



# The Via Appia, from Via di Casal Rotondo to Via di Fioranello

## Via Appia Antica

This itinerary runs from the 6th to the 7th milestone of the Appian Way and features a long succession of monuments, inscriptions and funerary reliefs highlighting how the Queen of Roads was used as a monumental graveyard for the great and the good of ancient Rome.

The section also features a series of monuments with different functions, such as the aqueduct of the Quintilii, the purpose of which was to supply water to the nearby villa owned by the family bearing the same name, or the so-called Temple of Hercules, part of a commercial and accommodation complex for travellers, while Torre Selce dates back to the Middle Ages, when the major aristocratic families of Rome built watchtowers in the countryside to control access to the city.

## Poi

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| 1 Tomb of the Griffins     | 5 The exedra tomb                     | 9 The shrine tomb (Quintus Veranius)      |
| 2 The Selce Tower          | 6 The temple-shaped tomb of "Persius" | 10 E Berretta del Prete                   |
| 3 Aqueduct of the Quintili | 7 The fox hunting house               | 11 F Via Appia Antica - Via di Fioranello |
| 4 Funerary Relief          | 8 Temple of Hercules                  |                                           |

## Info



POI

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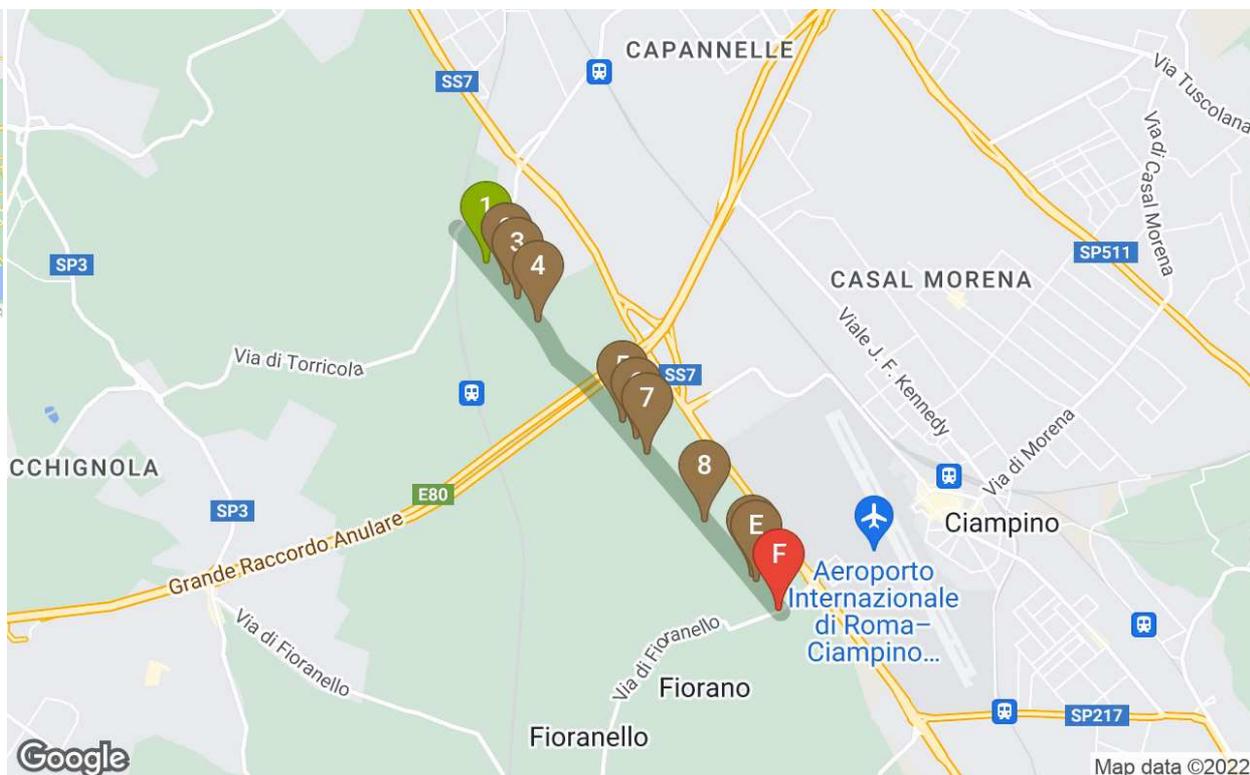


Distance

3.68 Km



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





## Tomb of the Griffins

### Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

The building, located at the 6th mile of the Via Appia, is a temple-type tomb, which was widely used in the mid-imperial age. Generally speaking, these tombs had two floors, a lower floor, entered from the back, housing the burial chamber, with niches in the walls for the cremation urns and sarcophagi, and an upper chamber for holding the funeral rituals, although only a wall and the staircase remain.

The brick tomb was part of a burial complex, together with the adjacent tomb with an underground chamber. Both tombs were located inside a brick-walled enclosure with an entrance on the Via Appia Antica decorated with marble slabs depicting griffins, legendary creatures with the body, tail and hind legs of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle, used in Roman funerary art to ward off evil.

Several sarcophagi are still preserved in the vicinity of the two tombs, which proves that the area continued to be used as a burial ground.

### 👁 Visit Duration

3 min.

