



From Viale Appio Claudio to the Lucrezia Romana Museum

Park of the Aqueducts

This itinerary explores the Park of the Aqueducts, where the Roman aqueducts cross each other against the backdrop of the Roman countryside dotted with farmhouses, centuries-old pine trees and the impressive remains of these aqueducts, showing how the area has been uninterruptedly lived in and farmed. You can admire here the superimposed *Aqua Marcia-Tepula-Iulia* and the *Aqua Claudia-Anio Novus*, from which the Sette Bassi aqueduct branched off to supply water to the nearby villa with the same name.

To defend and control the Aqua Claudia and Marcia a stronghold was built in the Middle Ages, with a watchtower, which were later converted into a farmhouse now known as Casale di Romavecchia, from the name of the estate to which it belonged. The abundance of water in this area led to the construction, in the Middle Ages of a canal called the Fosso dell'Acqua Mariana, originally to power the mills built along its banks and irrigate the fields owned by the ecclesiastical authorities.

At the end of the 16th century, the ruins of the Aqua Marcia were restored to serve as a new aqueduct, called the *Acqua Felice*, while in the 19th century the area was crossed by the Rome-Frascati railway, the first to be built in the Papal States, by pope Pius IX. The Casale del Sellaretto farmhouse originally served as a home for a track maintenance worker. Leaving the Park you come to the Lucrezia Romana Museum, which preserves and displays numerous artefacts found in the archaeological excavations carried out in the south-eastern quadrant of Rome, a successful example of neighbourhood museum.

Visitors are cautioned to pay attention to traffic on this itinerary because stretches of the road lack a pedestrian pavement and cross private farmland. Please keep to the signposted paths to avoid damage or disturbance.

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Info



POI

10



Distance

4.42 Km



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





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.

Services

-  Bike rental
-  Drinking water
-  Info point

Info

Free admission.

Visit Duration

30 min.

Address

Viale Appio Claudio - Via Lemozia - Roma (RM)

How to get

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

Audioguide



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audioguide



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.

👁 Visit Duration

5 min.

📍 Address

Via Lemonia - Parco degli Acquedotti - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

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



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 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.

👁 Visit Duration

1 min.

📍 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 Park.



Casale di Romavecchia

Roma / Place to visit - Casali

Located between the 4th and 5th milestone of the ancient Via Latina, and the Aqua Claudia and Aqua Marcia, the building was originally a tower house controlling a strategically important area. The core of the building, made with lava chips, blocks of peperino stone and fragments of ancient marble, dates back to the 13th century and incorporates ancient Roman structures. The internal courtyard contains various archaeological finds, unearthed in the area between the end of the 19th and the early 20th century, during excavation campaigns carried out by the owners of the estate, the enormously wealthy Torlonia family. When no longer necessary for defensive purposes, it was transformed into a farmhouse. The name “Roma Vecchia” – Old Rome – comes from the ruins of the nearby Villa of the Sette Bassi, which were so extensive as to be mistaken, in the 18th century, for an actual city.

👁 Visit Duration

10 min.

📍 Address

Via Lemonia - Parco degli Acquadotti - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA walk along Viale Giulio Agricola. In via Lemonia there are numerous entrances to the Park.



Aqua Claudia - Anio Novus

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

The monumental section of the aqueduct visible from the entrance has inspired generations of painters, writers and even film directors. The magnificent arches support two superposed channels conveying the *Aqua Claudia* and the *Anio Novus*, which supplied water to Rome from the 1st century AD.

The *Aqua Claudia* is one of the marvels of Roman engineering. Begun by the emperor Caligula in AD 38 and finished by his successor Claudius in 52, its mainsprings were located between Marano Equo and Arsoli, close to the modern-day boundary between the regions of Lazio and Abruzzo.

Approximately 68 km long, 16 of which running on arches and bridges and the rest underground. It passes by Tivoli and enters Rome at Porta Maggiore, where it splits into two branches that reached many areas of the city, such as the Caelian and Palatine Hills.

