



From Viale Appio Claudio to the Via Latina Tombs

Park of the Aqueducts / Park of the Tor Fiscale

This itinerary explores some of the most interesting areas of the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica, where the green Roman countryside, history and archaeology come together in an exciting whole.

The itinerary begins at the Park of the Aqueducts, entered from Via Appio Claudio, where you can admire the remains of the *Aqua Claudia-Anio Novus* and the *Aqua Marcia-Tepula-Iulia*, dating back to Roman times, and the *Acqua Felice* aqueduct built at the end of the 16th century; no less than six of the eleven aqueducts that supplied water to Rome can be seen here, with these impressive structures set against a beautiful backdrop of centuries-old pine trees, waterways, like the Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana, and the remains of Roman villas, such as the so-called Vignacce Villa, one of the largest in the suburbs of Rome.

In the nearby Tor Fiscale Park, the two *Aqua Marcia* and *Aqua Claudia* aqueducts cross each other in the point where, in the Middle Ages, a 30-metre tall watchtower was built to dominate the surrounding countryside. After crossing the Park, Via Demetriade leads to the Via Latina Park, which preserves a stretch of the ancient Roman road lined with tombs, some of which still feature the amazing decorations of the burial chambers.

Plan this itinerary around the opening hours of the Tor Fiscale Park.



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



POI



Distance

9

4.95 Km

Poi

- 1 Park of the Aqueducts (Viale Appio Claudio)
- 2 Aqua Marcia, Tepula, Iulia - Aqua Felice (Viale Appio Claudio)
- 3 Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana (Aqua Claudia - Anio Novus)
- 4 The Villa of Vignacce
- 5 Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 6 Tor Fiscale Park
- 7 Casale Ristoro
- 8 The Tor Fiscale Aqueducts
- 9 The Archeological park of the Tombs of the Via Latina

Poi 1



Info

Free admission.

Address

Viale Appio Claudio - Via Lemonia - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA and then walk to Via Lemonia.

Park of the Aqueducts (Viale Appio Claudio)

Roma / Place to visit - Natural area

The Park of the Aqueducts covers an area of about 240 hectares in the Appio Claudio district, between Via delle Capannelle and the Rome-Cassino-Naples railway line and is all that remains of the once open tract of Roman countryside that extended all the way up to the Alban Hills. It is named after the impressive remains of six of the eleven aqueducts which, in ancient times, supplied water to the city of Rome: the *Aqua Anio vetus* built between 272 and 269 BC, the *Aqua Marcia* of 144 BC, the *Aqua Tepula* built in 125 BC, the *Aqua Iulia* of 33 BC, the *Aqua Claudia* and *Anio novus* inaugurated in AD 52. The Park is also crossed by a canal called the Marrana dell'*Aqua Mariana*, the construction of which was ordered by pope Callixtus II in 1122 to supply water to the Lateran Palace in Rome.

The last aqueduct to be built here was the *Aqua Felice*, between 1585 and 1587, adapting the ruined structures of the *Aqua Marcia*. It was named after the reigning pope Sixtus V, whose birth name was Felice Peretti. The Park is also the site of the remains of the Villa delle Vignacce, a Roman villa dating to the 2nd century AD, built by Quintus Servilius Pudens, along with historical buildings such as the Casale di Romavecchia and Casale del Sellaretto farmhouses.

Poi 2



Address

Via Lemonia - Parco degli Acquedotti - Roma (RM)

How to get

From Metro A fermata GIULIO AGRICOLA walk to a Via Lemonia.

Aqua Marcia, Tepula, Iulia - Aqua Felice (Viale Appio Claudio)

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

This is the entrance to one of the most spectacular stretches, thanks to the presence of several well-preserved aqueducts.

The *Aqua Marcia* aqueduct was built in 144 BC by the pretor *Quintus Marcius Rex*. At 91 km long, it is Rome's longest aqueduct, running from the upper Aniene Valley to Porta Maggiore. In the space of just over a century a further two aqueducts were superimposed on the *Aqua Marcia*: the *Aqua Tepula* in 125 BC and the *Aqua Iulia* in 33 BC, from springs in the hills of Grottaferrata and Marino.

At the end of the 16th century, the arches of the *Aqua Marcia* were destroyed and the piers were used to support the *Aqua Felice* aqueduct, named after Felice Peretti, who was elected pope, in 1585, as Sixtus V.

