

A 3-Day Tour Around Ancient Rome



The Forum

Table of Contents

About the Author

Day 1

- 1) Archeobus
- 2) The Catacombs
- 3) Circo di Massenzio
- 4) Walk along the Appian Way
- 5) Villa dei Quntili
- 6) Baths of Caracalla
- 7) Restaurants along the Appian Way and close to the Baths of Caracalla

Day 2

- 1) The Colosseum
- 2) The Forum
- 3) Forum Museum
- 4) Largo di Torre Argentina
- 5) Pantheon
- 6) Restaurant Recommendations near the Coliseum and Pantheon

Day 3

- 1) The Palatine Hill
- 2) Circus Maximus
- 3) Temple of Portunus, Temple of Hercules Victor and the Theatre of Marcellus
- 4) Capitoline Museums
- 5) Restaurant Recommendations around the Palatine and Capitoline Hill

Things You Need to Know

FREE Travel Guide!

=====

Day 1

=====

am -- Archeobus 9:30

- **Price:** EUR €20.00 (for a single adult)
- **Duration:** 30 minutes
- **Address:** Piazza del Cinquecento

The easiest way to see the main sites is by using the bright green [Archeobus](#) which runs from the Piazza del Cinquecento outside the Termini bus station. The cost of the ticket includes an audio tour of the main sites and transport on the bus throughout the day. The bus route terminates a few miles along the Appian Way when traces of ancient Rome become more obscure.

The audio tour is in a number of different languages but can sometimes be out of sync.

Hours: 9:00am – 12:30pm and 13.30pm – 16.30 (half hourly)

The bus service is suspended from November – March yearly, see their website for more details.

Alternatively use public transport: from the Termini use the Metro and take the 714 line 8 stops to the Marco Polo/Colombo station. From there follow the Via Cristoforo Colombo 300 feet to the intersection and turn left on to the Via Cilicia. Walk for 100 feet and make a right turn into an underpass when you see signs for the Via Appia Antica. The catacombs of St. Sebastian are half a mile down the road on the left. Although it is a much cheaper option (only a couple of euros for a day ticket) it does involve a lot of walking.

For further information on public transport, including journey planning, visit the [ATAC](#) website.

10:00 am -- The Catacombs

- **Price:** EUR €8.00 (for a single adult)
- **Duration:** 3 hours and 30 minutes
- **Address:** Appian Way; Via Appia Antica; Via Delle Sette Chiese

There are three sets of catacombs in the Parco Regionale Appia Antica dating from the 3rd century CE onwards: those of St. Callixtus, St. Sebastian and St. Domitilla. It is commonly believed the Christians lived in the tombs to avoid Roman pagan persecution. This was not the case, the catacombs were used as a place of worship as well as a place of burial. The catacombs of St Calluxtus are the first along the Appian Way, the Archeobus stops opposite the road leading to them. It's only a very short walk of around 100metres and is well signposted but sturdy shoes are a must. The catacombs of St. Sebastian are located on the Via Appia Antica itself (the Archeobus stops directly outside the entrance). Tour the catacombs of St Callixtus first then walk a short distance down the road to St. Sebastian. Depending upon how much you've enjoyed these tours consider visiting the catacombs of St. Domitilla.

There are two ways to reach the catacombs of St Domitilla. On foot, walk away from the Via Appia Antica on the same road which leads to the entrance of the Catacombs of St Calluxtus. When you meet the larger road (the Via Delle Sette Chiese) turn right and follow it along to the Catacombs of St Domitilla.



If you're in a car or moped then take the Via Delle Sette Chiese, the road shortly before the catacombs of St Sebastian. It's inadvisable to walk along this road as it is a steep uphill climb which is difficult in summer and the road is unsuitable for pedestrians as there is no distinguishable footpath.

To look around the catacombs take one of the guided tours included in the admission price. They operate every half an hour. On occasion it may be necessary to wait but refreshments are available and the surrounding gardens are quaint and well-tended.

The catacombs have slightly different opening times and ticket prices. Take note the catacombs close on different days, if you plan to see all three visit on a Monday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

Catacombs of St Calluxtus:

Opening hours: 9am-12.00pm and 14.00pm-17.00pm (closed Wednesday).

Catacombs of St Sebastian:

Opening hours: 10am-16.30pm (Closed Sunday).

Catacombs of St Domitilla:

Opening hours: 9am-12.00pm and 14.00pm-17.00pm (closed Tuesdays).

Ticket prices: €8/€5 concessions (EU citizens 18-24 and over 65). Note you will have to pay for each site in turn as a ticket for all three sites is not available.

The catacombs can be extremely cold, even in summer, so bring along warm clothing.

In case you were wondering (or worried) the remains have been removed for hygiene purposes. If you're looking for something a little gorier then ask at a Tourist Information Office about Santa Maria Della Concezione dei Cappuccini, a church decorated with the bones of its monks.

About 300 metres down the road on the left hand side is the Circo di Massenzio. It's a relatively easy walk as the road is flat, although be wary of traffic as the pavement is virtually none existent.

1:30 pm -- Circo di Massenzio

- **Price:** FREE
- **Duration:** 1 hour
- **Address:** Appian Way



Built in the 4th Century CE, this race track is less iconic but more intact than the Circus Maximus. It was built by the Emperor Maxentius for his own private use. Shortly afterwards Maxentius was defeated by his brother-in-law Constantine, so the racetrack was never fully completed.

The racetrack is the largest and best preserved feature of Maxentius' complex which included an imperial villa and a mausoleum built for his son Romulus. Valerius Romulus was only fifteen when he died yet despite his young age he had served as consul along with his father a year prior to his death. After his death not only did Maxentius build a lavish mausoleum but he also deified his son, building a temple in the forum dedicated to him. The temple remains intact in the forum and is distinguishable because of its rusty green doors and rotund shape. Unfortunately the mausoleum is not open to the public but you can see the ruins