



On the left of the Loggia of Psyche is the Room of the Frieze, round which is a fresco of mythological scenes painted by Baldassarre Peruzzi. The labours of Hercules, the myth of Orpheus, Mercury with the heifers of Apollo, and the Rape of Europa are particularly remarkable for their wealth of detail.

On the right is the Hall of Galathea, which contains Raffaello's famous fresco representing the triumph of the nymph Galathea, on a shell pulled by dolphins. All around there are delicate and idealized landscapes painted by Gaspare Dughet.

A light and elegant staircase leads from the entrance hall to the first floor and into the wonderful Salone delle Prospettive designed by Peruzzi. Here the walls seem to open on to shining landscapes, framed by columns, and an amazing sense of reality is achieved.

From the windows on the first floor there is a beautiful view of the gardens. A pleasant stroll under the laurel bower leads to a marble plaque which bears the inscription:

*Quisquis huc accedis: quod tibi horridum videtur mihi amoenum est; si placet, maneat, si taedet abeat, utrumque gratum.*

[Trad.: *Whoever enters here: what seems horrid to you is pleasant to me. If you like it, stay, if it bores you, go away; both are equally pleasing to me.* ]

### *Villa Farnesina*





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Raffaello, *Trionfo di Galatea*

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### *Mercati di Traiano*

Trajan's Market (Mercatus Traiani) is a large complex of ruins in the city of Rome, located on the Via dei Fori Imperiali, at the opposite end to the Colosseum. The buildings and structures present a living model of life in the Roman capital and a glimpse at the continuing restoration in the city which reveals new treasures and insights about Ancient Roman architecture.

Built in AD 100-110 by Apollodorus of Damascus, an architect who always followed Trajan on his adventures. During the Middle Ages the complex was transformed by adding floor levels still visible today and building defensive elements such as the Torre delle Milizie, built in 1200. A convent was later built in this area, but demolished at the beginning of twentieth century to restore Trajan's Markets to the city of Rome.

The entrance is in Via IV Novembre; immediately the visitor enters into a shopping area, disposed on two different sides, where free wheat was once distributed to the people of Rome. At the end of this hall a large balcony offers a beautiful view on the markets, Trajan's Forum and Vittoriano. This is actually a part of the Via Biberatica (from biber meaning drink, the location for most of the taverns and grocers' shops), the road that starts from the entrance and divides Trajan's Market.

The upper levels of the market were used for offices while the lower part, in front of Trajan's Forum, had shops selling oil, wines, seafood, groceries, vegetables and fruit. Medieval houses built on the top floor face the semicircular segment of the Via Biberatica. The lower part of the market today shows two levels: a ground floor level for shops, with an entry made in travertine, surmounted by an arch. The second level was formed by adjoining shops selling wines and oil. A third level, today visible only as some walls, was discovered at the Via Biberatica and was probably used for grocers' shops. On the lower part there are also two large halls, probably used for auditions or concerts. A shop housed in the Market is known as a taberna.

The market is roofed by a concrete vault raised on piers, both covering and allowing air and light into the central space. The market itself is constructed primarily out of brick and concrete.



### *Underground Rome: Case romane al Celio and Basilica di San Clemente*

Founded in the early fifth century by Pammachius, a Roman senator, the titulus Pammachii or Basilica of SS. Giovanni e Paolo now stands over a magnificent residential complex comprising several Roman houses of different periods.

According to tradition, this was the dwelling of John and Paul, officers at the court of the Emperor Constantine (312-37), both of whom, having suffered martyrdom by execution during the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363), were buried on the site of their own house.

In 1887, Padre Germano, a Passionist brother, excavating beneath the church, uncovered a fascinating site comprising more than twenty rooms, some of which were richly decorated with paintings dating from the third through the twelfth centuries.

The sequence of decorated rooms and the maze of stratified structures cut through by the foundations of the church, reveal aspects of Roman daily life with an interesting blend of cultural themes.

This monument originated in a variety of building types including an insula or apartment block for artisans, and a wealthy domus, which was subsequently converted into an early Christian church.

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During the third century A.D., these different properties were combined under a single owner and transformed into an elegant pagan house characterised by finely-decorated rooms.

Then you will admire the marvellous Basilica di San Clemente, one of the most interesting monuments in Rome. The church has a beautiful interior, but it is especially notable for its three historical layers. The 12th-century basilica is built on top of a well-preserved 4th-century church (with many frescoes), which was built next to a 3rd-century **Mithraic Temple**.



