



From Tor Marancia to Capo di Bove

Estate of Tor Marancia / Via Appia Antica

This itinerary leads to Via Appia Antica from the Tenuta di Tor Marancia estate, one of the best preserved parts of the Roman countryside, featuring a number of ancient and modern monuments which reflect the multifarious nature of the Park. Highly symbolic, of great historical and artistic importance, they have been attracting people since ancient times.

Along Via Ardeatina you come to the memorial dedicated to the victims of the Fosse Ardeatine massacre, one of the most dramatic events in the Nazi occupation of Rome during World War II. Further along Via delle Sette Chiese are several very interesting monuments, such as the complex of San Sebastiano with the catacombs, the complex of Maxentius, the Tomb of Romulus, the circus and the remains of the imperial villa, the Medieval castrum Caetani, a stronghold whose walls enclose the church of San Nicola and the Tomb of Caecilia Metella, with the adjacent Palazzo Caetani.

The itinerary continues with the complex of Capo di Bove, one of the headquarters of the Park Authority, with a refreshments point in its beautiful garden, where you can admire the archaeological excavation of an imperial era bath-house. Capo di Bove hosts the archives of Antonio Cederna, dedicated to the Appian Way and the history of its protection and restoration.

From here, following the map, you can continue on other itineraries across the Park.



POI



Distance

7

2.78 Km

Poi

- 1 Estate of Tor Marancia - Nord
- 2 Fosse Ardeatine Memorial
- 3 Basilica and catacombs of San Sebastiano
- 4 The Villa of Maxentius
- 5 Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella and Castrum Caetani
- 6 Church of San Nicola
- 7 Capo di Bove Site - Cederna Archive



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

Poi 1

Estate of Tor Marancia - Nord

Roma / Place to visit - Natural area

Tor Marancia is a 200 hectare expanse of miraculously unspoilt countryside in the heart of one of Rome's most populous districts, still surprisingly intact and with a wealth of fauna and flora and also a number of archaeological remains, which have revealed that the area has been inhabited since the Stone Age (between 70,000 and 35,000 BC) and used as farmland since Roman times.

The area is bounded to the west by a stream called Marrana dell'Annunziatella, and to the north and east by Via delle Sette Chiese, Via Ardeatina and Vicolo dell'Annunziatella. Remains of a large number of Roman residential buildings have been found here, from simple farmhouses to large aristocratic villas. The most monumental of these was the Villa of the Numisii, dating back to the mid-2nd century AD and belonging to Numisia Procula, according to the inscription on a lead pipe found at the site.

The name Tor Marancia probably comes from Amaranthus, a Roman libertus (freed slave) who took over the management of the villa, which, unfortunately, has since disappeared, replaced by a quarry opened on the right hand side of Via Ardeatina. The Marancia Tower, known to have been part of a complex defence system erected in the Middle Ages, was located on Via delle Sette Chiese inside the Horti Flaviani, near the Catacombs of Domitilla. It is thought to have been demolished between the end of the 16th and the mid-17th century since it no longer appears in the 1660 Alessandrino Map. The area also features traces of paved Roman roads flanked by funerary monuments, and necropolises, along Via Ardeatina and Via Laurentina (one of the largest was along Via di Grotta Perfetta, near the church of Annunziatella). In the 1990s there was a plan to develop this until then incredibly unspoilt area inside Rome's Ring Road.

Luckily, and thanks to the activism of environmental organisations, political parties and local resident groups, the plan was scrapped and in 2002 the City Council of Rome and the local government decided to establish the Park of Tor Marancia, which has since become an integral part of the Appia Antica Regional Park.



Address

Via dei Numisii - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE B station PIRAMIDE take the BUS 716 to SARTORIO stop.

