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 Four 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.

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

4 The 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.

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.

Take a break... Hidden away in the Capitoline Museums but accessible by its own entrance, the Terrazza Caffarelli (06 6919 0564; 9.30am-7pm) is a convenient spot for a coffee with magical views.

Classic Photo The Colosseum