The Via Appia, from Via di Tor Carbone to Capo di Bove

Via Appia Antica

This itinerary runs between the 5th and 4th milestones of the Appian Way, from the junction with Via di Tor Carbone to the complex of Capo di Bove. This is one of the most evocative sections of the ancient road, the result of the restoration of many archaeological remains by the architect Luigi Canina, in the mid-19th century, as part of a grandiose renovation project spearheaded by the pope.
In what is, to all intents and purposes, a magnificent open-air museum, you can admire numerous tombs, statues, inscriptions and architectures carefully restored by Canina, in an attempt to restore the road to a part, at least, of its ancient splendour, highlighting its historical and archaeological importance.
Unlike in other areas of the Roman countryside, here the names of most of the owners of the tombs lining the road are known: Marcus Servilius Quartus, Hilarus Fuscus, the sons of Sextus Pompeius Justus, Tiberius Claudius Philippianus, Quintus Apuleius, the Licinii and Rabirii families. Lacking the name of the owners, the tombs are imaginatively called based on certain architectural features, such as the Doric tomb, the tomb of the Garlands and of the Frontispiece.
Walking along this section of the Way you really do feel that you are retracing the steps of the many people, armies and popes who passed here through the centuries, like pope Pius IX, who stayed at the Torlonia farmhouse nearby on his way back from Terracina, which even features a plaque commemorating the first telegraph transmission experiments conducted here. This is also the road travelled by Saint Paul towards the Eternal City. A road which, even in the darkest period of its decline, never stopped inspiring and attracting the most sensitive spirits of European culture, who flocked to Rome to complete their education.

Poi

1 Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece
2 Tomb of Rabirii
3 Tomb of Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus
4 The Horseshoe Columbarium
5 Doric Tomb - Tomb of Hilarus Fuscus - Tomb of Gens Licinia
6 Tomb of St. Urban
7 Tomb of the children of Sextus Pompey
8 The Round Tomb
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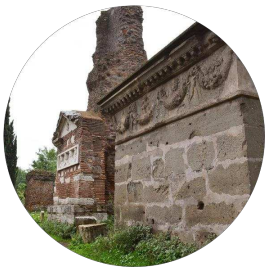
10 E Tomb of Servilius Quartus
11 F High relief with a male figure
12 G The Appia Fort
13 H The Cecchignola Water Tower
14 I Casale Torlonia
15 L The "flint core" tomb
16 M Tomb of the Equinoxes
17 N Tower Tomb
18 O Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive

Info

POI
18

Distance
2.07 Km

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



Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Here you can see two close tombs: the first one, known as the “Tomb of the Garlands”, has been dated to the time of Sulla (2nd-1st century BC) and is an altar type tomb made with blocks of peperino stone. In the upper section Luigi Canina inserted a frieze featuring small winged gods called *erotes*, represented with their busts turned towards us and their legs in profile, holding garlands of flowers and fruits.
The second tomb is known as the “Tomb of the Frontispiece” and is fronted by a wall, built by Luigi Canina in the mid-19th century, incorporating architectural fragments which the archaeologist recognised as belonging to the tower tomb behind, of which only the concrete core remains today. In the centre of the wall, built to resemble a shrine or *aedicule*, is a funerary bas-relief with four portraits, the man and woman in the middle typically represented as husband and wife. The original, dated to the 1st century BC, is preserved in the Museo Nazionale Romano.

Visit Duration

3 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

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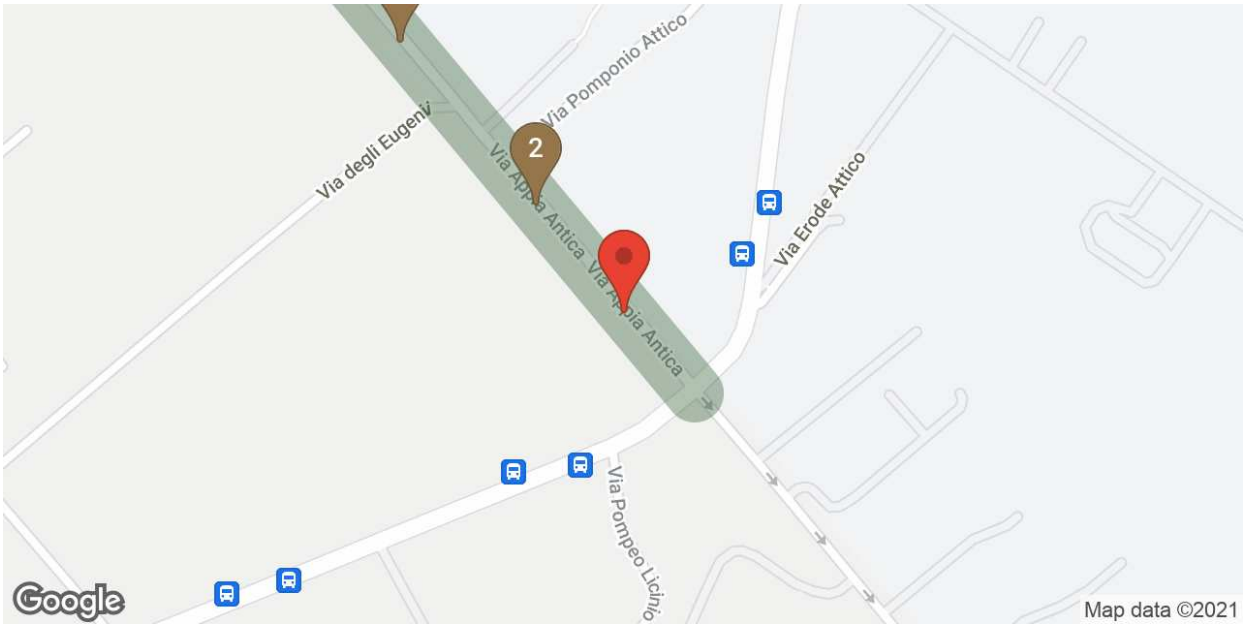
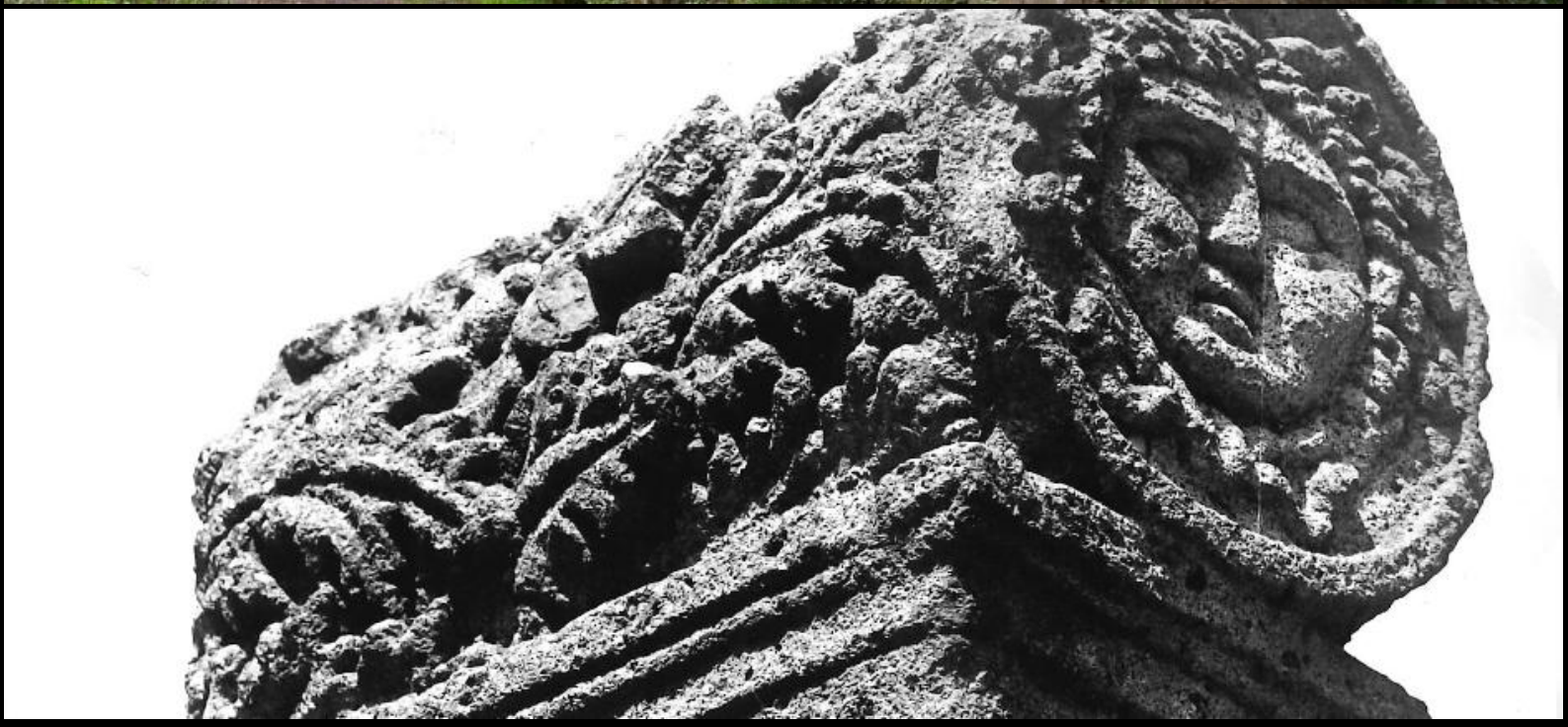


Map / Street View

Poi 1



Tomb of Rabirii

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

You are now standing before a tomb reconstructed in the mid-19th century by the architect and antiquarian Luigi Canina, in the form of a large altar. A relief with three figures can be seen on the front, recovered from among the surviving fragments of the tomb, although this is only a cast (the original relief having been removed to the museum of Palazzo Massimo alle Terme). The portraits feature two freedmen, *C. Rabirius Hermodorus*, at the service of the knight *C. Rabirius Postumus*, and *Rabiria Demaris*; the female portrait is that of a priestess of Isis, *Usia Prima sac(erdos) Isidis*, flanked by two cult symbols, a ritual cup and a musical instrument called a "*sistrum*". The first two figures are dated 40 BC, while the female figure is probably the result of a later reworking of another, perhaps male, member of the family, with the name added

