[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement)

**Rome** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:Lang-it](/wiki/Template:Lang-it) [Template:IPA-it](/wiki/Template:IPA-it), [Template:Lang-la](/wiki/Template:Lang-la)) is a city and special [*comune*](/wiki/Comune) (named *Roma Capitale*) in Italy. Rome is the capital of [Italy](/wiki/Italy) and of the [Lazio](/wiki/Lazio) [region](/wiki/Regions_of_Italy). With 2.9 million residents in [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), it is also the country's largest and most populated *comune* and [fourth-most populous city](/wiki/Largest_cities_of_the_European_Union_by_population_within_city_limits) in the European Union by population within city limits. The [Metropolitan City of Rome](/wiki/Metropolitan_City_of_Rome) has a population of 4.3 million residents.[[1]](#cite_note-1) The city is located in the central-western portion of the [Italian Peninsula](/wiki/Italian_Peninsula), within Lazio (Latium), along the shores of [Tiber](/wiki/Tiber) river. The [Vatican City](/wiki/Vatican_City) is an independent country geographically located within the city boundaries of Rome, the only existing example of a country within a city: for this reason Rome has been often defined as capital of two states.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) [Rome's history](/wiki/History_of_Rome) spans [more than two and a half thousand years](/wiki/List_of_oldest_continuously_inhabited_cities). While [Roman mythology](/wiki/Roman_mythology) dates the [founding of Rome](/wiki/Founding_of_Rome) at only around 753 BC, the site has been inhabited for much longer, making it one of the oldest continuously occupied sites in Europe.[[4]](#cite_note-4) The city's early population originated from a mix of [Latins](/wiki/Latins), [Etruscans](/wiki/Etruscan_civilization) and [Sabines](/wiki/Sabines). Eventually, the city successively became the capital of the [Roman Kingdom](/wiki/Roman_Kingdom), the [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic) and the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire), and is regarded as one of the birthplaces of [Western civilization](/wiki/Western_culture) and by some as the first ever [metropolis](/wiki/Metropolis).[[5]](#cite_note-5) It is referred to as "Roma Aeterna" (The Eternal City) [[6]](#cite_note-6) and "[Caput Mundi](/wiki/Caput_Mundi)" (Capital of the World), two central notions in ancient Roman culture.

After the [fall of the Western Empire](/wiki/Fall_of_the_Western_Roman_Empire), which marked the beginning of the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages), Rome slowly fell under the political control of the [Papacy](/wiki/Papacy), which had settled in the city since the 1st century AD, until in the 8th century it became the capital of the [Papal States](/wiki/Papal_States), which lasted until 1870.

Beginning with the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), almost all the popes since [Nicholas V](/wiki/Pope_Nicholas_V) (1422–55) pursued coherently along four hundred years an architectonic and urbanistic program aimed to make of the city the world's artistic and cultural center.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Due to that, Rome became first one of the major centers of the [Italian Renaissance](/wiki/Italian_Renaissance),[[8]](#cite_note-8) and then the birthplace of both the [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) style and [Neoclassicism](/wiki/Neoclassicism). Famous artists, painters, sculptors and architects made Rome the center of their activity, creating masterpieces throughout the city. In 1871 Rome became the capital of the [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy_(1861–1946)), and in 1946 that of the [Italian Republic](/wiki/Italian_Republic).

Rome has the status of a [global city](/wiki/Global_city).[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10)[[11]](#cite_note-11) Rome ranked in 2014 as the 14th-most-visited city in the world, 3rd most visited in the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), and the most popular tourist attraction in Italy.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Its historic centre is listed by [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) as a [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Monuments and museums such as the [Vatican Museums](/wiki/Vatican_Museums) and the [Colosseum](/wiki/Colosseum) are among the world's most visited tourist destinations with both locations receiving millions of tourists a year. Rome hosted the [1960 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1960_Summer_Olympics) and is the seat of United Nations' [Food and Agriculture Organization](/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization) (FAO).

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

According to the [founding myth](/wiki/Founding_myth) of the city by the Ancient Romans themselves,[[14]](#cite_note-14) the long-held tradition of the origin of the name "Roma" is believed to have come from the city's founder and first [king](/wiki/Rex_(king)), [Romulus](/wiki/Romulus).[[15]](#cite_note-15) However, it is a possibility that the name Romulus was actually derived from Rome itself. As early as the 4th century, there have been alternate theories proposed on the origin of the name Roma. Several hypotheses have been advanced focusing on its uncertain linguistic roots.:[[16]](#cite_note-16)\* From *Rumon* or *Rumen*, archaic name of the [Tiber](/wiki/Tiber), which in turn has the same root as the Greek verb ῥέω (rhèo) and the Latin verb *ruo*, which both mean "flow";[[17]](#cite_note-17)\* From the [Etruscan](/wiki/Etruscan_language) word *ruma*, whose root is \*rum- "teat", with possible reference either to the [totem wolf that adopted and suckled](/wiki/Founding_of_Rome#The_legend) the cognately named twins [Romulus and Remus](/wiki/Romulus_and_Remus), or to the shape of the [Palatine](/wiki/Palatine_Hill) and [Aventine Hills](/wiki/Aventine_Hill);

* From the Greek word ῤώμη (rhōmē), which means *strength*.[[18]](#cite_note-18)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Earliest history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) There is archaeological evidence of human occupation of the Rome area from approximately 14,000 years ago, but the dense layer of much younger debris obscures Palaeolithic and Neolithic sites.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Evidence of stone tools, pottery and stone weapons attest to about 10,000 years of human presence. Several excavations support the view that Rome grew from [pastoral](/wiki/Pastoralism) settlements on the [Palatine Hill](/wiki/Palatine_Hill) built above the area of the future [Roman Forum](/wiki/Roman_Forum). While some archaeologists argue that Rome was indeed founded in the middle of the 8th century BC (the traditional date), the date is subject to controversy.[[19]](#cite_note-19) However, the power of the well known tale of Rome's legendary foundation tends to deflect attention from its actual, more ancient, origins. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

#### Legend of the founding of Rome[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Capitoline_she-wolf_Musei_Capitolini_MC1181.jpg)[Capitoline Wolf](/wiki/Capitoline_Wolf) suckles the infant twins [Romulus and Remus](/wiki/Romulus_and_Remus). Traditional stories handed down by the [ancient Romans](/wiki/Ancient_Romans) themselves explain the earliest [history of their city](/wiki/History_of_Rome) in terms of [legend](/wiki/Legend) and [myth](/wiki/Myth). The most familiar of these myths, and perhaps the most famous of all [Roman myths](/wiki/Roman_mythology), is the story of [Romulus and Remus](/wiki/Romulus_and_Remus), the twins who were suckled by a [she-wolf](/wiki/Wolf).[[14]](#cite_note-14) They decided to build a city, but after an argument, [Romulus](/wiki/Romulus) killed his brother and the city took his name. According to the Roman [annalists](/wiki/Annalist), this happened on 21 April 753 BC.<ref name=awg73>Hermann & Hilgemann(1964), p.73</ref> This legend had to be reconciled with a dual tradition, set earlier in time, that had the [Trojan refugee](/wiki/Trojan_War) [Aeneas](/wiki/Aeneas) escape to Italy and found the line of Romans through his son [Iulus](/wiki/Ascanius), the namesake of the [Julio-Claudian dynasty](/wiki/Julio-Claudian_dynasty).[[20]](#cite_note-20)This was accomplished by the Roman poet [Virgil](/wiki/Virgil) in the first century BC.

### Monarchy, republic, empire[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) After the legendary foundation by Romulus,<ref name=autogenerated1>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.73</ref> Rome was ruled for a period of 244 years by a monarchical system, initially with sovereigns of [Latin](/wiki/Latins_(Italic_tribe)) and [Sabine](/wiki/Sabines) origin, later by [Etruscan](/wiki/Etruscans) kings. The tradition handed down seven kings: [Romulus](/wiki/Romulus), [Numa Pompilius](/wiki/Numa_Pompilius), [Tullus Hostilius](/wiki/Tullus_Hostilius), [Ancus Marcius](/wiki/Ancus_Marcius), [Tarquinius Priscus](/wiki/Tarquinius_Priscus), [Servius Tullius](/wiki/Servius_Tullius) and [Tarquinius Superbus](/wiki/Tarquinius_Superbus).<ref name=awg73/>

In 509 BC the Romans expelled the last king from their city and established an [oligarchic](/wiki/Oligarchy) [republic](/wiki/Republic). Rome then began a period characterized by internal struggles between [patricians](/wiki/Patrician_(ancient_Rome)) (aristocrats) and [plebeians](/wiki/Plebs) (small landowners), and by constant warfare against the populations of central Italy: Etruscans, Latins, [Volsci](/wiki/Volsci), [Aequi](/wiki/Aequi), [Marsi](/wiki/Marsi).<ref name=awg77>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.77</ref> After becoming master of [Latium](/wiki/Latium), Rome led several wars (against the [Gauls](/wiki/Gauls), [Osci](/wiki/Osci)-[Samnites](/wiki/Samnites) and the Greek colony of [Taranto](/wiki/Taranto), allied with [Pyrrhus](/wiki/Pyrrhus_of_Epirus), king of [Epirus](/wiki/Epirus)) whose result was the conquest of the [Italian peninsula](/wiki/Italian_peninsula), from the central area up to [Magna Graecia](/wiki/Magna_Graecia).<ref name=awg79>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.79</ref>

The third and second century BC saw the establishment of Roman hegemony over the Mediterranean and the East, through the three [Punic Wars](/wiki/Punic_Wars) (264–146 BC) fought against the city of [Carthage](/wiki/Carthage) and the three [Macedonian Wars](/wiki/Macedonian_Wars) (212–168 BC) against [Macedonia](/wiki/Macedonia_(ancient_kingdom)).<ref name=awg8183>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.81-83</ref> Then were established the first [Roman provinces](/wiki/Roman_province): [Sicily](/wiki/Sicilia_(Roman_province)), [Sardinia and Corsica](/wiki/Corsica_et_Sardinia), [Hispania](/wiki/Hispania), [Macedonia](/wiki/Macedonia_(Roman_province)), [Greece (Achaia)](/wiki/Achaea_(Roman_province)) and [Africa](/wiki/Africa_(Roman_province)).<ref name=awg8185>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.81-85</ref>

[thumb|left|Map depicting late ancient Rome.](/wiki/File:Roma_Plan.jpg) From the beginning of the 2nd century BC, power was contested between two groups of aristocrats: the [optimates](/wiki/Optimates), representing the conservative part of the [Senate](/wiki/Roman_senate), and the [populares](/wiki/Populares), which relied on the help of the [plebs](/wiki/Plebs) (urban lower class) to gain power. In the same period, the bankruptcy of the small farmers and the establishment of large slave estates provoked the migration to the city of a large number of people. The continuous warfare made necessary a professional army, which was more loyal to its generals than to the republic. Due to that, in the second half of the second century and during the first century BC there were conflicts both abroad and internally: after the failed attempt of social reform of the populares [Tiberius](/wiki/Tiberius_Gracchus) and [Gaius Gracchus](/wiki/Gaius_Gracchus),<ref name=awg89>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.89</ref> and the war against [Jugurtha](/wiki/Jugurtha),<ref name=awg89/> there was [a first civil war](/wiki/Sulla's_first_civil_war) between [Gaius Marius](/wiki/Gaius_Marius) and [Sulla](/wiki/Sulla).<ref name=awg89/> To this followed a [major slave revolt](/wiki/Third_Servile_War) under [Spartacus](/wiki/Spartacus),<ref name=awg91>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.91</ref> and then the establishment of the [first Triumvirate](/wiki/First_Triumvirate) with [Caesar](/wiki/Julius_Caesar), [Pompey](/wiki/Pompey) and [Crassus](/wiki/Marcus_Licinius_Crassus).<ref name=awg91/>

The conquest of [Gaul](/wiki/Gaul) made Caesar immensely powerful and popular, which led to a [second civil war](/wiki/Caesar's_Civil_War) against the Senate and Pompey. After his victory, Caesar established himself as [dictator for life](/wiki/Dictator_perpetuo).<ref name=awg91/> His assassination led to a [second Triumvirate](/wiki/Second_Triumvirate) among [Octavian](/wiki/Octavian) (Caesar's grandnephew and heir), [Mark Antony](/wiki/Mark_Antony) and [Lepidus](/wiki/Marcus_Aemilius_Lepidus_(triumvir)), and to [another civil war](/wiki/Final_War_of_the_Roman_Republic) between Octavian and Antony.<ref name=awg93>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.93</ref> The former in 27 BC became [*princeps civitatis*](/wiki/Princeps) and got the title of [Augustus](/wiki/Augustus), founding the [principate](/wiki/Principate), a [diarchy](/wiki/Diarchy) between the *princeps* and the senate.<ref name=awg93/> Rome was established as a [de facto](/wiki/De_facto) empire, which reached its greatest expansion in the second century under the Emperor [Trajan](/wiki/Trajan), Rome was confirmed as [caput Mundi](/wiki/Caput_Mundi), i.e. the capital of the world, an expression which had already been given in the Republican period. During its first two centuries, the empire saw as rulers, emperors of the [Julio-Claudian](/wiki/Julio-Claudian_dynasty),<ref name=awg97>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.97</ref> [Flavian](/wiki/Flavian_dynasty) (who also built eponymous amphitheater, known as the [Colosseum](/wiki/Colosseum))<ref name=awg97/> and [Antonine](/wiki/Antonine_dynasty) dynasties.<ref name=awg99>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.99</ref> This time was also characterized by the spread of the Christian religion, preached by [Jesus Christ](/wiki/Jesus_Christ) in [Judea](/wiki/Judea) in the first half of the first century (under [Tiberius](/wiki/Tiberius)) and popularized by his [apostles](/wiki/Apostle) through the empire and beyond.<ref name=awg107>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.107</ref> The Antonine age is considered the apogee of the Empire, whose territory ranged from the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean) to the [Euphrates](/wiki/Euphrates) and from [Britain](/wiki/Great_Britain) to [Egypt](/wiki/Egypt).<ref name=awg99/>

[thumb|right|The Roman Empire at its greatest extent controlled approximately](/wiki/File:RomanEmpire_117.svg) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)[[21]](#cite_note-21) of land surface.