### 📍 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 about 2 km.

1 Tomb of the Griffins

2 The Selce Tower

3 Aqueduct of the Quintili

4 Funerary Relief

5 The exedra tomb

6 The temple-shaped tomb of "Persius"

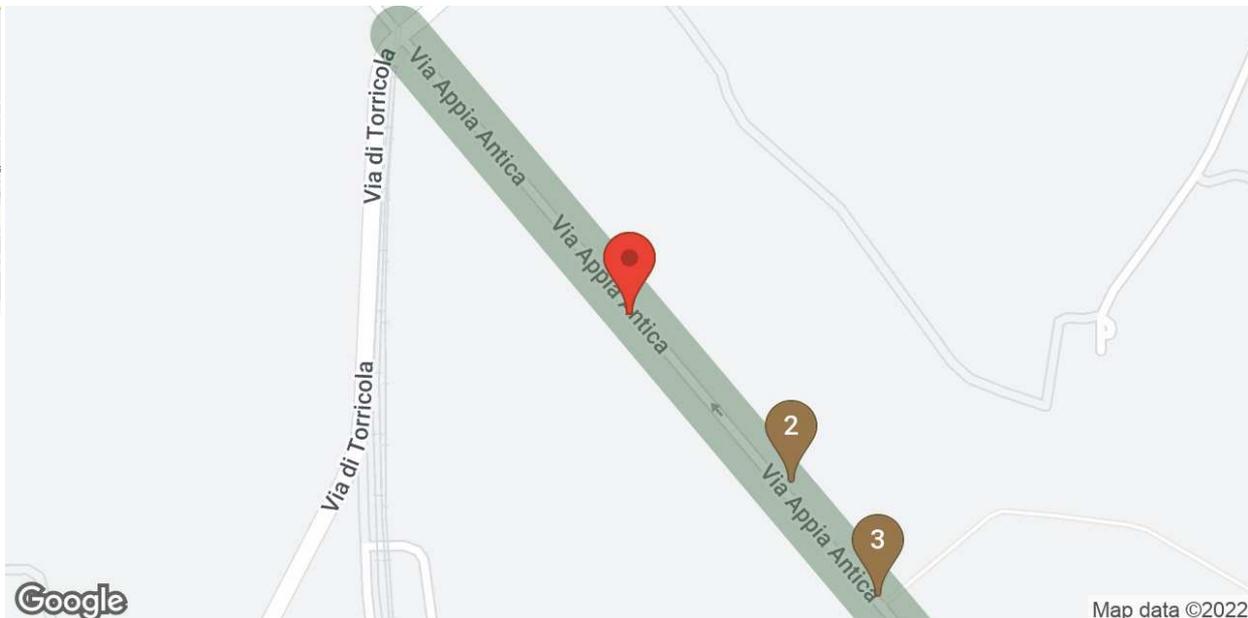
7 The fox hunting house

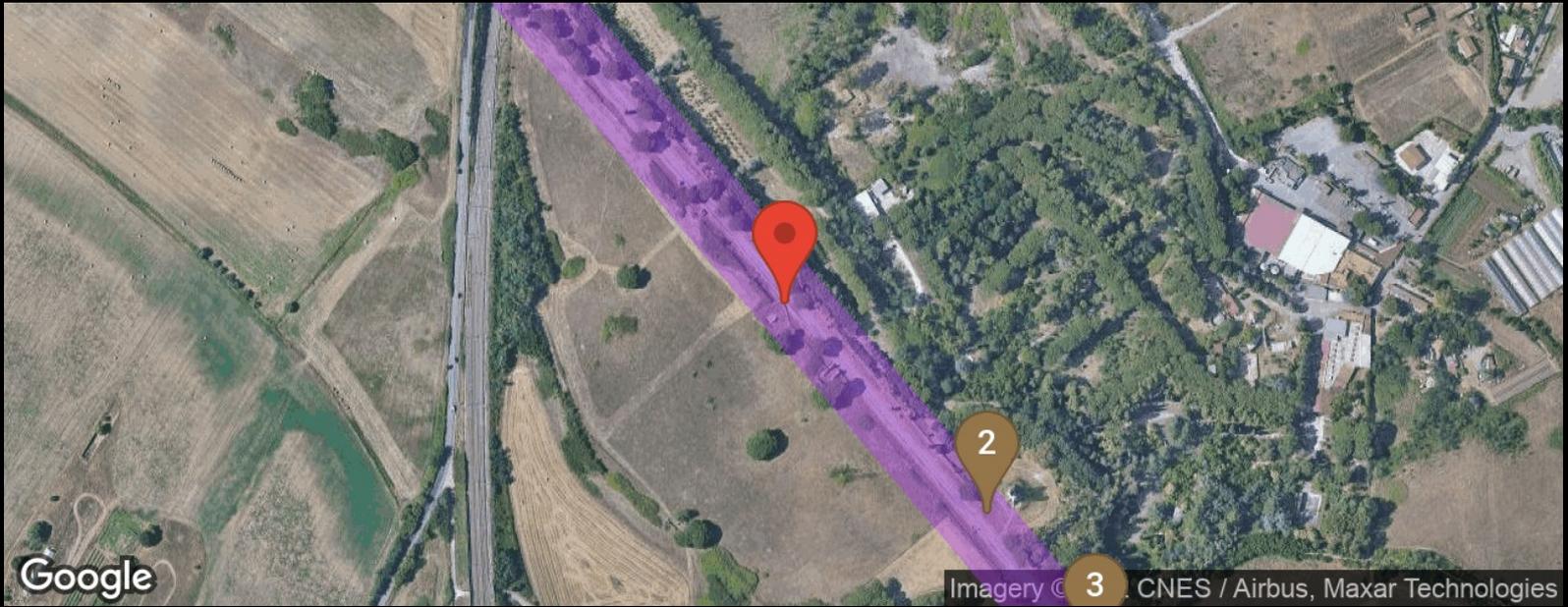
8 Temple of Hercules

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10 E Berretta del Prete

11 F Via Appia Antica - Via di Fioranello









## The Selce Tower

### Roma / Place to visit - Towers

The monument, located at the 7th mile of the Via Appia Antica, is a Roman tomb on top of which a tower was built in the Middle Ages. The lower building is a cylinder-shaped tomb dated to the 1st century BC, with a diameter of 22 metres, slightly smaller than the mausoleums of Caecilia Metella and Casal Rotondo. All that remains of the tomb is its concrete core, the stone or marble facing having been stripped away.

The structure was then re-used as a base for the tower, erected in the 12th century and mentioned in Medieval documents with different names: *Turris de Arcionibus* or *De Arcione*, with reference to the arches of the aqueduct of the Villa of the Quintilii, visible in the countryside behind; in other documents it is called *Turris de Sclaceis*, believed to be a corruption of the word for "flint", one of the building materials used. Founded on a series of radial pillars, with brick buttresses, the tower is a typical "striped" tower, the stripes denoting the different building materials used, chips of dark peperino and flint, followed, about half way up, by regular blocks of white marble and travertine.

The result is alternating black and white stripes, which, together with its height, ensured that it was visible from miles around. Only two sides of the tower remain standing. It remained practically intact until about the 17th century, even with its crenellated crown, which has since disappeared, and a defensive enclosure of which very few fragments remain on the ground.

### 👁 Visit Duration

5 min.

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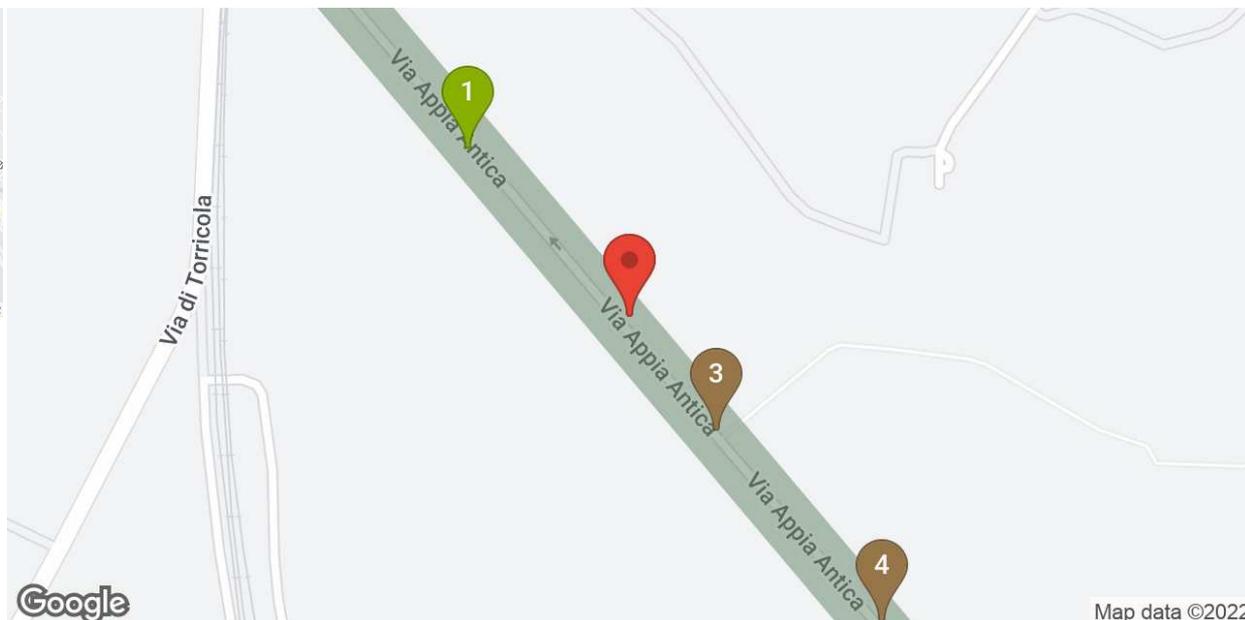
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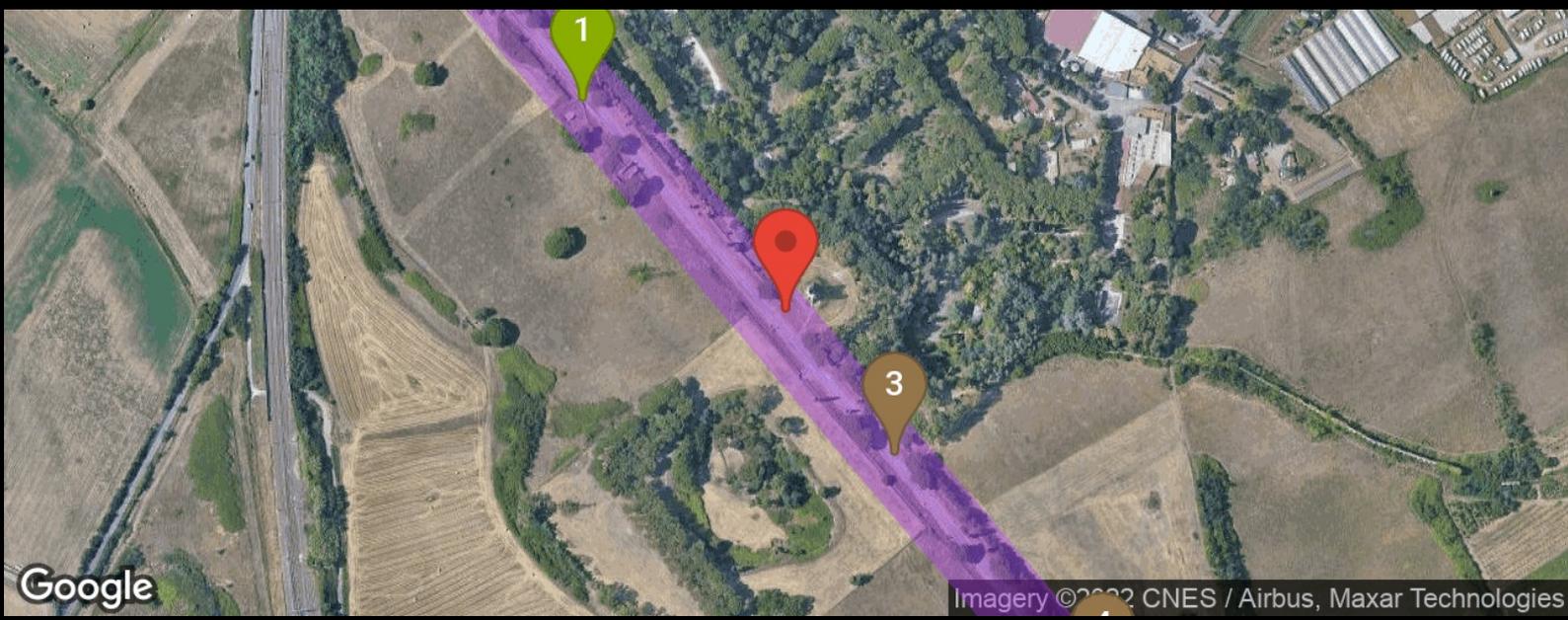
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## Aqueduct of the Quintili

### Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

The remains of the aqueduct of the Quintilii feature about 120 arches on the right hand side of Via Appia Nuova, at Casale di Tor di Mezza. About 700 metres long, it reaches Torre Selce, at the 7th milestone of the Appia Antica, where, from where, at the water tower, or *castellum aquae*, it continued underground to supply water to the Villa of the Quintilii, located about a couple of miles before. It was probably a branch of the *Anio Novus* aqueduct, which already exploited the huge infrastructure built by the emperor Claudius, but could be fed by the large reservoir at the 7th milestone of Via Latina, in the area where the Capannelle racecourse is located today.

The aqueduct is a concrete structure supported by arches on piers of 5 Roman feet square (about 1.5 metres), faced with bricks and bipedal brick masonry arches. Some of the piers, and corresponding arches, have collapsed over the centuries, which means that the monument today appears like a succession of separate sections, with only a few stretches of the underground aqueduct remaining. T

he floor of the channels, where the water ran, was made of *cocciopesto* (a mixture of hydraulic lime and crushed bricks). It has been suggested that the demolition of this and several arches, and the bricking-in of other arches with peperino stone, could point to the construction here, during the final stages of the Gothic War, of a fortified camp by the army of Vitiges (AD 537); it is known, in fact, that when he besieged Rome he bricked in the arches of sections of the *Aqua Claudia* and *Marcia* with earth and "stones", thus obtaining a natural fortification capable of containing no less than seven thousand men, for the purpose of blocking the main supply routes into Rome along Via Appia and Via Latina.

In the spring of 2015, it was decided to carry out strengthening and safety works on the second section of the aqueduct, comprising nine piers and eight arches, as a result of which visitors may now admire this Roman engineering marvel from close quarters.

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5 min.

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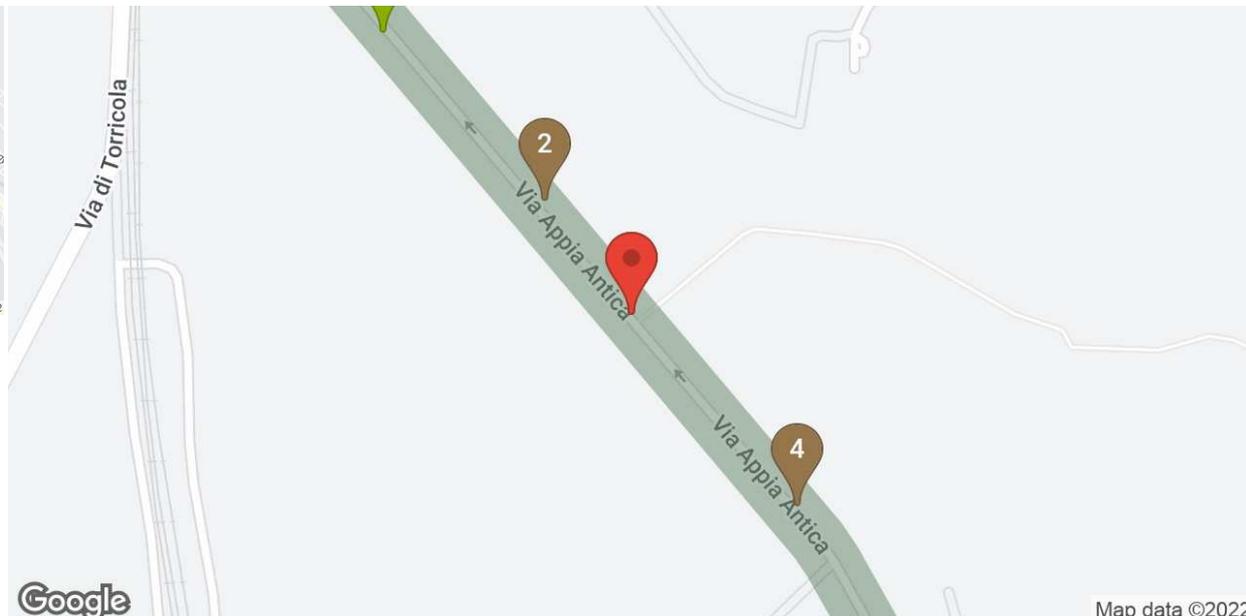
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## Funerary Relief

### Roma / Place to visit - Monuments

This is a slab of marble with the relief portraits of three deceased persons, whose identity is unknown, separated by two small pillars. The portrait in the middle is of a woman, with an older and a younger man on each side. The woman has covered her head with the edge of her toga, as a token of modesty, and she is shown closer to the older man on her right, which suggests a close relationship between the two.

Her face and hairstyle are no longer recognisable, and the features of the older man too are hardly visible, except for the angular shape of the head and his sunken cheeks. The face of the younger man, instead, is much better preserved and we can clearly see his thick hair, straight forehead and sharp features. The hands of all three figures are rather coarsely shaped, while their clothing is executed in an accurate and detailed manner, especially the folds and at the elbows. The relief dates to the Augustan age.

#### 👁 Visit Duration

1 min.

