



The Via Appia from S. M. Nova - Villa dei Quintili to the via di Tor Carbone

Via Appia Antica

This itinerary will lead you to discover a very interesting section of the Appian Way associated with a number of events that took place in the earliest history of Rome. Of great interest is the fact that the road here, at the 5th milestone, no longer runs straight as an arrow but bends slightly, probably out of respect of the Cluilian Trench, an ancient ditch that once marked the border between Rome and its neighbour Alba Longa, which takes us back to the longstanding enmity and hostilities between these two cities of ancient Latium having been the site of the epic clash between the Roman Horatii and the Alban Curiatii brothers.

The rest of the itinerary, until Via di Tor Carbone, features a succession of funerary monuments lining both sides of the road, of which two temple-style tombs stand out, known as the Laterizio (Brick) I and II tombs, both heavily altered over the centuries.



POI



Distance

7

0.57 Km

Poi

- 1 Via Appia Antica - Santa Maria Nova
- 2 The mound of the Curiatii
- 3 The Cluilian Trench
- 4 Brick tombs
- 5 Tower tomb and inscription of the Valerii freedmen
- 6 Inscription on the Tomb of the Trebonii
- 7 Via Appia Antica – Tor Carbone (South)



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



Info

Admission fee

Opening hours:

from 2 January to 15 February:
9:00 - 16:30, last admission at 15:30
from 16 February to 15 March:
9:00 - 17:00, last admission at 16:00
from 16 March to the last
Saturday in March: 9:00 - 17:30,
last admission at 16:30
from the last Sunday in March
to 31 August: 9:00 – 19:15, last
admission at 18:15
from 1 to 30 September: 9:00 -
19:00, last admission at 18:00
from 1 October to the last
Saturday in October: 9:00 –
18:30, last admission at 17:30
from the last Sunday in October
to 31 December: 9:00 – 16:30,
last admission at 15:30

Closing days:

Monday, 25 December and 1
January

Address

Via Appia Antica, 251 - Roma
(RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station
ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take
the BUS 765, alternatively from
METRO LINE B station
LAURENTINA take the BUS
765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE
ATTICO stop and then walk for
10 minutes.

Via Appia Antica - Santa Maria Nova

Roma / Place to visit - Casali

The archaeological area of Santa Maria Nova has recently been attached to that of the Villa of the Quintilii, the largest private residence in the suburbs of Rome. The villa, built in the 2nd century AD, belonged to Sextus Quintilius Condianus and Sextus Quintilius Valerius Maximus, two brothers of senatorial rank who lived in the 2nd century AD, and its impressive buildings occupied a vast area of the Roman countryside between the Via Appia Nuova and the Via Appia Antica.

The area of Santa Maria Nova consists of a 2nd century Roman cistern, over which first a Medieval watchtower and then a farmhouse were built, which, in the 17th and 18th century belonged to the Olivetan monks of Santa Maria Nova; nearby are the remains of a 2nd century bath complex that probably belonged to a residential building inhabited by the imperial guards posted at the Villa of the Quintilii. Two of the rooms have floor mosaics depicting gladiator fights and circus games.



Open every day

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The mound of the Curiatii

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Legend has it that, at the 5th milestone of the Via Appia, was the *sacer campus Horatiorum* (sacred enclosure of the Horatii), a field commemorating the fight between the three Roman *Horatii* brothers and the *Curiatii* brothers of Alba Longa, which ended with the victory of Rome over Alba Longa. The mound opposite the entrance to Santa Maria Nova is a tomb, consisting of a round drum-shaped base, with a concrete core and faced with marble, surmounted by a cylindrical structure once thought to be a Medieval watchtower, but which is now considered to be part of the tomb with the function of supporting a statue.

