



## From the Villa of the Sette Bassi to the Park of the Aqueducts

### Park of the Aqueducts

This itinerary, which uses the city roads, leads to a beautiful green area crossed by no less than six Roman aqueducts, as well as one built in the Renaissance period.

Beginning at the Villa of the Sette Bassi and taking the via Tuscolana northwards you come to Italy's Hollywood, the film studios at Cinecittà and the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, a film school established in the 1930s, for which the Tuscolano neighbourhood was famous. Continuing on the Circonvallazione Tuscolana to the junction with via Lemonia you reach one of the entrances to the Park of the Aqueducts, with the impressive arches of the *aqua Claudia* and *aqua Anio novus* aqueducts, superimposed, and the remains of the *aqua Marcia*, *aqua Tepula* and *aqua Iulia*.

Here you can also admire the fascinating Romavecchia farmhouse, dating back to the Middle Ages when this part of the countryside was called Old Rome. The area was crossed in antiquity by one of the great consular roads, the Via Latina, which ran almost parallel to the Appian Way southwards. A stroll through the Roman countryside, dotted with ancient ruins, takes you to the nearby park of Tor Fiscale.

### Poi

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- 3 Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia – Experimental Film Centre (CSC)
- 4 Park of the Aqueducts (Via Lemonia)

### Info



POI

4

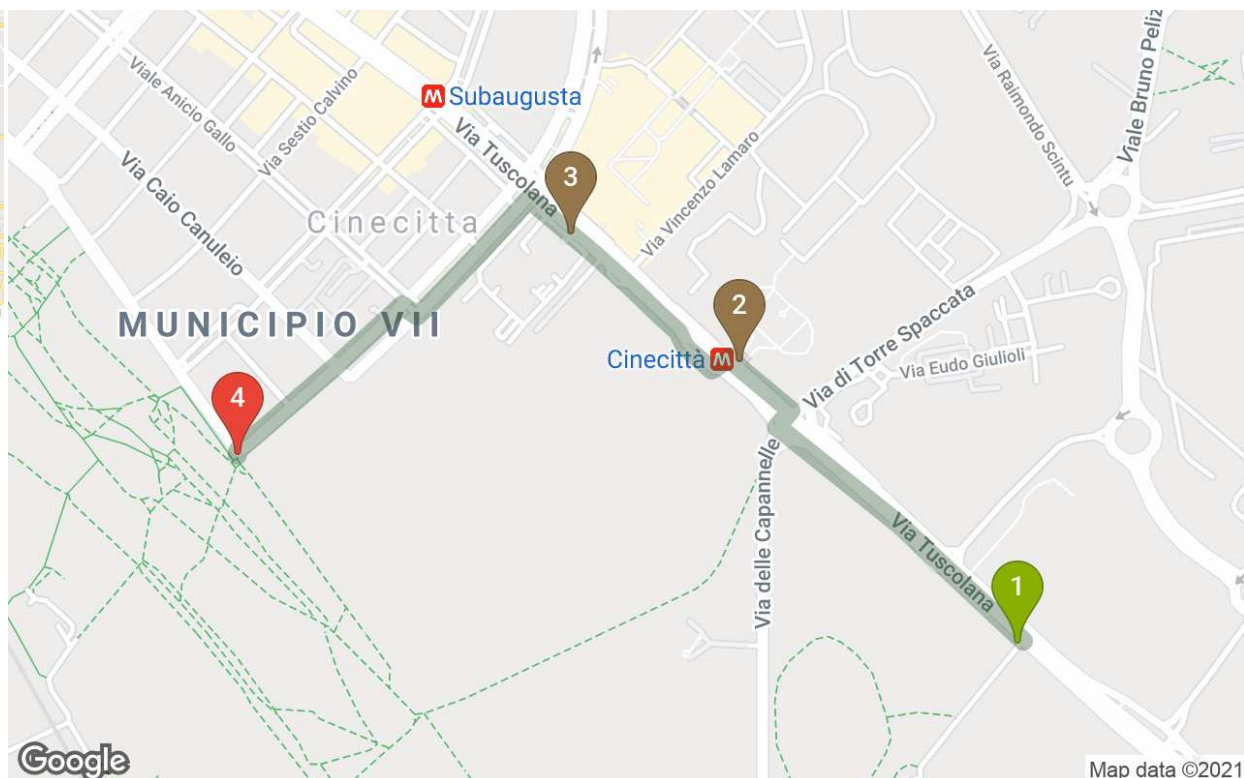


Distance

2.03 Km



Scan the QRCode to access the navigable mobile version of the itinerary



Map data ©2021



## Villa of the Sette Bassi (Tuscolana)

### Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

The so-called Villa of the Sette Bassi is one of the largest villas in the Rome suburbs, indeed, the second-largest after that of the Quintilii. The villa is named after a medieval place name "Settebassi", which probably refers to one of its owners Septimius Bassus, Prefect of Rome during the reign of Septimius Severus (193-211 AD).