Visit Duration

3 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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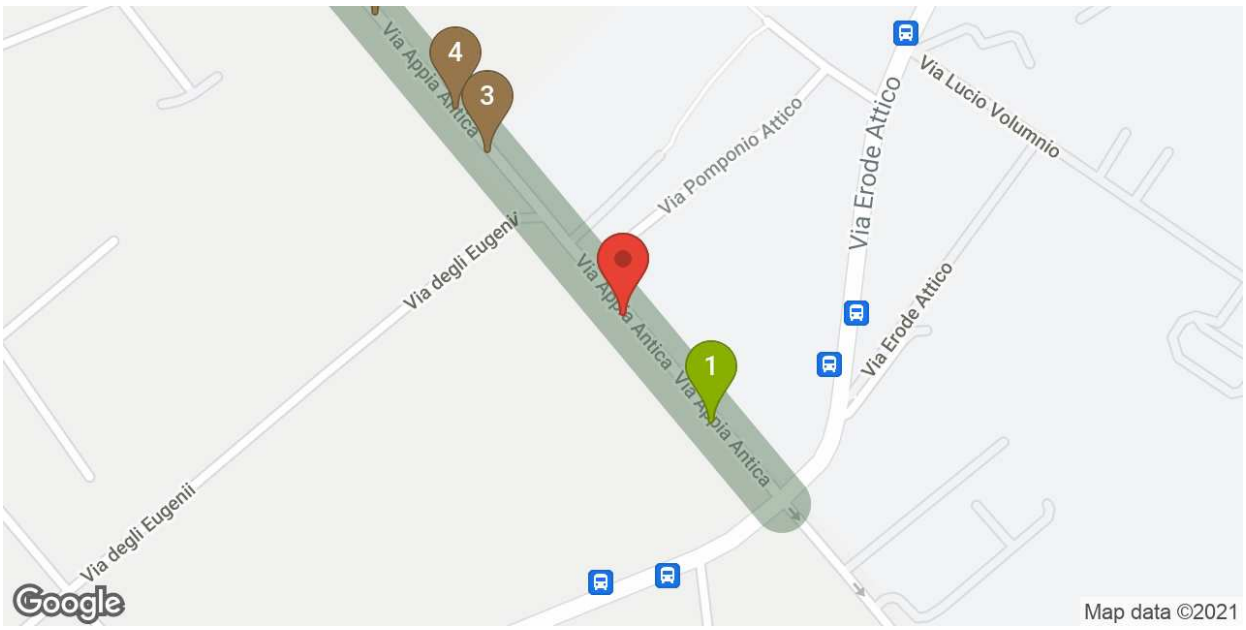

Map / Street View

Poi 2

C·RABIRIVS·POSTL·RABIRIA·VSIA·PRIMASAC

C·RABIRIVS·POSTL·RABIRIA·VSIA·PRIMASAC

C·RABIRIVS·POSTL·RABIRIA·VSIA·PRIMASAC
HERMODORVS·DEMARIS

Tomb of Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This tomb is the result of a reconstruction by Luigi Canina, in the mid-19th century, the front of which consists of a brick wall incorporating a number of marble fragments found in the surroundings. Based on the inscriptions on the bases of two small statues at the top and on the fragmentary epitaph, also assembled on the wall, we know that the tomb belonged to Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus and his wife Flavia Irene, with their sons Tiberius Claudius Secundinus and Claudia Secondina.
The father, a freedman of a Claudian emperor (possibly Nero), held a number of positions during his lifetime, as tax collector (*coactor argentarius*), assistant to the magistrates during religious ceremonies (*accensus velatus*), copyist (*scriba librarius*) and official messenger (*viator*). Behind Canina's wall of fragments all that remains of the original tomb is the flint and concrete core, entirely stripped of its original facing.

Visit Duration

5 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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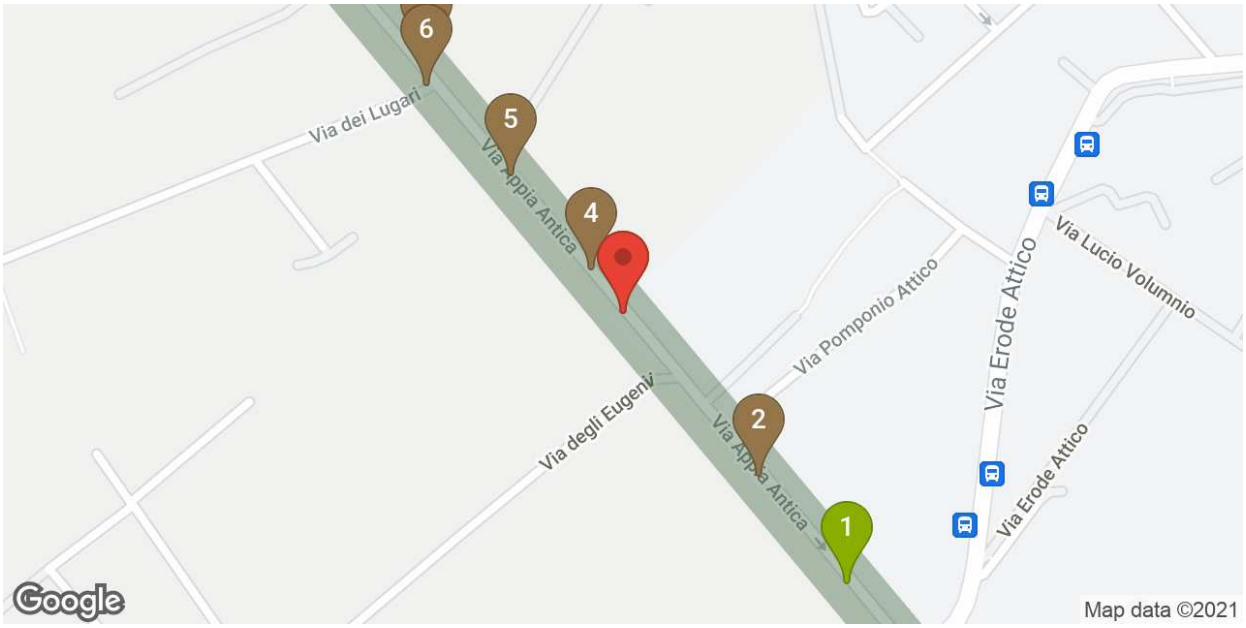

Map / Street View

Poi 3

The Horseshoe Columbarium

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This building has been identified as a tomb dating back to the 2nd century AD whose entrance, on the opposite side to the street, leads into a rectangular chamber with a white mosaic floor. Inside, the brick walls feature numerous semi-circular niches containing the urns with the ashes of the dead. This columbarium was investigated in 1999, after which it was restored, including the roof.

Visit Duration

2 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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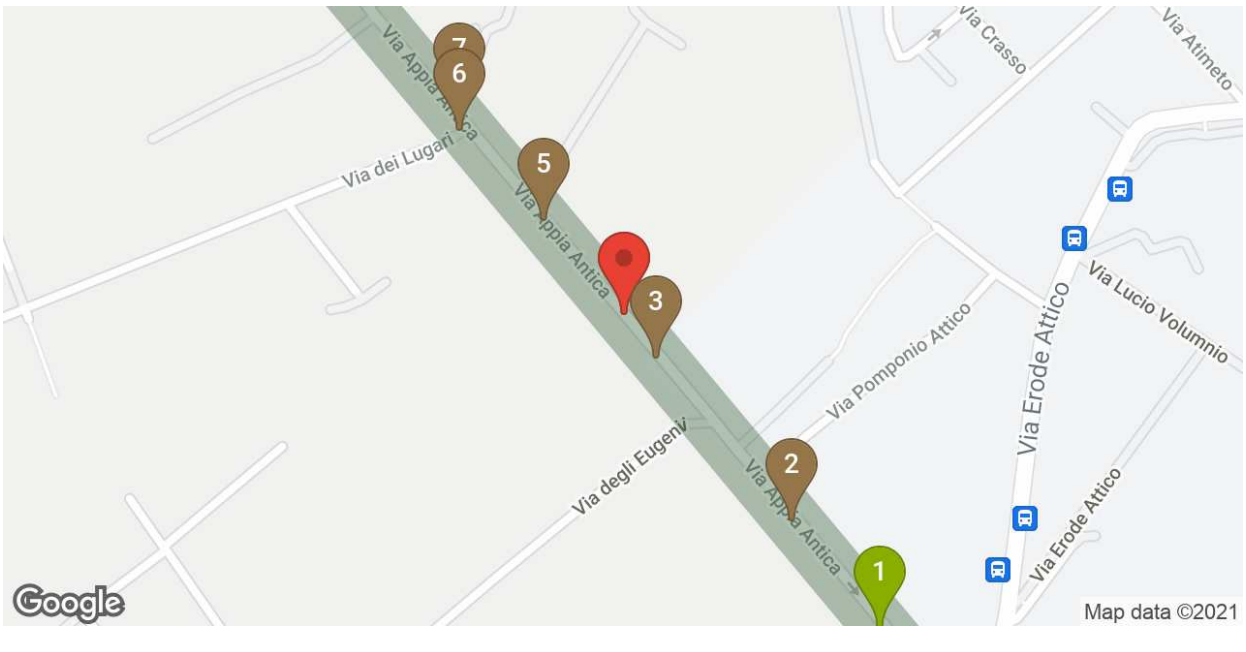

Map / Street View

Poi 4

Doric Tomb - Tomb of Hilarus Fuscus - Tomb of Gens Licinia

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

About 130 metres south of the Tomb of the children of Sextus Pompeus, on the opposite side of the road, there are two funerary monuments restored by Luigi Canina in the mid-19th century. Faced with the scant remains of the first tomb, Canina decided to conceal it behind a brick wall on which he assembled the fragments of statues and other marble decorations found in the vicinity. Only the epitaph of the deceased of the gens Licinia remains today, hence the name of the monument. The second tomb, also known as the Doric tomb, after the style of the frieze on the upper section, was rebuilt using blocks of peperino, at the centre of which he placed a relief with the scene of a hunt or a battle. This is an altar-type tomb, a rather common style in the Republican period. About 40 metres south of the Tomb of the Licinii and of the Doric Tomb is another of Canina's walls of fragments, erected in the middle of the 19th century, in front of a much deteriorated tomb. The marble fragments found in the vicinity were incorporated into the wall, with a relief featuring three niches containing the frontal busts of five persons. Dated to the Augustan period, this is only a concrete copy, the original being preserved in the National Roman Museum in Rome. Canina had placed a later inscription bearing the name of Hilarus Fuscus at the top of the wall, which, however, has since disappeared.

