

# ABOUT ITALY

Italy covers an area of 301 337 km<sup>2</sup> of which 92% is rural. The total population is 60.7 million, of which almost 58% live in rural areas. The utilised agricultural area is just under 13 million hectares. The average size of farm is 7.9 ha of total agricultural land. Nearly half (51%) of agricultural holdings are small farms (recorded as having between 0.1 ha and 1.9 ha of agricultural land)



## WHAT TO SEE IN ROME:

### The Colosseum

The Colosseum, or 'Colosseo' in Italian, was once the largest amphitheatre in the Roman Empire. It was built in the first century AD by the Emperor Vespasian as a place for the people of Rome to enjoy. Originally named the Flavian Amphitheatre, after Vespasian's family name, the man who brought the Roman Empire back from the brink would not live to see its completion.

How to reach:

- Bus: many public buses that stop in front of the monument: 75 - 81 - 673 - 175 - 204
- Metro/Subway: from the Termini Station take the underground line B and get off at the Colosseum
- Tram: Line 3



## **Roman Forum**

The Roman Forum was the active heart of the Republic and Empire for over a thousand years and its changing nature reflected the constant shifting in the fortunes of the religious, military and political nature of the Roman world.

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## Vatican Museums

The Vatican Museums (Musei Vaticani) house some of the most impressive and important historical artefacts and works of art in the world. Originally the site of the Vatican Museums was used for papal palaces, but they are now a series of galleries in Vatican City.

How to reach:

The Vatican Museums are located in Vatican City – entrance at Viale Vaticano. Buses 49, 23, 81, 492 and 990 stop nearby. The nearest metro stations are Ottaviano-S.Pietro-Musei Vaticani and Cipro (both line A and both a 10 min. walk away). Tram 19 stops nearby (5 min. walk).



## **The Spanish Steps**

The Spanish Steps (Scalinata della Trinità dei Monti) are one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions. A grand staircase with 138 steps leading down to the Piazza di Spagna, the Spanish Steps were designed in the 1720s by Francesco de Sanctis, an Italian architect, and completed in 1726.

How to Reach:

The nearest metro to the Spanish Steps is Spagna (line A).



## **The Trevi Fountain**

A stunning depiction of several ancient deities and resplendent with frescos of legends and myths, the Trevi Fountain attracts floods of tourists, keen to throw their coins into its waters to assure their return to Rome - or so goes the myth.

How to reach:

Nearest metro to the Trevi Fountain: Barberini (Line A)



## **Pantheon**

Today, the Pantheon stands as a magnificent site in central Rome, and one of the most popular destinations for tourists. The Pantheon's vast structure is topped by the spectacular original domed roof which contains a circular opening (oculus) at the peak. Made of cast concrete, it is a monumental engineering feat that is a testament to the technical expertise of the Roman Empire. Indeed, the roof of the Pantheon remained the largest dome in the world until the 15th century.

How to reach:

The closest Metro station to the Pantheon is Barberini (line A) or Colosseo (line B) but the Pantheon is still at least a mile from both. Local buses or hop-on, hop-off tourist busses can take you from the metro stations to the Pantheon



## **Castel Sant Angelo**

A fortress-like structure, successive Roman emperors and other leaders used Castel Sant Angelo for a variety of purposes. In 401, Emperor Flavius Augustus Honorius incorporated Castel Sant Angelo in Rome's Aurelian Walls, destroying and losing many of the contents of Hadrian's mausoleum in the process. It later turned into a medieval stronghold and a prison.

How to Reach:

Castel Sant Angelo is located on the right bank of the Tiber in Rome. It is accessed from Lungotevere Castle. Buses 23, 34 and 280 stop nearby and the nearest metro station is Lepanto on line A.



## St Peter's Basilica

St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City is one of the most important Christian sites in the world and is a church (rather than a cathedral) with a long and illustrious history. Also known as the 'Papal Basilica of Saint Peter' and in Italian as 'Basilica Papale di San Pietro in Vaticano', St Peter's Basilica sits over the site of the tomb of its namesake.

### How to Reach:

St Peter's Basilica is located in Vatican City. Buses 23, 40, 49, 64 and 492 stop nearby. The nearest metro station is Ottaviano-San Pietro on line A (10-20 min walk).