The large archaeological area stands on a flat hill between the 5th and 6th mile of the Via Latina, today on the right side of the Via Tuscolana, near the intersection with Via delle Capannelle. Its remains are clearly visible from the road and it is accessed via a tree-lined avenue leading into the heart of the residential complex. To date, the site has been only partially investigated, although we can get a very good idea of its scale and grandeur, and the beauty of its decorations, from the remains unearthed during the past excavation campaigns.

Following a typical blueprint for suburban villas in the surroundings of Rome, the buildings are grouped around a large hippodrome-garden in the centre, and include a residential complex, once adorned with multicoloured marbles and mosaics, a rustic area, a small temple, an aqueduct and water cisterns. The site is owned by the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica, which has recently carried out preservation and safety works.

### Info

Reservation required. To reserve call 06-7222568, or write to the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica at [pa-appia@beniculturali.it](mailto:pa-appia@beniculturali.it)

### Visit Duration

10 min.

### Address

Via Tuscolana, 1700 - Roma (RM)

### How to get

From METRO LINE A station ANAGNINA exit to Via Tuscolana and walk for 8 minutes.

### Audioguide



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## The Cinecittà Film Studios

### Roma / Other places - Other Places

On the modern-day Via Tuscolana, not far from the Villa of the Sette Bassi and the Park of the Roman Aqueducts, is a complex built in the 1930s that soon became an iconic symbol of the Italian film industry, the famous Cinecittà Film Studios, which have played a key role in the history of Italian cinema and are inextricably linked to many world-famous film directors and stars, such as Federico Fellini, Luchino Visconti, Vittorio De Sica, Alberto Sordi, Sophia Loren, Gina Lollobrigida, Roberto Benigni to name but a few.

The studios were built in the rationalist style in only fifteen months, between 1936 and 1937, on an area of about 40 hectares, in the midst of what was then open countryside. Created as a private enterprise, the studios originally housed the new headquarters of the Istituto Luce, the "Light Institute", involved in the production and distribution of films and documentaries intended for being screened in cinemas, with the offices, studio sets and other film-making facilities.

In 1938, Cinecittà was taken over by the State; during World War II the studios were severely damaged, and in 1943 all film-making activities were suspended and the 1200 employees dismissed. Immediately after the war, the studios were used to house homeless and displaced persons and then officially re-opened in 1947.

In the 1950s, following the arrival of the great American production companies and, in particular, with the so-called "peplum" or sword-and-sandal genre of historical or Biblical costume dramas, ushered in by Quo Vadis (1951), Cinecittà acquired worldwide renown and was nicknamed "Hollywood on the Tiber", becoming the glamorous focal point of the set of intellectuals, socialites and café society that peopled the glittering postwar boom years known as La dolce vita, the "sweet life", from the name of Federico Fellini's much-lauded film, which was also shot here.

One of the strong points of the studios was the adoption of the "artisan production model", in which each individual plays a leading role in the entire production process, a system that was guaranteed by the transfer of dozens of highly-specialised workers from the historic city centre to this suburban area.

After World War II, and before the widening of the Via Tuscolana and the construction of the metro line, the studios, located at 9 km from the centre of Rome, could only be reached by bus and, later, by a tram line known as the "Film Star Tram".

In the following years the studios declined, until the 1990s, when they started being used as TV studios, and thanks to the return of international film productions.

In 1997, Cinecittà was transformed into a joint stock company. In July 2017, the historic studios were brought back under public control and are now managed by a public company called Istituto Luce-Cinecittà, managed by the Ministry of Culture, whose mission is to spread and develop the works of the Historical Archive of the Istituto Luce, the collective audiovisual memory of the 20th century for Italy and the Mediterranean.

Today Cinecittà is a major centre of the European film industry, with its 19 studios, 2 tensostructures, 300 dressing rooms and offices, 21 make-up rooms and a 7000 m<sup>2</sup> swimming pool. In 2011, the studios opened to the public as part of the "Cinecittà si mostra" (Cinecittà displays itself) project, becoming a tourist attraction in this area of the city, where the recent history of Rome and of the whole of Italy, highlighted by film stills, is celebrated by the magic of cinema.

