

# Rome, Italy

Rome, the capital city of Italy, was founded in the VIII century BC and has since then been an important city for the Roman people. It reached its maximum expansion, enjoying luxury, wealth and glory, under Emperor Traiano (98-117 AD) controlling most of Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa. Different reasons brought the Roman Empire to its final collapse in 476 AD. The Pope and the power of the Church contributed to Rome's importance during the Middle Ages. In 1861 the seven Italian city-states were united into the Kingdom of Italy and Rome became its capital in 1871.

Today Rome is a vibrant and dynamic big city and an important tourist center. It is a very busy city with thousands of restaurants, pizza places, pubs, ice-cream and pastry shops and cafès ready to celebrate good Italian food and lifestyle. Museums, theatres, cinemas, operas, festivals, music events, nightclubs or just window shopping or walks offer lots of fun for everybody, day and night.

Tourists visit the ancient ruins, the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, the Circus Maximus, Vatican City and its Sistine Chapel, the Trevi Fountain, Castel Sant'Angelo, the Arch of Constantine, Piazza Navona, the Pyramid of Cestius, the Roman Aqueducts, the Catacombs, many breathtaking ancient churches and parks and lots and lots of other places!



The Colosseum has always been considered the symbol of Rome. It was built in 80 AD and it was used for entertaining people, the principal game was that of the gladiators. The colosseum is 52 metres high and 187 metres wide, the biggest building in the Roman Empire, it can accommodate 50,000 people. Nowadays there is a museum inside the Colosseum where we can see important historical things like gladiator helmets, maps of Rome, descriptions of the game.

The Spanish Steps is a major tourist attraction with its flight of stairs made up of 135 steps seen in pictures all over the world. The Keats-Shelley House, famous for being the final resting place and museum about the English Romantic poet John Keats, is located on the right of the square.

The Pantheon, a masterpiece of ancient times, was built for the gods of Olympus in 27-25 BC. The interior of the Pantheon is circular and there are many tombs, including that of Raphael, the painter. The particularity of the Pantheon is the domed roof, the biggest in the world. In the middle of the roof there is a hole designed to let in the light.

Piazza del Popolo is just one of the beautiful squares in Rome. In the center of the square there is an obelisk, brought to Rome by Augusto in 10 BC, later lost, then found again, restored and erected in 1589. It's one of the main tourist destinations in Rome near the famous, fashionable shopping streets.

These are only a few of the amazing and fabulous places in Rome. Come and visit us! You'll realize yourself how beautiful the Eternal City really is!