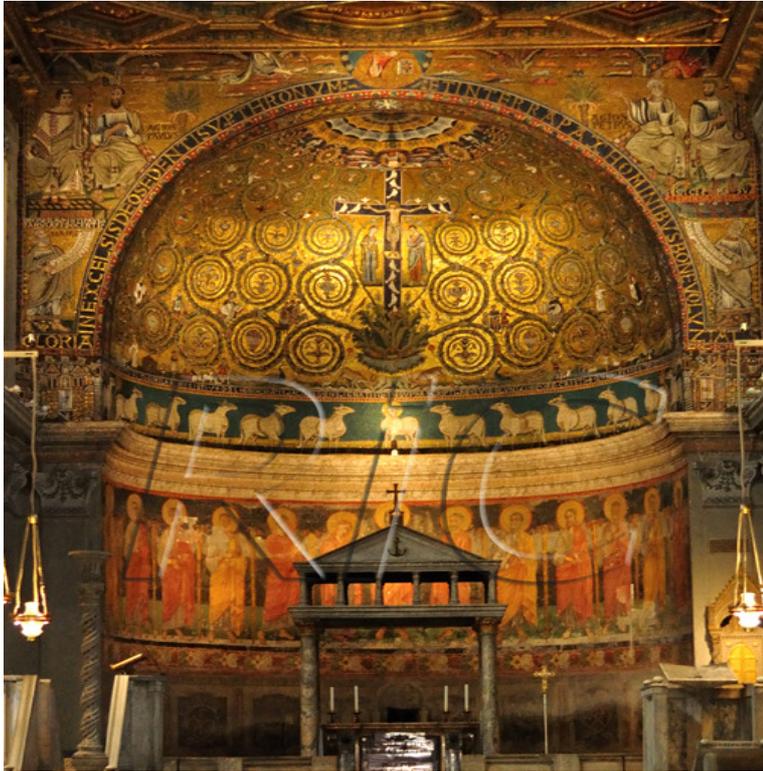
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*Casa romana al Celio - fenestella confessionis*



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*Basilica di San Clemente*



*Clivo di Scauro*

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### *Crypta Balbi*

The Crypta Balbi is a city-block of the historic centre of Rome wherein a vast portico, the *Crypta of Balbus*, rose in ancient times; it was an annexe of the theatre that Cornelius Balbus had erected in 13 BCE.

On the eastern side of the portico, included in the perimeter of the modern block, there extends a series of ancient blocks represented in the *Forma Urbis* ("Shape of the City", the marble map of Ancient Rome carved under the emperor Septimius Severus), whose buildings are partly accessible.

#### **Urban Archaeology and the Museum of Rome in the Middle Ages**

The exhibition path proceeds through the diverse buildings that succeeded one another over the different historical eras. The section *Archaeology and History of an Urban Landscape* illustrates the history of the complex from Antiquity to the 20th century: from the constructions of Balbus to the ruralisation of the urban landscape in the 5th century and, then, to the erection of the medieval churches and houses in the area, especially the edifice of the *Conservatorio di Santa Caterina della Rosa* (Conservatory of St. Catherine of the Rose) which, between the mid-15th century and the first decades of the 17th century, occupied the greater part of the area.

The section *Rome from Antiquity to the Middle Ages* illustrates the transformations of the city between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages (5th-9th centuries). The most consistent nucleus of the exhibition comprises the contexts of the materials found during the excavations of the Crypta, such as the Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages deposit of the *Exedra*, whose 7th century phase provided thousand of objects, mainly ceramics, but also vitreous objects, coins, lead seals as well as thousands of objects in metal, bone and ivory in addition to precious stones and tools pertaining to a workshop that crafted luxury objects for clothing and adornment.

The contexts of the Crypta are integrated by coeval finds coming from the historical collections of the Roman museums and by the contexts unearthed during the urban excavations carried out in the last decades.



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*Cruise on Tiber River*

See the highlights of Rome from the water with a hop-on hop-off cruise on the Tiber River. This cruise lets you see some of the major attractions in Rome with educational commentary along the way. Enjoy wonderful views of the city from the boat, and get on and off as you like.

You will see Castel Sant'Angelo, Tiber Island, Ponte Sisto and Ponte Cavour. Additionally, you'll get to see Rome's stunning bridges, including Ponte Sant'Angelo, Ponte Fabricio, Ponte Rotto, and Ponte Garibaldi. The bridges were built in both the papal and modern ages, together creating a fascinating backdrop of archaeology and history!