In the third century, at the end of the [Antonine dynasty](/wiki/Antonine_dynasty), with the [Severan dynasty](/wiki/Severan_dynasty) the *principatus* was substituted by a military government, which was soon followed by a destabilising period of military anarchy known as the [Crisis of the Third Century](/wiki/Crisis_of_the_Third_Century). At the same time the economy deteriorated, inflation rose and the historical enemies of Rome, the [Germanic tribes](/wiki/Germanic_tribes) in the West and the [Persian Empire](/wiki/Sasanian_Empire) in the East, continued to bear pressure on the frontiers.<ref name=awg101>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.101</ref>

Emperor [Diocletian](/wiki/Diocletian) (284) attempted to alleviate the economic and military problems by introducing the [dominate](/wiki/Dominate) (an [absolute monarchy](/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) where the emperor was [deified](/wiki/Apotheosis)), imposing [price controls](/wiki/Price_controls) and decentralising the administration: the emperor divided the empire into twelve [dioceses](/wiki/Roman_province), ruling under the title of [*Augustus*](/wiki/Augustus_(honorific)) the eastern half (with residence in [Nicomedia](/wiki/Nicomedia)) and naming [Maximian](/wiki/Maximian) *Augustus* of the western half, whose capital was moved to [Mediolanum](/wiki/Mediolanum).<ref name=awg101/> The succession was regulated with the creation of the [Tetrarchy](/wiki/Tetrarchy): each *Augustus*, in fact, had to appoint a junior emperor, named [*Caesar*](/wiki/Caesar_(title)), who would rule part of the Roman territory on behalf of his *Augustus* and who would become, at the end, the new emperor.<ref name=awg101/>

After the abdication of Diocletian and Maximian in 305 and many dynastic conflicts, this system collapsed, and the new ruler, [Constantine](/wiki/Constantine_the_Great), centralized power again and, with the [Edict of Milan](/wiki/Edict_of_Milan) in 313, gave freedom of worship for Christians, pledging himself to give stability to the new religion. He built several churches, gave the civil power of Rome to Pope [Sylvester I](/wiki/Sylvester_I) and founded in the eastern part a new capital city; [Constantinople](/wiki/Constantinople).<ref name=awg103>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.103</ref>

Christianity became the official religion of the empire, thanks to [an edict issued in 380](/wiki/Edict_of_Thessalonica) by [Theodosius](/wiki/Theodosius_I), who was the last emperor of a unified empire: after his death, in fact, his sons, [Arcadius](/wiki/Arcadius) and [Honorius](/wiki/Honorius_(emperor)), divided the empire into [a western](/wiki/Western_Roman_Empire) and [an eastern](/wiki/Eastern_Roman_Empire) part. The capital of the western Roman Empire became [Ravenna](/wiki/Ravenna).<ref name=awg103/>

Rome, which had lost its central role in the administration of the empire, [was sacked in 410](/wiki/Sack_of_Rome_(410)) by the [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths) led by [Alaric I](/wiki/Alaric_I),<ref name=awg115>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.115</ref> but also embellished by the construction of sacred buildings by the popes (with the collaboration of the emperors). The city, impoverished and depopulated, suffered [a new looting in 455](/wiki/Sack_of_Rome_(455)), by [Genseric](/wiki/Genseric), king of the [Vandals](/wiki/Vandals).<ref name=awg117>Hermann & Hilgemann (1964), p.117</ref> The weak emperors of the fifth century could not stop the decay, until the deposition of [Romulus Augustus](/wiki/Romulus_Augustus) on 22 August 476 marked the end of the Western Roman Empire and, for many historians, the beginning of the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages).<ref name=awg103/>

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|15th-century miniature depicting the](/wiki/File:Eroberung_roms_410.jpg) [Sack of Rome (410)](/wiki/Sack_of_Rome_(410)) The Bishop of Rome, called the [Pope](/wiki/Pope), was important since the early days of Christianity because of the martyrdom of both the apostles [Peter](/wiki/Simon_Peter) and [Paul](/wiki/Paul_of_Tarsus) there. The Bishops of Rome were also seen (and still are seen by Catholics) as the successors of Peter; he being the first Bishop of Rome. The city thus became of increasing importance as the centre of the [Catholic Church](/wiki/Catholic_Church). After the [fall of the Western Roman Empire](/wiki/Decline_of_the_Roman_Empire) in 476 AD, Rome was first under the control of [Odoacer](/wiki/Odoacer) and then became part of the [Ostrogothic Kingdom](/wiki/Ostrogothic_Kingdom) before returning to [East Roman](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) control after the [Gothic War](/wiki/Gothic_War_(535–554)), which devastated the city. Its population declined from more than a million in 210 AD to 500,000 in 273[[22]](#cite_note-22) to 35,000 after the Gothic War,[[23]](#cite_note-23) reducing the sprawling city to groups of inhabited buildings interspersed among large areas of ruins, vegetation, vineyards and market gardens.[[24]](#cite_note-24) After the [Lombard invasion of Italy](/wiki/Lombard_invasion_of_Italy#Invasion_and_conquest_of_the_Italian_peninsula), the city remained nominally Byzantine, but in reality the popes pursued a policy of equilibrium between [the Byzantines](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), the [Franks](/wiki/Franks) and the [Lombards](/wiki/Lombards).<ref name=be19>Bertarelli (1925), p.19</ref> In 729, the Lombard king [Liutprand](/wiki/Liutprand,_King_of_the_Lombards) donated to the church the north Latium town of [Sutri](/wiki/Sutri), starting the temporal power of the church.<ref name=be19/> In 756, [Pepin the Short](/wiki/Pepin_the_Short), after having defeated the Lombards, gave to the Pope temporal jurisdiction over the Roman Duchy and the [Exarchate of Ravenna](/wiki/Exarchate_of_Ravenna), thus creating the [Papal States](/wiki/Papal_States).<ref name=be19/> Since this period three powers tried to rule the city: the pope, the nobility, together with the chiefs of militias, the judges, the Senate and the populace; and the Frankish king, as king of the Lombards, patricius and Emperor.<ref name=be19/> These three parties (theocratic, republican and imperial) were a characteristic of Roman life during the entire Middle Ages.<ref name=be19/> On the Christmas night of 800, [Charlemagne](/wiki/Charlemagne) was crowned in Rome as emperor of the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire) by [Pope Leo III](/wiki/Pope_Leo_III): on that occasion the city hosted for the first time the two powers whose struggle for the universal power was to be a constant of the Middle Ages.<ref name=be19/>

[thumb|Crowning of](/wiki/File:Sacre_de_Charlemagne.jpg) [Charlemagne](/wiki/Charlemagne) in [Old Saint Peter's Basilica](/wiki/Old_Saint_Peter's_Basilica), on 25 December 800 In 846, Muslim Arabs [unsuccessfully stormed the city's walls](/wiki/Arab_raid_against_Rome), but managed to loot [St. Peter's](/wiki/Old_St._Peter's_Basilica) and St. Paul's basilica, both outside the city wall.[[25]](#cite_note-25) After the decay of [Carolingian power](/wiki/Carolingian_Empire), Rome fell prey to feudal anarchy: several noble families kept fighting against the pope, the emperor and each other. These were the times of [Theodora](/wiki/Theodora_(senatrix)) and her daughter [Marozia](/wiki/Marozia), concubines and mothers of several popes, and of [Crescentius](/wiki/Crescentius_the_Younger), a powerful feudal lord, who fought against the Emperors [Otto II](/wiki/Otto_II) and [III](/wiki/Otto_III).<ref name=be20>Bertarelli (1925), p.20</ref> The scandals of this period pushed the papacy to reform itself: the election of the pope was reserved to the cardinals, and a reform of the clergy was attempted. The driving force behind this renewal was the monk [Ildebrando da Soana](/wiki/Ildebrando_da_Soana), who once elected pope under the name of [Gregory VII](/wiki/Pope_Gregory_VII) became involved into the [Investiture Controversy](/wiki/Investiture_Controversy) against Emperor [Henry IV](/wiki/Henry_IV,_Holy_Roman_Emperor).<ref name=be20/> Subsequently Rome [was sacked and burned](/wiki/Sack_of_Rome_(1084)) by the [Normans](/wiki/Normans) of [Robert Guiscard](/wiki/Robert_Guiscard) who had entered the city in support of the Pope, who was besieged in Castel S. Angelo.<ref name=be20/>

During this period, the city was autonomously ruled by a *senatore* or *patrizio*: in the 12th century. This administration, as often in the Italian cities, evolved into the [commune](/wiki/Medieval_commune), a new form of social organisation, expression of the new wealthy classes.<ref name=be20/> Pope [Lucius II](/wiki/Lucius_II) had already to fight against the Roman commune, and the struggle was continued by his successor [pope Eugenius III](/wiki/Pope_Eugenius_III): then the commune, allied with the nobility, was supported by [Arnaldo da Brescia](/wiki/Arnaldo_da_Brescia), a monk who was a religious and social reformer.<ref name=be21>Bertarelli (1925), p.21</ref> After the pope's death, Arnaldo was taken prisoner by [Adrianus IV](/wiki/Adrianus_IV), which marked the end of the comune's autonomy.<ref name=be21/> Under [Pope Innocent III](/wiki/Pope_Innocent_III), whose reign marked the apogee of the papacy, the commune liquidated the senate, and replaced it with a *Senatore*, who was subject to the pope.<ref name=be21/>

In this period the papacy played a role of secular importance in [Western Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe), often acting as arbitrators between Christian [monarchs](/wiki/Monarch) and exercising additional political powers.[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) In 1266 [Charles of Anjou](/wiki/Charles_of_Anjou), who was heading south to fight the [Hohenstaufen](/wiki/Hohenstaufen) on behalf of the pope, was appointed Senator. Charles founded the [Sapienza](/wiki/Sapienza_University_of_Rome), the university of Rome.<ref name=be21/> In that period the pope died, and the cardinals, summoned in [Viterbo](/wiki/Viterbo), could not agree on his successor: the people of the city, angered, unroofed the building where they had met, imprisoning them until they had nominated the new pope: this happening marked the birth of the [conclave](/wiki/Conclave).<ref name=be21/> In this period the city was also shattered by continuous fights among the noble families: [Annibaldi](/wiki/Annibaldi_family), [Caetani](/wiki/Caetani), [Colonna](/wiki/Colonna_family), [Orsini](/wiki/Orsini_family), [Conti](/wiki/Conti_di_Segni), nested in their fortresses built above ancient Roman edifices, fought each other to control the papacy.<ref name=be21/>

[Pope Boniface VIII](/wiki/Pope_Boniface_VIII), born Caetani, was the last pope to fight for the church's universal domain: he proclaimed a crusade against the Colonna, and in 1300 he called for the first [Jubilee of Christianity](/wiki/Jubilee_(Christianity)), which brought to Rome millions of pilgrims.<ref name=be21/> However his hopes were crushed against the French king [Philip the Fair](/wiki/Philip_IV_of_France), who let him taken prisoner and slashed in [Anagni](/wiki/Anagni), causing his death.<ref name=be21/> Afterwards, a new pope faithful to the French was elected, and the papacy was [briefly relocated](/wiki/Avignon_papacy) to [Avignon](/wiki/Avignon) (1309–1377).<ref name=be22>Bertarelli (1925), p.22</ref> During this period the city was neglected, until the power fell in the hand of a plebeian man, [Cola di Rienzo](/wiki/Cola_di_Rienzo).<ref name=be22/> An idealist and a lover of ancient Rome, Cola dreamed about a rebirth of the Roman Empire: after assuming the power with the title of [*Tribuno*](/wiki/Tribune), his reforms were rejected by the populace.<ref name=be22/> Forced to flee, Cola could come back among the suite of cardinal [Albornoz](/wiki/Gil_Álvarez_Carrillo_de_Albornoz), in charge of restoring the church power in Italy.<ref name=be22/> Back in power for a short time, he was lynched by the populace, and Albornoz could take possession of the city, that in 1377 under [Gregory XI](/wiki/Gregory_XI) became again the seat of the papacy.<ref name=be22/> The return of the pope to Rome in that year unleashed the [western Schism](/wiki/Western_Schism) (1377–1418), and during the next forty years, the city was prey of the fights which shattered the church.<ref name=be22/>

### Early modern[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|The *Tempietto* (](/wiki/File:Roma-tempiettobramante01R.jpg)[San Pietro in Montorio](/wiki/San_Pietro_in_Montorio)) — an excellent example of [Italian Renaissance](/wiki/Italian_Renaissance) architecture In 1418, the [Council of Constance](/wiki/Council_of_Constance) settled the [Western Schism](/wiki/Western_Schism), and a Roman pope, [Martin V](/wiki/Martin_V), was elected.<ref name=be22/> This brought to Rome a century of internal peace, which marked the beginning of the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance).<ref name=be22/> The ruling popes until the first half of the 16th century, from [Nicholas V](/wiki/Nicholas_V), founder of the [Vatican Library](/wiki/Vatican_Library), to [Pius II](/wiki/Pius_II), humanist and literate, from [Sixtus IV](/wiki/Sixtus_IV), a warrior pope, to [Alexander VI](/wiki/Alexander_VI), immoral and [nepotist](/wiki/Nepotism), from [Julius II](/wiki/Julius_II), soldier and patron, to [Leo X](/wiki/Leo_X), who gave his name to this period ("the century of Leo X"), all devoted their energy to the greatness and the beauty of the Eternal City, to the power of their stock, and to the patronage of the arts.<ref name=be22/>

During those years the center of the [Italian Renaissance](/wiki/Italian_Renaissance) moved to Rome from Florence. Majestic works, as the new [Saint Peter's Basilica](/wiki/St._Peter's_Basilica), the [Sistine Chapel](/wiki/Sistine_Chapel) and [*Ponte Sisto*](/wiki/Ponte_Sisto) (the first bridge to be built across the [Tiber](/wiki/Tiber_River) since antiquity, although on Roman foundation) were created. To accomplish that, the Popes engaged the best artists of the time, including [Michelangelo](/wiki/Michelangelo), [Perugino](/wiki/Pietro_Perugino), [Raphael](/wiki/Raphael), [Ghirlandaio](/wiki/Domenico_Ghirlandaio), [Luca Signorelli](/wiki/Luca_Signorelli), [Botticelli](/wiki/Sandro_Botticelli), and [Cosimo Rosselli](/wiki/Cosimo_Rosselli).

The period was also infamous for papal corruption, with many Popes fathering children, and engaging in [nepotism](/wiki/Nepotism) and [simony](/wiki/Simony). The corruption of the Popes and the huge expenses for their building projects led, in part, to the [Reformation](/wiki/Protestant_Reformation) and, in turn, the [Counter-Reformation](/wiki/Counter-Reformation). Popes, such as [Alexander VI](/wiki/Pope_Alexander_VI), were well known for their decadence, wild parties, extravagance and immoral lives.[[29]](#cite_note-29) However, under these extravagant and rich popes, Rome was transformed into a centre of art, poetry, music, literature, education and culture. Rome became able to compete with other major European cities of the time in terms of wealth, grandeur, the arts, learning and architecture.

The [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance) period changed Rome's face dramatically, with works like the [Pietà](/wiki/Pietà_(Michelangelo)) by Michelangelo and the frescoes of the Borgia Apartment, all made during Innocent's reign. Rome reached the highest point of splendour under [Pope Julius II](/wiki/Pope_Julius_II) (1503–1513) and his successors [Leo X](/wiki/Pope_Leo_X) and [Clement VII](/wiki/Pope_Clement_VII), both members of the [Medici family](/wiki/House_of_Medici).

