

# Centro Storico

PANTHEON & AROUND | PIAZZA NAVONA & AROUND | CAMPO DE' FIORI & AROUND | JEWISH GHETTO | ISOLA TIBERINA | PIAZZA COLONNA & AROUND



## Neighbourhood Top Five

### 1 Pantheon (p72)

Stepping into this ancient temple and feeling the same sense of awe that the ancients must have felt 2000 years ago.

### 2 Piazza Navona (p74)

Marvelling at the beauty of this textbook baroque piazza with its flamboyant fountains and elegant domed church.

### 3 Galleria Doria Pamphilj (p82)

Having the scion of the aristocratic Doria Pamphilj dynasty talk you through his family art collection at this fabulous private gallery.

### 4 Chiesa di San Luigi dei Francesi (p76)

Clocking three Caravaggio masterpieces at this historic church, one of Rome's many baroque treasures.

### 5 Jewish Ghetto (p79)

Escaping the crowds in the shadowy backstreets before getting to grips with the area's traditional Roman-Jewish cooking.

For more detail of this area see Map p296 and p298 ➔

## Explore: Centro Storico

Rome's *centro storico* (historic centre) is made for leisurely strolling, and although you could spend weeks exploring its every corner, you can cover most of the main sights in two or three days. Many people enter the area by bus, getting off at Largo di Torre Argentina (p75), from where it's a short walk up to the Pantheon (p72) and beyond that to Rome's political nerve-centre Piazza Colonna (p81). Nearby, on Via del Corso, the Galleria Doria Pamphilj (p82) houses one of the capital's finest private art collections. To the west of the Pantheon, bohemian boutiques, cool bars and popular pizzerias in the narrow lanes around Piazza Navona (p74), itself one of Rome's great must-see sights, are a magnet for tourists and hip Romans.

On the other side of Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, the main thoroughfare through the area, all roads lead to Campo de' Fiori (p77), home of a colourful daily market and hectic late-night drinking scene. From 'il Campo' you can shop your way down to the medieval Jewish Ghetto (p79), an atmospheric neighbourhood of romantic corners, hidden piazzas and kosher eateries.

## Local Life

➔ **Backstreet eating** The restaurants on Piazza Navona and near the Pantheon on Piazza Rotonda attract a touristy crowd. Locals tend to head to eateries in the quieter back streets, such as Dal Cavalier Gino (p87).

➔ **Shopping** As much as visitors, Romans love wandering the *centro storico*, browsing its many shops and artisans' studios. For a taster, head to Via del Governo Vecchio (p77), a charming strip lined with arty boutiques and vintage clothing shops.

➔ **Wine bars** You can't get more Roman than a glass of wine in a traditional *enoteca* (wine bar). These are something of a dying breed, but you can still find them, and places like Il Gocetto (p90) fit the bill to a tee.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** The best way to access the *centro storico*. A whole fleet serves the area from Termini, including numbers 40 and 64, which both stop at Largo di Torre Argentina and continue down Corso Vittorio Emanuele II. From Via del Tritone near Barberini metro station, bus 492 runs to Corso del Rinascimento for Piazza Navona.

➔ **Metro** There are no metro stations in the neighbourhood but it's within walking distance of Barberini, Spagna and Flaminio stations, all on line A.

➔ **Tram** Number 8 runs from Piazza Venezia to Trastevere by way of Via Arenula.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The *centro storico* is an expensive part of town but there are ways of making your money go further. You can see masterpieces by the likes of Michelangelo, Raphael, Caravaggio and Bernini for nothing by visiting the area's churches, all of which are free to enter.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pianostrada (p86)
- ➔ La Ciambella (p83)
- ➔ Emma Pizzeria (p86)
- ➔ Forno Roscioli (p85)
- ➔ Armando al Pantheon (p83)
- ➔ Casa Coppelle (p83)

For reviews, see p82. ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Barnum Cafe (p90)
- ➔ Open Baladin (p90)
- ➔ Caffè Sant'Eustachio (p88)
- ➔ La Casa del Caffè Tazza d'Oro (p88)
- ➔ Roscioli Caffè (p90)

For reviews, see p88. ➔

## Best Art Churches

- ➔ Chiesa di San Luigi dei Francesi (p76)
- ➔ Chiesa del Gesù (p80)
- ➔ Chiesa di Sant'Ignazio di Loyola (p82)
- ➔ Basilica di Santa Maria Sopra Minerva (p75)
- ➔ Basilica di Sant'Agostino (p76)
- ➔ Chiesa Nuova (p77)

For reviews, see p75. ➔