



# Tour Information



## Rome – Italian Architecture Between the Wars





## Travel

### Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

### Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: [consolato.londra@esteri.it](mailto:consolato.londra@esteri.it)

Website:

[http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato\\_Londra](http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra)

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



### Tickets

Included with your detailed itinerary is a flight e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number. You will need to quote/show this reference number at the check-in desk and you will be issued with your boarding pass. **Online check-in is not available.**

Your Group Scheduled or Club Class ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



### Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information visit [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

### Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

### Transfers

On arrival in Rome, transfer to the hotel for a three-night stay, an approximate 30-minute drive.

### Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

### Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.

### Border Control

You may have to show your return ticket and money.

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.



## Accommodation

### Hotel dei Congressi, Rome

The four-star Hotel dei Congressi was designed by the rationalist architect Adalberto Libera and was opened in 1958 ahead of the 1960 Olympics. Located in the heart of the EUR district, it is ideally located for this tour and fits the theme of the tour perfectly. Facilities include bar, stylish “la Glorietta,” restaurant, fitness room and comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities.

For more information, please visit the hotel’s website: <https://www.hoteldeicongressiroma.com/en/home-eng/>



## Food

Italian food rivals French in the hearts and taste buds of many gastronomes and the regional cuisine, of which the locals are very proud, wonderfully reflects the climate and local produce. Delicious pizza, pasta and risotto dishes are present everywhere throughout Italy with provincial specialities and sauces.

Notwithstanding its imperial heritage, Roman cuisine is one of the people. Using seasonal ingredients, prepared in a simple way, Roman cuisine is based on locally grown vegetables (peas, artichokes, courgettes, and fava beans), meat (mainly goat and lamb), cod, cheese (Pecorino Romano and ricotta), and flavoured with olive oil and aromatic herbs.

*Bruschetta* (bread rubbed with olive oil, topped with tomatoes and garlic), is a popular appetiser (*antipasto*) and the preferred pasta form in Rome is spaghetti, accompanied with a delicious sauce, such as *amatriciana*, *carbonara* (pancetta, cheese and egg), *Alfredo* (with butter and parmesan cheese) or *cacio e pepe* (cheese and pepper).

Other local specialities include *Suppli* (fried rice croquette, filled with beef and mozzarella), *Saltimbocca alla Romana* (veal with ham and sage), *trippa* (tripe with tomato sauce and pecorino cheese), *Abbacchio alla cacciatora* (lamb chops), *Fiori di Zucca* (deep fried courgette flowers filled with mozzarella cheese), and *Coda alla vaccinara* (oxtail tomato and chocolate stew).

Traditional desserts include *Crostata di ricotta* (ricotta cheesecake, flavoured with lemons and Marsala wine), *Maritozzi* (cream filled pastry), *canolli* (tube-shaped pastry filled with ricotta),

sweet ravioli with ricotta, and the Italian classic *Tiramisù*.

Strong Italian espresso coffee is served after the meal and will be black, in small cups, unless a *cappuccino* or *caffè latte* is requested.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



## Drink

The world’s largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

In elegant restaurants the wine list will be separate from the main menu, but in less opulent establishments will be printed on the back or along the side of the *carte*. The waiter will usually be glad to advise an appropriate choice. If in doubt, try the house wine; this will usually be less expensive and will always be the owner’s pride.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** – Two dinners with wine at the hotel or a local restaurant.

### Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



## Destination

In Italy during the 1920's and 1930's, there developed a particular strand of architecture, which would be called Rationalism. At its core it looked back to neoclassicism and in turn classical architecture as a source from which to deliver an architectural style that at once was both a reaction to historicism and a contrast to Art Nouveau and Expressionism. It can be seen as a response to the stripped classicism of Scandinavia, the Totalitarian responses of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany and part of a greater return, around the world, by architecture to the classical tradition.