Poi 3



Address

Viale Appio Claudio - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA walk for 300 metres along viale Giulio Agricola. In via Lemonia there are numerous entrances to the

Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana (Aqua Claudia - Anio Novus)

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

In 1122, pope Callixtus II ordered the construction of this waterway, known as the Fosso (or Marrana) dell'acqua Mariana, parallel to the *Aqua Claudia* aqueduct. It was built to supply water to the city, and especially to the area of the Lateran Basilica, because most of the Roman aqueducts, in particular the Aqua Claudia, had either been badly damaged or abandoned. From the headsprings at Squarciarelli (near Grottaferrata), the Marrana crossed the Park of the Aqueducts, the area of Tor Fiscale and, exploiting the natural lay of the land and following the route of the ancient aqueducts, eventually reaching the Asinaria Gate, where it powered water mills and formed a pool; from here it continued to the Metronia Gate, before flowing into the Tiber near the church of S. Maria in Cosmedin.

The canal was crossed, here and there, by characteristic bridges which, together with the surrounding Roman remains, are featured in the many landscapes of the Roman countryside

Park.

painted between the 17th and 19th centuries. The name Mariana seems to come from the *Fundus Maranus*, an area known as Morena today, where the water was channelled underground, near the Villa of the *Centronii*, using an old conduit belonging to the *Aqua Claudia*. *Marianus* then became Mariana and, finally, Marrana, which is still used as a synonym of stream or ditch in the environs of Rome. Today, it is the most important tributary of the river Almone.

Poi 4

The Villa of Vignacce

Roma / Place to visit - Roman Bathb

The so-called “Villa of Vignacce”, located inside the Park of the Aqueducts, is one of the largest villas found in the suburbs of Rome. It was built on an artificial hill dominating the surrounding countryside, at the 4th mile of the Via Latina, to which it was connected with a private road. The owner of the villa, identified by means of the brick stamps and lead pipe inscriptions, was Quintus Servilius Pudens, a wealthy brick-maker, who built it between AD 125 and 130, during the reign of the emperor Hadrian, with luxurious residential quarters, gardens with monumental fountains and waterworks and private baths. Today, only the baths remain, featuring a vast round domed building surrounded by smaller rooms. Pottery jars were included in the concrete of the domed roof to reduce its weight, a construction technique that was widely used, especially in the monuments built at the time of the emperor Constantine, in the first half of the 4th century AD.

The archaeological excavations carried out on the site of the villa have revealed that it continued to be used well into the 6th century AD, albeit with alterations and for different purposes. The digs have unearthed a number of beautiful artworks, such as a statue of Aphrodite, the Chiaramonti Ganymede, the Tyche of Antiochia and a colossal portrait of Julia Domna, wife of the emperor Septimius Severus, preserved today in the Vatican Museums. During the archaeological campaign undertaken in 2009 by the Rome Superintendence, in partnership with the American Institute for Roman Culture, an extraordinary statue of the satyr Marsyas was found, who challenged Apollo to a contest of music and lost his hide and his life, skinned alive by the god. The multi-coloured statue is preserved in the Centrale Montemartini Museum in Rome.

Poi 5

Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Roma / Place to visit - Churches

The church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a Romanian Orthodox Church commissioned, in 2001, by the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in Italy. The interior of the church was radically altered in 2007, with the addition of the altar and the iconostasis, which, in Eastern Christianity, consists of a wall of icons and religious paintings (icons) separating the nave from the sanctuary and featuring 3 doors, the middle one, called the Holy Door, being directly in front of the altar and which can be used only by the celebrant (priest or bishop) and, at times, by the deacon. The icons include the image of the Virgin of the Incarnation and Christ Pantokrator (the all-powerful), the Eucharist, the Annunciation, the Four Evangelists, the 12 Apostles and the Prophets of the Old Testament, besides several other icons depicting the liturgical feasts celebrated in the church.

Poi 6

Tor Fiscale Park

Roma / Place to visit - Natural area



Address

Parco degli Acquadotti - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA walk along Viale Giulio Agricola and enter the PARK.



Address

Via Alessandro Viviani - Roma (RM)

How to get

From METRO LINE A station LUCIO SESTIO exit to via Lucio Sestio then walk for 10 minutes.



📍 Info

Opening hours:
Everyday from sunrise to sunset.

