**ROME Free Time Suggestions**

**Galleria Borghese** *(Metro Flaminio, Piazzale Sciopione Borghese 5; Open Tues-Sun 8:30am-7:30pm)*

<http://www.galleriaborghese.it/borghese/en/edefault.htm>

This hugely popular art collection hosts Bernini’s ‘Truth’ as well as works by Caravaggio, Rubens, and Titian. It also includes Raphael’s ‘Deposition’ and Jacopo Bassano’s curious version of the ‘Last Supper’ inspired by Leonardo’s world-famous original. **Entrance fee applies.**

**Castel St. Angelo** *(Metro Lepanto; Open April to Sept 9am-7pm, Oct to March 9am-2pm)*

<http://www.castelsantangelo.com/index.asp>

Hadrian’s imposing and well-fortified mausoleum stands on the river bank of the Tiber and is accessed by the Ponte St. Angelo decorated with Bernini’s sculpture. The mausoleum now houses a military museum and is linked by a secret passageway to St Peter’s. **Entrance fee applies.**

**Keats/Shelley House** *(Metro Spagna; Open Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 3-6pm, Sat 11am-2pm & 3-6pm)*

[www.keats-shelley-house.org](http://www.keats-shelley-house.org)

The beautifully decorated home of John Keats, where he spent the last few months of his life, is also dedicated to his good friend Shelley. The house contains manuscripts, paintings and memorabilia including Keats death mask. **Entrance fee applies.**

**English Cemetery** *(Metro Piramide, Via Caio Cestio, Open daily 9-4:30pm, until 1pm Sun)*

[www.cemeteryrome.it/about/about.html](http://www.cemeteryrome.it/about/about.html)

A beautiful oasis of peace and calm tucked behind the marble pyramid of Caius Cestius. This sweet little Protestant cemetery features the poignant tombs of Keats and Shelley among others. Donation at your discretion.

**National Etruscan Museum** *(Metro Flaminio; OpenTuesday to Sunday 8.30am to 7.30pm)*

[www.villagiulia.beniculturali.it](http://www.villagiulia.beniculturali.it)

This 16th century Papal Palace now guards many priceless artefacts from the Etruscans, who predated the Romans. Amongst other compelling exhibits there are sarcophagi, terracotta vases and bronze sculpture dating from the 4th century BC. One of the most interesting displays features the bride & groom coffin excavated near Rome. **Entrance fee applies.**

**Giolitti Gelateria** *(Metro Spagna; Open daily)*

Just steps away from the Chamber of Deputies building, this well-established and much-loved ice cream parlor offers over 70 different flavor ice creams including kiwi, coconut, blueberry and tiramisu. The traditional tearoom also offers pastries and desserts. Close by you will find the Via del Corso, Rome’s principal shopping street. Opposite the Spanish Steps is Via Condotti where you can find all the most famous Italian and international designer brands like Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, Gucci, Hermes etc.

**Shopping**

Via dei Condotti (near Piazza Spagna) is one of the best streets for window shopping in Rome. Home to designer stores such as Armani, Prada, Versace, Dolce & Gabbana and Gucci. This is also the street where shops used to charge you just for walking in the door! Thankfully these days all of the shops have an 'ingresso gratuito' (free entry) sign which means you can go in and have a look around without any obligation to buy. Nearby, via del Corso is a busy, mostly pedestrian, street that runs between Piazza del Popolo and Piazza Venezia. Popular with Romans and tourists alike this is where you will find the Ferrari store amongst many shops with a mixture of clothes, music and tourist trinkets.

**Campo de' Fiori** *(central Rome, near the Pantheon)*

In an incomparable setting of medieval houses, this is the liveliest fruit and vegetable market in Rome, where peddlers offer their wares as they've done for centuries. The market is best visited after 9am any day but Sunday. By 1pm the stalls begin to close.

