



PLACES OF INTEREST

HISTORY (continued)

Franks. It wasn't until the 15th century that a resurgence took place and Rome progressed rapidly. In 1814 it was annexed to the French Empire by Napoleon, but in 1870 Italian troops recaptured the City and restored it to the Kingdom of Italy. A year later the Capital was moved from Florence to Rome. In 1922 Mussolini began the Fascist Regime that lasted 20 years. At its fall, Rome was occupied by the Germans until liberated by the Allies in 1944. In 1946 Italy was declared a Republic by referendum.

Places of Interest

1 The Colosseum (72 A.D.) at Piazzale del Colosseo, is Ancient Rome's best known monument and was the arena of games and gladiators. The largest structure of its kind ever built, it was capable of seating 50,000 spectators. Only about one-third of the original building remains.

2 The Arch of Constantine, next to the Colosseum, was erected in 315 A.D. and honored the Emperor's Victory over Pagan forces and Rome's conversion to Christianity as a result of Constantine's battlefield vision of a cross.

3 Forum, adjoining the Palantine Hill, is now a mass of ruins. It was once the commercial, civil and religious center of Rome and here stood large ceremonial buildings, the House of the Vestal Virgins, temples, two public halls and many monuments and statues

4 Pantheon, located in Piazza della Rotonda in the center of the City, is the most perfect of the ancient monuments. First erected in 27 B.C., it was later restored by the Emperor Hadrian, and in 606 A.D. became a Christian church. It is now the burial place for prominent people, including the painter; Raphael and members of Italian royalty.

5 Castel Sant' Angelo was built by Emperor Hadrian as his mausoleum in 139 A.D., and is an imposing fortress on the right bank of the Tiber, near the Vatican. It is now a museum displaying works of art and historical relics.

6 Vatican City – this tiny sovereign state contains the residence of the Pope, the world's largest church and most famous square and many art treasures. It has its own post office and postage stamps and is governed politically by the Pope and protected by a small army of Swiss Guards.

St. Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican, stands on the site of the Circus of Nero. The largest Catholic church ever built, consecrated in 1626 after many years of construction under the direction of several famous architects including; Bramante, Raphael and Michelangelo. Among the chief objects of interest are the 5th century bronze statue of St. Peter, the tomb of Peter under the altar, and Michelangelo's Pieta, a superb marble sculpture of the Virgin and the dead Christ.

Vatican Museum is actually eight museums, five galleries and the Sistine Chapel, which is the private chapel of the Popes and named after Pope Sixtus IV who ordered it built. From 1508 to 1512 Michelangelo worked on the ceiling, painting the story of humanity from the creation to the flood, the largest work ever accomplished by a single artist.

- Flash photography is not permitted in the Vatican Museum, and no photography of any kind is permitted in the Sistine Chapel.
- Visitors wearing; shorts, sleeveless T-Shirts or blouses or otherwise revealing clothing will not be permitted to enter St. Peter's Basilica or the Vatican Museums.

Piazza San Pietro is the most popular of the many squares in Rome. Standing before St. Peter's, it is said to hold 400,000 people and the area is surrounded by 284 doric columns, designed by Bernini.

7 Piazza Navona is believed by the Romans to be one of the most beautiful squares in the world and is dominated by Bernini's impressive 'Fountain of the Four Rivers'. A favorite people watching spot with many quaint outdoor cafes.

8 Piazza di Spagna (Spanish Steps) is a picturesque square and steps named after a palace that housed the Spanish Embassy. The oldest feature of the area is the Barcaccia Fountain, depicting a sinking barge and reputedly the work of Bernini. The 137 steps were actually built by the French to connect the French Quarter at the top, to the Spanish Quarter below.

Piazza Venezia is at the end of Via Del Corso. Here is the huge monument to Victor Emmanuel II, built in 1911 of white marble, the largest outdoor altar in Europe, which also contains Italy's 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'. It is in this square that Mussolini made his speeches from the balcony of the 15th century Palazzo Venezia, his official residence.

9 Fontana di Trevi – Of Rome's many beautiful fountains, the Trevi is the most famous. Located on Via Della Muratte, there is a romantic legend attached to the Fountain that says 'whoever tosses in a coin will one day return to Rome'.

10 Villa Borghese, the most famous of Rome's parks, is beyond the Via Veneto and includes the Galleria Borghese, a pleasure palace created by Cardinal Borghese in 1613. The Gallery contains many famous works of art and sculpture.

Rome, as a city, represents a vast array of cultural and entertainment interests, too numerous to fully mention. For further information please consult the Shore Excursion Desk who will do their best to assist.

- Admission Charges are in local currency.
- When going ashore, passengers are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Civitavecchia, Rome and their surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Most items have fixed prices, but it may be possible to get a discount on a large purchase. It is normal to bargain at markets, except for food items.

Tiping: Generally a 10% service charge is added to restaurant bills, however, as this amount doesn't all go to the waiter, it is normal to offer a 5% tip to the waiter in addition to any service charge. For taxi drivers, a 5 – 10% tip is acceptable.

Local Cuisine: There are many varieties of pasta available with a wide range of sauces, Bucatini all'amatricana is one example associated with Rome, a thick spaghetti in a tangy tomato and bacon sauce. Osso Bucco is popular, a casserole of veal shin, flavored with garlic, tomatoes and wine. For dessert try Ricotta Cake, a form of cheesecake, or Zuppa Inglese; a liqueur soaked sponge, covered with a custard, similar to English Trifle.

Drink Specialties: Through-out Italy there can be found many coffee bars, often without seating, where Espresso or Capuccino are the thing to drink. The local wine is Frascati, a light, dry white wine from the region just to the south of Rome.

Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shops are generally open from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Shops usually remain closed on Monday mornings, particularly in Rome.

In Civitavecchia the main shopping area includes Piazza Vittorio Emanuele and Corso Centocelle, however, shopping opportunities are limited.

In Rome many stores catering to tourists will open on Sundays. The main shopping district is that between the Spanish Steps and Via del Corso, particularly Via Condotti and the streets adjoining it, where the more exclusive boutiques are found, and Via Frattina where lower-priced items may be found.

Fashion is the main attraction with particularly good buys in leather and silk. Other items of interest include; Italian art and antiques, ceramics, costume jewelry and straw goods. There is a flea market at Porta Portese every Sunday.

Some tourist orientated stores may accept U.S. Dollars, most accept major credit cards.

Value Added Tax (VAT), is added to most purchases. Visitors who spend over a certain amount may be entitled to re-claim some or all of the tax paid, however, regulations and conditions governing the refund of VAT are subject to change. RCCL cannot guarantee the cooperation of local authorities.