Poi 2

Fosse Ardeatine Memorial

Roma / Place to visit - Monuments

On 23 March 1944, a column of the German SS Police Regiment "Bozen" was ambushed by Partisans with an improvised explosive device in a central Roman street, Via Rasella, resulting in the death of 33 policemen. The Germans retaliated by rounding up 335 men (ten for each German soldier killed, plus another five), who were taken to some disused quarries along the Via Ardeatina, between the catacombs of San Sebastiano and San Callisto, and summarily shot under the orders of Herbert Kappler, commander of the SS and Gestapo in Rome, during the night of 24 March, in 67 gruesome shifts. The massacre, the place where it was perpetrated and the names of the victims, were supposed to remain secret.

The bodies of the victims were piled up and buried under tons of rock debris caused by the explosive charges detonated to seal the caves and conceal the massacre. After the end of the war, in 1945, the Allied Command provided 2 million lire to recover the bodies of the victims and hold a national competition for designing a memorial of the massacre, with the recommendation not to alter the appearance of the caves. In 1948, the task of building the memorial was assigned to the Ministry of Public Works, because, in the meantime, the massacre and related memorial had become a matter of national importance, as a symbol of the entire country's sacrifice to regain the national unity shattered by the war and the Nazi-fascist occupation.

The Government wanted the memorial to become a monument to the Resistance movement, to the collective revolt of the people against the invaders, and so it built with materials and workers from across the entire country.



Info

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday
Memorial: 8:15 - 15:30 -
Museum: 8:15 - 15:15
Saturday and Sunday
Memorial: 8:15 - 16:30 -
Museum: 8:15 - 16:15

Closing days:

1 January, Easter, 1 May, 15
August, 25-26 December

Address

Via Ardeatina 174 - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station SAN GIOVANNI take the BUS 218 to FOSSE ARDEATINE stop, alternatively from METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to BASILICA S. SEBASTIANO stop and then walk for 10 minutes on Vicolo delle Sette Chiese

Poi 3

Basilica and catacombs of San Sebastiano

Roma / Place to visit - Catacumbas

Between the Catacombs of San Callisto and the complex of Maxentius, is a Basilica dedicated to Saint Sebastian, the most important Christian pilgrimage site on this initial stretch of the Via Appia, so important as to give its name to gate in the Aurelian Walls through which the Appian Way left the city. The complex is named for the early Christian martyr who was buried nearby in the 3rd century AD, and was originally called the “*Basilica of the Memory of the Apostles*”, due to its association with the joint cult of the apostles Peter and Paul.

The location, which was chosen for a large Christian burial ground from the 1st century AD, was originally called *ad catacumbas* (from a Greek word meaning "close to the cavity"), due to presence of pozzolan mines. The catacombs of San Sebastiano, which, over the centuries, had become the most important in Rome, subsequently gave the name to all the other underground cemeteries in Rome.

The Basilica, erected in the 4th century AD, features the typical circus-shaped ground plan of the Constantinian basilicas and was used in the first centuries of its history primarily as a cemetery church. In front of the basilica of S. Sebastiano there rises a column surmounted by a cross. On the base of the column is a coat of arms and an inscription commemorating the restoration of the Via Appia Antica by the architect Luigi Canina, commissioned by pope Pius IX in mid-19th century.



📍 Info

Opening hours:
10.00 - 16.30 last entrance.
Closing time is 17.00.

Closing days:
Sunday, 25 December, 1
January, the whole month of
December.

📍 Address

Via Appia Antica 136 - Roma
(RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE B station
COLOSSEO take the BUS 118
to BASILICA DI S.
SEBASTIANO stop.



📍 Info

Opening hours:
10.00 - 16.00.

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

📍 Address

Via Appia Antica 153 - Roma
(RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE B station
COLOSSEO take the BUS 118
to BASILICA S. SEBASTIANO
stop and then walk for 5
minutes.