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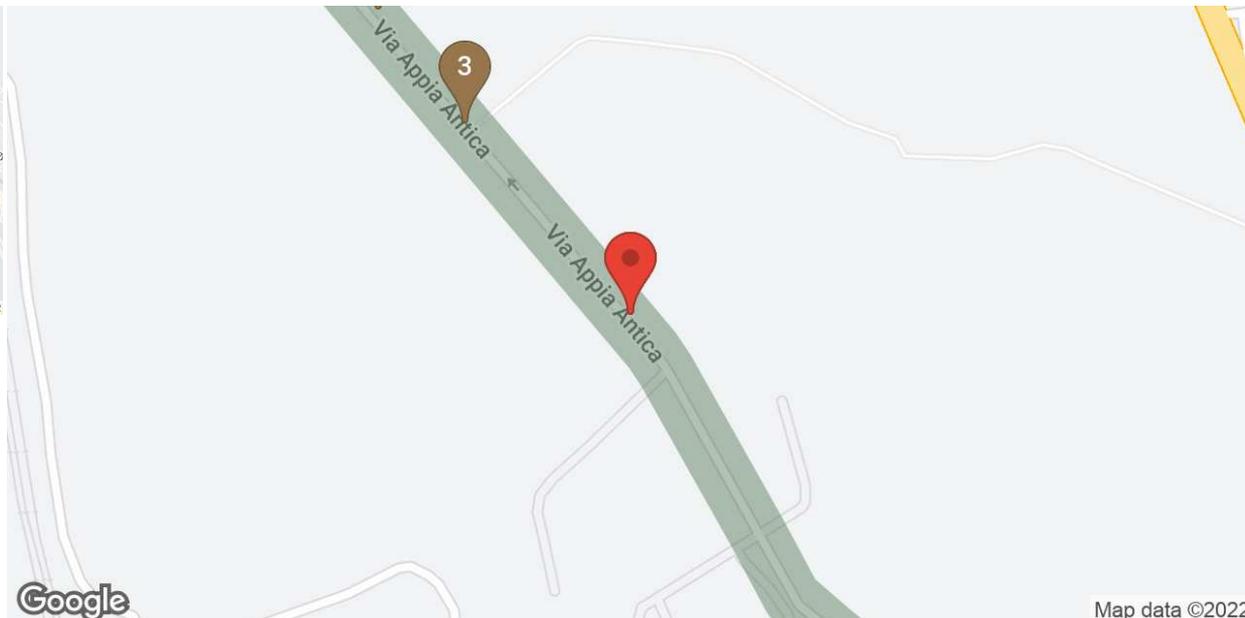
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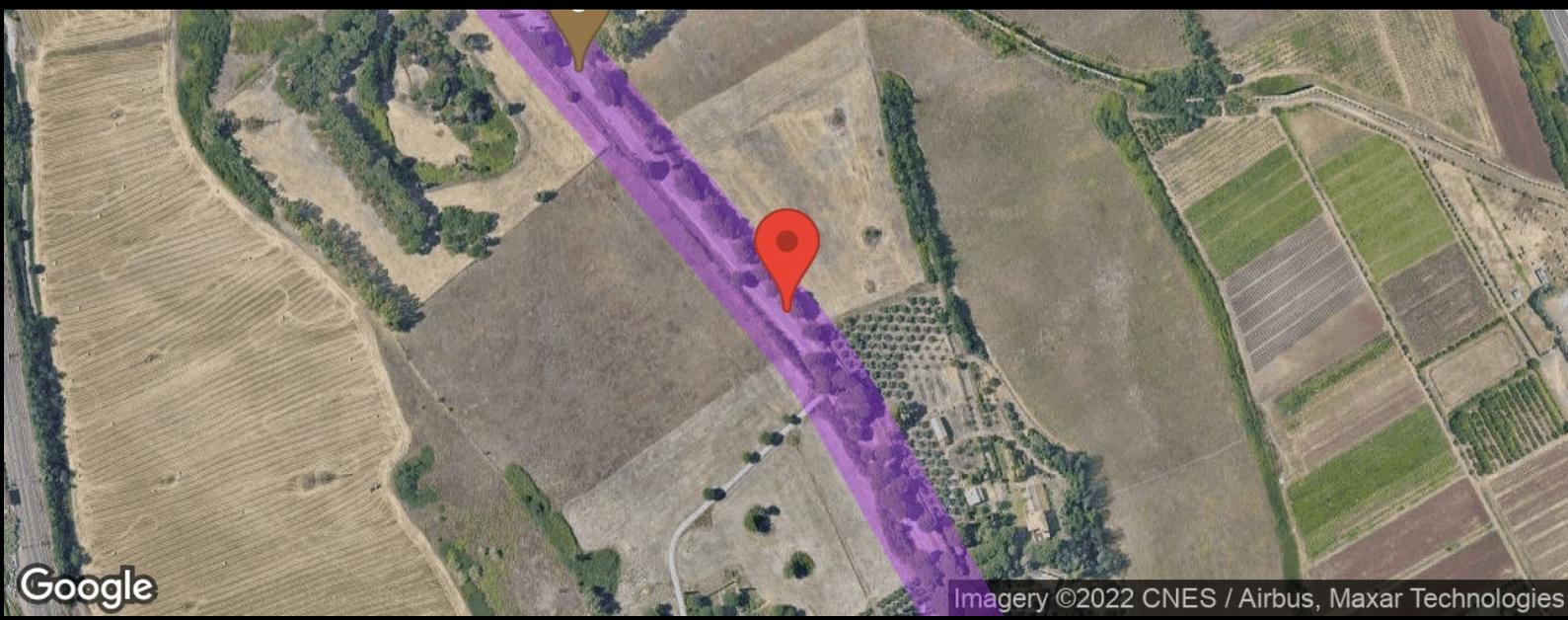
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## The exedra tomb

### Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This monument, at the beginning of the 8th mile of the Via Appia Antica, is in the form of a large exhedra - a semi-circular recess - 9 metres tall, once crowned by a semi-dome which has since disappeared.

The external marble facing has been removed, revealing the underlying basalt stone and concrete core. The building, once thought to be a way station, has been finally identified as a tomb erected between the end of the Republican era and the early imperial period. The internal wall of the exhedra features three rectangular niches designed to house statues of the deceased, although no statues have been found at the site.

#### 👁 Visit Duration

2 min.