Visit Duration

6 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

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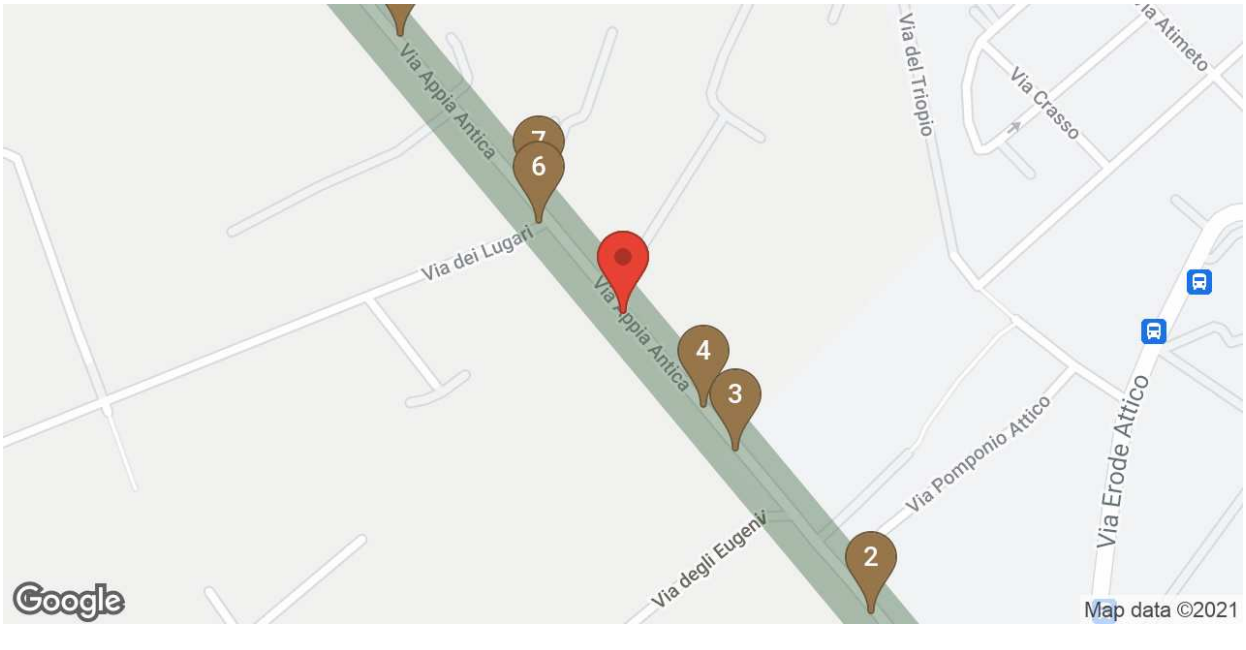
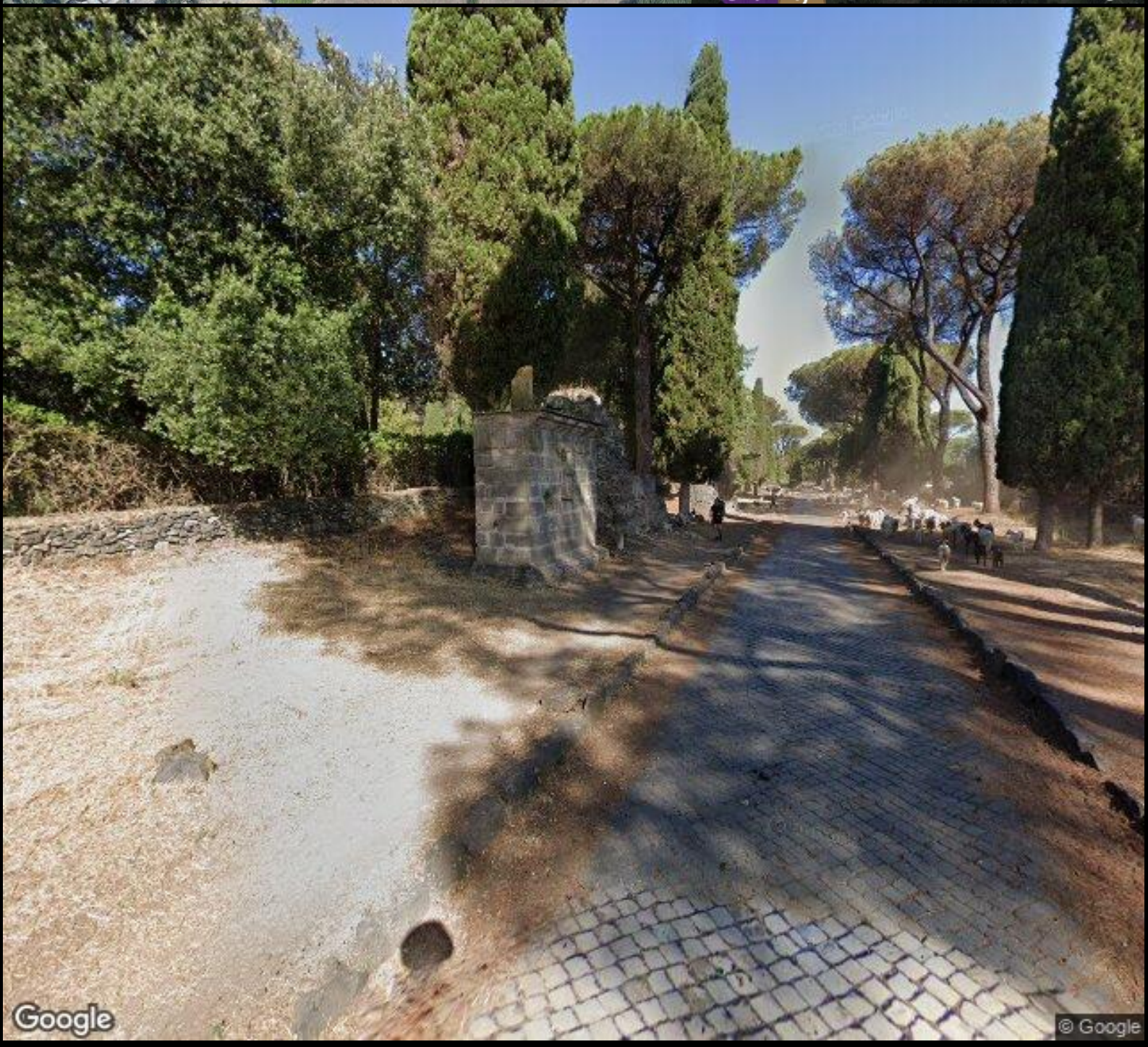


Map / Street View

Poi 5



Tomb of St. Urban

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The tomb of St. Urban can be reached by taking Via dei Lugari, which branches off the Via Appia Antica on the right, almost opposite the tomb of the *Licinii*. This monument, which cannot be visited because it lies on private grounds, is in the process of being purchased by the Ministry for Cultural Assets and Activities, so that it can be opened to the public.
The tomb was erected at the end of the 4th century AD on a road connecting a villa to the Appian Way, the remains of which villa were mistakenly identified, in the mid-19th century, with the *Domus Marmeniae*. Marmenia was, in fact, the Roman lady who, according to an ancient account of the martyrdom of St. Urban, received the remains of the pope and his companions in her house.

Not open to visitors

Visit Duration

5 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

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Audioguide

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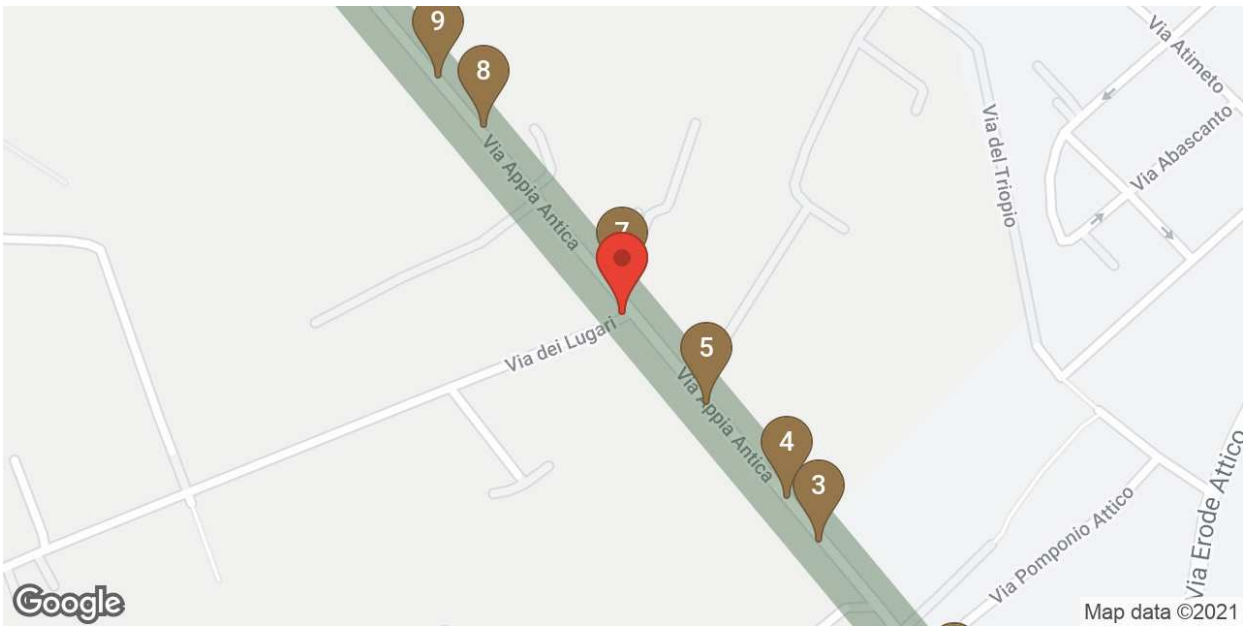
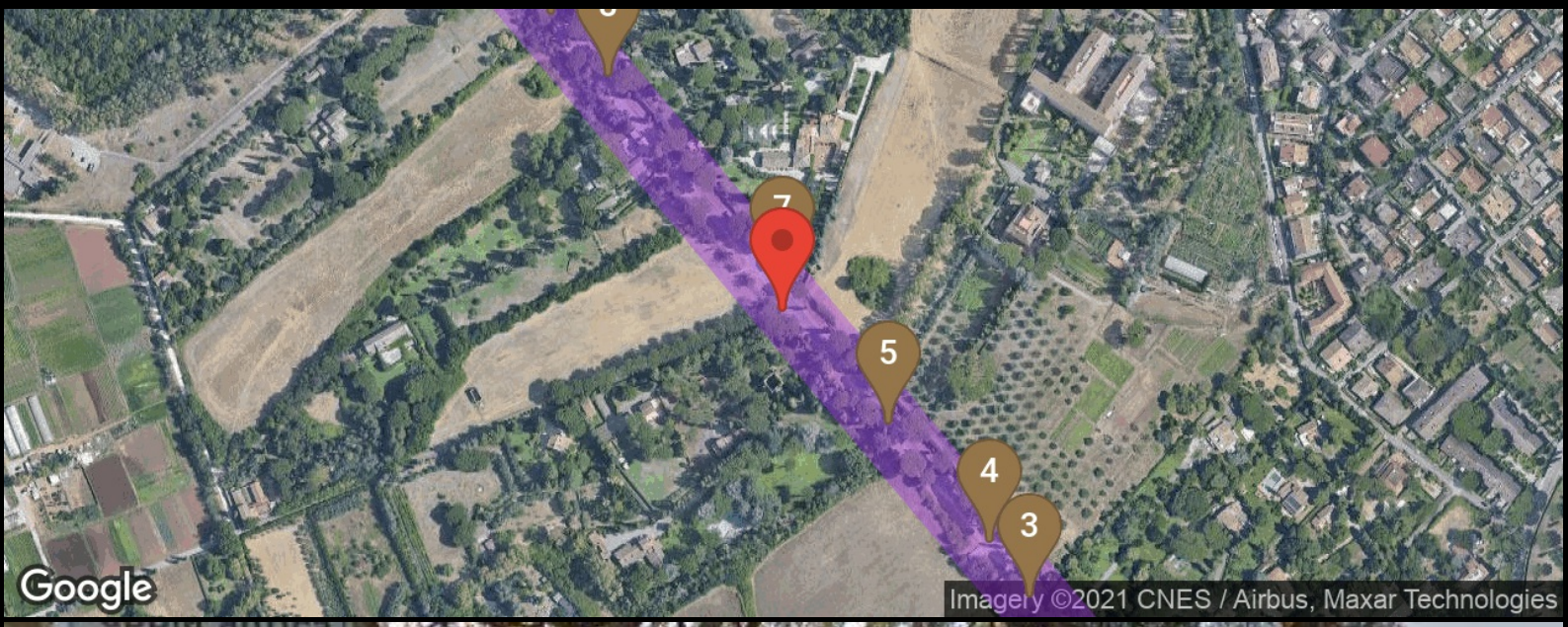


