

Public domain · Wikimedia Commons

FREE GUIDE · ROME

# Colosseum of Rome

The gladiators' amphitheatre, the Forum and the Palatine — the 7 must-see stops of ancient Rome, explained one by one

**Tickets Visit**
tickets and guides to monuments

entradascoliseoroma.com · August 2026 edition · unofficial website

# Your visit at a glance

The Colosseum is the largest amphitheatre ever built and the eternal symbol of Rome: this is where 50,000 people roared at gladiators and wild beasts almost two thousand years ago. But the standard ticket is a combined one, so with a single pass you cover three jewels of Antiquity: the Flavian Amphitheatre, the Roman Forum —the political heart of the ancient world— and the Palatine Hill, the emperors' hill. It's easy to stay in the amphitheatre alone and rush out; to us, that would be a mistake, because the best of it is the whole. This guide brings together the seven must-see stops across the three areas, with the context to understand what you're looking at and 1, 2 and 3-hour routes according to the time you have. The plan we recommend: start at the Colosseum first thing and then head down to the Forum and the Palatine, all right next to each other and on foot.

## At a glance

**PRICE**
€18 combined · €24 Full Experience

**FREE ENTRY**
1st Sunday of the month

**HOURS**
Colosseum 8:30 · Forum-Palatine 9:00

**TIME**
1-3 h (about 3 h for all 7)

**STOPS HERE**
The 7 must-sees

**METRO**
Colosseo (line B)

TV

**Part of Tickets Visit**
entradascoliseoroma.com is part of Tickets Visit, the network of tickets and guides to monuments.

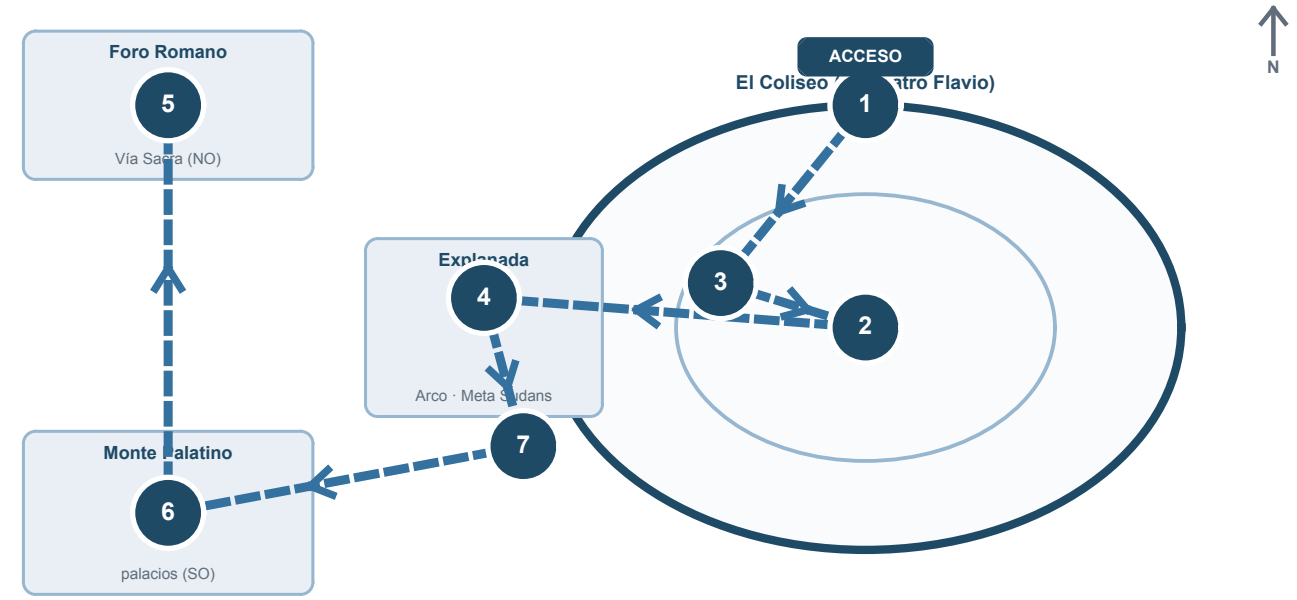
*With this free guide you already do a great visit: the essentials, with a route. If you want to make the most of it, at the end I'll show you the complete version.*

**Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket**
On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.
» **Buy your ticket**

# The map and the route

Organise your visit in two blocks so you don't double back. First, THE COLOSSEUM: go in during your booked time slot (there's an airport-style security check), take in the façade (1), climb the ramps and stairs to the first and second tier of the cavea (3) and lean out over the centre to see the arena and the hypogeum (2). On your way out, cross beside the Arch of Constantine (4) and spot on the ground the traces of the Colossus and the Meta Sudans (7). Then, THE FORUM-PALATINE SITE, included on the same ticket: walk the Roman Forum along the Via Sacra (5) and climb the Palatine Hill (6) for the best views. Follow the numbers on the stops; they run in the most comfortable order for covering it all on foot.