#### 📍 Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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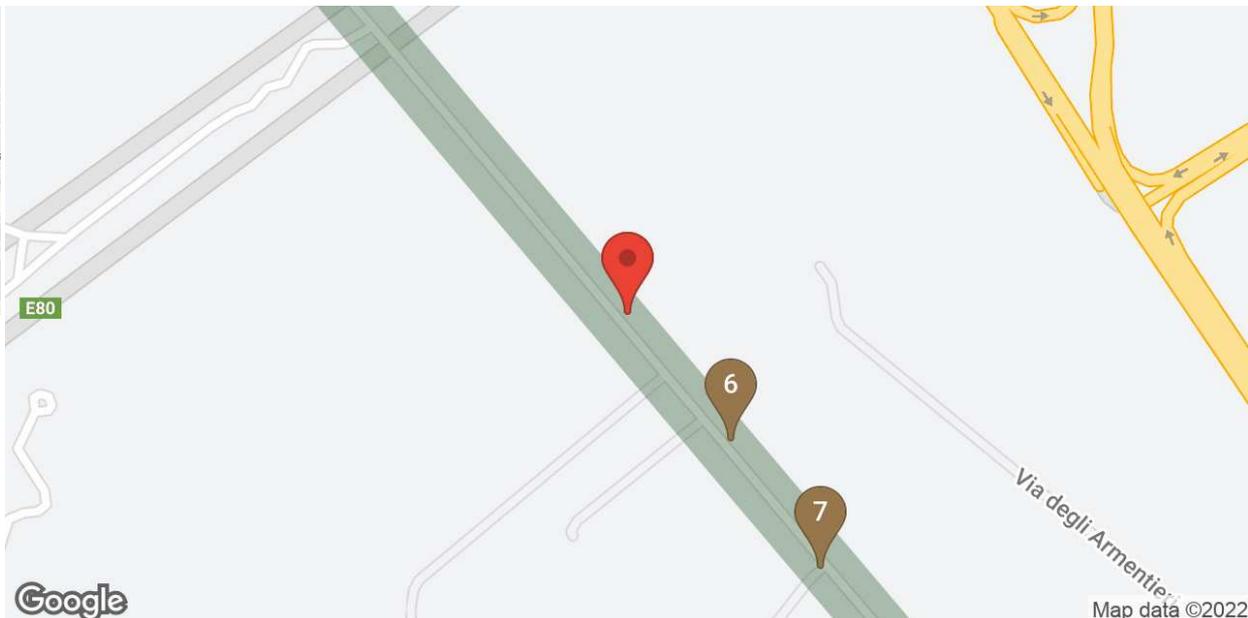
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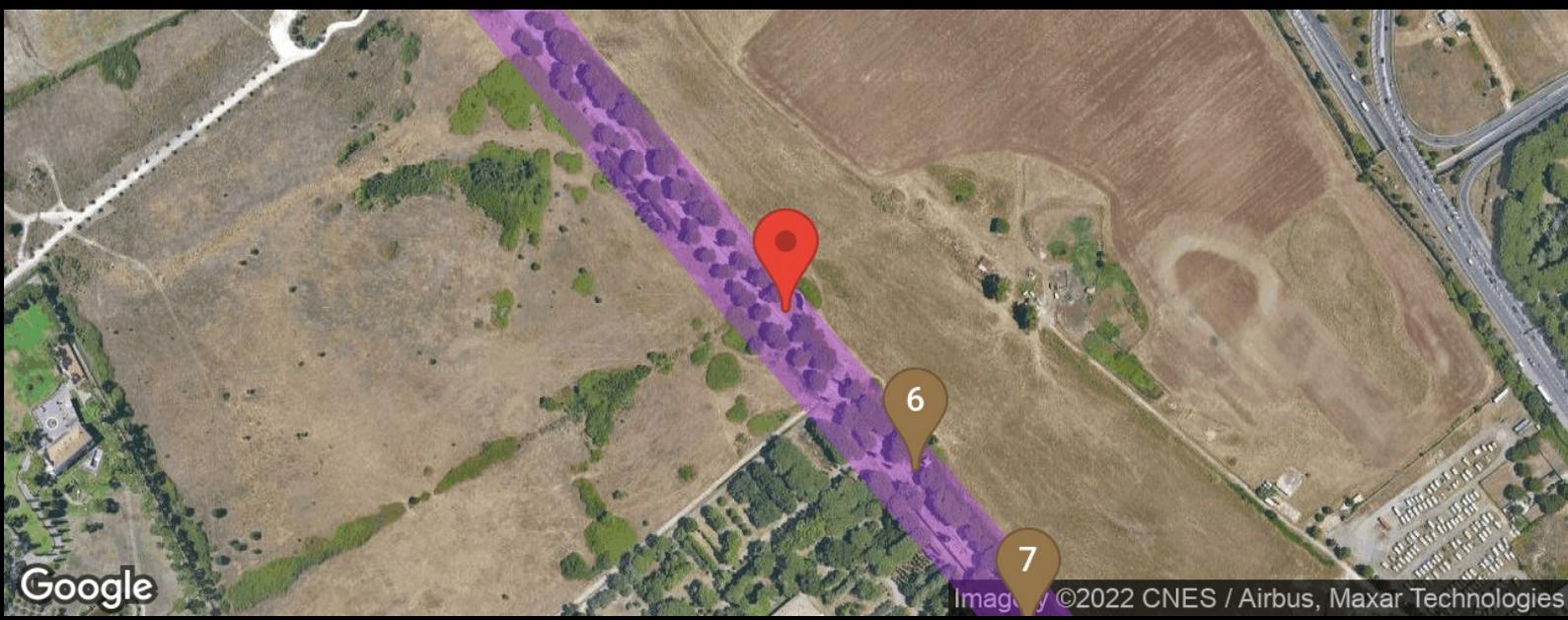
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## The temple-shaped tomb of "Persius"

### Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This monument, located at the 8th milestone of the Via Appia Antica, belongs to the type of Roman temple-shaped tombs, generally made of bricks, featuring a pedimented façade, with a niche in the centre housing the portraits of the deceased, and a square burial chamber entered at the back.

The traces visible at the sides of the niche point to the presence of two half-columns flanked by two pilasters, rectangular columns, with a capital and base, projecting only slightly from the wall and used as an ornamental motif. These architectural elements were originally surmounted by a pediment.

The tomb is conventionally identified as that of Persius Flaccus, a satirical poet, who died in AD 62, and who owned a villa at the 8th milestone of the Via Appia Antica. However, this assumption contrasts with the dating of this type of tomb, which became widespread in Roman architecture only after the mid-2nd century AD.

A similar tomb, attributed to Quintus Veranius, can be seen nearby.

### 👁 Visit Duration

2 min.

### 📍 Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

### 📌 How to get

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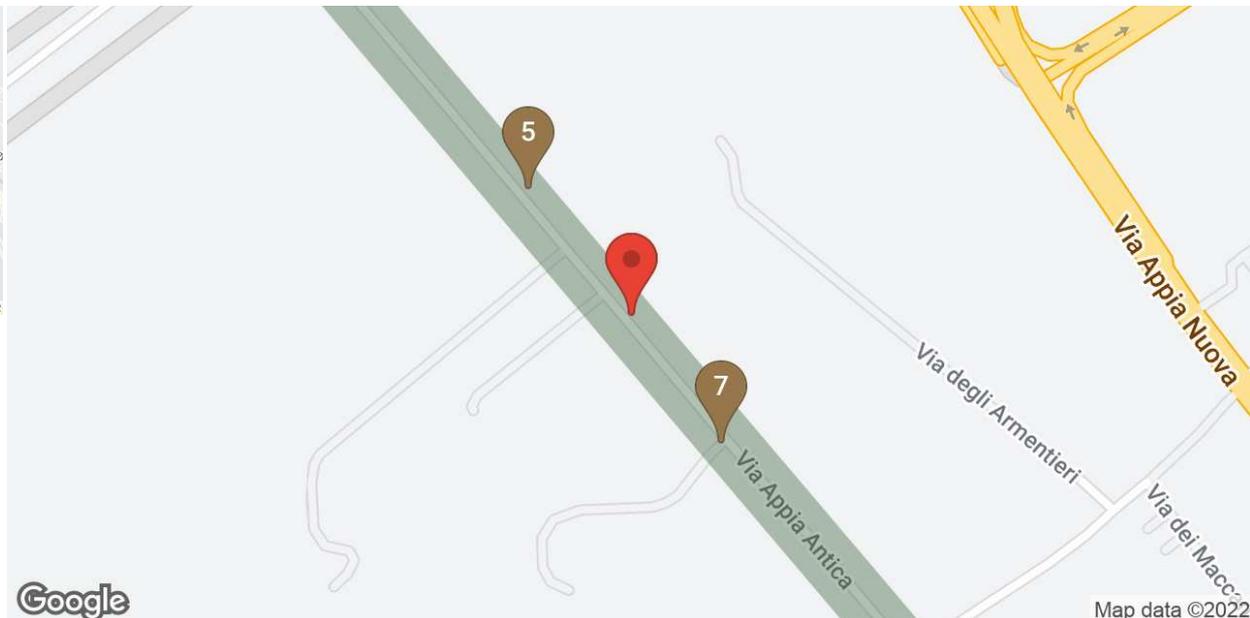
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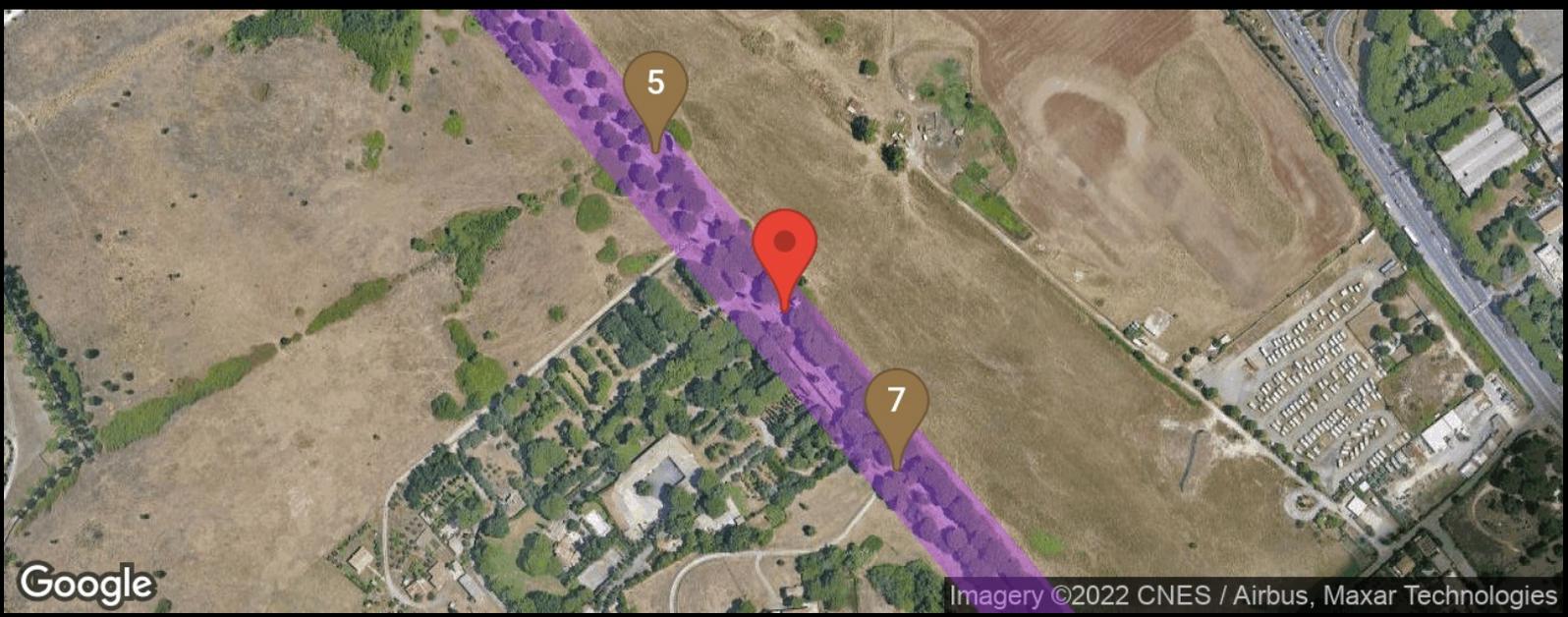
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## The fox hunting house

