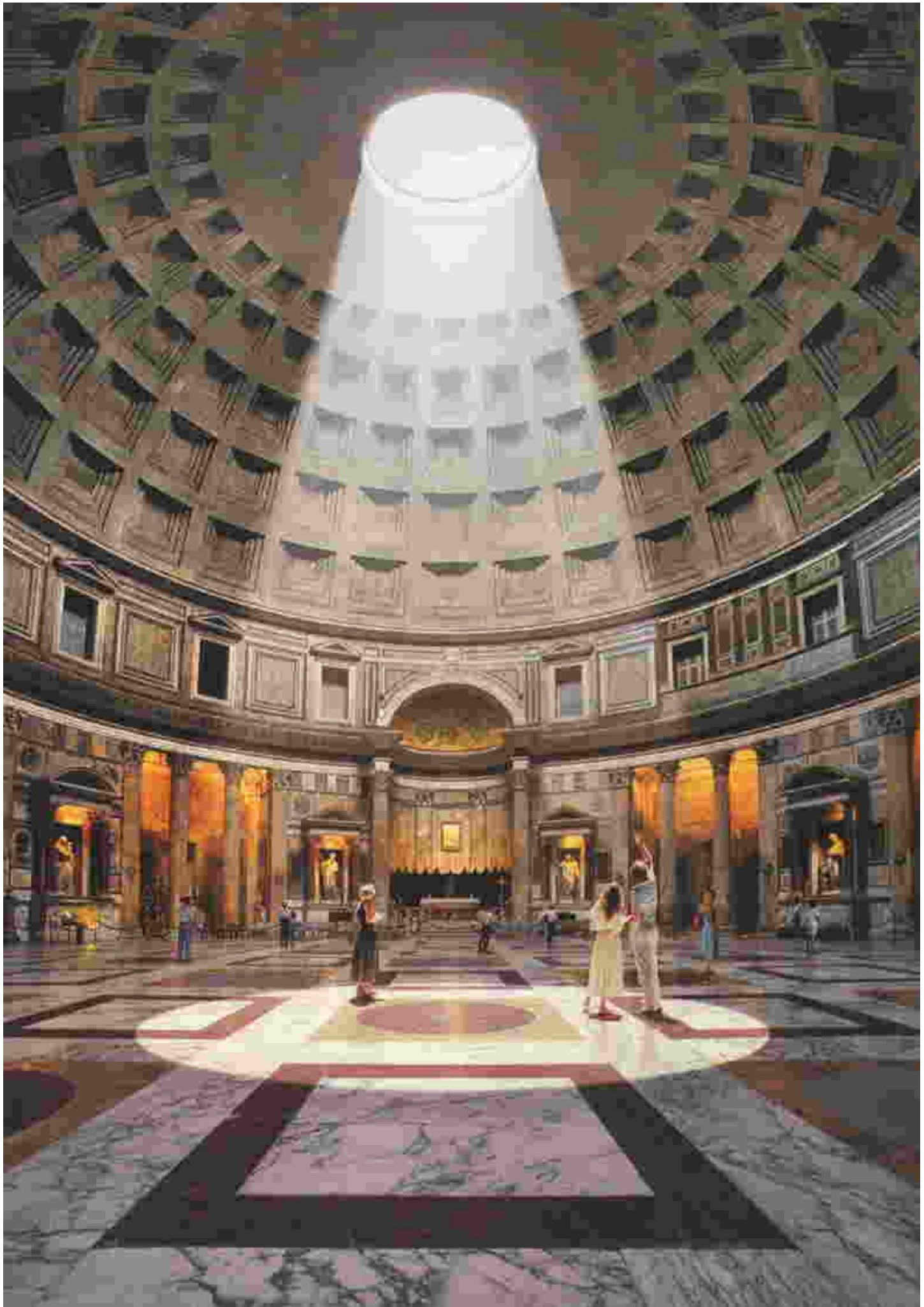


The **Trevi Fountain** (**Italian**: *Fontana di Trevi*) is a **fountain** in the **Trevi** district in **Rome, Italy**, designed by Italian architect **Nicola Salvi** and completed by **Pietro Bracci**. Standing 26.3 metres (86 ft) high and 49.15 metres

(161.3 ft) wide,^[1] it is the largest **Baroque** fountain in the city and one of the most famous fountains in the world. The fountain has appeared in several notable films, including **Federico Fellini's** *La Dolce Vita*, and is a popular tourist attraction.

Pantheon





The pantheon is nothing less than the finest example of the very best architectonic craft of ancient Rome. The simple harmonious structure results from its perfect cylindrical proportions, given that the diameter of the dome is equal to the height of the building. Its interior provides the last resting for a number of important personages. Here lies the tomb of High Renaissance Painter and Architect Raphael, Baroque Painter Annibale Carracci and the Kings Vittorio Emanuele II and Umberto I. Dominating the square outside is G. Della Porta's delightful Renaissance fountain surmounted by Rameses' II's obelisk.