This tour offers a unique opportunity to see a remarkable collection of buildings and planned towns from the 1930's. This will include the magnificent but hardly known EUR complex on the southern outskirts of Rome itself and which now play host to a number of major national museums, government buildings, as well as office complexes, churches, sports halls, fountains and parks. To the south of Rome there are a number of newly built towns – Latina, Pontina and Sabaudia, which were built as the Pontine marshes were drained. Finally, there will a trip to the stunningly beautiful and spectacular Lake Nemi, where a remarkable building was created to house the remains of Caligula's floating pleasure palaces.

### **Details of places of interest included in your tour:**

#### **EUR District**

EUR (which is the acronym of Esposizione Universale di Roma, meaning Rome's Universal Exposition) is a metaphysical district of Rome that dates back to the Fascist era. The original project was inspired by Fascist ideology and by the classical Roman urban planning, adding the elements of Italian Rationalism. The layout of the EUR district includes wide streets, and majestic and imposing architectural buildings, that are massive and square, mostly built with white marble to recall the classical monuments of the Ancient Imperial Rome. In 1937, the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini announced the start of construction for this district, designing a project planned to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the March on Rome in 1942. Due to the Second World War, an anti-bomb bunker was constructed 14 meters underground extending for 475 sqm in order to continue the construction regardless of the war. However, after the events of

the war and the loss of Mussolini, the exhibition never took place and the district was abandoned in 1942, the same year in which the original project was intended to be inaugurated. In between the 1950s and 1960s, the EUR district was revived, and new buildings were constructed, such as the Palazzo dello Sport (Sport Palace) in occasion of the Olympics Games of 1960, as well as the Piscina delle Rose (Rose Swimming Pool), an Olympic outdoor pool in the Central Park of the Lake. A symbolic monument of the district is the Square Colosseum, which is a nickname given to the Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana (Palace of Italian Civilization), and was built by the architects Guerrini, La Padula and Romano inspired by metaphysical art. The district also benefits a sophisticated and well-connected system of underground galleries 4 meters below the ground that extend for 18 kilometres and provide water to the artificial lake as well as the rest of the district, as well as the optic fibre for a faster internet connection for the inhabitants.

#### **Sabaudia**

Sabaudia, located in the heart of the Agro Pontino, is characterized by white sand dunes and by amazing views with several green spaces. A seaside town but still a city, it preserves interesting architectural aspects, and this is why Sabaudia is considered the city-symbol of Italian architectural rationalism. Piazza del Comune, once Piazza della Rivoluzione, is the hub of the city, around which the town developed. It is surrounded by important buildings: the Palazzo Comunale, with the typical tower, which is 46 meters high, and the Casa del Combattente (next to the Palazzo Comunale) on whose outer wall there is the Bulletin of Victory by A. Diaz. Situated in the historical centre, is the Church of the SS. Annunziata, whose façade has a large mosaic by Ferrazzi. The Baptistery, the 47-meter-high Bell Tower and the Canonica House, with its beautiful inner courtyard, complete this very suggestive corner of the city, which brings to mind the medieval Italian squares.

#### **Latina**

Located in the heart of the Lazio region of Italy, Latina is a relatively modern city and was founded during the fascist regime of Italy in 1932. Before the city was established, this area of Lazio was largely uninhabited and was predominantly swamp land

until it was drained. Inhabitants of the city were originally brought from other regions of Italy including Veneto and Friuli, and various monuments, parks and public buildings were erected. After WW2, the city was renamed to Latina and saw an influx of residents coming from Lazio and the surrounding region.

## Pontina

Pontina is located in the Province of Latina, approximately 43 miles southeast of Rome and has a population of around 100 people. Pontina was established in 1935, as part of the project under Prime Minister Benito Mussolini which drained the Pontine Marshes and converted them to agriculture. The town plan was designed by engineer Alfredo Pappalardo, an employee of the Opera Nazionale Combattenti, the agency which oversaw the engineering works and settlement of the Pontine Marshes.

