



Dal Parco della Via Latina a Tor Fiscale

Park of the Tor Fiscale / Park of the Via Latina



POI

6



Distance

3.14 Km



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The Archeological park of the Tombs of the Via Latina

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

A section of the 3rd mile of the ancient Roman road called the Via Latina has been preserved, practically intact, on the outskirts of Rome, between the modern-day Via Appia and Via Tuscolana. The road has very remote origins, being the natural prehistoric route used by the Etruscans to colonise Campania in the 8th to 6th century BC.

The paved road was built by the Romans in the 4th-3rd century BC linking Rome to Capua and crossing the Lepini, Ausoni and Aurunci mountains and the valleys of the Sacco and Liri rivers, playing an important role throughout antiquity. Even in the Middle Ages, in fact, it was the preferred road for Naples, because it was in a better condition than the Via Appia and due to the presence of many Christian monuments along the way.

A section with the original paving of the road can still be seen in the Archaeological Park of the Tombs of the Via Latina, which makes for a pleasant stroll to admire the tombs, dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, which flank the road and still feature perfectly preserved multicoloured decorations, both inside and outside: vaulted ceilings that are plastered, stuccoed and painted, walls covered with frescoes with funerary subjects and mosaic floors have all been perfectly preserved and look today as they must have looked centuries ago. The road also leads to the Basilica of S. Stefano, a rare example of Early Christian building erected under Pope Leo the Great in the 5th century.

The Archaeological Park of the Tombs of the Via Latina was created in 1879, following the purchase, by the State, of a vast area where a number of Roman remains had been unearthed. Today, it can be visited free of charge and, thanks to the recent restoration work by the Archaeological Park authorities, it is also possible to admire several of the most spectacular Roman tombs:

The so-called **Barberini or Corneli tomb**. This funerary monument, dated to the 2nd century AD, consists of two floors above and an underground burial chamber in excellent condition. The uppermost chamber is cross-vaulted and entirely covered with frescoes with a red background, as well as stucco decorations. The frescoes depict groups of people, winged victories riding on chariots, cupids, birds, marine animals, mythological subjects and architectural elements.

The **Tomb of the Valerii**. The richly decorated underground burial chambers have been preserved, dated to the 2nd century AD, while the part above ground is a hypothetical reconstruction made in the 19th century. The underground chambers feature elaborate white stucco work decorations, with 35 medallions and squares, lunettes and a vaulted ceiling. The medallions depict Dionysian themes, female figures and marine animals, while the central roundel features a delicate veiled figure riding on the back of a griffin, which represents the deceased being taken to the underworld.

The Tomb of the Pancratii. Most of the visible structure is a modern building that protects the underground part of the monument, built on top of the original walls dating to the 1st-2nd century AD, which have been preserved up to a height of about 1.5 metres. Inside, the tomb has several underground chambers marvellously decorated with mosaics on the floor and frescoed walls and vaulted ceilings, painted with brilliant colours and featuring excellently preserved stucco work, all of which depict mythological scenes, natural and architectural landscapes, female figures and animals. In the middle of one of the underground chambers is a large sarcophagus of Greek marble large enough for two bodies.

Given the beauty and exceptional nature of the decorations inside the tombs, the Archaeological Park limits access to the tombs to guided groups, to enable the public to enjoy these wonderful, albeit delicate, monuments, without causing any damage.



A Address

Via dell'Arco di Travertino, 151
- Roma (RM)



Address

Via dell'Acquedotto Felice -
Roma (RM)



Open every day

Address

Via di torre branca, roma -
Roma (RM)



Address

Vicolo dell'Acquedotto Felice
459 - Roma (RM)

Poi 3

Acquedotti di Tor Fiscale

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

Poi 4

Torre del Fiscale

Roma / Place to visit - Towers

The tower was built at the 4th mile of the Via Latina, where the Marcius and Claudius aqueducts intersected twice forming a square-shaped area of two hectares. This space was famously used by the Goths, during their siege of Rome in 537 AD (hence the name “Field of the Barbarians”), and many other times since, as a military camping site.

The tower – situated in the north-eastern corner of the Field of the Barbarians – was part of a fortified structure built in the 13th century by the Annibaldi family to control the Via Latina, while its current name comes from Filippo Foppi, the Pontifical Treasurer (also known as “fiscal”), who bought the property in the 17th century.

The structure, 30 metres tall, has a square ground plan and is built of alternating courses of tufa stone and bricks. The outside walls are pierced by rectangular windows and arrow-loops. The interior originally comprised three vaulted floors, of which only the uppermost ceiling remains.

Poi 5

Casale Ristoro

Roma / Place to visit - Casali



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Poi 6

Casale Museo

Roma / Place to visit - Casali