



# Rome & Lazio

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Casa Coppelle (p123)
- » L'Asino d'Oro (p127)
- » Glass Hosteria (p128)
- » Pizzarium (p129)
- » Gelarmony (p129)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Sant'Anselmo (p121)
- » Hotel Campo de' Fiori (p118)
- » Donna Camilla Savelli (p121)
- » Arco del Lauro (p122)
- » Villa Spalletti Trivelli (p119)

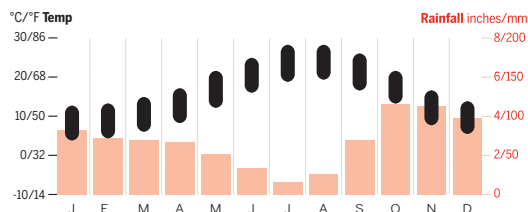
## Why Go?

Even in Italy, a country of exquisite cities, Rome is special. Pulsating, seductive and utterly disarming, the Italian capital is an epic, monumental metropolis that will steal your heart and haunt your soul. There are just too many reasons to fall in love with it: its artistic and architectural masterpieces, its operatic piazzas, its romantic corners and cobbled lanes. History reverberates all around yet modern life is lived to the full – priests in designer shades walk through the Vatican talking into mobile phones, scooters scream through medieval alleyways and stylish drinkers sip at tables on baroque piazzas. Rome also boasts a busy cultural calendar with arts festivals and a surprisingly alternative underground scene.

To visit Rome is to begin a love affair, but to ensure it lasts, find time to explore the hills of Lazio and enjoy the region's extraordinary riches, from the ancient Roman port of Ostia Antica to azure volcanic lakes.

## When to Go

### Rome



**Apr** Lovely sunny weather, fervent Easter celebrations, Settimana della Cultura and Rome's birthday.

**May–Jul** Rome's festival calendar gets into full swing as summer temperatures soar.

**Sep–Oct** It's still warm but the crowds die down and Romaeuropa music festival comes to town.

## Top Roman Sights

With so many world-class monuments, galleries and museums in Rome, it can be difficult to decide which to visit. To help you, here's our selection of must-see sights. The Colosseum is an obvious choice, as are the Vatican Museums – one of the world's great museum complexes and home to the Sistine Chapel. Adjacent to the museums, St Peter's Basilica is the most important church in the Catholic world and a treasure trove of Renaissance and baroque art. If you like baroque art, you'll love the Museo e Galleria Borghese and Piazza Navona. Not far from the piazza, the Pantheon is the best preserved of Rome's ancient monuments. For the city's finest ancient art check out the Museo Nazionale Romano: Palazzo Massimo alle Terme and the Capitoline Museums on the sublime Piazza del Campidoglio. Not far away, ancient ruins lie littered across the atmospheric Palatino (Palatine Hill).

And, of course, to ensure that you return to Rome, be sure to throw a coin into the Trevi Fountain.

### DAY TRIPS FROM ROME

It can be difficult to drag yourself away from Rome, but the surrounding Lazio region harbours some exceptional sights, most within easy day-trip distance of the capital. Nearest of all are the beautifully preserved ruins of **Ostia Antica**, ancient Rome's main port town. To the east of Rome, and easily accessible by bus or car, Tivoli is home to **Villa Adriana**, the vast summer residence of the emperor Hadrian, and **Villa d'Este**, famed for its fabulous fountains. Slightly further afield, Lazio's Etruscan treasures are quite special. The easiest to get to are in **Cerveteri**, but push on up to **Tarquinia** and you'll be rewarded with some truly amazing frescoed tombs.

## Outstanding Works of Art

- » Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel (p110) are among the world's most famous works of art.
- » Raphael's great masterpiece *La Scuola d'Atene* (The School of Athens) hangs in the Stanze di Raffaello (Raphael Rooms; p110) in the Vatican Museums.
- » Gian Lorenzo Bernini's sculptures at the Museo e Galleria Borghese (p111) show a genius at the top of his game.
- » Caravaggio's St Matthew cycle in the Chiesa di San Luigi dei Francesi (p78) features his signature chiaroscuro style.

## CATACOMBS

Visit the creepy catacombs on Via Appia Antica to see where Rome's pioneering Christians buried their dead. Hundreds of thousands of tombs line the pitch-black tunnels.

## Best Viewpoints

- » Il Vittoriano (p72)
- » Dome of St Peter's Basilica (p103)
- » Priori dei Cavalieri di Malta (boxed text, p79)
- » Gianicolo Hill (p99)
- » Castel Sant'Angelo (p140)

## Top Pizzerias

- » Pizzarium (p129)
- » Pizzeria da Baffetto (p123)
- » Forno di Campo de' Fiori (p123)
- » Da Michele (p126)

## Resources

- » 060608 ([www.060608.it](http://www.060608.it)) is Rome's official tourist website.
- » Pierreci ([www.pierreci.it](http://www.pierreci.it)) has information and ticket booking for Rome's monuments.
- » Vatican ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)) is the place to book tickets for the Vatican Museums.
- » Auditorium ([www.auditorium.com](http://www.auditorium.com)) has concert listings for the Auditorium Parco della Musica.