



# From Tor Fiscale to the Via Latina Tombs

## Park of the Tor Fiscale

This itinerary explores two of the most interesting areas in the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica, where nature, history and archaeology come together in an enormously exciting way.

Both areas were crossed, in antiquity, by the Via Latina, a road built to connect Rome with the southern Italian city of Capua, a stretch of which survives, in good condition, inside the Via Latina Park. The Tor Fiscale Park, instead, features two important aqueducts, the *Aqua Claudia - Anio Novus*, built in Roman times, and the Acqua Felice, which was built in the Renaissance period by re-utilising the ruins of the Roman Aqua Marcia, and is named after its main landmark, a watchtower called Torre del Fiscale, 30 metres tall and dating back to the Middle Ages, when it was built to control the surrounding countryside.

From here, along Via Demetriade and Via dell'Arco di Travertino, you eventually come to the entrance to the Via Latina Park, which features some very interesting tombs, several of which still preserve their magnificent interior decoration.

*Plan this itinerary around the opening hours of the Tor Fiscale Park, which is open from dawn to dusk.*



POI



Distance

5

2.99 Km

### Poi

- 1 Tor Fiscale Park
- 2 Casale Ristoro
- 3 The "Torre del Fiscale" Tower
- 4 The Tor Fiscale Aqueducts
- 5 The Archeological park of the Tombs of the Via Latina



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

# Poi 1

## Tor Fiscale Park

### Roma / Place to visit - Natural area

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:

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

# Poi 2

## 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.



#### 📍 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 Quadrareto

#### ☎ Phone

06 7612966

# Poi 3

## The “Torre del Fiscale” Tower



#### Address

Vicolo dell'Acquedotto Felice  
459 - Roma (RM)

#### How to get

From METRO LINE A station  
PORTA FURBA exit for Via  
Tuscolana walk for 10 minutes  
along Via del Levii and enter the  
PARK from Via del Quadraretto.



#### Address

Via di Torre Branca - Roma  
(RM)

#### How to get

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



#### Opening Hours

On  
weekends

## Roma / Place to visit - Towers

The tower was built at the 4th mile of the Via Latina, where the Marcus and Claudius aqueducts intersect for the second time 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 “fiscale”), 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 4

### 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 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 5

### 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,

09:00 - 19:00	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.

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.