Map / Street View

Poi 6



Tomb of the children of Sextus Pompey

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The tomb, located about 250 metres south of the Tomb of Seneca, is named after the person mentioned in the large epitaph, in verse, incorporated by Luigi Canina, in the 19th century, in one of his brick walls of fragments, together with other fragments, most of which have since disappeared. The inscription consists of eight elegiac couplets containing the dedication by a father, Sextus Pompeius Justus, of the tomb for two his children who died prematurely, Pompea Eleuthera and Sextus Pompeius. The verses read: “A wretched father, Sextus Pompey, weeps the death before their time of a son and a daughter. He hoped, as nature's laws decree, to precede them to the grave; instead, grief-stricken, he was compelled to light their funeral pyre". He then movingly implores the Manes, deities representing the souls of deceased loved ones, to ensure that he may soon join them again.

Visit Duration

3 min.

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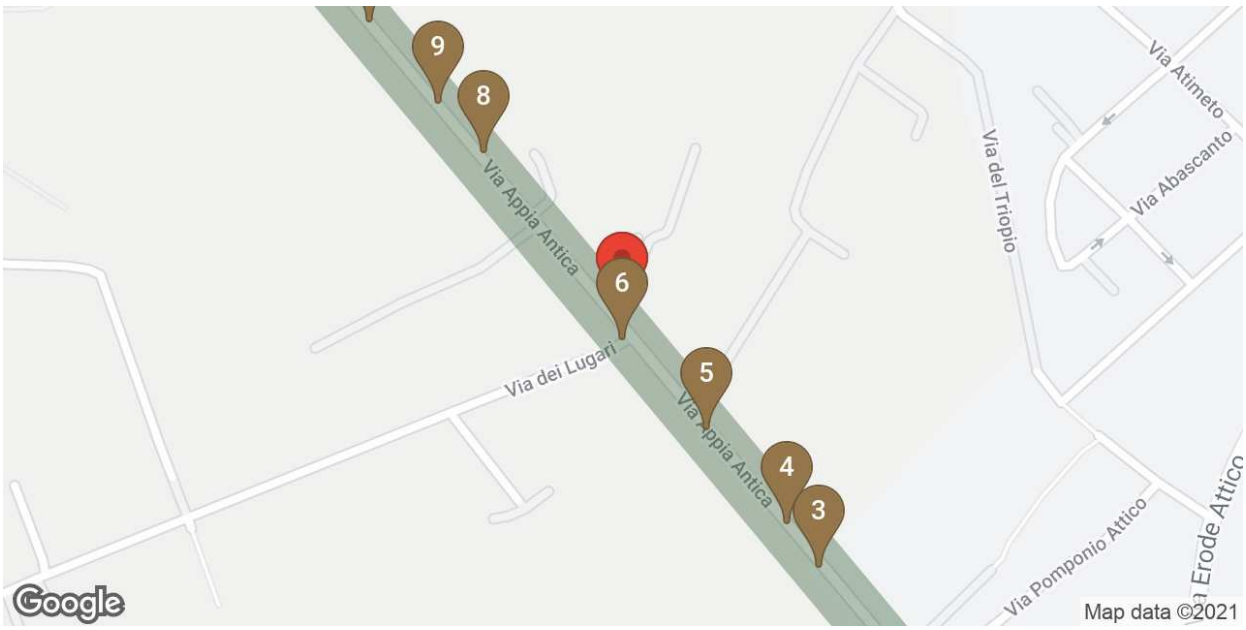
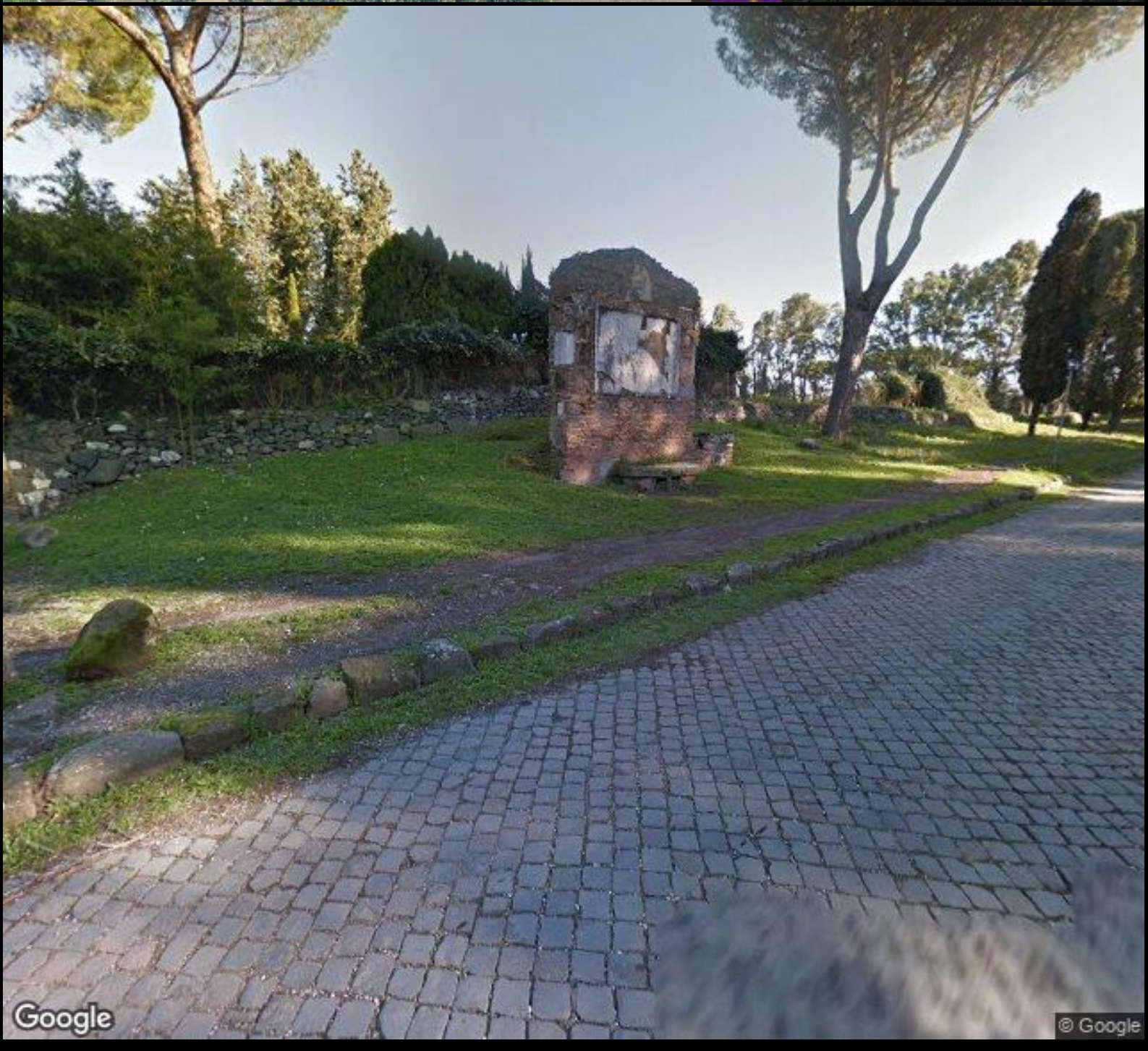


Map / Street View

Poi 7



The Round Tomb

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The name of the family that built this tomb is unknown. All that remains of the tomb today is the concrete core of the cylindrical drum, with marks left by the travertine block facing, which is topped by a conical cap made with pieces of lava rock. Inside the monument, which is dated to the early Imperial period (1st century AD), there is a chamber in the form of a Greek cross – with both arms of the same length – and four niches for the sarcophagi.
At the end of the 19th century, the archaeologist Rodolfo Lanciani used it as a storage room for the finds unearthed during the archaeological excavations he conducted along the Appian Way.

Visit Duration

2 min.

