


# Southern Rome

VIA APPIA ANTICA | OSTIENSE | SAN PAOLO | GARBATELLA

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Walking or cycling along the **Via Appia Antica** (p103), tracing the route of a thousand ancient Roman footsteps.
- 2 Exploring Rome's Christian burial catacombs, such as the **Catacombe di San Sebastiano** (p196).
- 3 Checking out the colourful, edgy street art in **Ostiense** (p202).
- 4 Wandering around the ingenious location for the overflow from the Capitoline Museums: **Centrale Montemartini** (p201).
- 5 Feeling dwarfed by the majesty of **Basilica de San Paolo Fuori Le Mura** (p200).



For more detail of this area see Map p326 

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

On Sunday, the first section of Appia Antica is supposedly traffic free, but in recent years this has not been enforced. The first section, stretching 1km from Porta San Sebastiano, is not at all pleasant to walk along, even on supposedly 'traffic free' days. It's best to take bus 118 to the Basilica of San Sebastiano, close to the genuinely traffic-free section.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Trattoria Priscilla (p201)
- ➔ Qui Non se More Mai (p201)
- ➔ Il Giardino di Giulia e Fratelli (p201)
- ➔ Andreotti (p202)
- ➔ Pizza Ostiense (p202)

For reviews, see p201. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Porto Fluviale (p203)
- ➔ Doppiozero (p203)
- ➔ Neo Club (p203)
- ➔ Goa (p203)

For reviews, see p203. ➔

### Best Entertainment

- ➔ La Casa del Jazz (p204)
- ➔ Caffè Letterario (p204)
- ➔ Goa (p203)
- ➔ Piscina delle Rose (p203)

For reviews, see p204. ➔

## Explore Southern Rome

Southern Rome is a sprawling neighbourhood that comprises four distinct areas of interest to tourists: Via Appia Antica, famous for its catacombs; hip, post-industrial, street-art-covered Via Ostiense; picturesque Garbatella; 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 umbrella pines.

To the west, Via Ostiense presents a very different picture. Desolate-looking disused factories and warehouses surprisingly harbour restaurants, pubs, clubs and bars, and the huge Eataly, a restaurant and Italian foodstuffs complex. Planned redevelopments for the ex-Mercati Generali as a 'City of Youth' – comprising leisure, cultural and office space and designed by Rem Koolhaas – have started but stalled.

Ostiense also harbours a couple of gemlike sights: Centrale Montemartini, a disused power plant housing superb classical statuary, and Basilica di San Paolo fuori le Mura, the world's third-largest church. The area also has some of Rome's best street art, with entire buildings covered in rainbows of colour. Nearby, the character-filled Garbatella district merits exploration for its original architecture, while further south, EUR was built by Mussolini as a showcase for his Fascist regime, a fascinating, Orwellian quarter of wide boulevards and linear buildings.

## Local Life

➔ **Eating** Pick up some delicious pastries at Andreotti (p202) or sampling the virtuoso pizza at Pizza Ostiense (p202).

➔ **Clubbing** Some of Rome's coolest clubs are clustered around Via Ostiense.

➔ **Cycling** Escape from the frenetic city centre along the beautiful Appian Way (p103).

## 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).