## Lake Nemi

Lake Nemi, a crater lake in Lazio regione, central Italy. It lies in the outer ring of the ancient Alban crater, in the Alban Hills, east of Lake Albano and 15 miles (24 km) southeast of Rome. In ancient times it was included in the territory of Aricia (modern Ariccia) and was called Lacus Nemoensis and sometimes the Speculum Dianae (“Mirror of Diana”) from a temple and grove (nemus) sacred to that goddess. Excavations (now filled in) led to the discovery of the temple, a comparatively small building (98 by 52 ft), although it had been one of the richest in Latium. The remains of the temple precinct—a large platform, the back of which is formed by a wall of concrete, with niches, resting against the cliffs—are situated a little above the level of the lake, on the northeast.

## Lake Albano

Lake Albano, a crater lake in the Alban Hills (southeast of Rome). Elliptical in shape, formed by the fusion of two ancient volcanic craters. It is fed by underground sources and drained by an artificial outlet, reputedly built in 398–397 BC because the oracle at Delphi said that the Etruscan stronghold of Veii could be taken only when the waters of the lake reached the sea. Among the lakeside towns, the best known are the resorts of Albano Laziale and Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer residence.

## Castel Gandolfo

Castel Gandolfo probably occupies the site of ancient Alba Longa. Its name is derived from a

castle belonging to the ducal Gandolfi family in the 12th century. It became the inalienable domain of the Holy See in 1608 and, after the construction of the Apostolic, or Papal, Palace, the summer residence of the pontiff. The vast palace was begun by Urban VIII (pope from 1623 to 1644) and later enlarged by Alexander VII, Clement XIII, and Pius IX. With its terraced park and the former Villa Barberini, built on the ruins of a villa of the Roman emperor Domitian, it enjoys extraterritorial privileges as part of the Vatican state. The palace’s reception hall has walls covered with precious marble, brocades, and splendid tapestries and display panels by Carlo Dolci, Paolo Veronese, and Salvator Rosa. Since 1936 the Villa Barberini has housed the famous Vatican Observatory, founded by Pope Gregory XIII (1572–85). In the square opposite the castle is the Church of San Tommaso di Villanova, the work of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, who also collaborated with Carlo Maderno in the construction of the palace.

## Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

## Your Guide

Dr Peter Higginson specialises in the art and culture of early modern Europe, and the modern period. He has taught numerous university courses abroad and has wide experience in leading cultural tours to different parts of Europe including Bilbao, Rome, Venice, Florence, Paris and further afield to Cuba. Caravaggio is probably his greatest artistic passion and formed the focus of his doctoral research. His enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment have earned him rave reviews from the many clients who have travelled with him on a Travel Editions’ tour over the past seven years.

**Peter will give the following lectures during the tour:**

*‘Italian Art, Architecture and Design of the Inter-War period’*

*‘Rationalist Italian Architecture in the context of a world wide Classical Revival’*



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in Italy at this time of year should be warm and pleasant, with temperatures higher than in the UK. But there is always the chance of the odd shower, so our best advice is to come prepared.

**Time** – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar)

**Language** – Italian

**Religion** – predominantly Roman Catholic

**National holidays** – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation Day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic Day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' Day (01 Nov); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas Day (25 Dec); St Stephens Day (26 Dec).

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find plenty of bottled water for sale too)

**Shops** – Department stores and supermarkets are open Mon-Sat 0830-1930. Most small shops close between 1230 and 1600. Please note that most shops close on Sundays.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

**Clothes & Shoes** – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – Bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

**Telephones/mobiles** – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**



### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Mosquitos

You may get a few mosquitos about in the evenings so it is worth taking some repellent.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours, please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Rome

Via XX Settembre 80/a

00187 Rome

Italy

Email: [italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk](mailto:italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk)

Tel: +39 06 4220 2431

Fax: +39 06 4220 2334

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1700.

Outside these hours, emergency consular assistance is available on +44 (0) 207 008 1500.

### Travel Editions

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