

Best things to see in Rome in two days

Trevi Fountain

A must-see on many travelers' itineraries, the Trevi Fountain is situated amongst a high concentration of hotels, shopping and nightlife. Finished in the mid-1700s, the Trevi is a powerful example of a baroque design with a distinctly mythological character. The god of the sea, Neptune, emerges from the pool, flanked by his trusty Tritons. The fountain underwent an extensive \$2.4 million restoration and reopened in its full splendor in November 2015. This mythological site is best viewed at night when lights illuminate the fountain.



Spanish Steps and Piazza di Spagna

Piazza di Spagna, at the bottom of the Spanish Steps, is one of the most famous squares in Rome. It owes its name to the Palazzo di Spagna, seat of the Embassy of Spain among the Holy See. Nearby is the famed Column of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the middle of the square is the famous Fontana della Barcaccia, dating to the beginning of the baroque period, sculpted by Pietro Bernini and his son, the more famous Gian Lorenzo Bernini. The imposing 135-step staircase was inaugurated by Pope Benedict XIII during the 1725 Jubilee; it was released in order to connect the Bourbon Spanish embassy to the Church of Trinità dei Monti.



Piazza del Popolo

Piazza del Popolo is a large urban square in Rome. The name in modern Italian literally means "People's Square", but historically it derives from the poplars (*populus* in Latin, *pioppo* in Italian) after which the church of Santa Maria del Popolo, in the northeast corner of the piazza, takes its name. The piazza lies inside the northern gate in the Aurelian Walls, once the Porta Flaminia of ancient Rome, and now called the Porta del Popolo. This was the starting point of the Via Flaminia, the most important route to the north. At the same time, before the age of railroads, it was the traveller's first view of Rome upon arrival. For centuries, the Piazza del Popolo was a place for public executions, the last of which took place in 1826.



Pantheon

The Pantheon in Rome is the Roman monument with the greatest number of records: the best preserved, with the biggest brick dome in the history of architecture and is considered the forerunner of all modern places of worship. It is the most copied and imitated of all ancient works. Michelangelo felt it was the work of angels, not men. Where it stands was not chosen by chance, but is a legendary place in the city's history. According to Roman legend, it is the place where the founder of Rome, Romulus, at his death was seized by an eagle and taken off into the skies with the Gods. the Pantheon combines a clearly Roman, cylindrical structure with the splendid outer colonnade of Greek inspiration.



Piazza Navona

Defined as a public space in the last years of 15th century, when the city market was transferred there from the Campidoglio, Piazza Navona was transformed into a highly significant example of Baroque Roman architecture and art during the pontificate of Innocent X. It features important sculptural and creations: in the center stands the famous Fountain of the Four Rivers (1651), topped by the Obelisk of Domitian; then the church of Sant'Agnese and the Pamphili palace. Piazza Navona has two other fountains. At the southern end is the Fontana del Moro with a basin and four Tritons (1575) to which was added a statue of a Moor, wrestling with a dolphin. At the northern end is the Fountain of Neptune (1574); the statue of Neptune was added in 1878 to create a balance with La Fontana del Moro. The pavement level was raised in the 19th century, and in 1869 the market was moved to the nearby Campo de' Fiori.



Campo de' Fiori

Campo de' Fiori is a rectangular square south of Piazza Navona, at the border between rione Parione and rione Regola. It is diagonally southeast of the Palazzo della Cancelleria and one block northeast of the Palazzo Farnese. Campo de' Fiori, translated literally from Italian, means "field of flowers". The name dates to the Middle Ages when the area was a meadow. The Campo de' Fiori is worth visiting twice in a trip: once during the day for its bustling market, and again as the sun sets for its convivial nightlife.



Roman Forum

The Roman Forum comprises much of the Ancient Rome's most important structures, from shrines to government houses to monuments. For centuries the Forum was the center of day-to-day life in Rome: the site of triumphal processions and elections; the venue for public speeches, criminal trials, and gladiatorial matches; and the nucleus of commercial affairs. Here statues and monuments commemorated the city's great men. The teeming heart of ancient Rome, it has been called the most celebrated meeting place in the world, and in all history. Located in the small valley between the Palatine and Capitoline Hills, the Forum today is a sprawling ruin of architectural fragments and intermittent archaeological excavations, attracting 4.5 million sightseers yearly.



