Walking Tour: Emperors’ Footsteps

Follow in the footsteps of an ancient Roman on this whistle-stop tour of the city’s most famous ruins.

**Start** Colosseum  
**Distance** 1.5km  
**Duration** 4 hours

1. More than any other monument of the ancient city, it’s the **Colosseum** that symbolises the power and glory of ancient Rome.

2. The **Palatino** was ancient Rome’s most sought-after neighbourhood, site of the emperor’s palace and home to the cream of imperial society. The evocative ruins are confusing but their grandeur gives just some sense of the luxury in which the ancient VIPs liked to live.

3. In imperial times, the **Roman Forum** was the empire’s nerve centre, a teeming hive of law courts, temples, piazzas and shops.

4. Michelangelo-designed **Piazza del Campidoglio**, one of Rome’s most beautiful piazzas, sits atop the Campidoglio (Capitoline Hill), one of the seven hills on which Rome was founded.

5. Flanking Piazza del Campidoglio are two stately **palazzi** (mansions) that together house the **Capitoline Museums**. These, the world’s oldest public museums, boast an important picture gallery and a superb collection of classical sculpture.

4. **Take a Break...** Hidden away in the Capitoline Museums but accessible by its own entrance, the **Terrazza Caffarelli** is a refined spot for a coffee with magical views.

6. No emperor ever walked the massive mountain of white marble that is **Vittoriano**, but it’s worth stopping off to take the panoramic lift to the top, from where you can see the whole of Rome beneath you.