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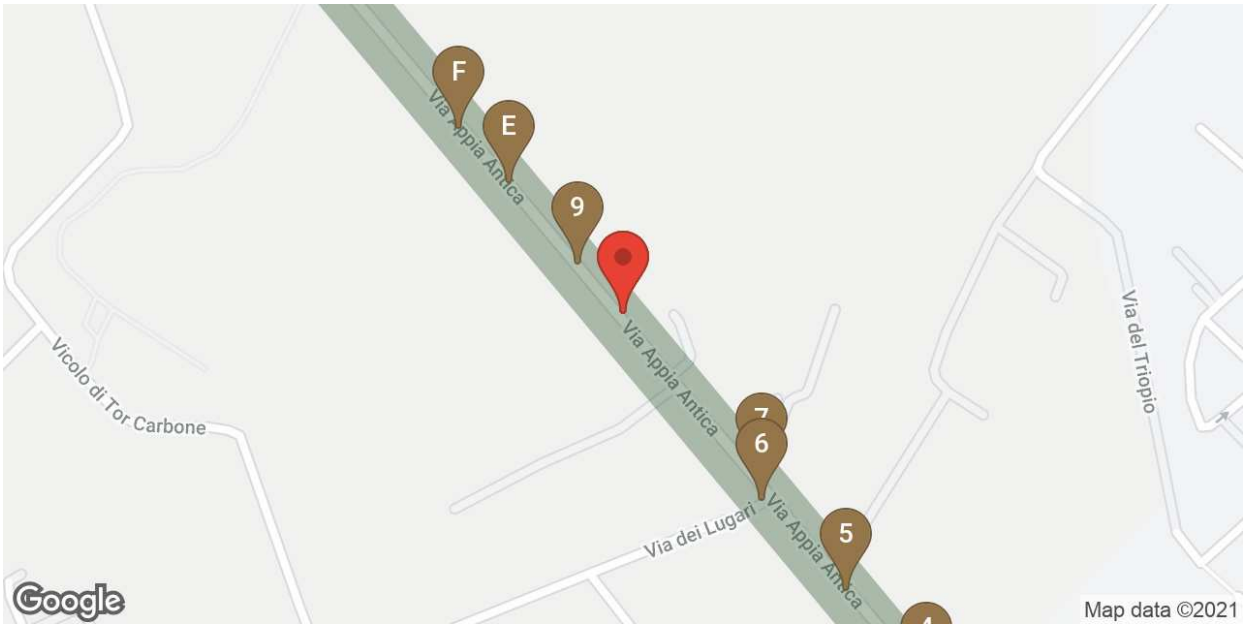

Map / Street View

Poi 8

Tomb of Seneca

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The so-called "Tomb of Seneca" is the first significant monument at the 5th mile of the Appian Way. Its appearance is that of a wall of fragments, erected by Antonio Canova in the first half of the 19th century, assembling architectural and decorative marble fragments (many of which, however, are missing, having been stolen over the years).
The archaeologist Antonio Nibby identified it with the tomb of Seneca, based on the association of a figure on a fragment of a sarcophagus lid found in the vicinity (but which actually depicts Hippolytus) with the historical sources, which speak of the villa owned by the philosopher at the 4th mile of the Via Appia Antica, which is where he committed suicide at the orders of the Emperor Nero in AD 65.

Visit Duration

2 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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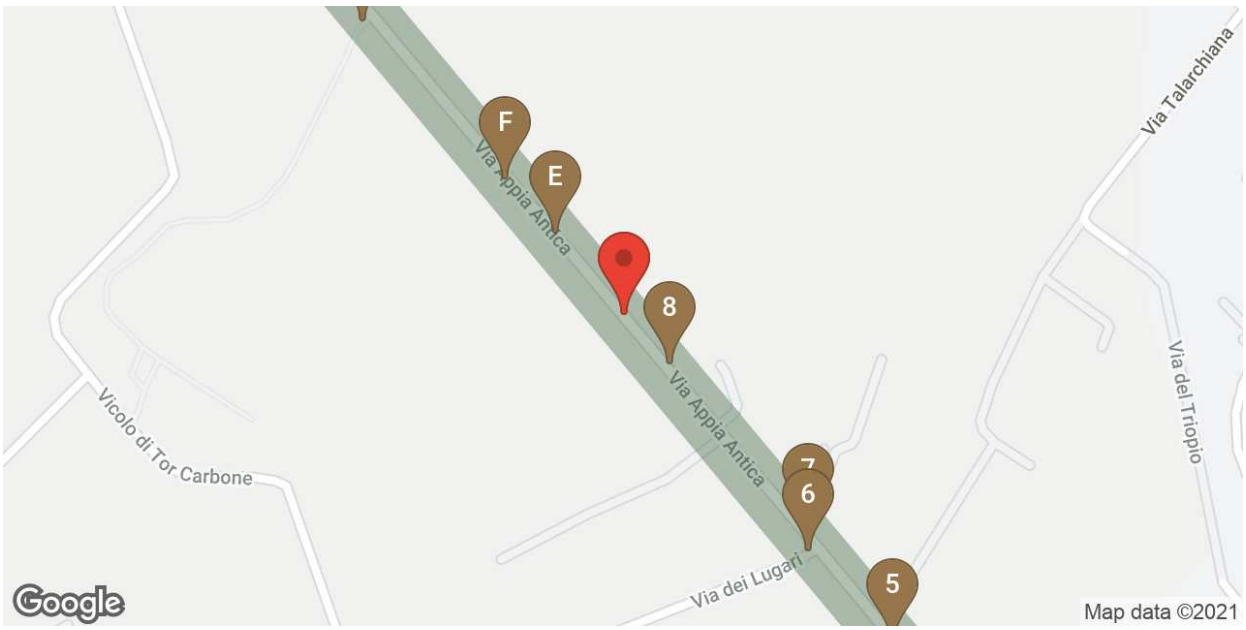

Map / Street View

Poi 9

Tomb of Servilius Quartus

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The tomb dates to the 1st century AD and was rebuilt and restored as a brick wall incorporating scattered fragments, by the sculptor Antonio Canova in 1808; in the Napoleonic period, in fact, the idea began to take hold of creating a huge park extending from the Capitol to the Alban Hills, to design which the Governor of the city De Tournon called two outstanding personalities, Antonio Canova and Giuseppe Valadier.
The tomb, besides incorporating several marble fragments of decoration, features the original funerary inscription, which was pieced back together and tells us that Servilius Quartus had built the tomb at his own expense. Canova marked his restoration work with an inscription placed on the tomb and highlighting how pope Pius VII had provided for the preservation of the fragments discovered there in 1808.
The tomb, probably built in the shape of a shrine, contained a female statue, since lost, and a statue of Servilius Quartus himself wearing a toga, which is now displayed in the Vatican Museums.

Visit Duration

2 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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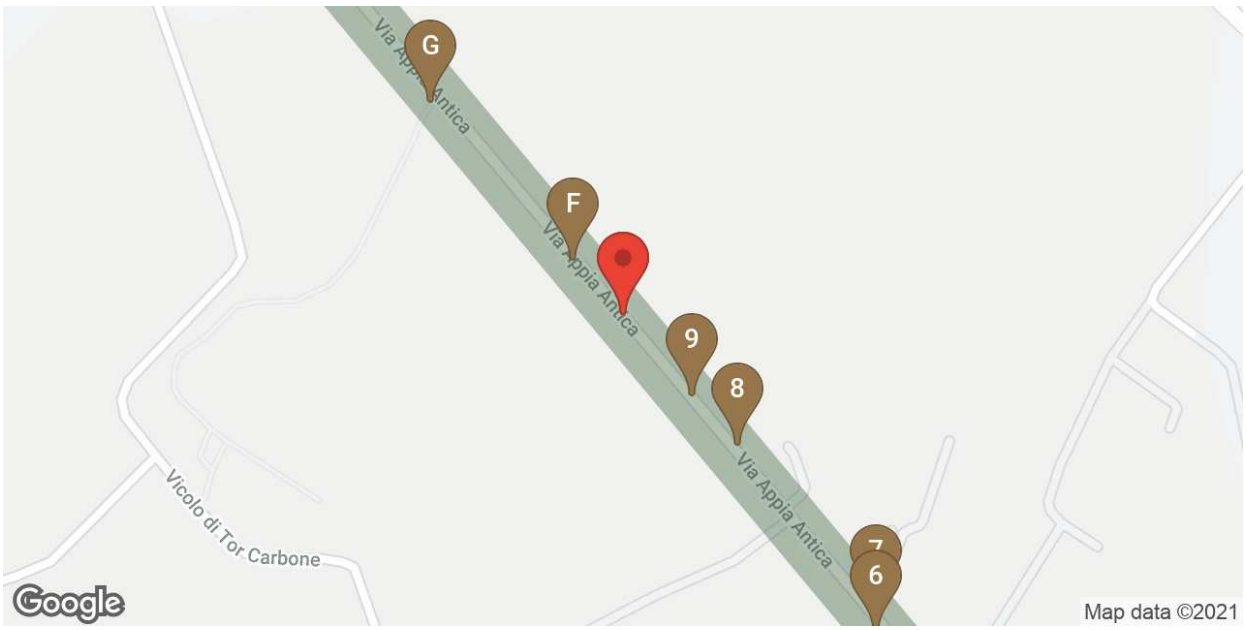


Map / Street View

Poi 10

SERVILIVS
FECIT

High relief with a male figure

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Not far from the Appia Antica Fort, built between 1877 and 1880, as part of the new defence system for the city of Rome, on the right-hand side of the road visitors may admire a high relief showing a young nude man in a heroic pose, which was how the ancients depicted their gods, heroes or athletes. He is wearing a chlamys, a short light mantle draped over the shoulders, generally worn when horse-riding and has a cuirass at his feet.
The relief belonged to a monumental tomb of the Augustan period (I century AD) the rest of which has gone entirely lost.

Visit Duration

3 min.

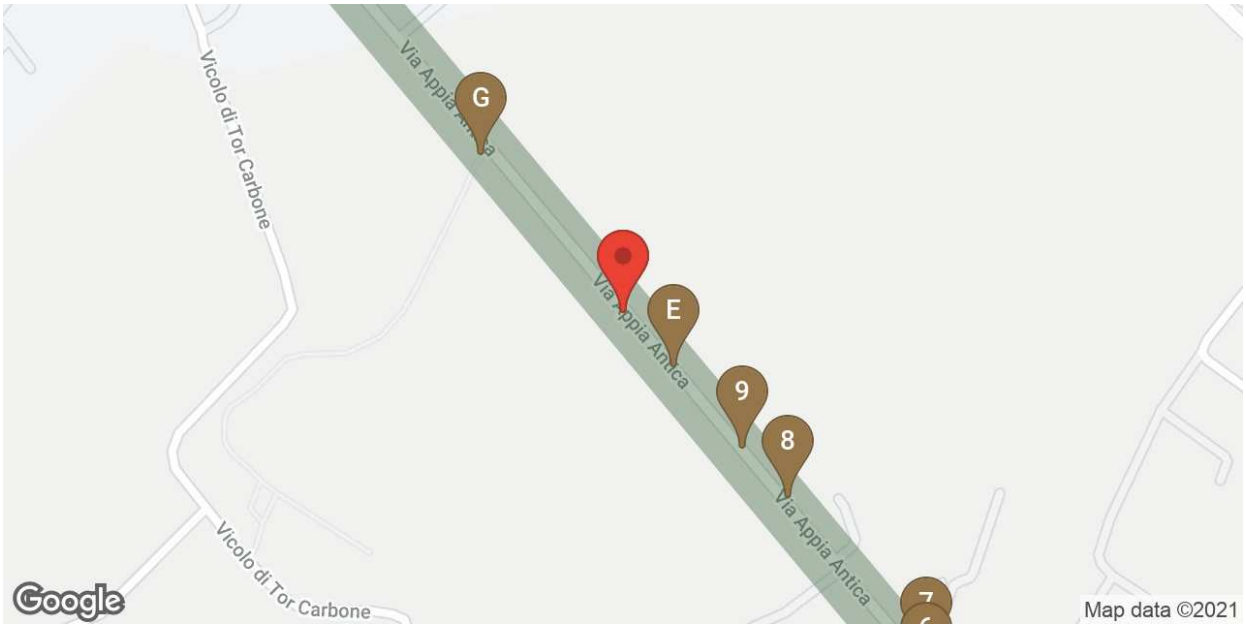
Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop, and then walk for about 10 minutes, alternatively from METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 765 or from METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take the BUS 765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE ATTICO stop and then walk for about 10 minutes.