[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

In this twenty-year period, Rome became one of the greatest centres of art in the world. The old St. Peter's Basilica built by Emperor [Constantine the Great](/wiki/Constantine_the_Great)[[30]](#cite_note-30) (which by then was in a dilapidated state) was demolished and a new one begun. The city hosted artists like [Ghirlandaio](/wiki/Ridolfo_Ghirlandaio), [Perugino](/wiki/Pietro_Perugino), [Botticelli](/wiki/Sandro_Botticelli) and [Bramante](/wiki/Donato_Bramante), who built the temple of [San Pietro in Montorio](/wiki/San_Pietro_in_Montorio) and planned a great project to renovate the [Vatican](/wiki/Apostolic_Palace). Raphael, who in Rome became one of the most famous painters of Italy, created frescoes in the [Villa Farnesina](/wiki/Villa_Farnesina), the [Raphael's Rooms](/wiki/Raphael_Rooms), plus many other famous paintings. Michelangelo started the decoration of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and executed the famous statue of the [Moses](/wiki/Moses) for the tomb of Julius II. Rome lost in part its religious character, becoming increasingly a true Renaissance city, with a great number of popular feasts, horse races, parties, intrigues and licentious episodes.

Its economy was rich, with the presence of several Tuscan bankers, including [Agostino Chigi](/wiki/Agostino_Chigi), who was a friend of Raphael and a patron of arts. Before his early death, Raphael also promoted for the first time the preservation of the ancient ruins. The fight between France and Spain in Europe caused the first plunder of the city in more than one thousand years. In 1527, the [Landsknechts](/wiki/Landsknecht) of Emperor [Charles V](/wiki/Charles_V,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) [sacked the city](/wiki/Sack_of_Rome_(1527)), putting to an abrupt end the golden age of the Renaissance in Rome.<ref name=be22/>

Beginning with the Council of Trent in 1545, the Church began the Counter-Reformation as an answer to the Reformation, a large-scale questioning of the Church's authority on spiritual matters and governmental affairs. (This loss of confidence then led to major shifts of power away from the Church.)<ref name=be22/> Under the popes from [Pius IV](/wiki/Pius_IV) to [Sixtus V](/wiki/Sixtus_V), Rome became the centre of the reformed Catholicism and saw the installment of new monuments which celebrated the papacy's restored greatness.<ref name=be23>Bertarelli (1925), p.23</ref> The popes and cardinals of the 17th and early 18th centuries continued the movement by having city's landscape enriched with baroque buildings.<ref name=be23/>

This was another nepotistic age: the new noble families ([Barberini](/wiki/Barberini_family), [Pamphili](/wiki/Pamphili_family), [Chigi](/wiki/Chigi_family), [Rospigliosi](/wiki/Rospigliosi_family), [Altieri](/wiki/Altieri_family), [Odescalchi](/wiki/Odescalchi_family)) were protected by their respective popes, who built for their relatives huge baroque buildings.<ref name=be23/> During the [Age of Enlightenment](/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment), new ideas reached also the Eternal City, where the papacy supported archaeological studies and improved the people's welfare.<ref name=be22/> But not everything went well for the Church during the Counter-Reformation. There were setbacks in the attempts to restrain the anti-Church policies of European powers of the time, the most notable setback perhaps being in 1773 when Pope Clement XIV was forced by secular powers to have the Jesuit order suppressed.<ref name=be22/>

### Late modern and contemporary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

The rule of the Popes was interrupted by the short-lived [Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic_(18th_century)) (1798–1800), which was built under the influence of the [French Revolution](/wiki/French_Revolution). The Papal States were restored in June 1800, but during [Napoleon's](/wiki/Napoleon) reign Rome was [annexed as a *Département*](/wiki/Rome_(department)) of the [French Empire](/wiki/First_French_Empire): first as *Département du Tibre* (1808–10) and then as *Département Rome* (1810–14). After the fall of Napoleon, the Church State under the pope was reinstated through the [Congress of Vienna](/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna) of 1814.

In 1849 [another Roman Republic](/wiki/Roman_Republic_(19th_century)) arose within the framework of the [revolutions of 1848](/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848). Two of the most influential figures of the [Italian unification](/wiki/Italian_unification), [Giuseppe Mazzini](/wiki/Giuseppe_Mazzini) and [Giuseppe Garibaldi](/wiki/Giuseppe_Garibaldi), fought for the short-lived republic.

[left|thumb|Italian soldiers](/wiki/File:Breccia_di_Porta_Pia_Ademollo.jpg) [enter Rome](/wiki/Capture_of_Rome) on 20 September 1870.

Rome then became the focus of hopes of Italian reunification, as the rest of Italy was reunited as the [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy), with a temporary capital at [Florence](/wiki/Florence). In 1861 Rome was declared capital of Italy even though it was still under the Pope's control. During the 1860s, the last vestiges of the [Papal States](/wiki/Papal_States) were under French protection, thanks to the foreign policy of [Napoleon III](/wiki/Napoleon_III). It was only when this was lifted in 1870, owing to the outbreak of the [Franco-Prussian War](/wiki/Franco-Prussian_War), that Italian troops were able to [capture Rome](/wiki/Capture_of_Rome) entering the city through a breach near [Porta Pia](/wiki/Porta_Pia). Afterwards, [Pope Pius IX](/wiki/Pope_Pius_IX) declared himself as [prisoner in the Vatican](/wiki/Prisoner_in_the_Vatican), and in 1871 the capital of Italy was finally moved from Florence to Rome.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Soon after World War I, Rome witnessed the rise of [Italian Fascism](/wiki/Italian_Fascism), led by [Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini), who [marched on the city](/wiki/March_on_Rome) in 1922, eventually declaring a new [Italian Empire](/wiki/Imperial_Italy_(fascist)) and allying Italy with [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany). Mussolini pulled down large parts of the city center in order to build wide avenues and squares which were supposed to celebrate the fascist regime and the resurgence of classical Rome.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The interwar period saw a rapid growth in the city's population, which surpassed one million inhabitants. In World War II, due to its art treasuries and the presence of Vatican, Rome largely escaped the tragic destiny of other European cities. However, on 19 July 1943 the [San Lorenzo district](/wiki/Quartiere_San_Lorenzo) was [bombed by Anglo-American forces](/wiki/Bombing_of_Rome_in_World_War_II), resulting in about 3,000 immediate deaths and 11,000 wounded of which another 1,500 died. After [the fall of Mussolini](/wiki/25_Luglio) and the [Italian Armistice](/wiki/Armistice_of_Cassibile) on 8 September 1943, the city was occupied by the Germans and declared an [open city](/wiki/Open_city) until [its liberation on 4 June 1944](/wiki/Liberation_of_Rome#Breakout).

Rome developed momentously after the war, as one of the driving forces behind the "[Italian economic miracle](/wiki/Italian_economic_miracle)" of post-war reconstruction and modernisation in the 1950s and early 1960s. During this period, the years of *la dolce vita* ("the sweet life"), Rome became a fashionable city, with popular classic films such as [*Ben Hur*](/wiki/Ben-Hur_(1959_film)), [*Quo Vadis*](/wiki/Quo_Vadis_(1951_film)), [*Roman Holiday*](/wiki/Roman_Holiday) and [*La Dolce Vita*](/wiki/La_Dolce_Vita) filmed in the city's iconic [Cinecittà](/wiki/Cinecittà) film studios. The rising trend in population growth continued until the mid-1980s, when the *comune* had more than 2.8 million residents. After that, population started to decline slowly as inhabitants began to move to nearby suburbs of Rome.

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Local government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Palazzo_Senatorio_Capitol_Roma_BW_1.JPG)[Palazzo Senatorio](/wiki/Palazzo_Senatorio), Rome City Hall

Rome constitutes a [*comune speciale*](/wiki/Comune), named *"Roma Capitale"*,[[33]](#cite_note-33) and is the largest both in terms of land area and population among the 8,101 *comuni* of Italy. It is governed by a mayor and a city council. The seat of the *comune* is the *Palazzo Senatorio* on the [Capitoline Hill](/wiki/Capitoline_Hill), the historic seat of the city government. The local administration in Rome is commonly referred to as *"Campidoglio"*, the Italian name of the hill.

#### Administrative and historical subdivisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|left|The *municipi* of Rome.](/wiki/File:Roma_-_Municipi_numerata.png) Since 1972 the city has been divided into administrative areas, called *municipi* (sing. *municipio*) (until 2001 named *circoscrizioni*).[[34]](#cite_note-34) They were created for administrative reasons to increase decentralisation in the city. Each *municipio* is governed by a president and a council of four members who are elected by its residents every five years. The *municipi* frequently cross the boundaries of the traditional, non-administrative divisions of the city.  
The municipi where originally 20, then 19.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In 2013 their number has been reduced to 15.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Rome is also divided into differing types of non-administrative units. The historic centre is divided into 22 [*rioni*](/wiki/Rioni_of_Rome), all of which are located within the [Aurelian Walls](/wiki/Aurelian_Walls) except [Prati](/wiki/Prati) and [Borgo](/wiki/Borgo_(rione_of_Rome)).

These originate from the [Regiones of ancient Rome](/wiki/14_regions_of_Augustan_Rome), which evolved in the Middle Ages into the [medieval rioni](/wiki/14_regions_of_Medieval_Rome).[[37]](#cite_note-37) In the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), under Pope [Sixtus V](/wiki/Sixtus_V), they reached again the number of fourteen, and their boundaries were finally defined under [Pope Benedict XIV](/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XIV) in 1743.

A new subdivision of the city under [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) was ephemeral, and there were no sensible changes in the organisation of the city until 1870, when Rome became the third capital of Italy. The needs of the new capital led to an explosion both in the urbanisation and in the population within and outside the [Aurelian walls](/wiki/Aurelian_Walls). In 1874 a fifteenth rione, [Esquilino](/wiki/Esquilino_(rione_of_Rome)), was created on the newly urbanised zone of [Monti](/wiki/Monti_(rione_of_Rome)). At the beginning of the 20th century other rioni where created (the last one was Prati – the only one outside the Walls of [Pope Urban VIII](/wiki/Pope_Urban_VIII) – in 1921). Afterward, for the new administrative subdivisions of the city the name "quartiere" was used. Today all the rioni are part of the first Municipio, which therefore coincides completely with the *historical city* (*Centro Storico*).

### Metropolitan and regional government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

Rome is the principal town of the [Metropolitan City of Rome](/wiki/Metropolitan_City_of_Rome), operative since 1 January 2015. The Metropolitan City replaced the old [province](/wiki/Province_of_Rome), which included the city's metropolitan area and extends further north until [Civitavecchia](/wiki/Civitavecchia). The Metropolitan City of Rome is the largest by area in Italy. At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), its dimensions are comparable to the region of [Liguria](/wiki/Liguria). Moreover, the city is also the capital of the [Lazio](/wiki/Lazio) region.

### National government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

Rome is the national capital of Italy and is the seat of the [Italian Government](/wiki/Politics_of_Italy). The official residences of the [President of the Italian Republic](/wiki/President_of_Italy) and the [Italian Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Italy), the seats of both houses of the [Italian Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Italy) and that of the [Italian Constitutional Court](/wiki/Constitutional_Court_of_Italy) are located in the historic centre. The state ministries are spread out around the city; these include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is located in [Palazzo della Farnesina](/wiki/Palazzo_della_Farnesina) near the Olympic stadium.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|Astronaut view of Rome, 2002](/wiki/File:Rome,_Italy.JPG)

### Location[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Rome is in the [Lazio](/wiki/Lazio) region of [central Italy](/wiki/Central_Italy) on the [Tiber river](/wiki/Tiber_River) ([Template:Lang-it](/wiki/Template:Lang-it)). The original settlement developed on hills that faced onto a ford beside the [Tiber Island](/wiki/Tiber_Island), the only natural ford of the river in this area. The Rome of the Kings was built on seven hills: the [Aventine Hill](/wiki/Aventine_Hill), the [Caelian Hill](/wiki/Caelian_Hill), the [Capitoline Hill](/wiki/Capitoline_Hill), the [Esquiline Hill](/wiki/Esquiline_Hill), the [Palatine Hill](/wiki/Palatine_Hill), the [Quirinal Hill](/wiki/Quirinal_Hill), and the [Viminal Hill](/wiki/Viminal_Hill). Modern Rome is also crossed by another river, the [Aniene](/wiki/Aniene), which flows into the Tiber north of the historic centre.

Although the city centre is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) inland from the [Tyrrhenian Sea](/wiki/Tyrrhenian_Sea), the city territory extends to the shore, where the south-western district of [Ostia](/wiki/Ostia_(Rome)) is located. The altitude of the central part of Rome ranges from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) (at the base of the [Pantheon](/wiki/Pantheon,_Rome)) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) (the peak of [Monte Mario](/wiki/Monte_Mario)).[[38]](#cite_note-38) The *Comune* of Rome covers an overall area of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), including many green areas.

### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|Rome seen from satellite.](/wiki/File:Rome_L7_8_3_2001_lrg.jpg)

Throughout the history of Rome, the urban limits of the city were considered to be the area within the city walls. Originally, these consisted of the [Servian Wall](/wiki/Servian_Wall), which was built twelve years after the [Gaulish](/wiki/Gaul) sack of the city in 390 BC. This contained most of the Esquiline and Caelian hills, as well as the whole of the other five. Rome outgrew the [Servian Wall](/wiki/Servian_Wall), but no more walls were constructed until almost 700 years later, when, in 270 AD, Emperor [Aurelian](/wiki/Aurelian) began building the [Aurelian Walls](/wiki/Aurelian_Walls). These were almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long, and were still the walls the troops of the [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy_(1861–1946)) had to breach to enter the city in 1870. The city's urban area is cut in two by its ring-road, the [*Grande Raccordo Anulare*](/wiki/Grande_Raccordo_Anulare) ("GRA"), finished in 1962, which circles the city centre at a distance of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Although when the ring was completed most part of the inhabited area lay inside it (one of the few exceptions was the former village of [Ostia](/wiki/Ostia_(Rome)), which lies along the tyrrhenian coast), in the meantime quarters have been built which extend up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) beyond it.

The *comune* covers an area roughly three times the total area within the *Raccordo* and is comparable in area to the entire metropolitan cities of [Milan](/wiki/Milan) and [Naples](/wiki/Naples), and to an area six times the size of the territory of these cities. It also includes considerable areas of abandoned marsh land which is suitable neither for agriculture nor for urban development.

As a consequence, the density of the *comune* is not that high, its territory being divided between highly urbanised areas and areas designated as parks, [nature reserves](/wiki/Nature_reserves), and for agricultural use.

## Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Rome enjoys a [hot-summer Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): *Csa*),[[39]](#cite_note-39) with cool, humid winters and hot, dry summers.

Its average annual temperature is above [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night. In the coldest month – January, the average temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night. In the warmest months – July and August, the average temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night.

December, January and February are the coldest months, with a daily mean temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).Temperatures during these months generally vary between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night, with colder or warmer spells occurring frequently. Snowfall is rare but not unheard of, with light snow or flurries occurring almost every winter, generally without accumulation, and major snowfalls once every 20 or 25 years (the last one in 2012).[[40]](#cite_note-40) The average [relative humidity](/wiki/Relative_humidity) is 75%, varying from 72% in July to 77% in November. Sea temperatures vary from a low of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in February and March to a high of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in August.[[41]](#cite_note-41) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) In 550 BC Rome was the second largest city in Italy, with [Tarentum](/wiki/Taranto) being the largest. It had an area of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and an estimated population of 35,000. Other sources suggest the population was just under 100,000 from 600–500 BC.[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43) When the Republic was founded in 509 BC the census recorded a population of 130,000. The republic included the city itself and the immediate surroundings. Other sources suggest a population of 150,000 in 500 BC. It surpassed 300,000 in 150 BC.[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) At the time of the Emperor [Augustus](/wiki/Augustus), Rome was the largest city in the world: with a population of about one million people (about the size of London in the early 19th century, when London was the largest city in the world).[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) After the [fall of the Western Roman Empire](/wiki/Decline_of_the_Roman_Empire), the city's population declined to less than 50,000 people. It continued to stagnate or shrink until the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance).[[51]](#cite_note-51) When the [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy_(1861–1946)) annexed Rome in 1870, the city had a population of about 200,000. This increased to 600,000 by the eve of World War I. The [Fascist](/wiki/Fascism) regime of Mussolini tried to block an excessive demographic rise of the city, but failed to prevent it from reaching one million people by the early 1930s.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify) Population growth continued after the Second World War, helped by a post-war economic boom. A construction boom also created a large number of suburbs during the 1950s and 1960s.

In mid-2010, there were 2,754,440 residents in the city proper, while some 4.2 million people lived in the greater Rome area (which can be approximately identified with its administrative metropolitan city, with a population density of about 800inhab./km2 stretching over more than 5,000 km²). Minors (children ages 18 and younger) totalled 17.00 percent of the population compared to pensioners who number 20.76 percent. This compares with the Italian average of 18.06 percent (minors) and 19.94 percent (pensioners). The average age of a Roman resident is 43 compared to the Italian average of 42. In the five years between 2002 and 2007, the population of Rome grew by 6.54 percent, while Italy as a whole grew by 3.56 percent.[[52]](#cite_note-52) The current birth rate of Rome is 9.10 births per 1,000 inhabitants compared to the Italian average of 9.45 births.

The urban area of Rome extends beyond the administrative city limits with a population of around 3.9 million.<ref name=World\_Urban\_Areas>[Demographia: World Urban Areas](http://www.demographia.com/db-worldua.pdf), January 2015</ref> Between 3.2 and 4.2 million people live in the [Rome metropolitan area](/wiki/Rome_metropolitan_area).[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

According to the latest statistics conducted by ISTAT,[[58]](#cite_note-58) approximately 9.5% of the population consists of non-Italians. About half of the immigrant population consists of those of various other European origins (chiefly Romanian, Polish, Ukrainian, and Albanian) numbering a combined total of 131,118 or 4.7 percent of the population. The remaining 4.8 percent are those with non-European origins, chiefly Filipinos (26,933), Bangladeshis (12,154), and Chinese (10,283).

The [Esquilino](/wiki/Esquilino_(rione_of_Rome)) [*rione*](/wiki/Rioni_of_Rome), off [Termini Railway Station](/wiki/Termini_Station_(Rome)), has evolved into a largely immigrant neighbourhood. It is perceived as Rome's Chinatown. Immigrants from more than a hundred different countries reside there. A commercial district, Esquilino contains restaurants featuring many kinds of international cuisine. There are wholesale clothes shops. Of the 1,300 or so commercial premises operating in the district 800 are Chinese-owned; around 300 are run by immigrants from other countries around the world; 200 are owned by Italians.[[59]](#cite_note-59)

## Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Archbasilica_of_St._John_Lateran_HD.jpg)[Papal Archbasilica of St. John Lateran](/wiki/Archbasilica_of_St._John_Lateran), Rome's Cathedral. Much like the rest of Italy, Rome is predominantly [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic), and the city has been an important centre of religion and pilgrimage for centuries, the base of the ancient Roman Religion with the [pontifex maximus](/wiki/Pontifex_Maximus) and later the seat of the [Vatican](/wiki/Holy_See) and the pope. Before the arrival of the Christians in Rome, the [Religio Romana](/wiki/Religion_in_ancient_Rome) (literally, the "Roman Religion") was the major religion of the city in classical antiquity. The first gods held sacred by the Romans were [Jupiter](/wiki/Jupiter_(mythology)), the most high, and [Mars](/wiki/Mars_(mythology)), god of war, and father of Rome's twin founders, [Romulus and Remus](/wiki/Romulus_and_Remus), according to tradition. Other gods and goddesses such as [Vesta](/wiki/Vesta_(mythology)) and [Minerva](/wiki/Minerva) were honoured. Rome was also the base of several mystery cults, such as [Mithraism](/wiki/Mithraic_Mysteries). Later, after [St Peter](/wiki/Saint_Peter) and [St Paul](/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle) were martyred in the city, and the first Christians began to arrive, Rome became [Christian](/wiki/Christian), and the [Old St. Peter's Basilica](/wiki/Old_St._Peter's_Basilica) was constructed in 313 AD. Despite some interruptions (such as the [Avignon papacy](/wiki/Avignon_Papacy)), Rome has for centuries been the home of the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) and the [Bishop of Rome](/wiki/Pope), otherwise known as the Pope. [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Moschea_00497.JPG)[Mosque of Rome](/wiki/Mosque_of_Rome), the largest mosque in Europe. Despite the fact that Rome is home to the [Vatican City](/wiki/Vatican_City) and St. Peter's Basilica, Rome's cathedral is the [Basilica of St. John Lateran](/wiki/Basilica_of_St._John_Lateran), located to the south-east of the city-centre. There are around 900 churches in Rome in total, aside from the cathedral itself, some others of note include: the [Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore](/wiki/Basilica_di_Santa_Maria_Maggiore), the [Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls](/wiki/Basilica_of_Saint_Paul_Outside_the_Walls), the [Basilica di San Clemente](/wiki/Basilica_di_San_Clemente), [San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane](/wiki/San_Carlo_alle_Quattro_Fontane) and the [Church of the Gesu](/wiki/Church_of_the_Gesu). There are also the ancient [Catacombs of Rome](/wiki/Catacombs_of_Rome) underneath the city. Numerous highly important religious educational institutions are also in Rome, such as the [Pontifical Lateran University](/wiki/Pontifical_Lateran_University), [Pontifical Biblical Institute](/wiki/Pontifical_Biblical_Institute), [Pontifical Gregorian University](/wiki/Pontifical_Gregorian_University), and [Pontifical Oriental Institute](/wiki/Pontifical_Oriental_Institute).

In recent years, there has been a significant growth in Rome's [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) community, mainly due to immigration from North African and Middle Eastern countries into the city. As a result of this increase of the local practitioners of the [Islamic](/wiki/Islam) faith, the *comune* promoted the building of the [Mosque of Rome](/wiki/Mosque_of_Rome), which is the largest mosque in [Western Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe), that was designed by architect [Paolo Portoghesi](/wiki/Paolo_Portoghesi) and inaugurated on 21 June 1995. Since the end of the Roman Republic, Rome is also the center of an important [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish) community,[[60]](#cite_note-60) which was once based in [Trastevere](/wiki/Trastevere), and later in the [Roman Ghetto](/wiki/Roman_Ghetto). There lies also the major synagogue in Rome, the [*Tempio Maggiore*](/wiki/Great_Synagogue_of_Rome).

### Vatican City[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) The territory of Vatican City is part of the *Mons Vaticanus* ([Vatican Hill](/wiki/Vatican_Hill)), and of the adjacent former Vatican Fields, where [St. Peter's Basilica](/wiki/St._Peter's_Basilica), the [Apostolic Palace](/wiki/Apostolic_Palace), the [Sistine Chapel](/wiki/Sistine_Chapel), and museums were built, along with various other buildings. The area was part of the Roman [rione](/wiki/Rione) of [Borgo](/wiki/Borgo_(rione_of_Rome)) until 1929. Being separated from the city on the west bank of the [Tiber river](/wiki/Tiber_River), the area was a suburb that was protected by being included within the walls of [Leo IV](/wiki/Pope_Leo_IV), later expanded by the current fortification walls of [Paul III](/wiki/Pope_Paul_III)/[Pius IV](/wiki/Pope_Pius_IV)/[Urban VIII](/wiki/Pope_Urban_VIII).

When the [Lateran Treaty](/wiki/Lateran_Treaty) of 1929 that created the Vatican state was being prepared, the boundaries of the proposed territory were influenced by the fact that much of it was all but enclosed by this loop. For some tracts of the frontier, there was no wall, but the line of certain buildings supplied part of the boundary, and for a small part of the frontier a modern wall was constructed.

The territory includes [Saint Peter's Square](/wiki/Saint_Peter's_Square), separated from the territory of Italy only by a white line along the limit of the square, where it borders Piazza Pio XII. St. Peter's Square is reached through the [Via della Conciliazione](/wiki/Via_della_Conciliazione), which runs from the Tiber River to St. Peter's. This grand approach was designed by architects [Piacentini](/wiki/Marcello_Piacentini) and Spaccarelli, for want of [Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini) and in accordance with the church, after the conclusion of the [Lateran Treaty](/wiki/Lateran_Treaty). According to the [Lateran Treaty](/wiki/Lateran_Treaty), certain [properties of the Holy See](/wiki/Properties_of_the_Holy_See) located in Italian territory, most notably the [Papal Palace of Castel Gandolfo](/wiki/Papal_Palace_of_Castel_Gandolfo) and the [major basilicas](/wiki/Major_basilica), enjoy extraterritorial status similar to that of foreign [embassies](/wiki/Diplomatic_mission).

### Pilgrimage[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

Rome has been a major Christian pilgrimage site since the Middle Ages. People from all over the [Christian world](/wiki/Christian_world) visit Vatican City, within the city of Rome, the seat of the papacy. The Pope was the most influential figure during the Middle Ages. The city became a major pilgrimage site during the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages) and the focus of struggles between the Papacy and the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire) starting with [Charlemagne](/wiki/Charlemagne), who was crowned its first emperor in Rome in 800 by [Pope Leo III](/wiki/Pope_Leo_III). Apart from brief periods as an independent city during the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages), Rome kept its status as Papal capital and "holy city" for centuries, even when the Papacy [briefly relocated](/wiki/Avignon_papacy) to [Avignon](/wiki/Avignon) (1309–1377). Catholics believe that the Vatican is the last resting place of St. Peter.

Pilgrimages to Rome can involve visits to a large number of sites, both within the Vatican City and in Italian territory. A popular stopping point is the [Pilate's stairs](/wiki/Scala_sancta): these are, according to the Christian tradition, the steps that led up to the [praetorium](/wiki/Praetorium) of [Pontius Pilate](/wiki/Pontius_Pilate) in [Jerusalem](/wiki/Jerusalem), which [Jesus Christ](/wiki/Jesus_Christ) stood on during his [Passion](/wiki/Passion_(Christianity)) on his way to trial.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The stairs were, reputedly, brought to Rome by [St. Helena](/wiki/Helena_of_Constantinople) in the 4th Century. For centuries, the *Scala Santa* has attracted Christian pilgrims who wished to honor the Passion of Jesus. Object of pilgrimage are also several catacombs built in the Roman age, in which Christians prayed, buried their dead and performed worship during periods of persecution, and various national churches (among them [San Luigi dei francesi](/wiki/San_Luigi_dei_francesi) and [Santa Maria dell'Anima](/wiki/Santa_Maria_dell'Anima)), or churches associated with individual religious orders, such as the Jesuit Churches of Jesus and Sant`Ignazio.

Traditionally, pilgrims in Rome and Roman citizens thanking God for a grace should visit by foot the [seven pilgrim churches](/wiki/Seven_Pilgrim_Churches_of_Rome) ([Template:Lang-it](/wiki/Template:Lang-it)) in 24 hours. This custom, mandatory for each pilgrim in the Middle Ages, was codified in the 16th century by Saint [Philip Neri](/wiki/Philip_Neri). The seven churches are the four major Basilicas ([St Peter in Vatican](/wiki/Basilica_of_St_Peter), [St Paul outside the Walls](/wiki/St_Paul_outside_the_Walls), [St John in Lateran](/wiki/St_John_in_Lateran) and [Santa Maria Maggiore](/wiki/Santa_Maria_Maggiore)), while the other three are [San Lorenzo fuori le mura](/wiki/San_Lorenzo_fuori_le_mura) (a paleochristian Basilica), [Santa Croce in Gerusalemme](/wiki/Santa_Croce_in_Gerusalemme) (a church founded by [Helena](/wiki/Helena_(empress)), the mother of Constantine, which hosts fragments of wood attributed to the holy cross) and [San Sebastiano fuori le mura](/wiki/San_Sebastiano_fuori_le_mura) (which lies on the [Appian Way](/wiki/Appian_Way) and is built above [Roman catacombs](/wiki/Catacombs_of_San_Sebastiano)).

## Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Pantheon_Front.jpg) [Pantheon](/wiki/Pantheon,_Rome).

Rome's architecture over the centuries has greatly developed, especially from the Classical and Imperial Roman styles to modern [Fascist architecture](/wiki/Fascist_architecture). Rome was for a period one of the world's main epicentres of classical architecture, developing new forms such as the [arch](/wiki/Arch), the [dome](/wiki/Dome) and the [vault](/wiki/Vault_(architecture)).[[62]](#cite_note-62) The [Romanesque](/wiki/Romanesque_architecture) style in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries was also widely used in Roman architecture, and later the city became one of the main centres of [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) and neoclassic architecture.[[62]](#cite_note-62)

#### Ancient Rome[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:RomaCastelSantAngelo.jpg)[Castel Sant'Angelo](/wiki/Castel_Sant'Angelo). [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Roma_San_Paolo_fuori_le_mura_BW_1.JPG) [Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura](/wiki/Basilica_of_Saint_Paul_Outside_the_Walls). [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) One of the symbols of Rome is the [Colosseum](/wiki/Colosseum) (70–80 AD), the largest [amphitheatre](/wiki/Amphitheatre) ever built in the Roman Empire. Originally capable of seating 60,000 spectators, it was used for [gladiatorial](/wiki/Gladiator) combat. A list of important monuments and sites of ancient Rome includes the [Roman Forum](/wiki/Roman_Forum), the [Domus Aurea](/wiki/Domus_Aurea), the [Pantheon](/wiki/Pantheon,_Rome), [Trajan's Column](/wiki/Trajan's_Column), [Trajan's Market](/wiki/Trajan's_Market), the [Catacombs](/wiki/Catacombs_of_Rome), the [Circus Maximus](/wiki/Circus_Maximus), the [Baths of Caracalla](/wiki/Baths_of_Caracalla), [Castel Sant'Angelo](/wiki/Castel_Sant'Angelo), the [Mausoleum of Augustus](/wiki/Mausoleum_of_Augustus), the [Ara Pacis](/wiki/Ara_Pacis), the [Arch of Constantine](/wiki/Arch_of_Constantine), the [Pyramid of Cestius](/wiki/Pyramid_of_Cestius), and the [Bocca della Verità](/wiki/Bocca_della_Verità).