Large blocks of tuff stone were used to build both the channel and the huge piers, some of which reached a height of 28 metres and can still be seen today. Instead, the *Aqua Anio Novus*, also begun by Caligula, sourced its water from the river Anio (known today as Aniene), from which it takes its name; mostly superposed on the *Aqua Claudia*, the channel was made of bricks.

Visit Duration

5 min.

Address

Via Lemonia - Parco degli Acquedotti - Roma (RM)

How to get

Metro Line A station GIULIO AGRICOLA, then walk to Via Lemonia



Via Latina - Park of the Acqueducts

Roma / Place to visit - Ancient streets

Between the *Aqua Claudia* and the *Aqua Felice*, in the area between the so-called Casale di Romavecchia and Casale del Sellaretto farmhouses, archaeologists have unearthed a stretch of paved road, which has been identified as the ancient Via Latina linking Rome to Capua through southern Lazio, along an alternative route to the Via Appia. This stretch of the road was probably buried because, in the Middle Ages, it was used as the bed of a canal, called the Fosso (or Marrana) dell'Acqua Mariana, built by pope Callixtus, in 1122, to supply fresh water to Rome, in particular to the area of the Lateran, where the cathedral church of the city, the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano is located. The route followed by the Via Latina was probably used since proto-historic times by the Etruscans, to conquer Campania, and it was paved from the 4th century BC, becoming the second most important road, after the Appian Way, connecting Rome with the south of Italy.

In Roman times the Via Latina was flanked, like all the important roads leading out of Rome, by tombs, residential buildings, shops and inns serving travellers. The stretch preserved here still features the original irregular-shaped paving stones made of leucitite, a volcanic rock. Some of the paving stones feature the deep ruts carved by cart wheels. Other stretches of the road can be seen in the Archaeological Park of the Appia Antica. The most monumental of these is flanked by several well-preserved tombs and has become an attraction known as the archaeological area of the Tombs of the Via Latina, between Via Appia Nuova and Via dell'Arco di Travertino. Other stretches can be seen near Largo Tacchi Venturi, on the edge of the Caffarella Valley and in Via del Casale Ferranti at Osteria del Curato-Lucrezia Romana.

👁 Visit Duration

5 min.

📍 Address

Via Lemonia - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station GIULIO AGRICOLA then walk for 5 minutes.



Casale del Sellaretto

Roma / Place to visit - Casali

Now privately owned, it was built as a railwayman's house on the Rome-Frascati railway commissioned by pope Pius IX as the first stretch of a longer line from Rome to Ceprano, a town which, at the time, was on the border between the Papal States and the Kingdom of Naples, and was lived in until 1892, when the more modern and functional Rome-Naples line was opened. Pius IX, whose birth name was Giovanni Maria Mastai Ferretti, spearheaded innovative transportation plans in the Papal States, being much appreciated for his progressive views, compared to his predecessor Gregory XVI, and launching the construction of another three railway lines.

Opened on 7 July 1856, the Rome-Frascati railway operated five services a day - three in the morning and two in the afternoon - in 28 minutes. The new project, however, also sparked controversy, especially because of the distance from the city centre of the railway station, which was located at the time near Porta Maggiore, a problem that was also felt at the other end of the line, in Frascati, where the station was three kilometres away from the town, which gave rise to a jibe according to which the railway "didn't depart from Rome and didn't arrive in Frascati". The choice of route was also criticised for the incongruous decision to drive a 290 metre long tunnel through a hill in Ciampino, which proved expensive, dangerous and technically very complex.

The new line to Ceprano was completed in 1862. It branched off from the original line to Frascati at Ciampino, the first stop, and passed by Albano and Velletri, eventually connecting with the rail network of the Kingdom of Naples. The railway to Velletri crossed the Via Appia Antica at S. Maria delle Mole, as it still does, by means of a low overpass above the ancient road, which had only recently been restored by the architect Luigi Canina.

