

The Via Appia, from Porta San Sebastiano to Domine Quo Vadis

Via Appia Antica

This itinerary runs between the end of the 1st mile of the Appian Way and the beginning of the 2nd, a rather short stretch lined with the tall enclosure walls of private properties, with a number of ancient and more recent buildings, where the past and the present live side by side, along the Via Appia, setting off its centuries old history. To Roman times belong the Porta San Sebastiano, a monumental gate opening in the Aurelian Walls, which marks the more recent starting point of the Via Appia Antica, and the so-called Tomb of Geta, a tower tomb given a new lease of life as a farmhouse; while in the 17th century a small church was built not far from the gateway called Santa Maria in Palmis, on the spot where, as tradition has it, Jesus appeared to the apostle Peter and therefore known as the church of *Domine Quo Vadis*.

More recent additions are a copy of the milestone marking the first mile of the road from Porta Capena, and the former Cartiera Latina, a paper mill built on the banks of the Almone river, recently restored and converted into a multipurpose facility, also housing the headquarters of the Regional Park of the Appia Antica.

From the arrival point you can choose other itineraries in the Park from the map.



POI

8



Distance

0.82 Km

Poi

- 1 Porta San Sebastiano
- 2 The First Milestone
- 3 Archaeological area of Via Cilicia
- 4 The Cartiera Latina paper factory and river Almone
- 5 Tomb of Geta
- 6 Appia Antica Visitor Information Centre
- 7 The tomb of Priscilla
- 8 Church of Domine Quo Vadis



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

Poi 1

Porta San Sebastiano

Roma / Place to visit - Gates

When the Aurelian Walls were built in the 3rd century AD, a gate was opened here to allow the passage of the Via Appia, about one Roman mile south of the demolished Porta Capena. Initially called Porta Appia, in the Middle Ages its name was changed to Porta San Sebastiano, being the gate through which pilgrims left the city on their way to the catacombs dedicated to the martyred saint Sebastian.

The gate still features its two impressive defence towers, now hosting the Museum of the Walls, operated by the local authority of Rome. The present appearance of the gate, however, is the result of the restoration work carried out by the emperor Honorius in the early 5th century (AD 401-402), during which the two original archways were merged into one and the upper walkway was covered over, creating a second open walkway further up.

The museum contains an interesting exhibition and offers the possibility of walking along a stretch of the ancient covered walkway. The so-called "Arch of Drusus", several metres from the gate and the Museum, is one of the arches of the Aqua Antoniniana, an aqueduct which also crossed the Via Appia.



Info

Opening hours:
9.00 - 14.00

Closing days:
Monday, 25 December, 1
January, 1 May

*The ticket office closes ½ hour
before the closing time*

Address

Via di Porta San Sebastiano 18
- Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station
COLOSSEO take BUS 118 to
PORTA SAN SEBASTIANO
stop

Poi 2

The First Milestone

Roma / Place to visit - Monuments

Milestones are cylindrical stone markers, placed at regular intervals of one Rome mile (1478 metres), indicating the distance from Rome. Besides the number of miles, they also carried an inscription relating to restoration or maintenance work, which, in the Imperial period, was generally commissioned by the reigning emperor. This milestone, which today is embedded in a boundary wall, is a copy of the original marker, which was removed, in 1584, to be used in the balustrade of the staircase leading to the Campidoglio, where it may still be seen today. The inscriptions commemorate the restoration of the Via Appia ordered by the emperors Vespasian and Nerva, in AD 76 and AD 97, respectively.



Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station
COLOSSEO take BUS 118 to
PORTA SAN SEBASTIANO
stop.

Poi 3

Archaeological area of Via Cilicia

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

During the construction of a road bridge alongside the railway bridge, in 1982 and 1983, linking Via Cilicia and Via Marco Polo, a large necropolis was unearthed, which had already been partially discovered in 1946, during previous road construction works. The tombs have been dated to between the Republican Period and the 4th century AD.

The best preserved tomb, found on the left side of the Via Appia, is made of brick and features a multi-coloured mosaic - dated to the 3rd century AD - with geometric borders containing the symbols of the four seasons, scenes from everyday life and a central octagon depicting the rape of Proserpina. Many other tombs were found, altered and added to over the centuries. The area



Address

Via Cilicia - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station

stopped being used as a burial site in the Late Antique period, which is when several *tabernae*, or shops, were built here and were later covered by a large building whose purpose is still unclear.

On the right side of the street, near other tombs dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD, remains have been found of a monumental building of the Republican period, made of tufa blocks, with a tufa archway, and which was probably a temple, given the large amount of votive offerings also found there. They may, in fact, be the remains of the Temple of Mars, which, according to literary and epigraphical sources, was located just outside the gate of Porta S. Sebastiano. Centuries later, the building was reutilised as a brick kiln. Most of the archaeological remains unearthed here have been reburied, to ensure their preservation.