**EL COLISEO Y SU ENTORNO ARQUEOLÓGICO (ESQUEMA, NO A ESCALA)**




*El anfiteatro (parada 1 fachada, 3 gradas, 2 arena e hipogeo) es el núcleo; al O/NO quedan el Arco de Constantino y la Meta Sudans, el Palatino en alto y el Foro Romano en el valle. No a escala.*

**Visiting order: THE COLOSSEUM: 1 Façade › 3 Stands (cavea) › 2 Arena and hypogeum — ON THE WAY OUT — 4 Arch of Constantine › 7 Colossus and Meta Sudans — FORUM-PALATINE SITE — 5 Roman Forum › 6 Palatine Hill**

*Schematic layout by area; the number shows the visiting order. Not to scale: follow the museum's own floor plans and signs on the day.*

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

## 1 The façade and the three orders

Exterior, north side · 15 min

Elliptical four-level amphitheatre in travertine, inaugurated in AD 80 by Titus; the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian orders are stacked up the façade.



*North façade of the Flavian Amphitheatre with its three orders.*
Photo: Rijksmuseum · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons

**WHAT TO LOOK AT**

The contrast between the intact outer wall and the mutilated interior; the holes where the plundered iron clamps once were.

**» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE**

'Colosseum' isn't this building's real name, and the nickname wasn't born of its size, but of something gigantic that stood right beside it. In the full guide: what it's really called and what that vanished colossus was.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

## 2 The arena and the hypogeum

Arena level · 25 min

Wooden-and-sand floor where the gladiators fought; beneath it, the hypogeum of tunnels, cages and lifts that hoisted the beasts up to the surface.



*The hypogeum: the underground chambers beneath the Colosseum's arena.*
Photo: Paul VanDerWerf from Brunswick · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

**WHAT TO LOOK AT**

The brick walls of the tunnels, the grooves of the lifts and the walkway reconstructing the arena level.

**» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE**

Did all the gladiators really die? The answer has more to do with money than with mercy. In the full guide: how most fights actually ended and what part the crowd's thumb really played.

## 5 The Roman Forum and the Via Sacra

Valley between the Palatine and the Capitol · 45 min

The political, religious and commercial centre of ancient Rome; temples, the Senate's Curia, triumphal arches and the Via Sacra along which the triumphs paraded.



*The Roman Forum with its temples and the Via Sacra.*
Photo: Dietmar Rabich · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

**WHAT TO LOOK AT**

The eight columns of the Temple of Saturn, the Arch of Titus and the altar where Julius Caesar was cremated.

**» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE**

The full story of this stop (twice the text), its «ONE FACT» box and all 7 stops of the route, one by one.

THE STOPS, ONE BY ONE

## 6 The Palatine Hill

Hill above the Forum · 35 min

Rome's founding hill and the emperors' residence; palaces such as the Domus Flavia and views of the Forum, the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus.



*Ruins of the imperial palaces on the Palatine Hill.*

Photo: Livioandronico2013 · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

**WHAT TO LOOK AT**

The Stadium of Domitian, the Horti Farnesiani and the viewpoint over the Circus Maximus.

**» IN THE PREMIUM GUIDE**

The full story of this stop (twice the text), its «ONE FACT» box and all 7 stops of the route, one by one.

# Practical tips

### Best times

Book the first slot of the morning (8:30-9:00) or the last of the afternoon: less queue, less heat and better light. In summer avoid midday, the esplanade has hardly any shade.

### Buy your ticket in advance

The Colosseum runs on a compulsory time slot and limited capacity: tickets go on sale 30 days ahead and the morning ones sell out fast. Buy online as soon as you have a date and choose your time; arrive about 15 minutes early to get through the security check without stress. Booking your slot saves you the box-office queue, which in high season can eat up half your morning.