Poi 4

The Villa of Maxentius

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

The impressive remains visible between the Basilica of San Sebastiano and the Tomb of Caecilia Metella belong to the huge Roman residential complex built by the emperor Maxentius between AD 308 and 312. The archaeological area features the Mausoleum of Romulus (from the name of the emperor's young son, who died in AD 309), the remains of the palace quarters and the Circus, used for horse racing, which could seat over 10,000 spectators. The Palace of Maxentius reused a previous building of which four construction stages are known, from the late Republican period (2nd - 1st century BC) onwards. Significant alterations were made in the 2nd century AD, almost certainly, based on modern evidence, by the wealthy Athenian orator Herodes Atticus, who owned a vast estate at the 3rd mile of the Appian Way, which the sources refer to as *Triopius*.

Poi 5

Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella and Castrum Caetani

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

The Mausoleum of Caecilia Metella is one of the most well-known monuments flanking the Via Appia. Built between 30 and 20 BC, at the 3 mile marker of the road, about 300 m south of the



🕒 Opening Hours

09:00 - 18:30	On weekends mandatory reservation at least one day in advance by calling 067886254 during opening hours.
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📅 Closing Days

Monday

📄 Info

Admission fee

🕒 Opening hours:

from Tuesday to Sunday from 9.00 to 18.30 pm with last entrance half an hour 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:

Monday, 25 December, 1 January.

📍 Address

Via Appia Antica 161 - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to BASILICA S. SEBASTIANO stop, alternatively from METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop.



📍 Address

Via Appia Antica, 161 - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to BASILICA DI SAN SEBASTIANO stop, alternatively from METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO take the BUS 660 to CECILIA METELLA stop.

complex built by the emperor Maxentius, it still has the power to impress visitors today, because of its size and elegance, and also because of the added attraction of having been converted, in the Middle Ages, into a stronghold, a sort of fortified palace, which is still in good condition.

Externally the tomb has the shape of a cylindrical drum entirely clad with slabs of travertine, resting on a square podium of which only the concrete core of flint has survived. Inside, the conical burial chamber, open to the sky at the top (*oculus*), contained the body of a wealthy Roman noblewoman belonging to one of the city's aristocratic families and probably the daughter-in-law of the famous Marcus Licinius Crassus, a member, with Caesar and Pompey of the 1st triumvirate in 59 BC.

This twofold archaeological site features not just the tomb of Caecilia Metella, but also the remains of a fortified palace built at the beginning of the 14th century by the Caetani family, after it bought the land on which the monument rises (called Capo di Bove, or "ox head", due to the ox skulls adorning the frieze at the top of the tomb) and decided to fortify the tomb by encircling it with a wall and building a palace, church and tower inside, the tower being raised on top of the Roman tomb.

Today, the residential part of the stronghold, with its typical battlemented wall and mullioned windows, hosts the Appian Museum and its collection of statues, sarcophagi, inscriptions and reliefs from the funerary monuments along the Via Appia.

Poi 6

Church of San Nicola

Roma / Place to visit - Churches

The church of San Nicola is situated inside the *Castrum Caetani*, the stronghold built at the beginning of the 14th century by Pope Boniface VIII, who was a member of this noble Roman family. This stronghold had a square layout and was surrounded by a wall. Inside, according to an inventory preserved in the Torlonia archive, it contained about 50 houses, gardens, farmland and two churches, one of which was dedicated to St. Nicholas.

Of the original church, only the outer walls survive today, together with a bell gable that dominates the facade; the gable roof has also been lost. The walls feature eight buttresses per side and pointed arch windows with marble cornices, restored in the early 20th century. The building is a rare example of Gothic church in Rome; its main features, such as the effect of the light, which deceptively dilates the interior space, the pointed arch windows and the presence of buttresses all refer to the French Gothic style.



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.

⌚ Opening Hours

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

Monday

ℹ️ 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

📍 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, alternatively, from METRO LINE B station COLOSSEO take the BUS 118 to BASILICA S. SEBASTIANO stop and then walk for 10 minutes.