Centro Storico Piazzas

Rome’s centro storico boasts some of the city’s most celebrated piazzas, and several lovely but lesser-known squares. Each has its own character, but together they encapsulate much of the city’s beauty, history and drama.

**Start** Piazza Colonna

**Distance** 1.5km

**Duration** 3½ hours

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1 **Piazza Colonna** is dominated by the 30m-high Colonna di Marco Aurelio and flanked by Palazzo Chigi, the official residence of the Italian PM.

2 Follow Via dei Bergamaschi to **Piazza di Pietra**, a refined space overlooked by the 2nd-century Tempio di Adriano.

3 Continue down Via de’ Burro to **Piazza di Sant’Ignazio Loyola**, a small piazza with a church boasting celebrated trompe l’œil frescoes.

4 It’s a short walk along Via del Seminario to **Piazza della Rotonda**, where the Pantheon needs no introduction.

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5 **Piazza Navona** is Rome’s great showpiece square, where you can compare the two giants of Roman baroque – Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Francesco Borromini.

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6 On the other side of Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, **Campo de’ Fiori** hosts a noisy market and boisterous drinking scene.

7 Just beyond the Campo, the more sober **Piazza Farnese** is overshadowed by the austere façade of the Renaissance **Palazzo Farnese**.

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**Take a Break...** Those in the know head to **Forno di Campo de’ Fiori** (06 6880 6662; www.forno campodefiori.com; Campo de’ Fiori 22; pizza slices around €3; 7:30am-2.30pm & 4.45-8pm Mon-Sat, closed Sat afternoon Jul & Aug; Corso Vittorio Emanuele II) for some of Rome’s best **pizza bianca** (white pizza with olive oil and salt).