### Getting in free

It's free on the first Sunday of each month and on some special days (25 April, 2 June, 4 November). On those days you can't book a slot: access is on a first-come basis and without the Arena or the underground, so go very early. Always check the calendar on the official website.

### With children

The visit hooks them if you tell it as the 'gladiators' stadium'. Bring water and a hat; they'll love the hypogeum and the arena walkway. Pushchairs: best avoided, there are stairs in the amphitheatre and uneven ground in the Forum and the Palatine.

### Accessibility and services

The Colosseum has a lift and an adapted route on the main levels, and entry is free for people with disabilities and one companion. The Forum and the Palatine are more demanding in a wheelchair because of the cobbles and the slopes. Inside the site there are toilets and drinking-water fountains (nasoni): bring a bottle to refill.

### Combine it

The Roman Forum and the Palatine are already included on the same ticket: devote your afternoon to them. Nearby are the Domus Aurea, the Circus Maximus and the Bocca della Verità to round off ancient Rome.

### Practical info

Getting there: metro line B, 'Colosseo' stop, right at the exit; also tram 3 and several buses. Guide price: standard combined ticket Colosseum + Forum + Palatine €18 (valid 24 h); 'Full Experience' with Arena and hypogeum €24 (valid 2 consecutive days), buying online on the official ticketing website (ticketing.colosseo.it). Time-slot booking COMPULSORY for the Colosseum; tickets go on sale 30 days ahead and sell out quickly. Hours: the Colosseum opens at 8:30 and the Forum-Palatine at 9:00; closing varies by season (last entry 18:15 and closing 19:15 from late March to September; 17:30/18:30 in early October; 15:30/16:30 from late October to February). Closed on 25 December and 1 January. Airport-style security check; large backpacks are not allowed. Check prices and hours on the official website.

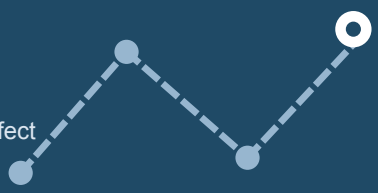
**Official website: colosseo.it**

PLAN YOUR TRIP · FREE

## The Tickets Visit Planner

Build your day-by-day route, discover what to see nearby and plan the perfect itinerary around the city. Free, no sign-up.

» **Open it at planner.tickets-visit.com**



## Before you go in: book your skip-the-line ticket

On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.

» **Buy your ticket**

THE COMPLETE VERSION

# Take the complete visit

With this free guide you already cover the essentials. The PREMIUM is your complete visit to Colosseum of Rome: every work with its story, a 3-step looking guide for every painting, the cheat-sheet for your phone and the tips to skip the queues. For less than the price of a coffee.

### In the free guide you miss out on:

3 **The stands: the cavea**
First and second ring · 20 min

4 **The Arch of Constantine**
Between the Colosseum and the Palatine · 10 min

7 **The Colossus and the Meta Sudans**
North esplanade of the Colosseum · 10 min

## PREMIUM Guide · Colosseum of Rome

**€6.99** one-off payment · yours forever

- All 7 works (the free guide has only 4), each with its story.
- «What it represents» and «How to look at it» in 3 steps: a looking guide for every painting.
- The «Route on one page» cheat-sheet for your phone, plus 1-, 2- and 3-hour routes.
- Contents, keys to understanding it, bios and expanded tips.
- As a PDF and offline: use it inside the museum without spending data.

Facts checked against official sources · instant download · secure card payment.

**Get the complete guide · €6.99**
payhip.com/b/UPtHV ›

**RISK-FREE GUARANTEE**

If the guide doesn't help on your visit, write to us and we'll refund the €6.99. No questions asked.

*For comparison: a guided tour costs €30-60 per person. This guide walks you through with the same detail, everyone travelling with you can use it, and it's yours forever.*

## Still no ticket? Book skip-the-line

On Civitatis, with free cancellation. Skip the ticket-office queue.

**» Check availability and prices**

*A guide produced editorially by Tickets Visit. entradascoliseoroma.com is an independent website and is NOT the official website of Colosseum of Rome, nor is it affiliated with it. Images are free from Wikimedia Commons (credit under each one). Information is indicative, checked in August 2026; confirm hours and prices on the official website. Bookings handled through Civitatis (affiliate link).*