#### Medieval[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

The middle age boroughs of the city, lying mainly around the Capitol, have been largely pulled down between the end of the 19th century and the fascist period, but many notable buildings still stay. Basilicas dating from the [Paleochristian](/wiki/Early_Christianity) age include [Santa Maria Maggiore](/wiki/Basilica_di_Santa_Maria_Maggiore) and [San Paolo Fuori le Mura](/wiki/Basilica_of_Saint_Paul_Outside_the_Walls) (the latter largely rebuilt in the 19th century), both housing precious 4th century AD mosaics. Later notable medieval mosaic and fresco art can be also found in the churches of [Santa Maria in Trastevere](/wiki/Santa_Maria_in_Trastevere), [Santi Quattro Coronati](/wiki/Santi_Quattro_Coronati), and [Santa Prassede](/wiki/Santa_Prassede). Lay buildings include a number of towers, the largest being the [Torre delle Milizie](/wiki/Torre_delle_Milizie) and the [Torre dei Conti](/wiki/Torre_dei_Conti), both next the Roman Forum, and the huge staircase leading to the basilica of [Santa Maria in Ara Coeli](/wiki/Santa_Maria_in_Aracoeli).

#### Renaissance and Baroque[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Rome was a major world centre of the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), second only to Florence, and was profoundly affected by the movement. Among others, a masterpiece of [Renaissance architecture](/wiki/Renaissance_architecture) in Rome is the Piazza del Campidoglio by [Michelangelo](/wiki/Michelangelo). During this period, the great aristocratic families of Rome used to build opulent dwellings as the [Palazzo del Quirinale](/wiki/Quirinal_Palace) (now seat of the [President of the Italian Republic](/wiki/President_of_Italy)), the [Palazzo Venezia](/wiki/Palazzo_Venezia), the [Palazzo Farnese](/wiki/Palazzo_Farnese), the [Palazzo Barberini](/wiki/Palazzo_Barberini), the [Palazzo Chigi](/wiki/Palazzo_Chigi) (now seat of the [Italian Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Italy)), the [Palazzo Spada](/wiki/Palazzo_Spada), the [Palazzo della Cancelleria](/wiki/Palazzo_della_Cancelleria), and the [Villa Farnesina](/wiki/Villa_Farnesina).

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

Many of the famous city's squares – some huge, majestic and often adorned with [obelisks](/wiki/List_of_obelisks_in_Rome), some small and picturesque – got their present shape during the Renaissance and Baroque. The principal ones are [Piazza Navona](/wiki/Piazza_Navona), [Piazza di Spagna](/wiki/Spanish_Steps), [Campo de' Fiori](/wiki/Campo_de'_Fiori), [Piazza Venezia](/wiki/Piazza_Venezia), [Piazza Farnese](/wiki/Palazzo_Farnese,_Rome), [Piazza della Rotonda](/wiki/Pantheon,_Rome) and [Piazza della Minerva](/wiki/Santa_Maria_sopra_Minerva). One of the most emblematic examples of Baroque art is the [Fontana di Trevi](/wiki/Trevi_Fountain) by [Nicola Salvi](/wiki/Nicola_Salvi). Other notable 17th-century [baroque palaces](/wiki/Baroque_architecture) are the [Palazzo Madama](/wiki/Palazzo_Madama), now the seat of the [Italian Senate](/wiki/Italian_Senate) and the [Palazzo Montecitorio](/wiki/Palazzo_Montecitorio), now the seat of the [Chamber of Deputies of Italy](/wiki/Italian_Chamber_of_Deputies).

#### Neoclassicism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:RomaAltarePatriaTramonto.jpg) [Monument to Vittorio Emanuele II](/wiki/Monument_to_Vittorio_Emanuele_II). [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Roma_Piazza_del_Popolo_BW_1.JPG)[Piazza del Popolo](/wiki/Piazza_del_Popolo).

In 1870, Rome became the capital city of the new [Kingdom of Italy](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Italy_(1861–1946)). During this time, [neoclassicism](/wiki/Neoclassical_architecture), a building style influenced by the architecture of [antiquity](/wiki/Classical_antiquity), became a predominant influence in [Roman architecture](/wiki/Architecture_of_ancient_Rome). During this period, many great palaces in neoclassical styles were built to host ministries, embassies, and other governing agencies. One of the best-known symbols of Roman neoclassicism is the [Monument of Vittorio Emanuele II](/wiki/Monument_to_Vittorio_Emanuele_II) or "Altar of the Fatherland", where the [Grave of the Unknown Soldier](/wiki/Monument_to_Vittorio_Emanuele_II#Unknown_soldier), that represents the 650,000 Italians that fell in World War I, is located.

#### Fascist architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|The Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana, symbol of EUR and of Fascist architecture.](/wiki/File:Roma_Palazzo_della_Civiltà_Italiana_BW_-_from_Commons.jpg) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

The Fascist regime that ruled in Italy between 1922 and 1943 had its showcase in Rome. Mussolini let build new avenues and piazzas, obtained through the destruction of roads, houses, churches and palaces erected during the papal rule. The main enterprises during his government were: the "isolation" of the [Capitoline Hill](/wiki/Capitoline_Hill); Via dei Monti, later renamed Via del'Impero, and finally [Via dei Fori Imperiali](/wiki/Via_dei_Fori_Imperiali); Via del Mare, later renamed Via del [Teatro di Marcello](/wiki/Teatro_di_Marcello); the "isolation" of the [Mausoleum of Augustus](/wiki/Mausoleum_of_Augustus), with the erection of Piazza Augusto Imperatore; [Via della Conciliazione](/wiki/Via_della_Conciliazione).

Architectonically, Fascism in a first stage favored the most modern movements, like the [Rationalism](/wiki/Rationalism_(architecture)). Parallel to it, in the 1920s another style emerged, named "Stile Novecento", characterised by its links with ancient Roman architecture. One important realization in the latter style is the Foro Mussolini, now [Foro Italico](/wiki/Foro_Italico), by [Enrico Del Debbio](/wiki/Enrico_Del_Debbio). Next to it, the most important Fascist site in Rome is the [EUR](/wiki/EUR,_Rome) district, designed in 1938 by [Marcello Piacentini](/wiki/Marcello_Piacentini). This new quarter emerged as a compromise between Rationalist and Novecento architects, the former being led by [Giuseppe Pagano](/wiki/Giuseppe_Pagano). The EUR was originally conceived for the [1942 world exhibition](/wiki/Esposizione_universale_(1942)), and was called "E.42" (*"Esposizione 42"*). The most representative buildings of EUR are the [Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana](/wiki/Palazzo_della_Civiltà_Italiana) (1938–1943), the iconic design of which has been labelled the cubic of Square Colosseum, and the [Palazzo dei Congressi](/wiki/Palazzo_dei_Congressi), example of Rationalist style. The world exhibition, however, never took place because Italy entered the Second World War in 1940, and the realized buildings were partly destroyed in 1943 during the fighting between Italian and German army after the armistice and later abandoned. The quarter was restored in the 1950s, when the Roman authorities found that they already had the seed of an off-centre business district of the type that other capitals were still planning ([London Docklands](/wiki/London_Docklands) and [La Défense](/wiki/La_Défense) in Paris). Also the [Palazzo della Farnesina](/wiki/Palazzo_della_Farnesina), the current seat of the [Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Italy)), was designed in 1935 in pure Fascist style.

### Parks and gardens[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[thumb|left|The gardens of](/wiki/File:Rome-VillaBorghese-TempleEsculape.jpg) [Villa Borghese](/wiki/Villa_Borghese_gardens). [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Spanish_Steps,_Rome,_Sept._2011_-_Flickr_-_PhillipC_(3).jpg)[Spanish Steps](/wiki/Spanish_Steps) and [Trinita dei Monti](/wiki/Trinita_dei_Monti) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Public parks and nature reserves cover a large area in Rome, and the city has one of the largest areas of green space among European capitals.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The most notable part of this green space is represented by the large number of villas and landscaped gardens created by the Italian aristocracy. While most of the parks surrounding the villas were destroyed during the building boom of the late 19th century, some of them remain. The most notable of these are [Villa Borghese](/wiki/Villa_Borghese_gardens), [Villa Ada](/wiki/Villa_Ada), and [Villa Doria Pamphili](/wiki/Villa_Doria_Pamphili). Villa Doria Pamphili is west of the Gianicolo hill comprising some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Also on the Gianicolo hill there is [Villa Sciarra](/wiki/Villa_Sciarra_(Rome)), with playgrounds for children and shaded walking areas. In the nearby area of Trastevere the [Orto Botanico](/wiki/Orto_Botanico_dell'Università_di_Roma_%22La_Sapienza%22) (Botanical Garden) is a cool and shady green space. The old Roman hippodrome (Circus Maximus) is another large green space: it has few trees, but is overlooked by the Palatine and the Rose Garden ('roseto comunale'). Nearby is the lush [Villa Celimontana](/wiki/Villa_Celimontana), close to the gardens surrounding the Baths of Caracalla. The Villa Borghese garden is the best known large green space in Rome, with famous art galleries among its shaded walks. Overlooking [Piazza del Popolo](/wiki/Piazza_del_Popolo) and the Spanish Steps are the gardens of [Pincio](/wiki/Pincio) and [Villa Medici](/wiki/Villa_Medici). Noteworthy is also the Pine wood of [Castelfusano](/wiki/Castelfusano), near Ostia. Rome also has a number of regional parks of much more recent origin including the [Pineto Regional Park](/wiki/Pineto_Regional_Park) and the Appian Way Regional Park. There are also nature reserves at Marcigliana and at Tenuta di Castelporziano.

### Fountains and aqueducts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

Rome is a city famous for its numerous fountains, built in all different styles, from Classical and Medieval, to Baroque and Neoclassical. The city has had [fountains](/wiki/Fountain) for more than two thousand years, and they have provided drinking water and decorated the [piazzas](/wiki/Piazza) of Rome. During the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire), in 98 AD, according to [Sextus Julius Frontinus](/wiki/Sextus_Julius_Frontinus), the Roman consul who was named *curator aquarum* or guardian of the water of the city, Rome had nine [aqueducts](/wiki/Aqueduct_(watercourse)) which fed 39 monumental fountains and 591 public basins, not counting the water supplied to the Imperial household, baths and owners of private villas. Each of the major fountains was connected to two different aqueducts, in case one was shut down for service.[[64]](#cite_note-64) During the 17th and 18th century the Roman popes reconstructed other ruined Roman aqueducts and built new display fountains to mark their termini, launching the golden age of the Roman fountain. The fountains of Rome, like the paintings of [Rubens](/wiki/Peter_Paul_Rubens), were expressions of the new style of Baroque art. They were crowded with allegorical figures, and filled with emotion and movement. In these fountains, sculpture became the principal element, and the water was used simply to animate and decorate the sculptures. They, like baroque gardens, were "a visual representation of confidence and power".[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Statues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|150px|The 39.7 m tall](/wiki/File:Kolumna_Aureliusza.jpg)[[66]](#cite_note-66) [Column of Marcus Aurelius](/wiki/Column_of_Marcus_Aurelius). Rome is well known for its statues but, in particular, the [talking statues of Rome](/wiki/Talking_statues_of_Rome). These are usually ancient statues which have become popular soapboxes for political and social discussion, and places for people to (often satirically) voice their opinions. There are two main talking statues: the [Pasquino](/wiki/Pasquino) and the [Marforio](/wiki/Marforio), yet there are four other noted ones: [il Babuino](/wiki/Il_Babuino), [Madama Lucrezia](/wiki/Madama_Lucrezia), [il Facchino](/wiki/Il_Facchino) and [Abbot Luigi](/wiki/Abbot_Luigi). Most of these statues are ancient Roman or classical, and most of them also depict mythical gods, ancient people or legendary figures; il Pasquino represents [Menelaus](/wiki/Menelaus), Abbot Luigi is an unknown Roman magistrate, il Babuino is supposed to be [Silenus](/wiki/Silenus), [Marforio](/wiki/Marforio) represents [Oceanus](/wiki/Oceanus), Madama Lucrezia is a bust of [Isis](/wiki/Isis), and [il Facchino](/wiki/Il_Facchino) is the only non-Roman statue, created in 1580, and not representing anyone in particular. They are often, due to their status, covered with placards or [graffiti](/wiki/Graffiti) expressing political ideas and points of view. Other statues in the city, which are not related to the talking statues, include those of the Ponte Sant'Angelo, or several monuments scattered across the city, such as that to [Giordano Bruno](/wiki/Giordano_Bruno) in the Campo de'Fiori.

### Obelisks and columns[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The city hosts eight [ancient Egyptian](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) and five [ancient Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) [obelisks](/wiki/Obelisk), together with a number of more modern obelisks; there was also formerly (until 2005) an [ancient Ethiopian](/wiki/Aksumite_Empire) obelisk in Rome.[[67]](#cite_note-67) The city contains some of obelisks in [piazzas](/wiki/Piazza), such as in [Piazza Navona](/wiki/Piazza_Navona), [St Peter's Square](/wiki/Saint_Peter's_Square), [Piazza Montecitorio](/wiki/Piazza_di_Monte_Citorio), and [Piazza del Popolo](/wiki/Piazza_del_Popolo), and others in [villas](/wiki/Villa), [thermae](/wiki/Thermae) parks and gardens, such as in [Villa Celimontana](/wiki/Villa_Mattei), the [Baths of Diocletian](/wiki/Baths_of_Diocletian), and the [Pincian Hill](/wiki/Pincian_Hill). Moreover, the centre of Rome hosts also [Trajan's](/wiki/Trajan's_column) and [Antonine Column](/wiki/Column_of_Marcus_Aurelius), two ancient Roman columns with spiral relief.