Poi 4

The Cartiera Latina paper factory and river Almone

Roma / Place to visit - Historical places

The Caffarella Valley, skirted by two of the most famous ancient Roman roads, the Via Latina and Via Appia, was crossed by the river Almone, a short watercourse that flows into the Tiber and was considered sacred by the Romans from very early on. It can no longer be seen because, in 1939, it was channelled into underground pipes. The old Cartiera Latina paper factory, one of the largest paper manufacturers in the centre-south of Italy, closed down in 1986. Located near the Aurelian Walls, it was skirted for its entire length by the river Almone. Subsequently restored, it houses the offices of the Appia Antica Regional Park, since 1998, and is also open to the public for events.



Info

Opening hours:

Every day 9.00 - 17.00

<https://www.parcoappiaantica.it/home/il-parco/cartiera-latina>

Address

Via Appia Antica 42 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to APPIA ANTICA/TRAVICELLA stop

Poi 5

Tomb of Geta

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

At number 41 of Via Appia Antica is a tomb, of the type featuring superimposed structures, which, however, is situated inside a private property and therefore cannot be visited.

The building consists of seven ever smaller cubic structures placed one on top of the other to form a sort of pyramid, of which only the concrete core remains, the original marble facing having since disappeared. The original tomb is topped by a small Medieval house, with a gabled roof, which, still in the early 20th century, was known as the "Osteria dei Carrettieri" (Tavern of the Carters). It had once been identified as the tomb of Geta, the younger of the two sons of Emperor Septimius Severus, proclaimed joint emperor with his brother Caracalla, after their father's death, although Caracalla had him murdered in AD 212.

This identification of the tomb is based on the *Historia Augusta* (a collection of the lives of the later Roman emperors, somewhat lacking in reliability), which mentions that the tomb of Geta was on the right-hand side of the Via Appia, when travelling towards Rome. Other sources, however, tell us that the Severan emperors used the Mausoleum of Hadrian as their family tomb, which means that the traditional story according to which this tomb is that of Geta has no foundation.



Address

Via Appia Antica - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to APPIA ANTICA/DOMINE QUO VADIS stop.

Poi 6

Appia Antica Visitor Information Centre

Roma / Tourist Services - Info Point

The Info point, the management of which has been awarded by the Regional Park of the Appia Antica to EcoBike Srl, supplies information materials, welcomes tourists, provides a bike hiring service and a guided reservations for nature and archaeological tours (walking, bike and electric minicar tours), also in foreign languages. For further info visit <https://www.infopointappia.it/>

Info

Open every day:

November - February: Monday-

Friday 9.30-13 / 14-17.30

Saturday and Sunday 9.30-

17.30

March - October: Monday-

Friday 9.30-13 / 14-18.30

Saturday and Sunday 9.30-

19.30

Address

Via Appia Antica 58/60 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take BUS 118 to APPIA ANTICA/DOMINE QUO VADIS stop, alternatively from METRO LINE A station SAN GIOVANNI take the BUS 218 to APPIA ANTICA/DOMINE QUO VADIS stop.



The tomb of Priscilla

Roma / Place to visit - Tombs

Almost opposite the church of *Domine Quo Vadis*, on the other side of the Via Appia, is a cylindrical 11th century tower, built on top of a monumental Roman tomb. The tomb itself was built by Titus Flavius Abascantus, a freedman of the emperor Domitian, for his wife Priscilla, who died prematurely in the middle of the 1st century AD. The huge square podium is hidden behind the surrounding Medieval buildings.

Address

Via Appia Antica 76 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to DOMINE QUO VADIS stop.



Church of Domine Quo Vadis

Roma / Place to visit - Churches

Located where the modern Via Ardeatina branches off the Via Appia, the small church of *Domine Quo Vadis* has been a pilgrimage attraction for centuries. Tradition has it that this is the site where Jesus appeared to Peter, who was fleeing Nero's persecution in Rome; when Peter asked him "Lord, where are you going?" (*Domine quo vadis?*), he replied "I am going to Rome to be crucified again".

A shrine was built on this spot in the ninth century, although the current church dates to the 16th and 17th centuries. The church is also known as St. Mary "of the footprints", because of a marble slab with two footprints kept there, said to be those of Jesus Christ (actually, a pagan Roman "ex voto", the original of which is preserved in the Basilica of San Sebastiano).

Address

Via Appia Antica 47 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take BUS 118 to APPIA ANTICA/DOMINE QUO VADIS stop.

Poi 7

Poi 8