1 Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece
2 Tomb of Rabirii
3 Tomb of Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus
4 The Horseshoe Columbarium
5 Doric Tomb - Tomb of Hilarus Fuscus - Tomb of Gens Licinia
6 Tomb of St. Urban
7 Tomb of the children of Sextus Pompey
8 The Round Tomb
9 Tomb of Seneca
10 E Tomb of Servilius Quartus
11 F High relief with a male figure
12 G The Appia Fort
13 H The Cecchignola Water Tower
14 I Casale Torlonia
15 L The "flint core" tomb
16 M Tomb of the Equinoxes
17 N Tower Tomb
18 O Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive



Map / Street View

Poi 11

The Appia Fort

Roma / Place to visit - Historical places

The fort was built between 1877 and 1880 and was the first to be erected on the left side of the Tiber, as part of the so-called “trenched field” of Rome, a string of fortresses, built starting in 1877, for the purpose of protecting the capital. Located at about 4/5 km, on average, from the Aurelian Walls, they formed a ring around the city about 37 km long, with 4 artillery forts and 15 fortresses built along the main roads leading into the city, almost all of which are the Roman consular roads. During the excavations to build the Fort an important Roman necropolis was unearthed, used from the Augustan period to the 3rd century AD. Most of the inscriptions found here are now preserved at the Tomb of Caecilia Metalla. The fort is trapezoid in shape and features a broad moat in the front.

Not open to visitors

Visit Duration

2 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop and then walk for about 10 minutes, alternatively from METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 765 or from METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take the BUS 765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE ATTICO stop and then walk for 10 minutes.

Audioguide

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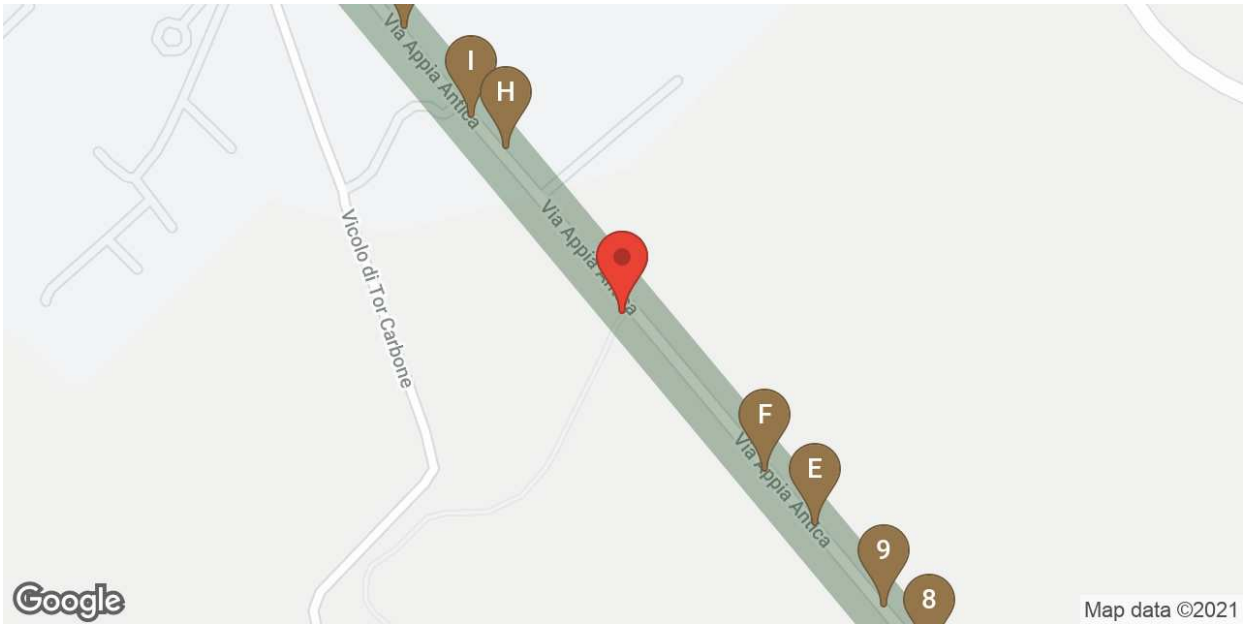
18 O Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive



Map / Street View

Poi 12

AQVINCTILIONESIM

The Cecchignola Water Tower

Roma / Place to visit - Towers

This tower is one of the water control towers of the Cecchignola aqueduct built by the Torlonia in 1895.
The family, which owned vast estates in the Roman countryside, built this advanced water supply system to irrigate their farmland. At the base of the Cecchignola Castle, just outside the western edge of the Park, several water springs formed a small lake, next to which there was a tower, which Alessandro Torlonia thought of raising to the level of the Via Appia and building a water tank inside.
Thus, the water was pumped from the lake into the tank inside the tower, to a height of 45 metres, and then used to irrigate the surrounding farmland for several kilometres, by means of cast iron pipes.
A plaque on the tower, with the Torlonia coat of arms, commemorates the year of construction.

Open every day

Visit Duration

2 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica, 240 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop then walk for 9 minutes.

1 Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece
2 Tomb of Rabirii
3 Tomb of Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus
4 The Horseshoe Columbarium
5 Doric Tomb - Tomb of Hilarus Fuscus - Tomb of Gens Licinia
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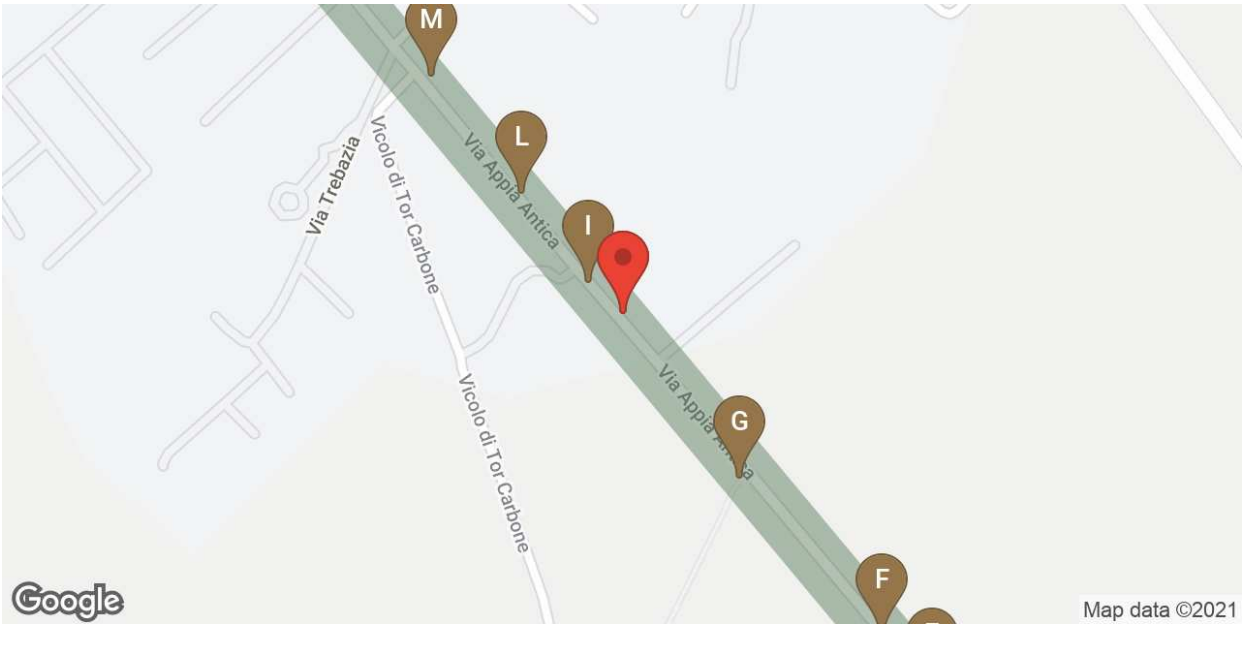
18 O Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive



Map / Street View

Poi 13

Casale Torlonia

Roma / Place to visit - Casali

On the façade of the building, in pride of place, is a marble plaque with the coat of arms of the Torlonia family and a much faded inscription, in Latin, dated 1853, which reads “Pius IX, Pontifex Maximus, during the electrical telegraphy experiments, returning on the Appian Way reclaimed from the marshes, honoured this house with his august presence”.
The house, far from the noise and bustle of Rome, was chosen by Giovanni Giolitti as a retreat, after the end of his term of office at the Supreme Administrative Court. Nearby is a stretch of the original paving of the Appian Way. Subsequently, the building was renovated to host the Embassy of Morocco.
The two low walls at the side of the road mark the limit of the visitable stretch of Via Appia before the restoration work carried out by Luigi Canina, who transformed the road into an open air museum, up to the location of Frattocchie. Near the farmhouse a stretch of the Appian Way with its original paving is still preserved.