### Bridges[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Bridge_of_Angels.jpg)[Bridge of Angels](/wiki/Ponte_Sant'Angelo) which leads to Castel Sant'Angelo. The city of Rome contains numerous famous bridges which cross the [Tiber](/wiki/Tiber_River). The only bridge to remain unaltered until today from the classical age is [Ponte dei Quattro Capi](/wiki/Pons_Fabricius), which connects the [Isola Tiberina](/wiki/Isola_Tiberina) with the left bank. The other surviving – albeit modified – ancient Roman bridges crossing the Tiber are [Ponte Cestio](/wiki/Pons_Cestius), [Ponte Sant'Angelo](/wiki/Ponte_Sant'Angelo) and [Ponte Milvio](/wiki/Ponte_Milvio). Considering [Ponte Nomentano](/wiki/Ponte_Nomentano), also built during ancient Rome, which crosses the [Aniene](/wiki/Aniene), currently there are five ancient Roman bridges still remaining in the city.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Other noteworthy bridges are [Ponte Sisto](/wiki/Ponte_Sisto), the first bridge built in the Renaissance above Roman foundations; [Ponte Rotto](/wiki/Ponte_Rotto), actually the only remaining arch of the ancient *Pons Aemilius*, collapsed during the flood of 1598 and demolished at the end of the 19th century; and [Ponte Vittorio Emanuele II](/wiki/Ponte_Vittorio_Emanuele_II), a modern bridge connecting Corso Vittorio Emanuele and Borgo. Most of the city's public bridges were built in Classical or Renaissance style, but also in Baroque, Neoclassical and Modern styles. According to the [Encyclopædia Britannica](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica), the finest ancient bridge remaining in Rome is the [Ponte Sant'Angelo](/wiki/Ponte_Sant'Angelo), which was completed in 135 AD, and was decorated with ten statues of the angels, designed by [Bernini](/wiki/Gian_Lorenzo_Bernini) in 1688.[[69]](#cite_note-69)

### Catacombs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Rome has extensive amount of ancient catacombs, or underground burial places under or near the city, of which there are at least forty, some discovered only in recent decades. Though most famous for Christian burials, they include [pagan](/wiki/Religion_in_ancient_Rome) and Jewish burials, either in separate catacombs or mixed together. The first large-scale catacombs were excavated from the 2nd century onwards. Originally they were carved through [tuff](/wiki/Tuff), a soft [volcanic rock](/wiki/Volcanic_rock), outside the boundaries of the city, because [Roman law](/wiki/Roman_law) forbade burial places within city limits. Currently maintenance of the catacombs is in the hands of the [Papacy](/wiki/Pope) which has invested in the [Salesians of Don Bosco](/wiki/Salesians_of_Don_Bosco) the supervision of the Catacombs of St. Callixtus on the outskirts of Rome.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) Being the capital city of Italy, Rome hosts all the principal institutions of the nation, like the Presidency of the Republic, the government (and its single Ministeri), the Parliament, the main judicial Courts, and the diplomatic representatives of all the countries for the states of Italy and the Vatican City (curiously, Rome also hosts, in the Italian part of its territory, the Embassy of Italy for the Vatican City, a unique case of an Embassy within the boundaries of its own country). Many international institutions are located in Rome, notably cultural and scientific ones – such as the American Institute, the British School, the French Academy, the Scandinavian Institutes, the German Archaeological Institute – for the honour of scholarship in the Eternal City, and Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, such as the [FAO](/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization). Rome, also hosts major international and worldwide political and cultural organisations, such as the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](/wiki/International_Fund_for_Agricultural_Development) (IFAD), [World Food Programme](/wiki/World_Food_Programme) (WFP), the [NATO Defence College](/wiki/NATO_Defence_College) and ICCROM, the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property. Rome is currently an beta+ [world city](/wiki/Global_city), falling down from its alpha- status in 2008, along with [Berlin](/wiki/Berlin), [Bucharest](/wiki/Bucharest), [Athens](/wiki/Athens), [Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon), [Montreal](/wiki/Montreal) and [Budapest](/wiki/Budapest).[[9]](#cite_note-9) Rome was also ranked in 2014 as 32nd in the Global Cities Index, being the highest-ranking city in Italy.[[11]](#cite_note-11) With a 2005 GDP of €94.376 billion (US$121.5 billion),[[70]](#cite_note-70) the city produces 6.7% of the national GDP (more than any other single city in Italy), and its unemployment rate, lowered from 11.1% to 6.5% between 2001 and 2005, is now one of the lowest rates of all the European Union capital cities.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Rome grows +4.4% annually and continues to grow at a higher rate in comparison to any other city in the rest of the country.[[70]](#cite_note-70) This means that were Rome a country, it would be the world's 52nd richest country by GDP, near to the size to that of Egypt. Rome also had a 2003 GDP per capita of €29,153 (US$37,412), which was second in Italy, (after Milan), and is more than 134.1% of the EU average GDP per capita.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Rome, on the whole, has the highest total earnings in Italy, reaching €47,076,890,463 in 2008,[[72]](#cite_note-72) yet, in terms of average workers' incomes, the city places itself 9th in Italy, with €24,509.[[72]](#cite_note-72) On a global level, Rome's workers receive the 30th highest wages in 2009, coming three places higher than in 2008, in which the city ranked 33rd.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The Rome area had a [GDP amounting to $167.8 billion](/wiki/List_of_cities_by_GDP), and $38,765 per capita.[[74]](#cite_note-74)[thumb|Rome stock exchange in ancient](/wiki/File:1463RomaBorsa.jpg) [Temple of Hadrian](/wiki/Temple_of_Hadrian)

Although the economy of Rome is characterised by the absence of heavy industry and it is largely dominated by [services](/wiki/Service_(economics)), high-technology companies (IT, aerospace, defence, telecommunications), research, construction and commercial activities (especially banking), and the huge development of tourism are very dynamic and extremely important to its economy. Rome's international airport, [Fiumicino](/wiki/Fiumicino), is the largest in Italy, and the city hosts the head offices of the vast majority of the major Italian companies, as well as the headquarters of three of the world's 100 largest companies: [Enel](/wiki/Enel), [Eni](/wiki/Eni), and [Telecom Italia](/wiki/Telecom_Italia).[[75]](#cite_note-75) Universities, national radio and television and the movie industry in Rome are also important parts of the economy: Rome is also the hub of the [Italian film industry](/wiki/Cinema_of_Italy), thanks to the Cinecittà studios, working since the 1930s. The city is also a centre for banking and insurance as well as electronics, energy, transport, and aerospace industries. Numerous international companies and agencies headquarters, government ministries, conference centres, sports venues, and museums are located in Rome's principal business districts: the [Esposizione Universale Roma](/wiki/Esposizione_Universale_Roma) (EUR); the *Torrino* (further south from the EUR); the *Magliana*; the *Parco de' Medici-Laurentina* and the so-called *Tiburtina-valley* along the ancient [Via Tiburtina](/wiki/Via_Tiburtina).

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[thumb|right|200px|The new campus of Rome University, built in 1935 by](/wiki/File:RomeUniversity1938.jpg) [Marcello Piacentini](/wiki/Marcello_Piacentini), in a 1938 picture.

Rome is a nationwide and major international centre for higher education, containing numerous academies, colleges and universities. It boasts a large variety of academies and colleges, and has always been a major worldwide intellectual and educational centre, especially during [Ancient Rome](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) and the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), along with Florence.[[76]](#cite_note-76) According to the City Brands Index, Rome is considered the world's second most historically, educationally and culturally interesting and beautiful city.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Rome has a large number of universities and colleges. Its first university, [La Sapienza](/wiki/Sapienza_University_of_Rome) (founded in 1303), is one of the largest in the world, with more than 140,000 students attending; in 2005 it ranked as Europe's 33rd best university[[78]](#cite_note-78) and in 2013 the Sapienza University of Rome ranked as the 62nd in the world and the top in Italy in its *World University Rankings*.[[79]](#cite_note-79) and currently ranks among Europe's 50 and the world's 150 best colleges.[[80]](#cite_note-80) In order to decrease the overcrowding of La Sapienza, two new public universities were founded during the last decades: [Tor Vergata](/wiki/University_of_Rome_Tor_Vergata) in 1982, and [Roma Tre](/wiki/Roma_Tre_University) in 1992. Rome hosts also the [LUISS School of Government](http://www.sog.luiss.it/), Italy's most important graduate university in the areas of international affairs and European studies. Rome [ISIA](/wiki/Istituto_superiore_per_le_industrie_artistiche_(ISIA)) was founded in 1973 by [Giulio Carlo Argan](/wiki/Giulio_Carlo_Argan) and is Italy's oldest institution in the field of [industrial design](/wiki/Industrial_design).

Rome contains also a large number of [pontifical universities](/wiki/Pontifical_university) and other institutes, including the [British School at Rome](/wiki/British_School_at_Rome), the [French School in Rome](/wiki/French_Academy_in_Rome), the [Pontifical Gregorian University](/wiki/Pontifical_Gregorian_University) (The oldest [Jesuit](/wiki/Society_of_Jesus) university in the world, founded in 1551), [Istituto Europeo di Design](/wiki/Istituto_Europeo_di_Design), the, the [Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici](/wiki/Lorenzo_de'_Medici_School), the Link [Campus of Malta](/wiki/Link_Campus), and the [Università Campus Bio-Medico](/wiki/Università_Campus_Bio-Medico). Rome is also the location of two American Universities; [The American University of Rome](/wiki/The_American_University_of_Rome)[[81]](#cite_note-81) and [John Cabot University](/wiki/John_Cabot_University) as well as [St. John's University](/wiki/St._John's_University_(Italy)) branch campus, [John Felice Rome Center](/wiki/John_Felice_Rome_Center), a campus of [Loyola University Chicago](/wiki/Loyola_University_Chicago) and Temple University Rome, a campus of [Temple University](/wiki/Temple_University).[[82]](#cite_note-82) The [Roman Colleges](/wiki/Roman_Colleges) are several [seminaries](/wiki/Seminary) for students from foreign countries studying for the [priesthood](/wiki/Catholic_priesthood) at the Pontifical Universities.[[83]](#cite_note-83)Examples include the [Venerable English College](/wiki/Venerable_English_College), the [Pontifical North American College](/wiki/Pontifical_North_American_College), the [Scots College](/wiki/Scots_College_(Rome)), and the [Pontifical Croatian College of St. Jerome](/wiki/Pontifical_Croatian_College_of_St._Jerome).

Rome's major libraries include: the [Biblioteca Angelica](/wiki/Biblioteca_Angelica), opened in 1604, making it Italy's first public library; the [Biblioteca Casanatense](/wiki/Biblioteca_Casanatense), opened in 1701; the [Biblioteca Vallicelliana](/wiki/Biblioteca_Vallicelliana); [Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute of Art History](/wiki/Bibliotheca_Hertziana_–_Max_Planck_Institute_of_Art_History), a German library located in Rome, often noted for excellence in the arts and sciences;[[84]](#cite_note-84) the [National Central Library](/wiki/National_Central_Library_(Rome)), one of the two national libraries in Italy, which contains 4,126,002 volumes; The Biblioteca del Ministero degli Affari Esteri, specialised in diplomacy, foreign affairs and modern history; the Biblioteca dell'Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana; the Biblioteca Don Bosco, one of the largest and most modern of all Salesian libraries; the Biblioteca e Museo teatrale del Burcardo, a museum-library specialised in history of drama and theatre; the Biblioteca della Società Geografica Italiana, which is based in the [Villa Celimontana](/wiki/Villa_Mattei) and is the most important geographical library in Italy, and one of Europe's most important;[[85]](#cite_note-85) and the [Vatican Library](/wiki/Vatican_Library), one of the oldest and most important libraries in the world, which was formally established in 1475, though in fact much older and has 75,000 [codices](/wiki/Codex) from throughout history.<ref name=vfl>Vatican Film Library informational pamphlet</ref>

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Entertainment and performing arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Rome is an important centre for music, and it has an intense musical scene, including several prestigious music conservatories and theatres. It hosts the [Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia](/wiki/Accademia_Nazionale_di_Santa_Cecilia) (founded in 1585), for which new concert halls have been built in the new [Parco della Musica](/wiki/Parco_della_Musica), one of the largest musical venues in the world. Rome also has an opera house, the [Teatro dell'Opera di Roma](/wiki/Teatro_dell'Opera_di_Roma), as well as several minor musical institutions. The city also played host to the [Eurovision Song Contest](/wiki/Eurovision_Song_Contest_1991) in 1991 and the [MTV Europe Music Awards](/wiki/MTV_Europe_Music_Awards_2004) in 2004.

Rome has also had a major impact in music history. The [Roman School](/wiki/Roman_School) was a group of composers of predominantly church music, which were active in the city during the 16th and 17th centuries, therefore spanning the late [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance_music) and early [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque_music) eras. The term also refers to the music they produced. Many of the composers had a direct connection to the [Vatican](/wiki/Holy_See) and the [papal chapel](/wiki/Sistine_Chapel), though they worked at several churches; stylistically they are often contrasted with the [Venetian School](/wiki/Venetian_School_(music)) of composers, a concurrent movement which was much more progressive. By far the most famous composer of the Roman School is [Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina](/wiki/Giovanni_Pierluigi_da_Palestrina), whose name has been associated for four hundred years with smooth, clear, [polyphonic](/wiki/Polyphony) perfection. However, there were other composers working in Rome, and in a variety of styles and forms.