**Climbing Janiculum Hill** *(Trastevere side of the river)*

Filled with monuments to Garibaldi and his brave men, the hill is no longer peppered with monasteries as it was in the middle Ages. A stroll will reveal monuments and fountains, plus panoramic views over Rome. The best vista is from Villa Lante, a Renaissance summer residence. The most serene section is the Botanical Garden, with palm trees, orchids, and plant species from all over the world.

**Piazza del Campidoglio** *(close to Piazza Venezia)*

Located on top of the Capitol Hill, the square is the result of a project by Michelangelo. Access is via a majestic flight of steps. The square contains 3 main buildings, the seat of the city municipality, Palazzo dei Conservatori (on the right side of the square), and hosting the Capitoline Art Museum and Palazzo Nuovo; a museum with Hellenic and Roman masterpieces. You will also find the famous statue of She-wolf with the twins (Romulus and Remus).

**Catacombs of San Callisto** *(Via Appia Antica 110/126; Open daily except Wed; 9am-noon and 2-5pm)*

[www.catacombe.roma.it/en](http://www.catacombe.roma.it/en)

The largest of Rome’s catacombs, founded in the second century AD. Many of the early popes (of whom St Callisto was one) are buried here. The best way to get to Via Appia Antica is by Metro to Piramide and from here take the bus number 118. **Entrance fee applies.**

**Palazzo Altemps** *(Largo di Villa Peretti 1, Via Enrico de Nicola 79; Open Tuesday to Sunday 9.00-7.45pm (ticket office closes 6.45pm)*

[www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en/museums/national-roman-museum-palazzo-altemps](http://www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en/museums/national-roman-museum-palazzo-altemps)

Originally belonging to members of the Holy See, this historic building is now the seat of the National Roman Museum. The museum features Greek and Roman sculptures curated from the private collections of wealthy Italian families. Tickets include entry to three other historical sites. **Entrance fee applies, 17 and under free.**

**Crypt of the Capuchins** *(Via Veneto/Piazza Barberini, Open 9am-noon & 3pm-6pm, closed Thursdays)*

[www.cappucciniviaveneto.it](http://www.cappucciniviaveneto.it)

One of the more bizarre sights of Rome. Here, the bones of 4,000 friars, buried between 1500 and 1870, have been used to decorate five rooms of the chapel beneath the church of Santa Maria della Concezione. The final inscription reads “what you are, we once were. What we are, you will become.” **Entrance fee applies.**

**Piazza Venezia**

Apart from a great view of the Colosseum, you will also be next to the large white memorial to Victor

Emmanuel II (as well as the tomb of the unknown soldier), climb steps nearby designed by Michelangelo for views over the Forum. Finally, the brown palace that shares the square’s name is famous for the balcony on which Mussolini stood and announced to the crowds below that Italy was to enter World War II

**Museo Barracco** *(Corso Vittorio Emanuele 166; Open Tue-Sun 10am–4pm (Oct-May); 1-7pm (June-Sept)*

*Closed Mondays)*

[www.en.museobarracco.it](http://en.museobarracco.it)

Donated by a wealthy aristocrat to the city, this collection of sculptures is now housed in a pretty little palazzo between Piazza Navona and Campo de' Fiori. Inside are almost exclusively archaeological finds from the ancient world, although there is also a 12th-century religious mosaic from the first St. Peter's. The museum has some fine Egyptian, Assyrian, Greek and Etruscan works. **Entrance fee applies.**

**Museo Nazionale Romano (National Roman Museum)** *(Largo di Villa Peretti 1, Via Enrico de Nicola 79;*

*Open 9am-7:45pm Tue-Sun; Closed Mon)*

[www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en](http://www.archeoroma.beniculturali.it/en)

This museum is the world's single greatest collection of Ancient Roman art spread across four amazing spaces: Palazzo Altemps, Palazzo Massimo alle Terme, the Baths of Diocletian, and the Aula Ottagona. You will find collections of ancient Roman statues, frescoes, mosaics, friezes and sculpture. You might not make it to all four, but any one is a visit worth making. **Entrance fee applies.**