The mound, which has been dated to the Augustan age, was probably part of a plan by the central government to strengthen, in people's minds, the memory of this hugely symbolic site in the history of Rome. Behind this mound, which has been identified as one of the mounds of the *Curiatii*, are preserved the remains of an enclosure *inopus quadratum*, made with peperino stone (a type of tufa), which was probably the *campus Horatiorum*.

Poi 3

The Cluilian Trench

Roma / Place to visit - Historical places

At the 5th mile of the Via Appia the road makes a bend, probably out of respect for the memory of an important event that took place here in Rome's earliest history. This is the location of the so-called "Cluilian Trench", a ditch dug in the 7th century BC, which, at the time, marked the boundary between the cities of Rome and Alba Long, near which, as legend has it, the fight between the Roman *Horatii* and Alban *Curiatii* took place. This was the legendary location of the "field sacred to the Horatii", a monumental enclosure marking the place where the legendary fight between the three Horatii and the three Curiatii brothers supposedly took place, with the victory of the last-standing Curiatii brother. The historian Dionysius of Halicarnassus recounts that the tombs of these ancient heroes were located near the *Fossae Cluilie* (trench or ditch): five mounds, erected after the event, to mark the spot where the five heroes fell.



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From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 765, alternatively from METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take the BUS 765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE ATTICO stop and then walk for 10 minutes.



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Brick tombs

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

About 350 metres south of the junction with Via Erode Attico, on the left hand side of Via Appia Antica, there are two brick tombs dated to the 2nd century AD, of the temple tomb type, with a burial chamber on the lower floor and a chamber for the funeral rituals on the upper floor. The first tomb, with beautiful multi-coloured brick walls, features a façade added in the 19th century and incorporating ancient marble fragments, many of which have since disappeared. The second tomb, situated further back from the road, bears the traces of Medieval alterations, made when it was converted into a watchtower, with the addition of peperino stone blocks and tuff fragments.



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Poi 5

Tower tomb and inscription of the Valerii freedmen

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This tomb, located at the 5th milestone, is a tower tomb, tall and with a square floor plan, one of the most common types of tombs along the Appian Way.

The building has been stripped of its original stone or marble facing, revealing the concrete core, made of mortar and crushed rock, a building technique widely used by the ancient Romans.

At the foot of the tomb, to the right, is an inscription which definitely belongs to the monument, bearing the names of three persons identified as freedmen, freed slaves who generally continued to live in their former master's home with various duties.

In this case, they were freedmen of the Valerii family, named as Lucio Valerio Baricha, Lucio Valerio Zabda and Lucio Valerio Achiba, clearly of Semitic origins.

Several scholars believe that the inscription belongs to the same context as another inscription found along the Via Appia Antica beneath the tomb of the Garlands, and that they both date to

6 minutes.

the Julio-Claudian period (second half of the 1st century BC – mid-1st century AD).



📍 Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 765, alternatively from METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take the BUS 765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE ATTICO stop and then walk for 5 minutes.



📍 Address

Via di Tor Carbone - Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 765, alternatively from METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take the BUS 765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE ATTICO stop.

Poi 6

Inscription on the Tomb of the Trebonii

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The inscription, placed on the side of the road, dates back to the Late Republican period and belonged to the tomb of a family of freedmen (freed slaves) of the *Trebonia* family. A slave, once freed, took the praenomen (the first or given name, such as *Publius*, *Gaius*, *Marcus*, etc.) and the family name (in this case, *Trebonius*) of his former master, keeping his slave name as a cognomen, corresponding to a nickname. In this case, the cognomens all appear to be of Eastern-Greek origin (*Nicostratus*, *Macedo*, Alexander, etc.). The inscription also tells us that these freedmen and their former masters practiced the trade of *thurarii*, incense sellers, which, at the time, was a luxury good from the East.

Poi 7

Via Appia Antica – Tor Carbone (South)

Roma / Place to visit - Ancient streets

This is the junction of Via Appia Antica and Via di Tor Carbone, from where you may continue along the other itineraries across the Park by following the information on the board.