Walking Tour: Centro Storico Piazzas

Rome’s historic centre 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** 2½ to 3 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 prime minister.

**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 rococo piazza whose resident church boasts magnificent trompe l’œil frescoes.

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

**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.

**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 facade of the Renaissance Palazzo Farnese.

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**Take a Break...** Those in the know head to **Forno di Campo de’ Fiori** (Campo de’ Fiori 22) for some of Rome’s best **pizza bianca** (“white” pizza with olive oil and salt).