Visit Duration

5 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica 240 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop and then walk for about 8 minutes

1 Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece
2 Tomb of Rabirii
3 Tomb of Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus
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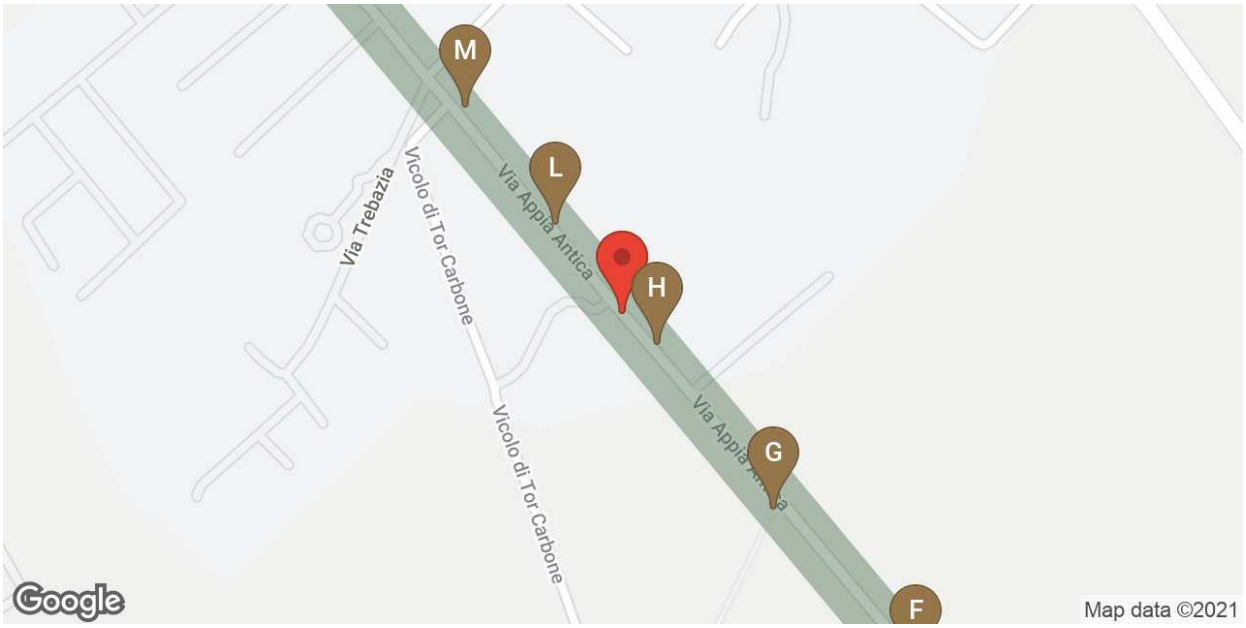

Map / Street View

Poi 14

The "flint core" tomb

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

At the third mile of the Appian Way, on the left-hand side of the road, just before the Casale Torlonia farmhouse, walking away from Rome, at 6.20 metres from the road rises a huge concrete and flint structure, over 9 metres wide towards the toad, in excess of 5 metres thick and 12 metres tall, it is the solid core of a Roman tomb. If you look carefully you may make out the different concrete casts, made on different days, and, on the left-hand side, the base still features traces of the original brickwork facing. The tomb no longer preserves any of its original marble or travertine block or slab cladding. At the top you may notice several holes in the concrete, probably housing decorative elements or cinerary urns.

Visit Duration

3 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station COLLI ALBANI take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop and then walk for 7 minutes.

1 Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece
2 Tomb of Rabirii
3 Tomb of Tiberius Claudius Secundus Philippianus
4 The Horseshoe Columbarium
5 Doric Tomb - Tomb of Hilarus Fuscus - Tomb of Gens Licinia
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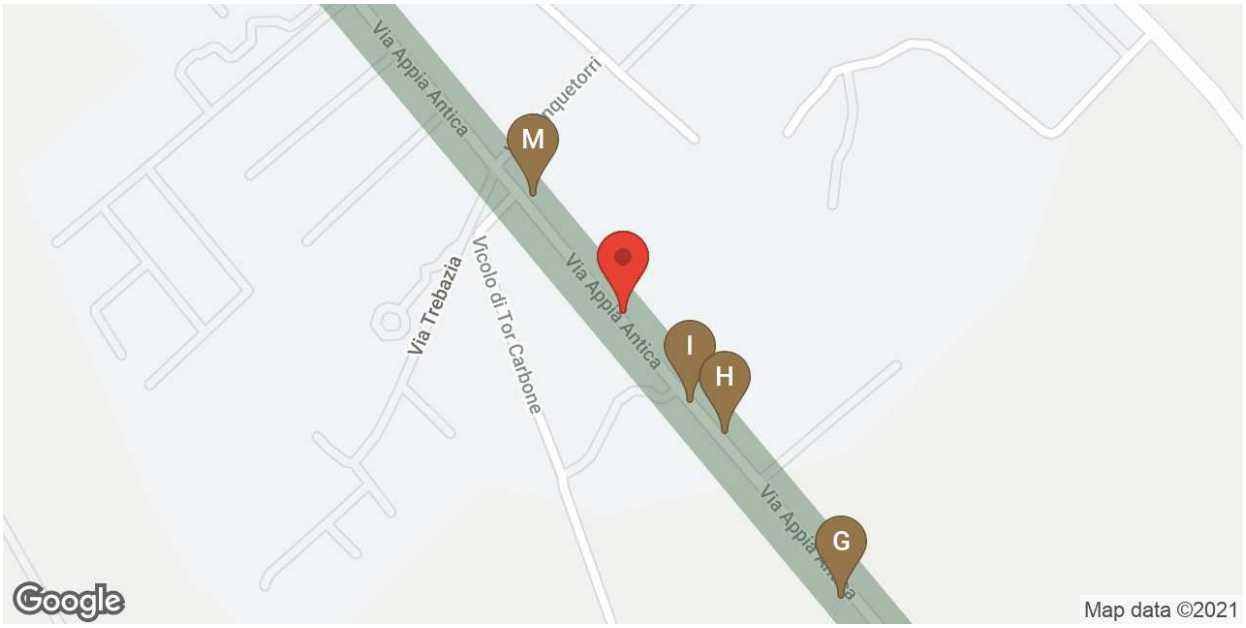

Map / Street View

Poi 15

Tomb of the Equinoxes

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The tomb, dated to the 2nd century BC, is situated inside a private property. The tomb is round with a square subterranean burial chamber, which preserves its travertine cladding, with niches for the cinerary urns.
In 1748, the architect and engraver Giovan Battista Piranesi drew and described several stucco fragments he observed on the walls, and based on which it can be assumed that the chamber was decorated with frescoes. We do not know to which family the tomb belonged and its name comes from the fact that it appears to be astronomically oriented towards the Equinox. In fact, on the exact day of each Equinox a ray of sunlight enters the burial chamber through a window and hits a spot in the exact centre of the floor. In ancient times rites celebrating death and rebirth were held on the Equinoxes.

Not open to visitors

Visit Duration

15 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica, 187 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to BASILICA S.SEBASTIANO stop and then walk for 15 minutes, alternatively from METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop and then walk for 5 minutes.

1 Tombs of the Garlands and Tombs the Frontspiece
2 Tomb of Rabirii
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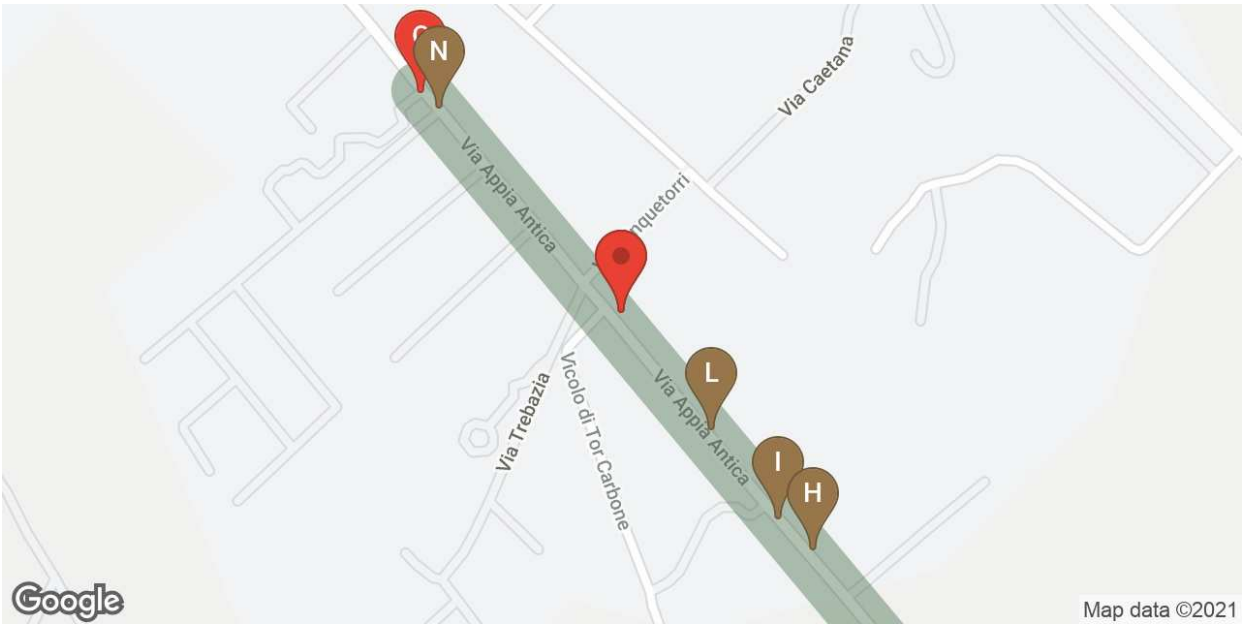

Map / Street View

Poi 16

Tower Tomb

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This tower-shaped tomb, not far from the Capo di Bove complex, was probably a multi-storey tomb consisting of a concrete core incorporating fragments of precious Luni marble (which today is known as Carrara marble), the use of which material in Rome is attested from the mid-1st century BC, which is the period in which this structure was built.The monument features a modern inscription referring to the trigonometric measurements carried out along the Via Appia in 1855, by the Jesuit scientist Angelo Secchi, an astronomer and the director of the Observatory of the Roman College. The measurements served as the basis for the nationwide geodetic survey completed in 1871.

Visit Duration

3 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica, 222 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop.