### Roma / Place to visit - Historical places

At the 8th mile of Via Appia Antica, at number 320, is a large complex known as Casino di Caccia alla Volpe, or the Fox Hunting Lodge, built in 1926 to house a kennel where hounds could be raised and trained for fox hunting, proving how widespread this sport was, at the time, in the Roman countryside.

Fox hunting arrived in Rome in 1842, when Lord George Stanhope, 6th Earl of Chesterfield, who had been living in the city since 1836, organised the first hunt with six horses and fifteen pairs of hounds, the party comprising several British friends and Prince Livio III Odescalchi. When Lord Chesterfield returned to England, he left his horses and hounds to Prince Odescalchi, who continued to breed and train them. The 1844-45 hunting season ended with a steeplechase, which was repeated in the following years at the Roma Vecchia estate, near the Villa of the Sette Bassi.

The hunting season was suspended in 1848-49, due to the tragic events of the Roman Republic War, and eventually fox hunting was banned by pope Pius IX, due to a number of serious accidents. Pressure from the aristocracy, however, forced the pope to lift the ban and, in 1860, the Rome Fox Hunting Association was established, with Prince Odescalchi serving as Master of Foxhounds. Fox hunting soon became very fashionable among the aristocracy and the upper middle class right into the 20th century.

The fox hunters would leave their palaces in Rome by carriage, followed by the horses, hounds and huntsmen, and meet near one of the consular roads leading out of Rome, including Via Appia. One of the most memorable fox hunts was held in 1870, when Empress Elizabeth of Austria took part, albeit in incognito, against the backdrop of the aqueducts and shepherd's huts of the timeless Roman countryside. Other famous characters who took part in the hunts were the actresses Eleonora Duse and Sarah Bernhardt, and the writer and aesthete Gabriele D'Annunzio, immortalised in photographs by Count Giuseppe Primoli. Today, the building and estate are owned by the State.

#### 👁 Visit Duration

5 min.

#### 📍 Address

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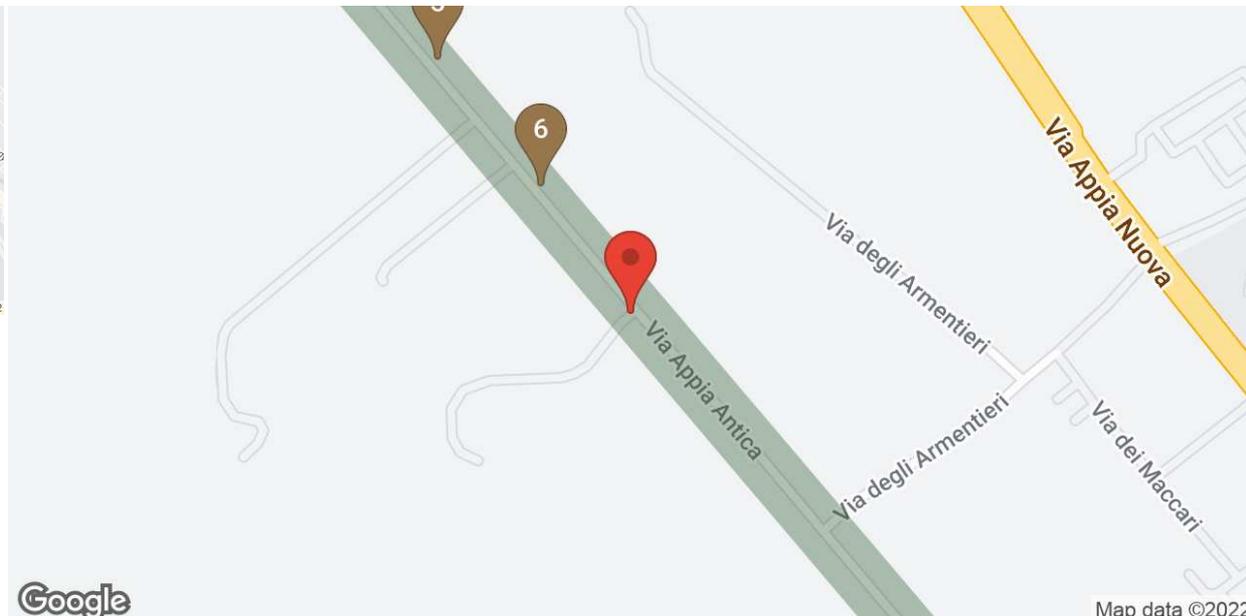
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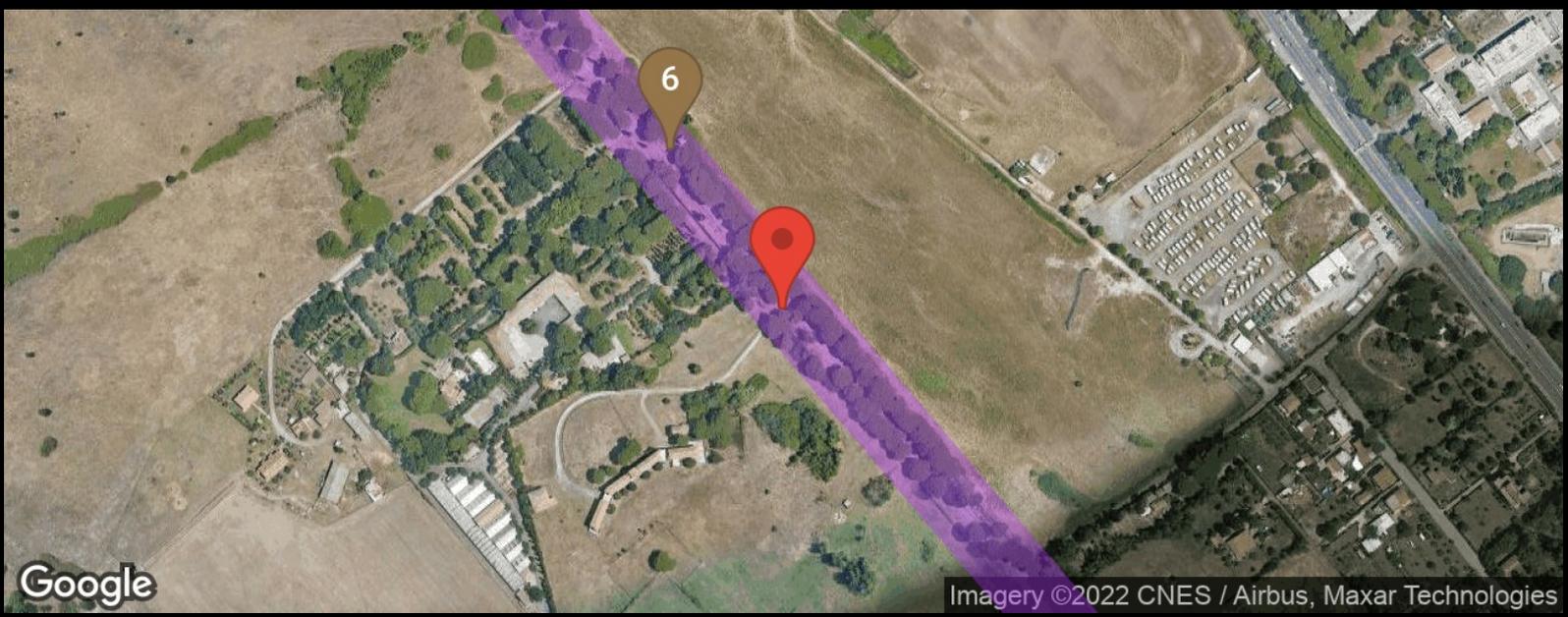
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## Temple of Hercules

### Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

The remains visible in this area have been traditionally identified as belonging to the temple of Hercules, which the poet Martial, who lived in the 1st century AD, mentions as situated at the 8th mile of the Via Appia Antica. The archaeological investigations, however, have dismissed this interpretation, having discovered a Tuscan order portico with columns made of peperino stone. It was probably a building belonging to a statio, an inn for travellers, on the Via Appia.

The statio featured a square portico, from which shops and workshops opened off. This twofold use of the building appears to be proven by the finding there of numerous vases for storing food. The building dates to the late Republican period (end of the 1st century BC), although the complex continued to be used for a long time, as evidenced by the unearthing of structures from the Imperial period.

#### 👁 Visit Duration

4 min.

#### 📍 Address

Via Appia Antica, 400 - Roma (RM)

#### 🚗 How to get

From METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take a BUS 720 to FIORANELLO/APPIA stop and then walk for 10 minutes.

#### 🎧 Audioguide



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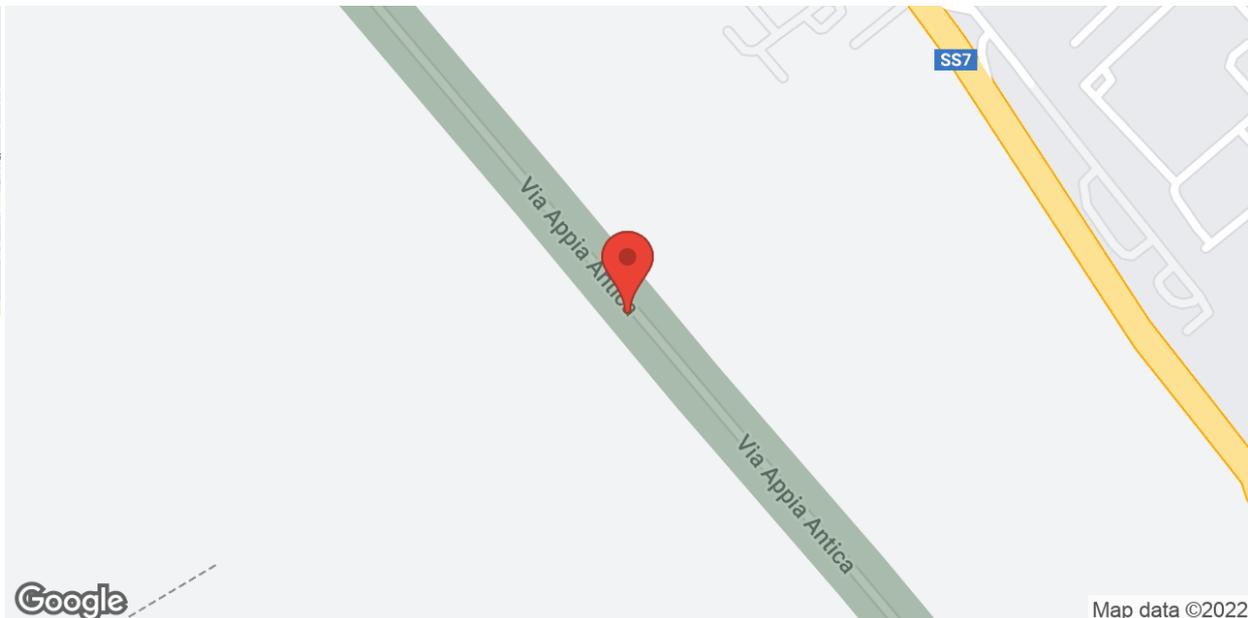
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## The shrine tomb (Quintus Veranius)

### Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

This tomb, at the 8th milestone of the Via Appia Antica, was built in the form of a shrine, with a central niche housing the images of the deceased.

The brick tomb features a high rectangular podium housing the burial chamber, which was entered from the rear, surmounted by the shrine proper. The central niche, originally crowned by a pediment, housed the funerary statue, which has since been lost.

The shrine was framed by two small brick columns, of which the left-hand one has been preserved intact, while on the right-hand side only the capital remains.

Traditionally identified as the tomb of Quintus Veranius, consul in AD 49, this was disproved after the discovery of his real tomb on the Via Tiburtina, and also because this type of tomb became widespread in Roman architecture at a much later date, after the mid-2nd century AD.

Nearby is another similar tomb, known as the Tomb of Persius.

### 👁 Visit Duration

1 min.

### 📍 Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

### 🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE B station LAURENTINA take the BUS 720 to FIORANELLO/APPIA stop and then walk for about 4 minutes.

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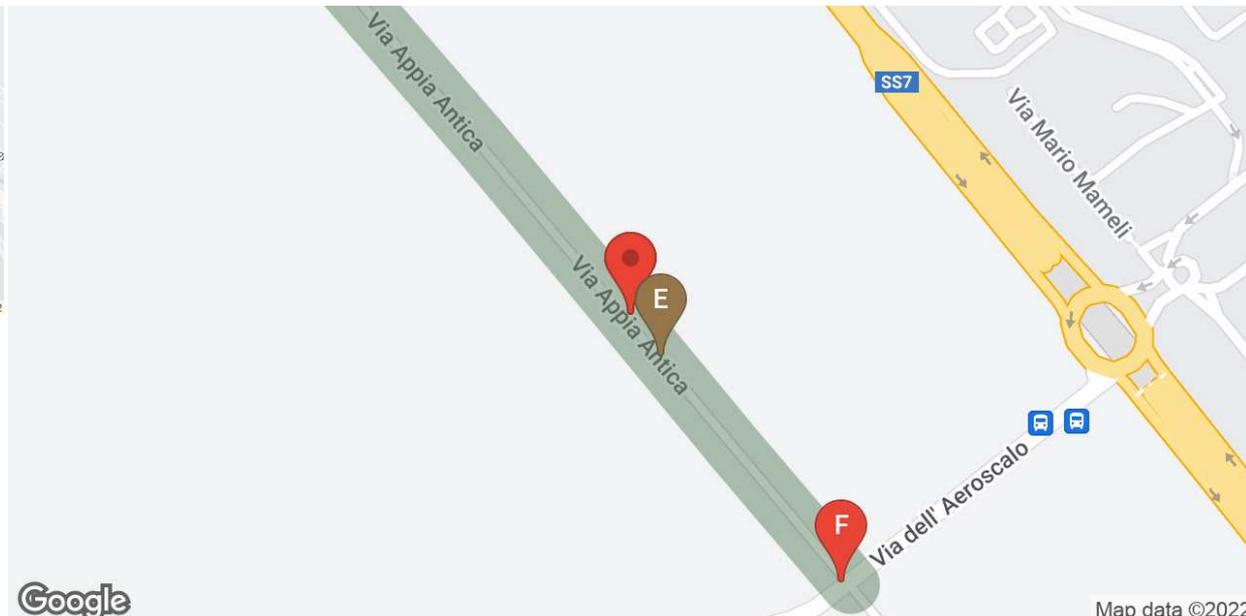
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## Berretta del Prete

### Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Built between the 8th and 9th mile of the Via Appia Antica, this Roman mausoleum owes its name to its peculiar shape, which resembles that of the beret traditionally worn by Roman Catholic clergy. A monumental building, it is round like the better preserved Tomb of Caecilia Metella, also on the Via Appia Antica, or the Mausoleum of Augustus in the Campus Martius. It was originally encircled by a ring-shaped vaulted corridor, called an "ambulacrum", which has been partially preserved; inside, it featured two storeys, although only the floor of the lower chamber has survived. In the Early Middle Ages, the tomb became part of a rural estate called the "Tenuta del Palombaro", and, in the 12th century AD it was converted into a watchtower protecting the road.

#### 👁 Visit Duration

5 min.

#### 📍 Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

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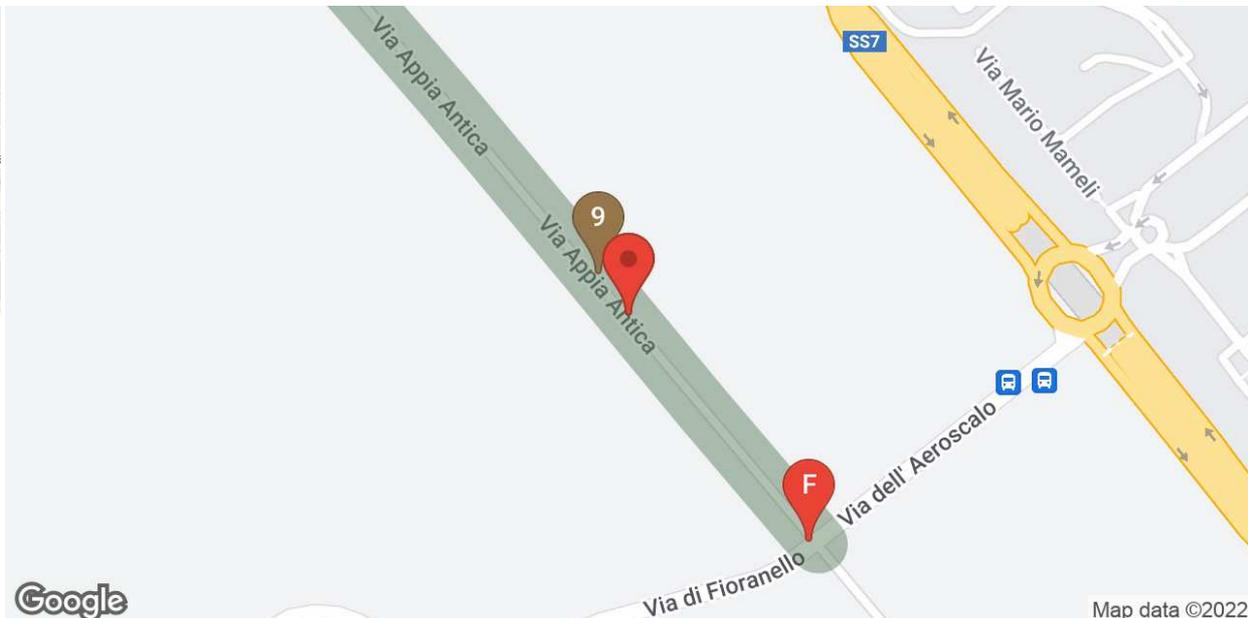
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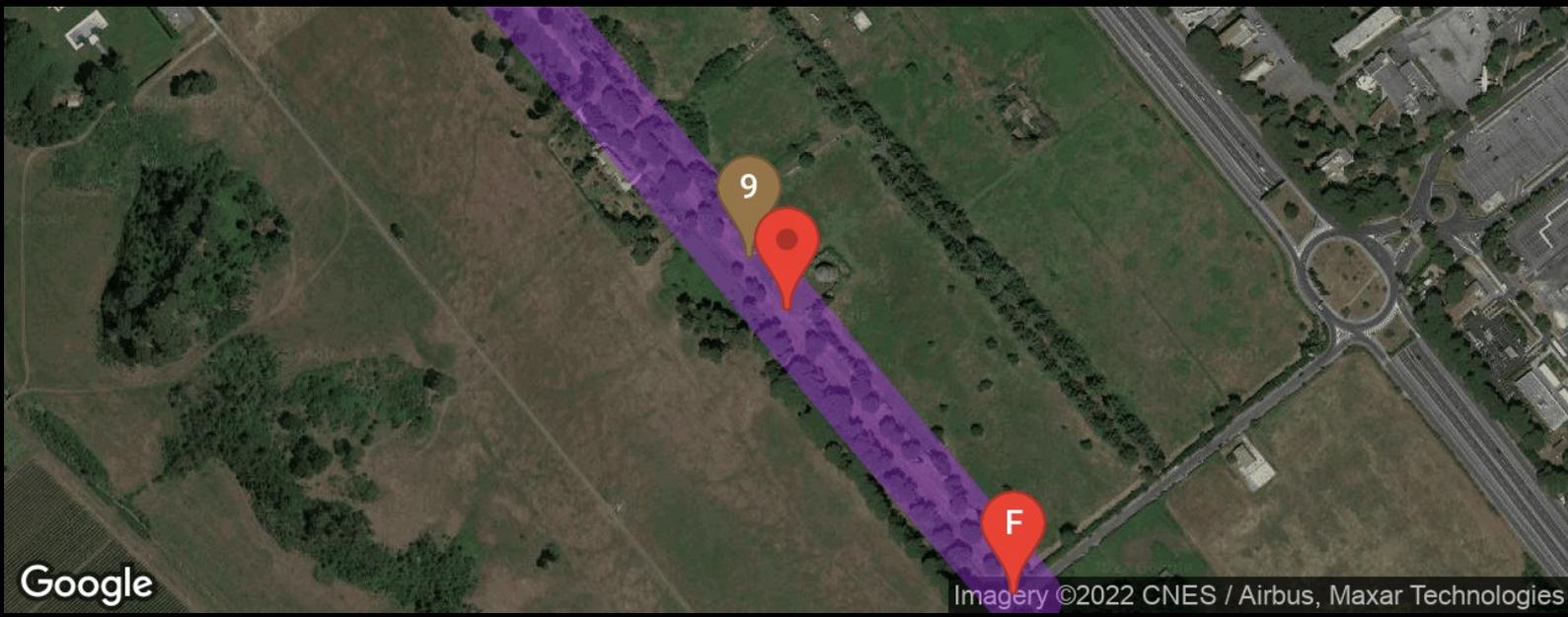
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## Via Appia Antica - Via di Fioranello

### Roma / Place to visit - Ancient streets

This is the junction of Via Appia Antica and Via di Fioranello, from where you may continue along the other itineraries across the Park by following the information on the board. Ciampino Airport is a short distance way from Via dell'Aerascalo

#### 👁 Visit Duration

1 min.

#### 📍 Address

Via Appia Antica - Via di Fioranello - Roma (RM)

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