In This Book

QuickStart Guide
Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it

Explore Rome
The best things to see and do, neighbourhood by neighbourhood

The Best of Rome
The city’s highlights in handy lists to help you plan

Survival Guide
Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience

Need to Know
Tips for a smooth trip

Neighbourhoods
What’s where

Top Sights
Make the most of your visit

Local Life
The insider's city

Best Walks
See the city on foot

Rome’s Best...
The best experiences

Getting Around
Travel like a local

Essential Information
Including where to stay

Top Tips
- Use the metro and buses for the fastest, cheapest, and most reliable connections.
- The Vatican Museums are best visited in the morning.
- Check out the Galleria Borghese for some of the best art in Rome.

Ancient Rome
- The Colosseum is a must-see for history buffs.
- Walk the Appian Way for a taste of ancient Rome.

Piazza della Fontana
- Visit the Pantheon for its magnificent design.
- Sant’Eustachio is a must-see for its stunning architecture.

The Best of Rome
- The Vatican Museums are a must-see for art lovers.
- The Galleria Borghese is a great place for some light reading.

Survival Guide
- Carry cash and credit cards as some smaller shops don’t accept cards.
- The best time to visit Rome is during the shoulder season (April to May or September to November).

Survival Guide
- Get a Roman SIM card for the best local rates.
- Use the RomeCard for free public transport and reduced entry to museums.
- Look out for free concerts during festivals.

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Lonely Planet’s Rome

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city. Inside you’ll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We’ve split the city into easy-to-navigate neighbourhoods and provided clear maps so you’ll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our ‘Local Life’ pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Rome.

And of course you’ll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day’s exploration. It’s your guarantee of a really great experience.

Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.
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Welcome to Rome

An epic, monumental city, Rome gets under your skin fast. Even on a short break, you’ll be smitten by its artistic masterpieces and iconic monuments, operatic piazzas and haunting ruins. Life is lived to the full here, and the city teems with trattorias and designer restaurants, street-side bars and glam fashion boutiques. Visit once and you’ll be hooked for life.
Our Writer

Duncan Garwood

Even after more than a decade living in Rome, Duncan is still fascinated by the city he calls home. He first fell for the place in 1996 after arriving at the crack of dawn on an overnight train from Bari and finding himself virtually the only visitor in Piazza Navona and St Peter’s Basilica. Since then, he has worked on a whole host of Lonely Planet publications, including the past five editions of the Rome city guide, as well as guidebooks to Sicily, Sardinia and Naples & the Amalfi Coast, and the Food Lover’s Guide to the World. He has also written about Italy for newspapers and magazines.