

Via Appia Antica

This itinerary crosses one of the most evocative sections of the Appian Way, featuring an alternation of impressive monuments and buildings on a smaller scale but also very fascinating. The itinerary begins at the Casal Rotondo tomb, surmounted by a farmhouse built over a Medieval tower, another interesting example of how the ancient Roman remains were converted to new life over the centuries, a rather common theme along the Appian Way.

From here, a succession of tombs and inscriptions remind us of the many illustrious people who were allowed the honour of being buried along this road, while the mound tombs of the Horatii and Curiatii hark back to the deeply embedded hostility between the cities of Rome and Alba Longa and the legendary clash between the three Roman Horatii and three Alban Curiatii brothers, in the early times of Rome's history.

Finally, you reach the Santa Maria Nova farmhouse, which belongs to the archaeological area of the Villa of the Quintili, one of the largest suburban villas of ancient Rome, which also includes the monumental nymphaeum (fountain) facing the Appian Way, which, in the Middle Ages, was converted into a fortress.



POI

8



Distance

1.48 Km

Poi

- 1 Via Appia Antica - Casal Rotondo (North)
- 2 Mausoleum of Casal Rotondo
- 3 Tomb of the Gens Supsifana
- 4 Tomb with a spiral staircase
- 5 Villa of the Quintili's nymphaeum
- 6 The mounds of the Horatii
- 7 The Pyramid Tomb
- 8 Via Appia Antica - Santa Maria Nova



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

Poi 1



Via Appia Antica - Casal Rotondo (North)

Roma / Place to visit - Ancient streets

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

Address

Via Appia Antica - Via di Casal Rotondo - 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 about 2 km.



Mausoleum of Casal Rotondo

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Nearly a kilometre beyond the large nymphaeum of the Villa of the Quintilii, only 50 m after the junction with Via di Casal Rotondo, there is the so-called Casal Rotondo, or round farmhouse, an impressive circular tomb dating to the end of the 1st century BC, which is also a fascinating example of how ingeniously many ancient Roman buildings have been re-used over the centuries. In the Middle Ages, in fact, a watchtower was built on the top, using blocks of peperino stone, which was then incorporated into a farmhouse and has since become a villa.

In the early 19th century, the archaeologist Luigi Canina erected a brick wall, near the mausoleum, to display a number of marble architectural fragments, which, at the time, were thought to have been part of the decorations of the tomb, having been found in its vicinity. Among these is a fragment of an inscription with the name Cotta, based on which Canina concluded that the mausoleum had belonged to Marcus Valerius Messalla Cotta, son of the more famous Messalla Niger, who served as consul in BC 31.

It is now assumed, however, that the fragments in question come from another smaller tomb at the site, and so the original owner of the mausoleum remains unknown.

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 20 minutes

Poi 2



Tomb of the Gens Supsifana

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Based on an inscription, on various blocks of marble, the remains of a round tomb have been attributed to the freedmen of the *gens Supsifana*. The inscription, dating to the 1st century AD, informs us that *Supsifana Nice*, a freedwoman of Titus Supsifanus, had left the sum of 27,500 sesterces for the construction of her burial place.

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

Poi 3

LAURENTINA take the BUS 765 to TOR CARBONE/ERODE ATTICO stop and then walk for 18 minutes.



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 15 minutes

Poi 4

Tomb with a spiral staircase

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The tomb, made of tufa blocks and bricks, takes its name from the spiral staircase inside and is dated to the 1st-2nd century BC.

Based on the remains, it was probably a tower-type tomb featuring a cubic base 3 metres tall surmounted by an octagonal structure, at the top of which there was either a viewing platform or a statue.



Address

Via Appia Antica 261 - 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/APPIA ANTICA stop and then walk for 15 minutes.

Poi 5

Villa of the Quintili's nymphaeum

Roma / Place to visit - Nymphaeum

The structure you see here is a nymphaeum (a monumental fountain) built by the emperor Commodus near the entrance to the Villa of the Quintilii, the largest residential complex on the outskirts of Rome. The villa was built, in the 2nd century AD, on a vast swath of land in the Roman countryside, between the modern-day Via Appia Nuova and the Via Appia Antica, and originally belonged to the brothers Sextus Quintilius Condianus and Sextus Quintilius Valerius Maximus, members of a high-ranking senatorial family, put to death by the emperor Commodus in AD 182, who also seized their huge properties. In the Middle Ages, the nymphaeum, which consists of an exedra with two wings, was converted into a fortress.

Not far from the nymphaeum is the complex of Santa Maria Nova, recently attached to the archaeological area of the villa; this was probably where the imperial guards were stationed, and also includes a bathhouse unearthed during the archaeological excavations. The villa was made up of distinct sections: a residential complex, for private and reception purposes, with baths, a circus, a theatre, and a vast garden with covered walkways. At the entrance to the villa on the Via Appia Nuova there is a small museum displaying some very interesting archaeological finds unearthed during the excavation campaigns.

Poi 6

The mounds of the Horatii

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Along this stretch of the Via Appia rise the so-called mounds of the *Hotatii* and *Curiatii*. Legend has it that, at the time of king Tullus Hostilius, war broke out between Rome and Alba Longa, during which the two armies came to face each other precisely in this spot, which, at the time, marked the border between the two states (the so-called "Cluilian ditches"). To avoid excessive bloodshed, it was decided to settle the conflict with a duel between three Romans and three

Open every day

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 15 minutes.



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 15 minutes.

Albans, the *Horatii* and *Curatii* brothers, respectively. Only one survived, a *Horatii*, who killed all three opponents with a stratagem and ensured the victory of Rome. In antiquity it was thought that the round mounds at the side of the Via Appia were the tombs of these famous heroes, although archaeologists today have disproved this tradition.

The three mound tombs, in fact, consisting of a round base surmounted by a mound of earth, are dated to the late Republican and early Augustan periods. The first tomb called “of the *Curatii*”, opposite the entrance to Santa Maria Nova, was faced with marble and features a cylinder-shaped structure at the top, which in the past was thought to be a Medieval tower, while today it is considered the base of a statue. The other two tombs, closer to each other and at a distance of over 300 metres from the first tomb, are the so-called mounds “of the *Horatii*”, faced with peperino and travertine, respectively.

Poi 7

The Pyramid Tomb

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The almost 20-metre tall concrete core visible today has been almost entirely stripped of its marble cladding and decorations, which were removed to be re-used as building materials. The tomb, dating to the 2nd century AD, features in many drawings from the 18th century, in particular by Giovan Battista Piranesi, who depicted the upper part of the tomb resting on a square podium still clad with marble.

Fragments remain of a colossal statue and sphinxes, which bear witness to the magnificence of the original decorations. It has been surmised that the tomb belonged to the enormously wealthy Quintilii family, the owners of the vast villa that rises behind it.



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 - 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.

Poi 8

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.