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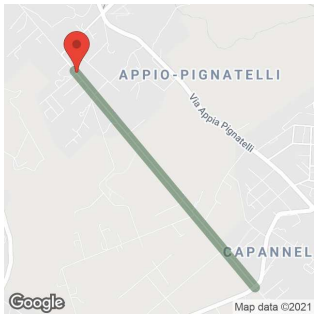
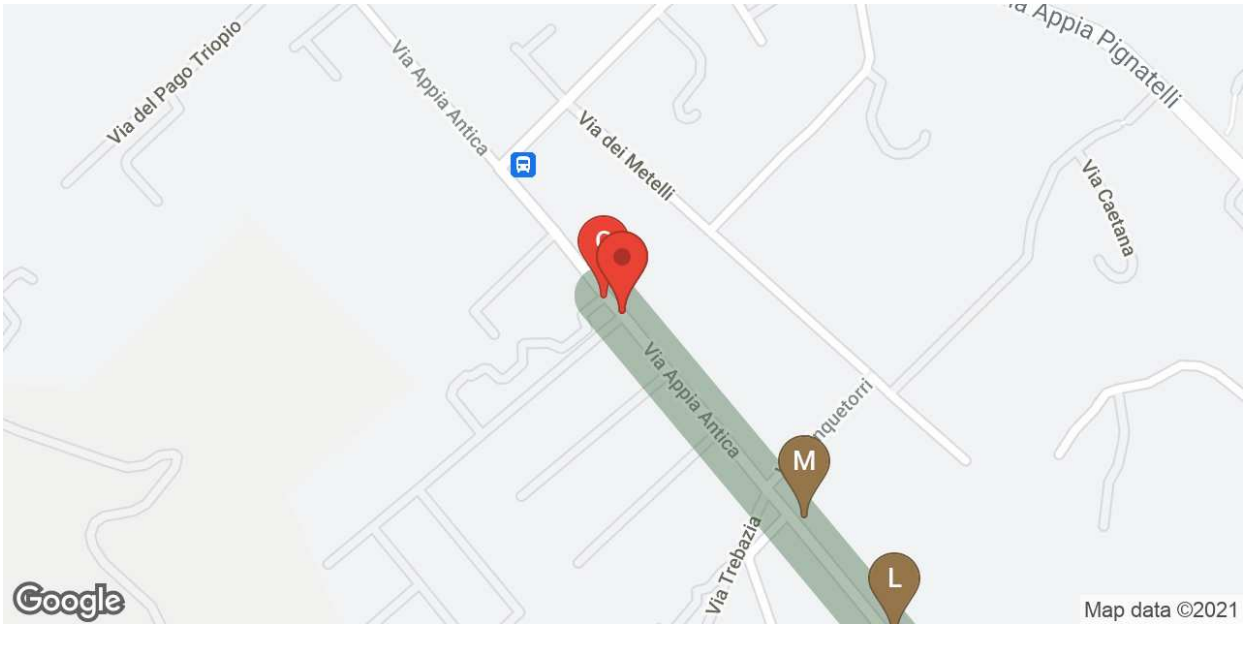
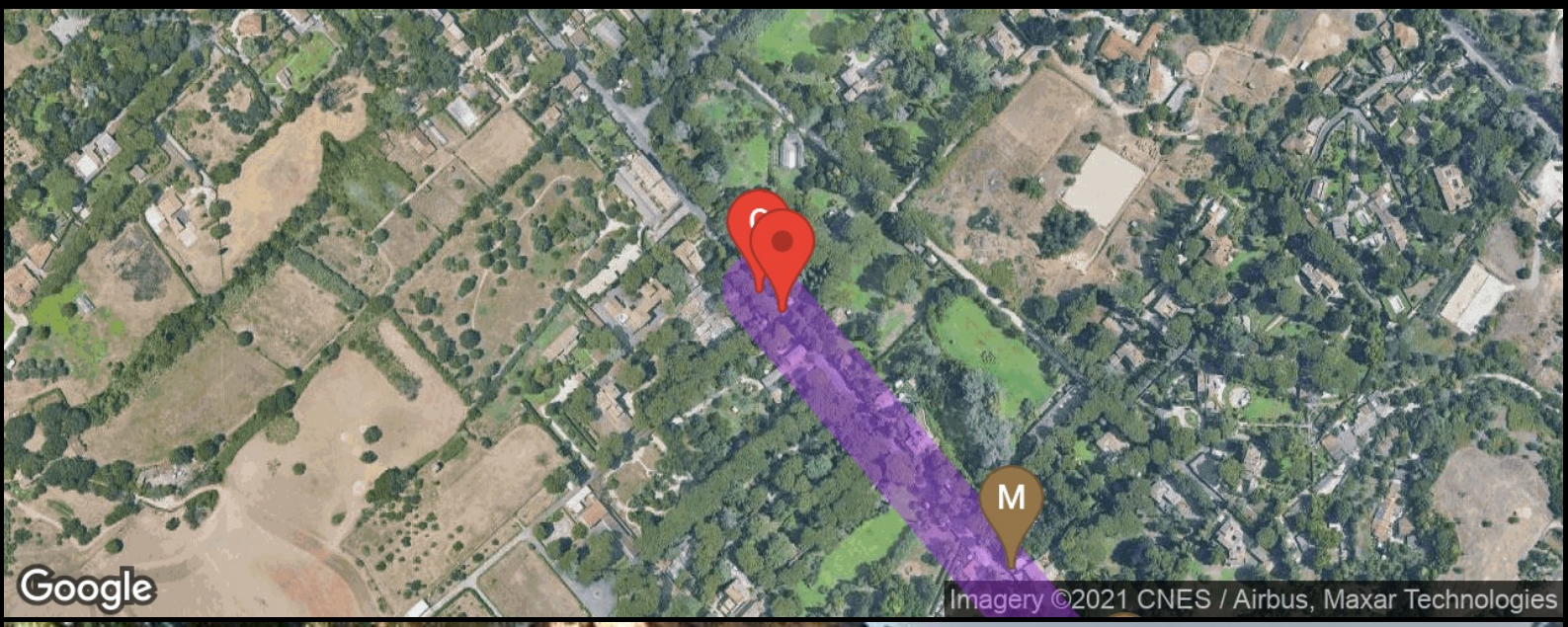
18 O Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive





Map / Street View

Poi 17



CAPO DI BOVE
NELL' ANNO MDCCCLV P. A. SECCHI
SULLA TRAÇCIA DEL P. BOSCOWICH
RIGOROSAMENTE MISURAVA LUNGO LA
VIA APPIA UNA BASE GEODETICA
E NELL' ANNO MDCCCLXX SOLLO STABILIRE
PRESSO I DUE ESTREMI DI ESSA
QUESTO PUNTO TRIGONOMETRICO
E L' ALTRO ALLE FRATTOCCHIE COSTITUIVA
UNA NUOVA BASE SULLA QUALE FU
VERIFICATA LA RETE GEODETICA ITALIANA
ORDITA NELL ANNO MDCCCLXXI DAGLI UFFICIALI
DEL CORPO DI STATO MAGGIORE PER LA
MISURA DEL GRADO EUROPEO

Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

The “Capo di Bove” site is situated at the 4th mile of the Via Appia Antica, at a distance of about 500 m from the Tomb of Caecilia Metella. It consists of a green area of approx. 8600 m2 with a main building on three levels and a smaller building. When the property was put up for sale, in 2002, the Archaeological Superintendence of Rome and the Ministry of Culture decided to purchase it, by exercising the right of pre-emption, given the archaeological interest of the area (subject to specific restrictions). Excavations carried out in the gardens, after it was purchased, unearthed a Roman bath complex dated to the mid-2nd century AD, with additions until the 4th century and traces of its conversion for agricultural purposes in the late antique period, when the area belonged to a vast church-owned estate called the *Patrimonium Appiae*. A large number of rooms of the baths remain, with mosaic and coloured marble flooring, pools, terracotta piping, the drainage system and parts of the marble cladding and painted wall-plaster.
The garden was redesigned and planted with new trees, with a walking route and an effective lighting system. The main building, originally a private house, has been adapted by the Superintendence to its new public function and now houses offices, a conference room, exhibition rooms, for photography and art, cultural events and teaching activities, and also hosts the Archive and Library of Antonio Cederna, the father of the environmentalist movement in Italy, who actively championed the protection of the Via Appia Antica. The building, built over the Roman water cistern feeding the baths, features typical wall decorations made in the 1950s with fragments and materials recovered from the ancient ruins.
The smaller outbuilding has been converted into a visitor information centre, complete with restrooms and beverage vending machines. Near the entrance, on side opposite to the street, are the remains of a tower tomb, dating back to the mid-1st century BC, with a marble plaque commemorating the trigonometric measurements carried out along the Via Appia in 1855 by the Jesuit priest Angelo Secchi.

Services

- Café / Restaurant
- Drinking water
- Info point
- Restroom

Opening Hours

09:00 - 19:00	On weekends mandatory reservation at least one day in advance by calling 067886254 during opening hours.

Audioguide

Scan the QrCode to access the Listen to the audioguide

Closing Days

Monday

Info

Opening hours:
From Tuesday to Sunday, from 9.00 to 19.00 pm with last admission 30 minutes before closing.

Visits on weekends must be booked by phone at least one day in advance.
Reservations for the weekend by calling 067886254 during opening hours.

Closing days:
25 December, 1 January, 15 August

Visit Duration

35 min.

Address

Via Appia Antica, 222 - Roma (RM)

How to get

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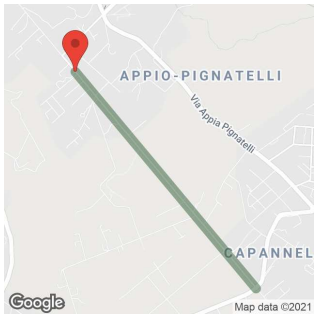
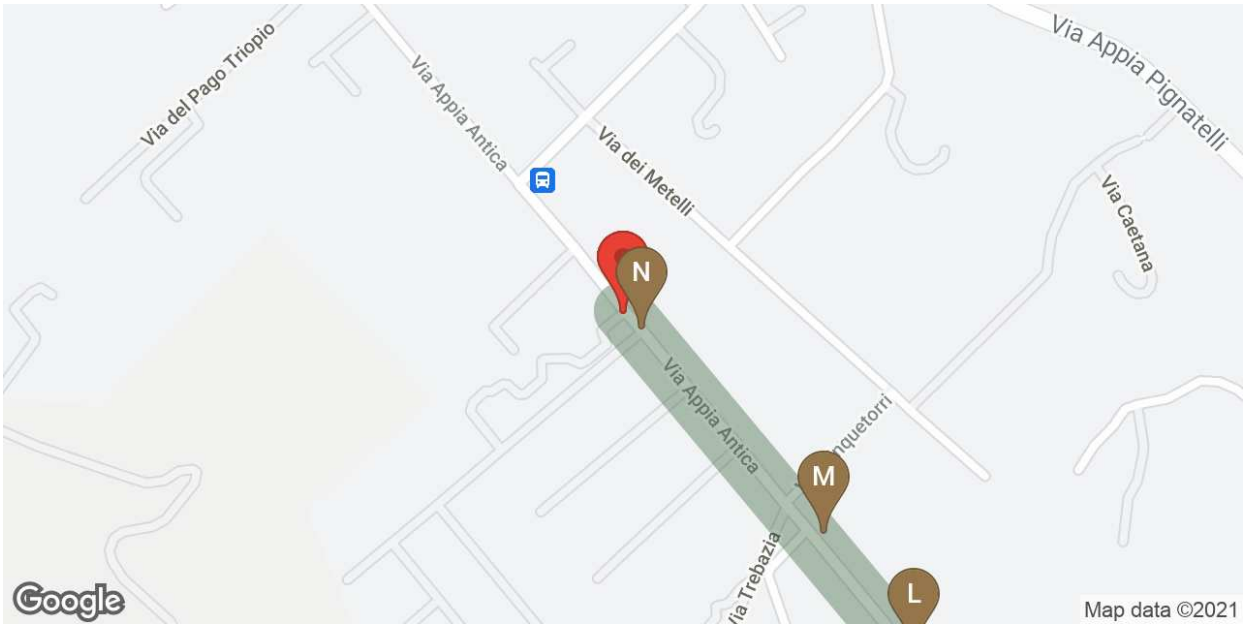
18 O Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive





Map / Street View

Poi 18