

Roman Empire Timeline

The Roman Empire was one of the largest and most influential empires in world history. This timeline covers key events, figures, and developments from its founding to its fall.

753 BCE	Founding of Rome	According to legend, Romulus founds Rome.
509 BCE	Roman Republic	The Roman Republic is established after overthrowing the Etruscan monarchy.
264-146 BCE	Punic Wars	Rome fights three major wars against Carthage, ultimately destroying the city in 146 BCE.
133 BCE	Tiberius Gracchus	Tiberius Gracchus attempts land reform, leading to political turmoil.
100-44 BCE	Julius Caesar	Rise and fall of Julius Caesar, including his conquest of Gaul and his assassination.
27 BCE	Augustus	Octavian becomes Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, marking the start of the Principate.
64 CE	Great Fire of Rome	A massive fire destroys much of Rome during Nero's reign.
70 CE	Destruction of Jerusalem	Romans under Titus destroy the Second Temple in Jerusalem.
79 CE	Eruption of Vesuvius	Mount Vesuvius erupts, destroying Pompeii and Herculaneum.
117 CE	Maximum Extent	The Roman Empire reaches its maximum territorial extent under Emperor Trajan.
212 CE	Constitutio Antoniniana	Caracalla grants Roman citizenship to all free inhabitants of the Empire.
235-284 CE	Crisis of the Third Century	Period of instability, civil wars, and barbarian invasions.
284 CE	Diocletian	Diocletian becomes emperor, implementing major reforms and the Tetrarchy system.
312 CE	Constantine's Conversion	Constantine converts to Christianity after the Battle of Milvian Bridge.
330 CE	Constantinople	Constantine establishes Constantinople as the new capital of the Roman Empire.
376-382 CE	Gothic War	Goths cross the Danube, leading to conflict and their settlement within the Empire.
395 CE	Empire Division	The Empire is permanently divided into Eastern and Western halves.
410 CE	Sack of Rome	Visigoths under Alaric sack Rome for the first time in 800 years.
455 CE	Vandal Sack of Rome	Vandals under Genseric sack Rome.
476 CE	Fall of Western Roman Empire	Odoacer deposes Romulus Augustulus, traditionally marking the fall of the Western Roman Empire.
527-565 CE	Justinian I	Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I attempts to reconquer the Western Empire and enact legal reforms.
1453 CE	Fall of Constantinople	Ottomans capture Constantinople, ending the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire.