

Southern Rome

VIA APPIA ANTICA | OSTIENSE, SAN PAOLO & GARBATELLA | EUR

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Walking or cycling along the **Via Appia Antica** (p160), tracing the route of a thousand ancient Roman footsteps.
- 2 Exploring Rome's Christian burial catacombs, such as the **Catacombe di San Sebastiano** (p164).
- 3 Wandering around the genius location for the overflow from the Capitoline Museums: **Centrale Montemartini** (p165).
- 4 Going clubbing in Ostiense and dancing your arse off somewhere like **La Saponeria** (p167).
- 5 Feeling dwarfed by the majesty of **San Paolo Fuori La Mura** (p166).



For more detail of this area see Map p358 →

Explore: Southern Rome

Southern Rome is a sprawling neighbourhood that comprises three distinct areas that are of particular interest to the visitor: Via Appia Antica, famous for its catacombs; trendy Via Ostiense; and EUR, Mussolini's futuristic building development. It's all quite spread out, but public transport connections are good.

Heading southeast from Porta San Sebastiano, Via Appia Antica (the Appian Way) is one of the world's oldest roads and a much-prized Roman address. It's a beautiful part of town, with crumbling ruins set amid pea-green fields and towering umbrellas. Besides hulking Roman ruins, there are some 300km of underground tunnels here that were used as burial chambers by the early Christians, and three of the networks are open to visitors.

Via Ostiense presents a very different picture. Busy and traffic-clogged, it runs through one of the capital's hippest districts. Disused factories and warehouses harbour restaurants, pubs, clubs and bars, and a couple of gem-like sights: Centrale Montemartini, a great disused power plant housing superb classical statuary, and Basilica di San Paolo fuori le Mura, the world's third-largest church. Over the road, the character-filled Garbatella district merits exploration for its original architecture while, further south, EUR is a world apart. Built by Mussolini as a showcase for his Fascist regime, it's a fascinating, Orwellian quarter of wide boulevards and linear buildings.

Local Life

- ➔ **Clubbing** Some of Rome's coolest clubs are clustered around Via Ostiense.
- ➔ **Cycling** Escaping from the frenetic city centre along the beautiful Appian Way.
- ➔ **Hangouts** Feeling the laidback, local atmosphere of arty, art deco-style Garbatella.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** Metro line B runs to Piramide, Garbatella, Basilica San Paolo, EUR Palasport and EUR Fermi.
- ➔ **Bus** There are bus connections to Porta San Sebastiano (118, 218 and 714), Via Ostiense (23 and 716) and Via Appia Antica (118, 218 and 660).
- ➔ **Archeobus** If you're spending the day here and want to see several sights, the hop-on hop-off Archeobus (€12) departs from Termini every hour.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

On Sunday, Appia Antica is traffic free. On other days bear in mind that the first section, from Porta San Sebastiano for about three miles, isn't pedestrian friendly. The most atmospheric stretch is from the Tempio di Romolo to the Via Appia Nuova junction, and this section is virtually traffic free every day.

If you're not planning to visit lots of sights, take the local bus rather than buying an Archeobus ticket.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Trattoria Priscilla (p165)
- ➔ Da Enzo (p165)
- ➔ Hostaria Zampagna (p165)
- ➔ Doppiozero (p166)

For reviews see p165 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Doppiozero (p166)
- ➔ Il Melograno (p167)
- ➔ Caffè Letterario (p168)
- ➔ Rising Love (p167)
- ➔ Rashomon (p167)

For reviews see p166 ➔

Best Entertainment

- ➔ La Casa del Jazz (p168)
- ➔ Teatro India (p168)
- ➔ Teatro Palladium (p168)
- ➔ Piscina delle Rose (p167)

For reviews see p168 ➔