📍 Address

Via dell'Acquedotto Felice - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station PORTA FURBA walk along Via dei Levis and enter to the nearby entrance in Via Lucio Mario Perpetuo

The Tor Fiscale Park is a green area covering about 11 hectares in the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica. This rural area is scattered with numerous historical and archaeological remains bearing witness to centuries of history. The Park features the remains of Roman villas, impressive aqueducts, old farmhouses built along the ancient Via Latina, which once led from Rome to the city of Capua. Its name comes from Monsignor Filippo Foppi, who once served as “fiscale”, as the Treasurer of the Papal States was known, and who purchased a tower here in the middle of the 17th century. The landscape is characterised by the two aqueducts that cross it. The longest stretch belongs to the Aqua Marcia, built in 144 BC, over which the conduit of the Aqua Tepula was superimposed in 125 BC, followed by the Aqua Julia in 33 BC. Between 1585 and 1587 pope Sixtus V, whose birth name was Felice Peretti, re-used the ancient arches to carry the new Aqua Felice, designed to supply water to the Viminal and Quirinal districts of Rome. The other arches, made of blocks of tufa stone and brickwork, belong to two other aqueducts that run one on top of the other, supported by the same piers, the Aqua Claudia superimposed by the Aqua Anio novus, erected in AD 38 by Caligula and inaugurated by Claudius in AD 52.

The Park also contains several underground structures, ancient caverns used as air raid shelters during World War II and, more recently, as mushroom farms. Traces of Roman villas with bathhouses may be seen near the old farmhouses, which have been refurbished and today host refreshment and information points. In particular, near the entrance is the Casale Museum hosting cultural events, exhibitions, workshops for children, conferences and info centres. During the renovation works the remains of a Roman villa dating to the 1st-2nd century AD were discovered and may now be admired by visitors in an underground exhibition space.



📍 Info

Opening hours:
Open by reservation only, on Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Holidays.

📍 Address

Via dell'Acquedotto Felice - Parco di Tor Fiscale - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station PORTA FURBA exit at Via Tuscolana then walk along Via dei Levis and enter the park from Via del Quadraretto

☎ Phone

06 7612966

Casale Ristoro

Roma / Place to visit - Casali

This building, at a short distance from the Casale Museo, is one of the many old farmhouses scattered in the area. During the renovation work, the remains of a Roman villa from the Imperial period were unearthed, with baths, which are partially visible beneath a glass panel on the ground floor. Today, the building houses a refreshments point, cultural events and conferences.



📍 Address

Via di Torre Branca - Roma

The Tor Fiscale Aqueducts

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

You are now in the green area called Tor Fiscale, a public park criss-crossed by the impressive remains of several Roman aqueducts, such as the Aqua Claudia and the Aqua Marcia, which cross paths at the Torre del Fiscale, a watchtower built in the Middle Ages and visible from a distance, and then run separately again. The southernmost of these two aqueducts, which is also the best preserved, is the *Aqua Marcia*, erected in 144 BC by a Roman magistrate called Quintus Marcius Rex, while serving as praetor. At 91 km, it is the longest of the Roman

Poi 7

Poi 8

How to get

From METRO LINE A station PORTA FURBA exit at Via Tuscolan walk along Via dei Levi and enter the PARK from Via del Quadretto.

aqueducts and ran from the upper Aniene Valley to Porta Maggiore, on the outskirts of the ancient city. In the space of just over a century a further two aqueducts were superposed on the *Aqua Marcia*, beginning in 125 BC with the *Aqua Tepula*, and then in 33 BC the *Aqua Iulia*, which sourced water from mainsprings located near the modern-day towns of Grottaferrata and Marino. Then, at the end of the 16th century the arches of the *Aqua Marcia* were demolished and the piers used as foundations for a new aqueduct, the *Aqua Felice*, named after Felice Peretti, the birth name of pope Sixtus V, elected in 1585. Opposite this aqueduct runs the *Aqua Claudia*, begun by the emperor Caligula in AD 38 and completed by his successor Claudius in AD 52. In this case the water was sourced from two mainsprings of crystal clear water located near Marano Equo and Arsoli, which today lie on the border between the regions of Lazio and Abruzzo. After running for about 68 km, of which 16 km above ground, supported by arches and bridges, and passing through the city of Tivoli, it ended at Porta Maggiore, where it branched into smaller channels supplying water to various districts of the ancient city, such as the Caelian and Palatine. The enormous piers, many of which have survived and are up to 28 metres tall, and the conduits inside which the water ran, are built of large square blocks of tufa stone. The *Aqua Anius Novus*, instead, sourced water from the nearby river Aniene, whose Latin name was Anius. Long stretches of the conduit are made of brick and it was superposed on the *Aqua Claudia*, running together for most of its length.

Poi 9

The Archeological park of the Tombs of the Via Latina

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas



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

Info

Opening hours:
From Tuesday to Sunday from 9.00 to 19.00 with last admission 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 day:
Monday.

Address

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

How to get

METRO LINE A station ARCO DI TRAVERTINO, then walk 7 minutes.

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.