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Infobox World Heritage Site](/wiki/Template:Infobox_World_Heritage_Site)

Rome today is one of the most important tourist destinations of the world, due to the incalculable immensity of its archaeological and artistic treasures, as well as for the charm of its unique traditions, the beauty of its panoramic views, and the majesty of its magnificent "villas" (parks). Among the most significant resources are the many museums – Musei Capitolini, the Vatican Museums and the Galleria Borghese and others dedicated to modern and contemporary art – [aqueducts](/wiki/Aqueduct_(watercourse)), [fountains](/wiki/Fountain), churches, [palaces](/wiki/Palace), historical buildings, the [monuments](/wiki/Monument) and ruins of the [Roman Forum](/wiki/Roman_Forum), and the [Catacombs](/wiki/Catacombs). Rome is the third most visited city in the EU, after London and Paris, and receives an average of 7–10 million tourists a year, which sometimes doubles on holy years. The Colosseum (4 million tourists) and the [Vatican Museums](/wiki/Vatican_Museums) (4.2 million tourists) are the 39th and 37th (respectively) most visited places in the world, according to a recent study.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Rome is a major archaeological hub, and one of the world's main centres of [archaeological research](/wiki/Archaeology). There are numerous cultural and research institutes located in the city, such as the [American Academy in Rome](/wiki/American_Academy_in_Rome),[[87]](#cite_note-87) and The Swedish Institute at Rome.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Rome contains numerous [ancient sites](/wiki/List_of_ancient_monuments_in_Rome), including the [Forum Romanum](/wiki/Roman_Forum), [Trajan's Market](/wiki/Trajan's_Market), [Trajan's Forum](/wiki/Trajan's_Forum),[[89]](#cite_note-89) the [Colosseum](/wiki/Colosseum), and the [Pantheon](/wiki/Pantheon,_Rome), to name but a few. The [Colosseum](/wiki/Colosseum), arguably one of Rome's most iconic archaeological sites, is regarded as a [wonder of the world](/wiki/Wonders_of_the_World).<ref name=brewers>I H Evans (reviser), *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* (Centenary edition Fourth impression (corrected); London: Cassell, 1975), page 1163</ref><ref name=miller>[Francis Trevelyan Miller](/wiki/Francis_Trevelyan_Miller), [Woodrow Wilson](/wiki/Woodrow_Wilson), [William Howard Taft](/wiki/William_Howard_Taft), [Theodore Roosevelt](/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt). *America, the Land We Love* (1915), [page 201 Google Books Search](https://books.google.com/books?vid=OCLC00334597&id=UAMqLz88aXAC&pg=PA201&lpg=PA201&dq=%22seven+wonders+of+the+middle+ages%22)</ref>

Rome contains a vast and impressive collection of art, sculpture, [fountains](/wiki/Fountain), [mosaics](/wiki/Mosaic), [frescos](/wiki/Fresco), and paintings, from all different periods. Rome first became a major artistic centre during ancient Rome, with forms of important [Roman art](/wiki/Roman_art) such as [architecture](/wiki/Architecture_of_ancient_Rome), painting, sculpture and [mosaic](/wiki/Mosaic) work. [Metal-work](/wiki/Metalworking), [coin die](/wiki/Coin_die) and gem engraving, [ivory carvings](/wiki/Ivory_carving), figurine glass, [pottery](/wiki/Ancient_Roman_pottery), and book illustrations are considered to be 'minor' forms of Roman artwork.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Rome later became a major centre of [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance) art, since the popes spent vast sums of money for the constructions of grandiose [basilicas](/wiki/Basilica), [palaces](/wiki/Palace), [piazzas](/wiki/Piazza) and public buildings in general. Rome became one of Europe's major centres of Renaissance artwork, second only to [Florence](/wiki/Florence), and able to compare to other major cities and cultural centres, such as Paris and [Venice](/wiki/Venice). The city was affected greatly by the [baroque](/wiki/Italian_Baroque), and Rome became the home of numerous artists and architects, such as [Bernini](/wiki/Gian_Lorenzo_Bernini), [Caravaggio](/wiki/Caravaggio), [Carracci](/wiki/Annibale_Carracci), [Borromini](/wiki/Francesco_Borromini) and [Cortona](/wiki/Cortona).[[91]](#cite_note-91) In the late 18th century and early 19th century, the city was one of the centres of the [Grand Tour](/wiki/Grand_Tour),[[92]](#cite_note-92) when wealthy, young English and other European aristocrats visited the city to learn about [ancient Roman culture](/wiki/Culture_of_ancient_Rome), art, philosophy and architecture. Rome hosted a great number of neoclassical and rococo artists, such as [Pannini](/wiki/Giovanni_Paolo_Pannini) and [Bernardo Bellotto](/wiki/Bernardo_Bellotto). Today, the city is a major artistic centre, with numerous art institutes[[93]](#cite_note-93) and museums.

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) [thumb|Original relief from the](/wiki/File:Rom,_Titusbogen,_Triumphzug_3.jpg) [Arch of Titus](/wiki/Arch_of_Titus) showing spoils from the [siege of Jerusalem](/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(AD_70)) and the destruction of its famous [Second Temple](/wiki/Second_Temple)

Rome has a growing stock of contemporary and modern art and architecture. The National Gallery of Modern Art has works by Balla, Morandi, Pirandello, Carrà, De Chirico, De Pisis, Guttuso, Fontana, Burri, Mastroianni, Turcato, Kandisky and Cézanne on permanent exhibition. 2010 saw the opening of Rome's newest arts foundation, a contemporary art and architecture gallery designed by acclaimed Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid. Known as [MAXXI – National Museum of the 21st Century Arts](/wiki/MAXXI_–_National_Museum_of_the_21st_Century_Arts) it restores a dilapidated area with striking modern architecture. Maxxi[[94]](#cite_note-94) features a campus dedicated to culture, experimental research laboratories, international exchange and study and research. It is one of Rome's most ambitious modern architecture projects alongside [Renzo Piano's](/wiki/Renzo_Piano) Auditorium Parco della Musica[[95]](#cite_note-95) and [Massimiliano Fuksas'](/wiki/Massimiliano_Fuksas) Rome Convention Center, Centro Congressi Italia EUR, in the EUR district, due to open in 2016.[[96]](#cite_note-96) The Convention Center features a huge translucent container inside which is suspended a steel and teflon structure resembling a cloud and which contains meeting rooms and an auditorium with two piazzas open to the neighbourhood on either side.

### Fashion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

Rome is also widely recognised as a world [fashion capital](/wiki/Fashion_capital). Although not as important as Milan, Rome is the fourth most important center for fashion in the world, according to the 2009 [Global Language Monitor](/wiki/Global_Language_Monitor) after [Milan](/wiki/Milan), New York and Paris, and beating London.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Major luxury fashion houses and jewellery chains, such as [Valentino](/wiki/Valentino), [Bulgari](/wiki/Bulgari), [Fendi](/wiki/Fendi),[[98]](#cite_note-98) [Laura Biagiotti](/wiki/Laura_Biagiotti) and [Brioni (fashion)](/wiki/Brioni_(fashion)), are headquartered or were founded in the city. Also, other major labels, such as [Chanel](/wiki/Chanel), [Prada](/wiki/Prada), [Dolce & Gabbana](/wiki/Dolce_&_Gabbana), [Armani](/wiki/Armani) and [Versace](/wiki/Versace) have luxury boutiques in Rome, primarily along its prestigious and upscale [Via dei Condotti](/wiki/Via_Condotti).

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[thumb|*Spaghetti*](/wiki/File:Spaghetti_alla_Carbonara.jpg) [*alla Carbonara*](/wiki/Carbonara), a typical Roman dish [thumb|](/wiki/File:Carciofo_alla_Giudia.jpg)[*Carciofi alla giudia*](/wiki/Carciofi_alla_giudia), example of Roman-Jewish cuisine

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Rome's cuisine has evolved through centuries and periods of social, cultural, and political changes. Rome became a major gastronomical centre during the [ancient Age](/wiki/Ancient_Rome). [Ancient Roman cuisine](/wiki/Ancient_Roman_cuisine) was highly influenced by Ancient Greek culture, and after, the empire's enormous expansion exposed Romans to many new, provincial culinary habits and cooking techniques. Later, during the [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), Rome became well known as a centre of high-cuisine, since some of the best chefs of the time, worked for the popes. An example of this could be [Bartolomeo Scappi](/wiki/Bartolomeo_Scappi), who was a chef, working for [Pius IV](/wiki/Pope_Pius_IV) in the Vatican kitchen, and he acquired fame in 1570 when his cookbook *Opera dell'arte del cucinare* was published. In the book he lists approximately 1000 recipes of the Renaissance [cuisine](/wiki/Cuisine) and describes cooking techniques and tools, giving the first known picture of a [fork](/wiki/Fork).[[99]](#cite_note-99)   
In the modern age, the city developed its own peculiar cuisine, based on products of the nearby [Campagna](/wiki/Roman_Campagna), as lamb and vegetables ([globe artichokes](/wiki/Artichoke) are common).[[100]](#cite_note-100) In parallel, Roman Jews -present in the city since the 1st century BC- developed their own cuisine, the *cucina giudaico-romanesca*. Examples of Roman dishes include "[*Saltimbocca*](/wiki/Saltimbocca) *alla Romana*" – a veal cutlet, Roman-style; topped with raw ham and sage and simmered with white wine and butter; "[*Carciofi alla romana*](/wiki/Carciofi_alla_romana)" – artichokes Roman-style; outer leaves removed, stuffed with mint, garlic, breadcrumbs and braised; "[*Carciofi alla giudia*](/wiki/Carciofi_alla_giudia)" – artichokes fried in olive oil, typical of Roman Jewish cooking; outer leaves removed, stuffed with mint, garlic, breadcrumbs and braised; "[*Spaghetti alla carbonara*](/wiki/Carbonara)" – spaghetti with [bacon](/wiki/Bacon), [eggs](/wiki/Egg_(food)) and [pecorino](/wiki/Pecorino), and "[*Gnocchi*](/wiki/Gnocchi) *di semolino alla romana*" – [semolina](/wiki/Semolina) dumpling, Roman-style, to name but a few.[[101]](#cite_note-101)

### Cinema[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[thumb|right|Set of *Gangs of New York* in](/wiki/File:Martin_scorsese_gangs_of_new_york_set_in_cinecitta_italy.jpg) [Cinecittà](/wiki/Cinecittà) studios, Rome [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Rome hosts the [Cinecittà](/wiki/Cinecittà) Studios,[[102]](#cite_note-102) the largest film and television production facility in continental Europe and the centre of the [Italian cinema](/wiki/Cinema_of_Italy), where a large number of today's biggest box office hits are filmed. The [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) studio complex is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the centre of Rome and is part of one of the biggest production communities in the world, second only to [Hollywood](/wiki/Hollywood,_Los_Angeles,_California), with well over 5,000 professionals – from period costume makers to visual effects specialists. More than 3,000 productions have been made on its lot, from recent features like [*The Passion of the Christ*](/wiki/The_Passion_of_the_Christ), [*Gangs of New York*](/wiki/Gangs_of_New_York), [HBO's *Rome*](/wiki/Rome_(TV_series)), [*The Life Aquatic*](/wiki/The_Life_Aquatic_with_Steve_Zissou) and [Dino De Laurentiis'](/wiki/Dino_De_Laurentiis) [*Decameron*](/wiki/The_Decameron), to such cinema classics as [*Ben-Hur*](/wiki/Ben-Hur_(1959_film)), [*Cleopatra*](/wiki/Cleopatra_(1963_film)), and the films of [Federico Fellini](/wiki/Federico_Fellini).

Founded in 1937 by [Benito Mussolini](/wiki/Benito_Mussolini), the studios were bombed by the [Western Allies](/wiki/Western_Allies) during the Second World War. In the 1950s, Cinecittà was the filming location for several large American film productions, and subsequently became the studio most closely associated with [Federico Fellini](/wiki/Federico_Fellini). Today Cinecittà is the only studio in the world with pre-production, production, and full post-production facilities on one lot, allowing directors and producers to walk in with their script and "walk out" with a completed film.

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Although associated today only with Latin, ancient Rome was in fact multilingual. In highest antiquity [Sabine](/wiki/Sabine) tribes shared the area of what is today Rome with Latin tribes. The Sabine language was one of the [Italic](/wiki/Italic_languages) group of ancient Italian languages, along with Etruscan, which would have been the main language of the last three kings who ruled the city till the founding of the Republic in 509 BC. Urganilla, or [Plautia Urgulanilla](/wiki/Plautia_Urgulanilla), wife of Emperor Claudius, is thought to have been a speaker of Etruscan many centuries after this date, according to Suetonius' entry on Claudius. However Latin, in various evolving forms, was the main language of classical Rome, but as the city had immigrants, slaves, residents, ambassadors from many parts of the world it was also multilingual. Many educated Romans also spoke Greek, and there was a large Greek, Syriac and Jewish population in parts of Rome from well before the Empire.

[Latin](/wiki/Latin) evolved during the Middle Ages into a new language, the *volgare*. The latter emerged as the confluence of various regional dialects, among which the [Tuscan dialect](/wiki/Tuscan_Language) predominated, but the population of Rome also developed its own dialect, the [Romanesco](/wiki/Romanesco_dialect). The *Romanesco* spoken during the Middle Ages was a southern Italian dialect, very close to the [Neapolitan](/wiki/Neapolitan_language). The influence of the [Florentine](/wiki/Florence) culture during the [renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance), and, above all, the immigration to Rome of many Florentines following the two [Medici](/wiki/House_of_Medici) Popes ([Leo X](/wiki/Pope_Leo_X) and [Clement VII](/wiki/Pope_Clement_VII)), caused a major shift in the dialect, which began to resemble more the Tuscan varieties. This remained largely confined to Rome until the 19th century, but then expanded to other zones of [Lazio](/wiki/Lazio) ([Civitavecchia](/wiki/Civitavecchia), [Latina](/wiki/Latina,_Lazio)), from the beginning of the 20th century, thanks to the rising population of Rome and to better transportation systems. As a consequence of education and media like radio and television, Romanesco became more and more similar to standard Italian. Dialectal literature in the traditional form Romanesco includes the works of such authors as [Giuseppe Gioachino Belli](/wiki/Giuseppe_Gioachino_Belli) (one of the most important Italian poets altogether), [Trilussa](/wiki/Trilussa), and [Cesare Pascarella](/wiki/Cesare_Pascarella). Contemporary Romanesco is mainly represented by popular actors such as [Aldo Fabrizi](/wiki/Aldo_Fabrizi), [Alberto Sordi](/wiki/Alberto_Sordi), [Nino Manfredi](/wiki/Nino_Manfredi), [Anna Magnani](/wiki/Anna_Magnani), [Gigi Proietti](/wiki/Gigi_Proietti), [Enrico Montesano](/wiki/Enrico_Montesano), and [Carlo Verdone](/wiki/Carlo_Verdone).

Rome's historic contribution to language in a worldwide sense is much more extensive however. Through the process of [Romanisation](/wiki/Romanization_(cultural)), the peoples of [Gallia](/wiki/Gallia), the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), Italy and [Dacia](/wiki/Dacia) developed languages which derive directly from Latin and were adopted in large areas of the world both through colonization and cultural influence. Moreover, also modern English, because of the [Norman Conquest](/wiki/Norman_Conquest), borrowed a large percentage of its vocabulary from the Latin language. The [Roman or Latin alphabet](/wiki/Latin_alphabet) is the most widely used writing system in the world used by the greatest number of languages.[[103]](#cite_note-103) Rome has long hosted artistic communities, foreign resident communities and a large number of foreign religious students or pilgrims and so has always been a multilingual city. Today because of mass tourism many languages are used in servicing tourism, especially English which is widely known in tourist areas, and the city hosts large numbers of immigrants and so has many multilingual immigrant areas.