Riccardo Martelli, Cinecittà, Enciclopedia del Cinema (2003)<http://www.cinecitta.com/IT/it-it/cms/10/chisiamo.aspx>

### 🕒 Info

**Opening hours:**

9.30 - 18.30 (last admission at 16.30).

**Closing days:**

Tuesday, 24-25 December, 1 January.

[www.cinecittasimostra.it](http://www.cinecittasimostra.it)

### 👁️ Visit Duration

50 min.

### 📍 Address

Via Tuscolana 1055 - Roma (RM)

**🚶 How to get**

METRO LINE A station CINECITTÀ



## Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia – Experimental Film Centre (CSC)

### Roma / Other places - Other Places

Just north of the Cinecittà film studios, on the Via Tuscolana, is the Experimental Film Centre founded in the 1930s as Italy's national film school.

In the early days of cinema, at the dawn of the 20th century, this new medium of expression was viewed primarily as a form of light entertainment; its artistic and educational value started being appreciated only after World War One, and during the Fascist period it became a powerful instrument for political propaganda.

In 1932, a first acting school was established, which, in 1935, became the Experimental Film Centre, a school for training film crew members and cinema creative, as well as for promoting a new aesthetics and language for the film industry, which soon became a powerful vehicle for building up a national identity, in opposition to Mitteleuropean internationalism.

The present school building was inaugurated in 1940 as part of Cinecittà, the "city of film", which also included the studios and the Istituto Luce (Educational Film Union), for producing and distributing films and documentaries screened in cinemas. The school offered five two-year-long study programmes in acting, cinematography, sound engineering, screenplay writing and set design, and production, with a set of common subjects for all the programmes, including aesthetics, history of cinema, the social function of cinema, art history, history of literature and history of music. Since 1937, the practical film-making exercises became short films and a magazine of film history and criticism was launched called "[Bianco e nero](#)" (Black & White), which became very popular, despite being a specialised publication.

During World War II the school was closed down and was looted. When it reopened, in 1946, it became the cradle of the great post-war flowering of Italian cinema.

In 1997, it was transformed into a Foundation comprising the National Film School, based in Rome, a specialised library dedicated to "Luigi Chiarini", with over 40,000 books, and the National Film Library, whose mission is to collect, preserve and restore the enormous Italian film heritage, besides more recent productions. Over the years the Foundation has been expanded and new sections opened, such as the Animated Film Department in Turin, which has produced a series of educational documentaries for disseminating the culture of cinema.

[http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/centro-sperimentale-di-cinematografia\\_\(Enciclopedia-del-Cinema\)/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/centro-sperimentale-di-cinematografia_(Enciclopedia-del-Cinema)/)  
[http://www.fondazionecsc.it/context.jsp?ID\\_LINK=797&area=106](http://www.fondazionecsc.it/context.jsp?ID_LINK=797&area=106)

### Info

+39 06 722941  
[www.fondazionecsc.it](http://www.fondazionecsc.it)

### Visit Duration

5 min.

### Address

Via Tuscolana 1524 - Roma (RM)

### How to get

From METRO LINE A station ANAGNINA exit to via Tuscolana and walk for 8 minutes.



## Park of the Aqueducts (Via LEMONIA)

### Roma / Place to visit - Natural area

The Park of the Aqueducts covers an area of about 240 hectares in the Appio Claudio district, between Via delle Capannelle and the Rome-Cassino-Naples railway line and is all that remains of the once open tract of Roman countryside that extended all the way up to the Alban Hills. It is named after the impressive remains of six of the eleven aqueducts which, in ancient times, supplied water to the city of Rome: the *Aqua Anio vetus* built between 272 and 269 BC, the *Aqua Marcia* of 144 BC, the *Aqua Tepula* built in 125 BC, the *Aqua Iulia* of 33 BC, the *Aqua Claudia* and *Anio novus* inaugurated in AD 52.

The Park is also crossed by a canal called the Marrana dell'Aqua Mariana, the construction of which was ordered by pope Callixtus II in 1122 to supply water to the Lateran Palace in Rome. The last aqueduct to be built here was the *Aqua Felice*, between 1585 and 1587, adapting the ruined structures of the Aqua Marcia. It was named after the reigning pope Sixtus V, whose birth name was Felice Peretti. The Park is also the site of the remains of the Villa delle Vignacce, a Roman villa dating to the 2nd century AD, built by Quintus Servilius Pudens, along with historical buildings such as the Casale di Romavecchia and Casale del Sellaretto farmhouses.

### 🕒 Info

Free admission.

### 👁️ Visit Duration

15 min.

### 📍 Address

C.ne Tuscolana - Roma (RM)

### 🗺️ How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA walk to Via LEMONIA.

### 🎧 Audioguide



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