👁 Visit Duration

10 min.

📍 Address

Via di Romavecchia - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

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



Aqueduct of the Sette Bassi

Roma / Place to visit - Aqueducts

Near the southern boundary of the Park of the Acqueducts, between the arches of the *Aqua Claudia* and Via delle Capannelle, are two straight structures in opus vittatum (a Roman construction technique made by parallel horizontal courses of bricks and tuff blocks), which have been identified as the remains of an aqueduct that branched off from the *Aqua Claudia* to supply water to the Villa of the Sette Bassi.

The structure, which was very tall to ensure the necessary slope for the water to flow properly inside a channel at the top, features a number of apertures, including an arch, probably to allow passage. The structure then probably continued southward towards the modern-day archaeological area of the Villa of the Sette Bassi, where another arched stretch, several hundreds of metres long, is preserved and ends against a monumental cistern.

👁 Visit Duration

5 min.

📍 Address

Parco degli acquedotti - Via delle Capannelle - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station CINECITTÀ take the BUS 520 to CAPANNELLE/GAMIANA stop.



Archaeological area at the Museum of Lucrezia Romana

Roma / Place to visit - Archaeological areas

During the construction of a housing development between Via di Lucrezia Romana and Via Campo Farnia a vast archaeological area was unearthed crossed by an ancient paved Roman road, identified as the Via Castrimeniense, which connected Rome to *Castrimoenium*, the modern-day town of Marino in the Alban Hills. The road was probably an alternative route to the Via Latina, probably used since the Republican period. The 100 metre long stretch preserved here still features its original lava flagstone paving. Along the road the ancient square-shaped inspection wells of the *Aqua Anio Vetus* and the remains of several tombs have also been found. The archaeological area can be visited from Via Salvador Dalì or Via Paul Cezanne.

👁 Visit Duration

15 min.

📍 Address

Via Campo Farnia - Roma (RM)

🚗 How to get

From METRO LINE A station SUBAUGUSTA take the BUS 503 direction CINECITTA' to LUCREZIA ROMANA/CEZANNE stop



The Lucrezia Romana Museum

Roma / Place to visit - Museums

A new museum has opened in the Rome suburbs to tell the story of the Appio-Tuscolano district from Prehistory and Protohistory until the Middle Ages. The Lucrezia Romana Museum, with its 500 square metres of exhibition space, features four rooms in two buildings and displays the archaeological finds from the excavations in a large area on the south-east outskirts of Rome, over the last 25 years.

The objects unearthed at the excavation sites, in fact, document the history of the area from Quadraro to Grottaferrata, including Osteria del Curato, Tor Vergata, Morena, Romanina, Centroni, Cinecittà, Anagnina, Appio-Tuscolano.

The exhibits mainly consist of grave goods: gold necklaces, small items of jewellery and earrings, vases and lamps, as well as a range of everyday female beauty items (cosmetic jars, tweezers, spatulas) and children's toys, including a touching prehistoric dummy. A number of precious objects have also been found, mosaics, coins, frescoes, glass goods and fragments of decorations from the many villas and tombs that dotted the area in the imperial Roman period. Among these is a portrait bust in the Hellenistic style, an elegant terracotta architectural element from the time of Augustus and three terracotta heads of deities. Marble items include a Dionysian herm, an alabaster basin and a marvellous statue of a Hermaphrodite.

Services

- Accessible area
- Info point
- Restroom

⌚ Opening Hours

09:00 - 19:00

On weekends mandatory reservation at least one day in advance by calling 067886254 during opening hours.

🎧 Audioguide



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Closing Days

Monday Wednesday Friday Saturday

⌚ Info

Opening Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday and 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.

Free entrance

👁 Visit Duration

45 min.

📍 Address

Via Lucrezia Romana, 62 - Roma (RM)

🚶 How to get

From METRO LINE A station ANAGNINA take the BUS 503 direction CINECITTA' to LUCREZIA ROMANA/CEZANNE stop.

☎ Phone

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