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Stadio_Olimpico_2008.JPG)[Stadio Olimpico](/wiki/Stadio_Olimpico), one of the largest in Europe, with a capacity of over 70,000.[[104]](#cite_note-104) The [Olympic Stadium](/wiki/Olympic_Stadium_(Rome)) is mostly used as a shared home stadium for [Serie A](/wiki/Serie_A) [football](/wiki/Association_football) clubs [S.S. Lazio](/wiki/S.S._Lazio) and [A.S. Roma](/wiki/A.S._Roma), who contest the [Derby della Capitale](/wiki/Derby_della_Capitale).[[105]](#cite_note-105) [Association football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular sport in Rome, as in the rest of the country. The city hosted the final games of the [1934](/wiki/1934_FIFA_World_Cup) and [1990 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1990_FIFA_World_Cup). The latter took place in the [Olympic Stadium](/wiki/Stadio_Olimpico), which is also the home stadium for local [Serie A](/wiki/Serie_A) clubs [S.S. Lazio](/wiki/S.S._Lazio), founded in 1900, and [A.S. Roma](/wiki/A.S._Roma) was founded in 1927, whose rivalry has become a staple of Roman sports culture. Footballers who play for these teams and are also born in the city tend to become especially popular, as has been the case with players such as [Francesco Totti](/wiki/Francesco_Totti) and [Daniele De Rossi](/wiki/Daniele_De_Rossi) (both for A.S. Roma), and [Alessandro Nesta](/wiki/Alessandro_Nesta) (for S.S. Lazio). [Atletico Roma](/wiki/Atletico_Roma) is a minor team that played in [First Division](/wiki/Lega_Pro_Prima_Divisione) until 2012; its home stadium was [Stadio Flaminio](/wiki/Stadio_Flaminio).

Rome hosted the [1960 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1960_Summer_Olympics), with great success, using many ancient sites such as the [Villa Borghese](/wiki/Villa_Borghese) and the [Thermae of Caracalla](/wiki/Baths_of_Caracalla) as venues. For the Olympic Games many new structures were created, notably the new large Olympic Stadium (which was also enlarged and renewed to host qualification and the final match of the [1990 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1990_FIFA_World_Cup)), the Villaggio Olimpico (Olympic Village, created to host the athletes and redeveloped after the games as a residential district), ecc. Rome made a [bid](/wiki/Rome_bid_for_the_2020_Summer_Olympics) to host the [2020 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2020_Summer_Olympics) but it was withdrawn before the deadline for applicant files.[[106]](#cite_note-106)[[107]](#cite_note-107) [Rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) is gaining wider acceptance. Until 2011 the [Stadio Flaminio](/wiki/Stadio_Flaminio) was the home stadium for the [Italy national rugby union team](/wiki/Italy_national_rugby_union_team), which has been playing in the [Six Nations Championship](/wiki/Six_Nations_Championship) since 2000. The team now plays home games at the Stadio Olimpico because the Stadio Flaminio needs works of renovation in order to improve both its capacity and safety. Rome is home to local rugby union teams such as [Rugby Roma](/wiki/Rugby_Roma_Olimpic) (founded in 1930 and winner of five Italian championships, the latter in 1999–2000), [Unione Rugby Capitolina](/wiki/Unione_Rugby_Capitolina) and [S.S. Lazio 1927](/wiki/S.S._Lazio_Rugby_1927) (rugby union branch of the multisport club [S.S. Lazio](/wiki/S.S._Lazio)).

Every May, Rome hosts the [ATP Masters Series](/wiki/ATP_World_Tour_Masters_1000) tennis tournament on the clay courts of the [Foro Italico](/wiki/Foro_Italico). Cycling was popular in the post-World War II period, although its popularity has faded. Rome has hosted the final portion of the [Giro d'Italia](/wiki/Giro_d'Italia) twice, in 1989 and 2000. Rome is also home to other sports teams, including basketball ([Virtus Roma](/wiki/Pallacanestro_Virtus_Roma)), volleyball ([M. Roma Volley](/wiki/M._Roma_Volley)), [handball](/wiki/Team_handball) or [waterpolo](/wiki/Water_polo).

## Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Aeroporto_Fiumicino_-_Torre_ENAV_ristrutturata_2015.jpeg)[Rome-Fiumicino Airport](/wiki/Leonardo_da_Vinci-Fiumicino_Airport) was the [eighth busiest airport](/wiki/List_of_the_busiest_airports_in_Europe) in Europe in 2012.

Rome is at the centre of the radial network of roads that roughly follow the lines of the ancient Roman roads which began at the [Capitoline Hill](/wiki/Capitoline_Hill) and connected Rome with its empire. Today Rome is circled, at a distance of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) from the Capitol, by the ring-road (the [*Grande Raccordo Anulare*](/wiki/Grande_Raccordo_Anulare) or *GRA*).

Due to its location in the centre of the Italian peninsula, Rome is the principal railway node for central Italy. Rome's main railway station, [Termini](/wiki/Roma_Termini_railway_station), is one of the largest railway stations in Europe and the most heavily used in Italy, with around 400 thousand travellers passing through every day. The second-largest station in the city, [Roma Tiburtina](/wiki/Roma_Tiburtina_railway_station), has been redeveloped as a [high-speed rail](/wiki/High-speed_rail_in_Italy) terminus.[[108]](#cite_note-108) Rome is served by three airports. The intercontinental [Leonardo da Vinci International Airport](/wiki/Leonardo_da_Vinci-Fiumicino_Airport) is Italy's chief airport, is located within the nearby [Fiumicino](/wiki/Fiumicino), south-west of Rome. The older [Rome Ciampino Airport](/wiki/Rome_Ciampino_Airport) is a joint civilian and military airport. It is commonly referred to as "Ciampino Airport", as it is located beside [Ciampino](/wiki/Ciampino), south-east of Rome. A third airport, the [Roma-Urbe](/wiki/Roma-Urbe) Airport, is a small, low-traffic airport located about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) north of the city centre, which handles most helicopter and private flights.

Although the city has its own quarter on the Mediterranean Sea ([Lido di Ostia](/wiki/Lido_di_Ostia)), this has only a marina and a small channel-harbour for fisher boats. The main harbour which serves Rome is [Port of Civitavecchia](/wiki/Port_of_Civitavecchia), located about 62 km northwest of the city.[[109]](#cite_note-109) The city suffers from traffic problems largely due to this radial street pattern, making it difficult for Romans to move easily from the vicinity of one of the radial roads to another without going into the historic centre or using the ring-road. These problems are not helped by the limited size of Rome's metro system when compared to other cities of similar size. In addition, Rome has only 21 taxis for every 10,000 inhabitants, far below other major European cities.[[110]](#cite_note-110) Chronic congestion caused by cars during the 1970s and 1980s led to restrictions being placed on vehicle access to the inner city-centre during the hours of daylight. Areas where these restriction apply are known as Limited Traffic Zones (*Zona a Traffico Limitato* (ZTL) in Italian). More recently, heavy night-time traffic in [Trastevere](/wiki/Trastevere), [Testaccio](/wiki/Testaccio) and [San Lorenzo](/wiki/Quartiere_San_Lorenzo) has led to the creation of night-time ZTLs in those districts.

[thumb|Roma Metrorail and Underground 2016](/wiki/File:Roma_Metropolitana_e_Ferrovia_2012.png) A 3-line metro system called the [*Metropolitana*](/wiki/Rome_Metro) operates in Rome. Construction on the first branch started in the 1930s. The line had been planned to quickly connect the [main railway station](/wiki/Roma_Termini_railway_station) with the newly planned E42 area in the southern suburbs, where the 1942 [World Fair](/wiki/Esposizione_universale_(1942)) was supposed to be held. The event never took place because of war, but the area was later partly redesigned and renamed [EUR](/wiki/Esposizione_Universale_Roma) (Esposizione Universale di Roma: Rome Universal Exhibition) in the 1950s to serve as a modern business district. The line was finally opened in 1955, and it is now the south part of the B Line.

The A line opened in 1980 from Ottaviano to Anagnina stations, later extended in stages (1999–2000) to Battistini. In the 1990s, an extension of the B line was opened from Termini to Rebibbia. This underground network is generally reliable (although it may become very congested at peak times and during events, especially the A line) as it is relatively short.

The A and B lines intersect at Roma Termini station. A new branch of the B line (B1) opened on 13 June 2012 after an estimated building cost of €500 million. B1 connects to line B at Piazza Bologna and has four stations over a distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

A third line, the C line, is under construction with an estimated cost of €3 billion and will have 30 stations over a distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). It will partly replace the existing [Termini](/wiki/Roma_Termini_railway_station)-Pantano rail line. It will feature full automated, driverless trains.[[111]](#cite_note-111) The first section with 15 stations connecting Pantano with the quarter of Centocelle in the eastern part of the city, opened on 9 November 2014.[[112]](#cite_note-112) The end of the work was scheduled in 2015, but archaeological findings often delay underground construction work.

A fourth line, D line, is also planned. It will have 22 stations over a distance of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The first section was projected to open in 2015 and the final sections before 2035, but due to the city's financial crisis the project has been put on hold.

Above-ground public transport in Rome is made up of a bus, tram and urban train network (FR lines). The bus, tram, metro and urban railways network is run by *Atac S.p.A.* (which originally stood for the Municipal Bus and Tramways Company, *Azienda Tramvie e Autobus del Comune* in Italian). The bus network has in excess of 350 bus lines and over eight thousand bus stops, whereas the more-limited tram system has [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of track and 192 stops.[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) There is also one [trolleybus](/wiki/Trolleybus) line, opened in 2005, and additional trolleybus lines are planned.[[115]](#cite_note-115)

## International entities, organisations and involvement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:FAO_sede.jpg)[FAO](/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization) headquarters in Rome, Circo Massimo

Among the [global cities](/wiki/Global_cities), Rome is unique in having a sovereign state located entirely within its city limits, the Vatican City. The Vatican is an enclave of the Italian [capital city](/wiki/Capital_city) and a sovereign possession of the [Holy See](/wiki/Holy_See) which is the Diocese of Rome and the supreme government of the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church). Rome hosts foreign embassies to both Italy and the Holy See, although frequently the same ambassador is accredited to both.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Several international [Roman Colleges](/wiki/Roman_Colleges) and [Pontifical Universities](/wiki/Pontifical_Universities_in_Rome) are located in Rome.

The Pope is the [Bishop of Rome](/wiki/Bishop_of_Rome) and its official seat is the [Archbasilica of St. John Lateran](/wiki/Archbasilica_of_St._John_Lateran) (of which the [President of the French Republic](/wiki/President_of_the_French_Republic) is [*ex officio*](/wiki/Ex_officio) the "first and only [honorary canon](/wiki/Honorary_canons)", a title held by the heads of the French state since [King Henry IV of France](/wiki/King_Henry_IV_of_France)). Another body, the [Sovereign Military Order of Malta](/wiki/Sovereign_Military_Order_of_Malta) (SMOM), took refuge in Rome in 1834, due to the conquest of Malta by [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) in 1798. It is sometimes classified as having sovereignty but does not claim any territory in Rome or anywhere else, hence leading to dispute over its actual sovereign status.

Rome is the seat of the so-called **Polo Romano**[[116]](#cite_note-116) made up by three main international agencies of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations): the [Food and Agriculture Organization](/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization) (FAO), the [World Food Programme](/wiki/World_Food_Programme) (WFP) and the [International Fund for Agricultural Development](/wiki/International_Fund_for_Agricultural_Development) (IFAD).

Rome has traditionally been involved in the process of European political integration. The [Treaties of the EU](/wiki/Treaties_of_the_EU) are located in [Palazzo della Farnesina](/wiki/Palazzo_della_Farnesina), seat of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](/wiki/Ministry_of_Foreign_Affairs_(Italy)), due the fact that the Italian government is the depositary of the treaties. In 1957 the city hosted the signing of the [Treaty of Rome](/wiki/Treaties_of_Rome), which established the [European Economic Community](/wiki/European_Economic_Community) (predecessor to the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union)), and also played host to the official signing of the proposed [European Constitution](/wiki/Treaty_establishing_a_Constitution_for_Europe) in July 2004.

Rome is the seat of the [European Olympic Committee](/wiki/European_Olympic_Committee) and of the [NATO Defense College](/wiki/NATO_Defense_College). The city is the place where the [Statute of the International Criminal Court](/wiki/Rome_Statute_of_the_International_Criminal_Court) and the [European Convention on Human Rights](/wiki/European_Convention_on_Human_Rights) were formulated.

The city hosts also other important international entities such as the [IDLO](/wiki/IDLO) (International Development Law Organisation), the [ICCROM](/wiki/ICCROM) (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and the [UNIDROIT](/wiki/UNIDROIT) (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law).

## Twin towns, sister cities and partner cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|upright|Column dedicated to Paris in 1956 near the](/wiki/File:Castro_Pretorio_-_Colonna_di_Parigi_alle_Terme_di_Diocleziano_1010023.JPG) [Baths of Diocletian](/wiki/Baths_of_Diocletian)

Rome is since 9 April 1956 exclusively and reciprocally [twinned](/wiki/Twin_towns_and_sister_cities) only with:

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Paris](/wiki/Paris), France

[Template:Fr icon](/wiki/Template:Fr_icon) *Seule Paris est digne de Rome; seule Rome est digne de Paris.*

[Template:It icon](/wiki/Template:It_icon) *Solo Parigi è degna di Roma; solo Roma è degna di Parigi.*

"Only Paris is worthy of Rome; only Rome is worthy of Paris."[[117]](#cite_note-117)[[118]](#cite_note-118)[[119]](#cite_note-119)

Rome's sister and partner cities are: [Template:Columns-list](/wiki/Template:Columns-list)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group](/wiki/C40_Cities_Climate_Leadership_Group)
* [List of museums in Rome](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Rome)
* [List of shopping areas and markets in Rome](/wiki/List_of_shopping_areas_and_markets_in_Rome)
* [List of tallest buildings in Rome](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Rome)
* [List of theatres and opera houses in Rome](/wiki/List_of_theatres_and_opera_houses_in_Rome)
* [Outline of Italy](/wiki/Outline_of_Italy)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## Documentaries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

* [*Scam City*](/wiki/Scam_City) – [Season 1 (2012)](/wiki/Scam_City#Season_1_(2012))
* *The Holy Cities: Rome* produced by Danae Film Production, distributed by HDH Communications; 2006.

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)

Official

* [Commune of Rome](http://www.comune.roma.it/) [Template:It icon](/wiki/Template:It_icon)
* [APT (official Tourist Office) of the City of Rome](http://www.turismoroma.it/?lang=en) [Template:En icon](/wiki/Template:En_icon)
* [Rome Museums – Official site](http://en.museiincomuneroma.it/) [Template:En icon](/wiki/Template:En_icon)
* [Capitoline Museums](http://en.museicapitolini.org/) [Template:En icon](/wiki/Template:En_icon)

[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Rome](/wiki/Category:Rome) [Category:Ancient city of Rome](/wiki/Category:Ancient_city_of_Rome) [Category:Capitals in Europe](/wiki/Category:Capitals_in_Europe) [Category:Holy cities](/wiki/Category:Holy_cities) [Category:New Testament cities](/wiki/Category:New_Testament_cities) [Category:Populated places established in the 8th century BC](/wiki/Category:Populated_places_established_in_the_8th_century_BC) [Category:World Heritage Sites in Italy](/wiki/Category:World_Heritage_Sites_in_Italy)