Piazza di Spagna

Renowned world over for its spectacular steps, designed by Francesco De Sanctis between 1723 and '26, as well as for Pietro Bernini and his son Gian Lorenzo's 1629 half-sunk boat-shaped fountain called "La Barcaccia", Piazza di Spagna is an important meeting point for both Romans and tourists. Rising up on top of the Steps and overlooking the Piazza is the Church of Trinità dei Monti, which was built on the wishes of King Louis XII of France in 1502. Shifting our gaze to the left, Villa Medici sul Pincio, today the seat of the French Academy, comes into sight. Fanning out from the piazza below are a myriad of streets where

both the top fashion brands are to be found as well as sites of historical and cultural interest. Not to be missed is the Café Greco in Via dei Condotti.



Piazza Navona

Piazza Navona is reached by crossing the Tiber at Ponte Sant'Angelo and veering to the left. Viewed from above, the square's outline is that of an arena. It was in fact built on top of Domitian's Stadium, the remains of which are to be found in the piazza's Seventeenth Century Baroque Church of Sant'Agnese in Agone, which was designed by that great architect Francesco Borromini. Adorning the piazza are its three sumptuous fountains: the Fountain of the Moor, the Fountain of Neptune and the most important of all, Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers (the Nile, Ganges, Danube and Rio de la Plata).

Pza Navona

During the festive season from early December to the Epiphany, the piazza is annually filled with Christmas stalls selling toys, sweets and crib figures. Over an amphitheatre dating from Emperor Nero's rule, Domitian had a stadium built towards 86 A.D. However over the course of the centuries, Piazza Navona was the favourite spot to hold games, tournaments and processions. Between the seventeenth and nineteen centuries, the piazza was often flooded for aquatic games and to stage naval battles, where boats of princes and prelates would be paraded with the letting off of fireworks.

Castel Sant'Angelo

The second stop on our itinerary is just a short walk down Via della Conciliazione. With its National Museum bearing its name, Castel Sant'Angelo, as well as boasting the marvellous stuccos, frescos and furnishing of its papal apartments, is also home to an important collection of ancient weapons. Castel Sant'Angelo moreover gained automatic fame on the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's Opera Tosca at the Teatro Costanzi in Rome on 14th January 1900. The opera in fact ends in tragedy with the main character, Tosca, hurling herself to her death over the castle's ramparts.

Castel S .Angelo





The Vatican City



Basilica of St. Peter

As soon as you arrive in Piazza San Pietro, the visitor is first struck by the grandeur of the square spreading out before the Basilica of St. Peter, framed by the magnificent four column-deep colonnade designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. However it is only on entering the Basilica itself, after climbing the three tiered set of steps (once again designed by Bernini), is one truly over-awed by the vast size and sumptuousness of this symbol of Christianity. The largest church in the world's surface covers around 22,00 square metres; its Michelangelo designed dome is 42 metres wide; the entire building rises to a height of 136

metres, while 330 steps take you to the top of the dome for an exquisite panorama of the square and Rome.

S Peter

Countless masterpieces of major artists are to be found inside: Bernini's majestic 29 metre high bronze baldacchino; Michelangelo's superb sculpture the Pietà; Canova's tomb for Pope Clement XIII and Giotto's restored mosaic The Navicella which is in a lunette over the central opening into the portico. Innumerable and timeless works, the majority of which are paintings, are also waiting to be admired in the Vatican Museums. Of inimitable beauty, here is also housed one of the cornerstones of Italian and indeed world art, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel.



S Peter



S Peter





The Main Roman Emperors

The Main Roman Emperors

44 a.C. Julius Caesar's death

44-27 political riots: **Ottaviano**,

Caesar's nephew, wins on his rivals

27 a.C. -14 d.C. Ottaviano's peaceful

period: becoming Augusto, his son-

in-law Agrippa builds the Pantheon

14-37 **Tiberio's** period; under his

ruling Jesus is crucified

37-41 A.C **Caligola's** period; he

builds the circus where Saint Peter is
erected now.

41-54 A.C **Claudio's** period

54-68 A.C **Nerone's** period in 64

A.C the great fire in Rome

69 A.C year of the four Emperors:

Galba, Otone, Vitellio, Vespasiano

(three of them are murdered)

69-79 A.C **Vespasiano's** period in

70 A.C destruction of Jerusalem; he

starts the building of the Colosseum

79-81 A.C **Tito's** period, his Arc of

Triumph is near the Colosseum in the

Forum

81-96 A.C **Domiziano's** period

builds the stadium where Piazza

Navona is now

96-98 A.C **Nerva**

98-117 A.C **Traiano:** the column

reproducing his deeds is in the centre
of the forum built by himself

117-138 A.C **Adriano's** period (the
Emperor of Villa Adriana in Tivoli)

restored the Pantheon

138-161 A.C **Antonino Pio**

161-180 A.C **Marco Aurelio's**

period the column in Largo Chigi is
dedicated to him

306-337 A.C **Costantino's** period

the Arc near the Colosseum is
dedicated to him