Colosseum

The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome. Built of travertine, tuff, and brick-faced concrete, it is the largest amphitheatre ever built. The Colosseum is situated just east of the Roman Forum. The Colosseum could hold between 50,000 and 80,000 spectators, having an average audience of some 65,000. It was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles, animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on Classical mythology. The building ceased to be used for entertainment in the early medieval era. The Colosseum today is now a major tourist attraction in Rome with thousands of tourists each year paying to view the interior arena.



St. Peter's Basilica

The Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican, or simply St. Peter's Basilica, is an Italian Renaissance church in Vatican City, the papal enclave within the city of Rome. St. Peter's is the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture and the largest church in the world. Catholic tradition holds that the Basilica is the burial site of Saint Peter, chief among Jesus's Apostles and also the first Bishop of Rome. Saint Peter's tomb is supposedly directly below the high altar of the Basilica. St. Peter's is famous as a place of pilgrimage and for its liturgical functions. The Pope presides at a number of liturgies throughout the year, drawing audiences of 15,000 to over 80,000 people, either within the Basilica or the adjoining St. Peter's Square.



Vatican Museum

The Vatican Museums contain masterpieces of painting, sculpture and other works of art collected by the popes through the centuries. The Museums include several monumental works of art, such as the Sistine Chapel, the Chapel of Beato Angelico, the Raphael Rooms and Loggia and the Borgia Apartment. The Pinacoteca, or Picture Gallery, is situated in a building that dates back to 1932. It is connected to the Museum complex (at the entrance of the Quattro Cancelli) by an elegant portico. The Museums are usually open to the public every weekday morning and in the early afternoon in summer. The entrance to the Museums is on Viale Vaticano, near Piazza Risorgimento. A Workshop for Restoring paintings, bronzes, marble, tapestries and other items, is part of the Museums which also includes a Scientific Research Laboratory.



Sistine Chapel

The Sistine Chapel is a chapel in the Apostolic Palace, the official residence of the Pope, in Vatican City. Originally known as the Cappella Magna, the chapel takes its name from Pope Sixtus IV. Michelangelo was commissioned by Pope Julius II in 1508 to repaint the vault, or ceiling, of the Chapel. It was originally painted as golden stars on a blue sky. The work was completed between 1508 and 2 November 1512. Two of his most important painting are “The creation of Adam” and “The Last Judgement”.



Castel Sant' Angelo

The Mausoleum of Hadrian, usually known as Castel Sant'Angelo (Castle of the Holy Angel), is a towering cylindrical building in Parco Adriano. It was initially commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrian as a mausoleum for himself and his family. The building was later used by the popes as a fortress and castle, and is now a museum. The structure was once the tallest building in Rome.



If you still have time..

Monumento Nazionale a Vittorio Emanuele II

The Monumento Nazionale a Vittorio Emanuele II also known as The Altare della Patria or Il Vittoriano, is a monument built in honor of Victor Emmanuel, the first king of a unified Italy. It occupies a site between the Piazza Venezia and the Capitoline Hill. It was inaugurated in 1911 and completed in 1925. The Vittoriano features stairways, Corinthian columns, fountains, an equestrian sculpture of Victor Emmanuel and two statues of the goddess Victoria riding on quadrigas. The structure is 443 ft wide and 230 ft high. If the quadrigae and winged victories are included, the height reaches 266 ft. The base of the structure houses the museum of Italian Unification. In 2007, a panoramic lift was added to the structure, allowing visitors to ride up to the roof for 360-degree views of Rome. The monument holds also the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with an eternal flame, built under the statue of goddess Roma after World War I.



Trastevere

If you want a look at the real Rome, experts and travelers strongly recommend visiting Trastevere. It is the 13th rione (district) of Rome, situated on the west bank of the Tiber River, south of Vatican City. Its name comes from the Latin phrase trans Tiberim, meaning “beyond the Tiber”. It is famous for its characterful, narrow cobbled streets lined with ancient houses. If you're looking for quirky souvenirs, the place in Trastevere to visit is the enormous Porta Portese Sunday flea market, which sells everything from antiques to clothes.

