

48 Hours in Rome: The Ultimate Action Packed Adventure

If you're anything like us, 48 hours in Rome feels like trying to read an epic novel in a single sitting—overwhelming, exhilarating, and completely worth it. From ancient ruins to modern mishaps, this jam-packed Roman break was full of *"Wow!"* moments and a few *"What just happened?"* adventures. Here's how we made the most of two days in the Eternal City.

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DAY 1: PANTHEON TO THE PANT- IN- G-‘CUZ-WE-WALKED-15- MILES

After catching an easy transfer bus from the airport into the Vatican area of town, we checked into our **accommodation**, dumped our bags, freshened up, and hit the cobblestone streets like we had just 48 hours left to get through everything (spoiler: we did).

THE PANTHEON: A PER-

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FECT START

We walked down to the Pantheon, which has to be one of the most amazing buildings in Rome. The dome is still the largest unsupported dome in the world! We were wowed by the sheer history of it all (and secretly I, despite Keefy giving me some comprehensive architectural information, wonder how it's still standing). We took our time inside to admire the marvellous interior.

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ONTO THE TREVI FOUNTAIN: WOW!

We continued on to the iconic Trevi Fountain, and yes—people really do throw coins in it like in the movies. We managed to grab a spot for a lovely picture and enjoyed people watching there! Before grabbing a huge beer and continuing our people watching from the bar!

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THE VATICAN MUSE- UMS: SCULPTURES ON SCULPTURES

After a quick jaunt back to the Vatican (definitely recommend pre-booking those tickets in advance – we pre booked 3.30pm tickets), we dove into the Vatican Museums. I'll be honest, the place is massive. It's an art lover's dream, but if you're not into sculptures, you might start feeling like you're swimming in a sea of marble torsos. It was also absolutely packed, and boiling.

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The saving grace for me? The Sistine Chapel. It's breathtaking, despite the crowds. Michelangelo's work left us awestruck (and with mild neck pain from staring at the ceiling as we couldn't drag ourselves away!).

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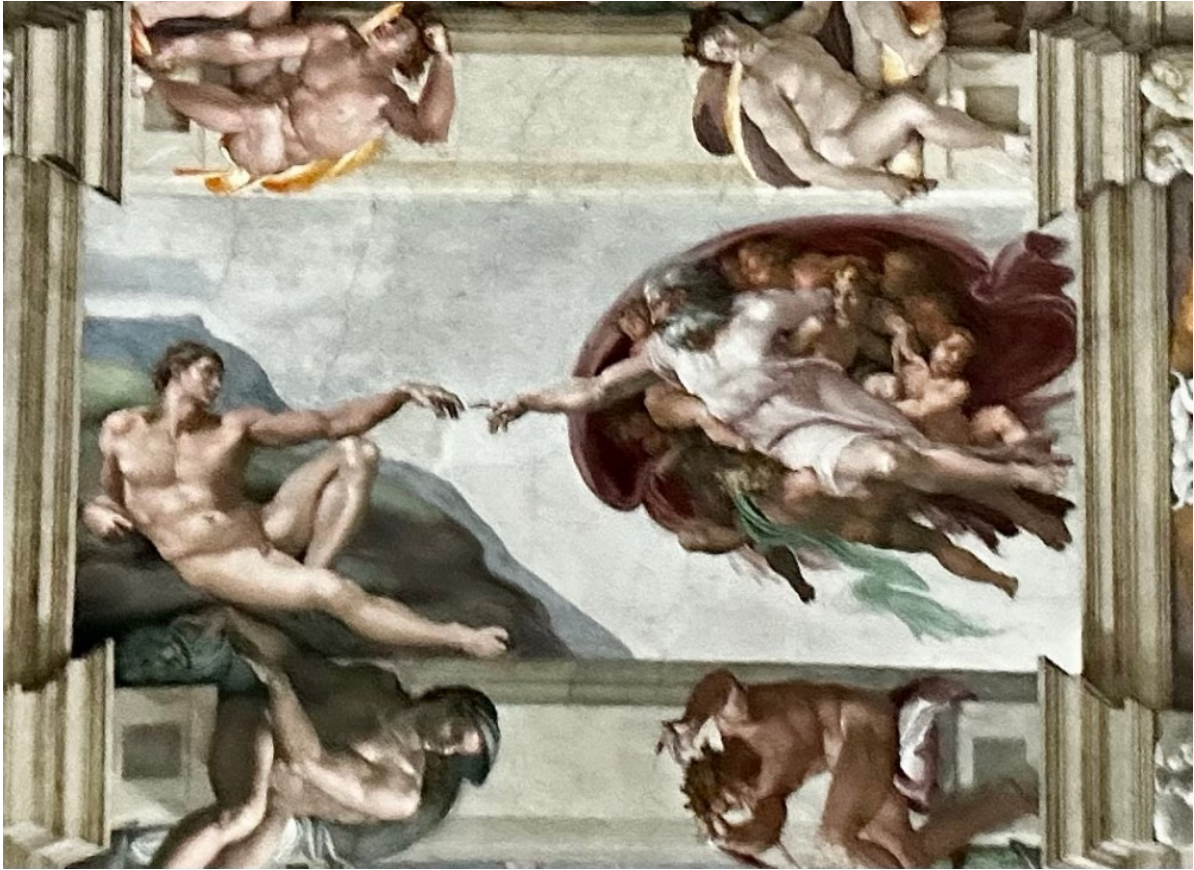
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ST. PETER'S BASILICA: GO BIG OR GO HOME

Last stop in Vatican City for us was St. Peter's Basilica. The grand finale of our holy trifecta and it was enormous. We were lucky as by now it was 5.30pm and we had barely any queue to enter- Keith tells me that last time he was there he queued for hours and hours, so thats a great tip for future visits, go within the last hour of their opening and its much quieter.

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By now, we were slightly delirious from culture overload but still in awe. You could tell we'd had a full on day as it was 6.30pm by the time we had only our second beer of the day! It didn't touch the sides that's for sure!

After a freshen up, we made our way back into town and settled on a lovely little restau-

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rant on a cobbled side street.

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By the time we crawled into bed, we had walked a staggering 15 miles! Blisters? Yes. Regrets? Absolutely not.



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DAY 2: COLOSSEUM, RO- MAN ROADS & A THUN- DERSTORM PICNIC

Day two began with another ambitious goal: conquering ancient Rome. We were up early

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and walking again (this time with slightly sore feet) toward the Colosseum.

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COLOSSEUM UNDER- GROUND TOUR: GLADIA- TORS AND CONFUSION

We had pre-booked an underground tour of the Colosseum—because who doesn't want to walk where gladiators once fought?

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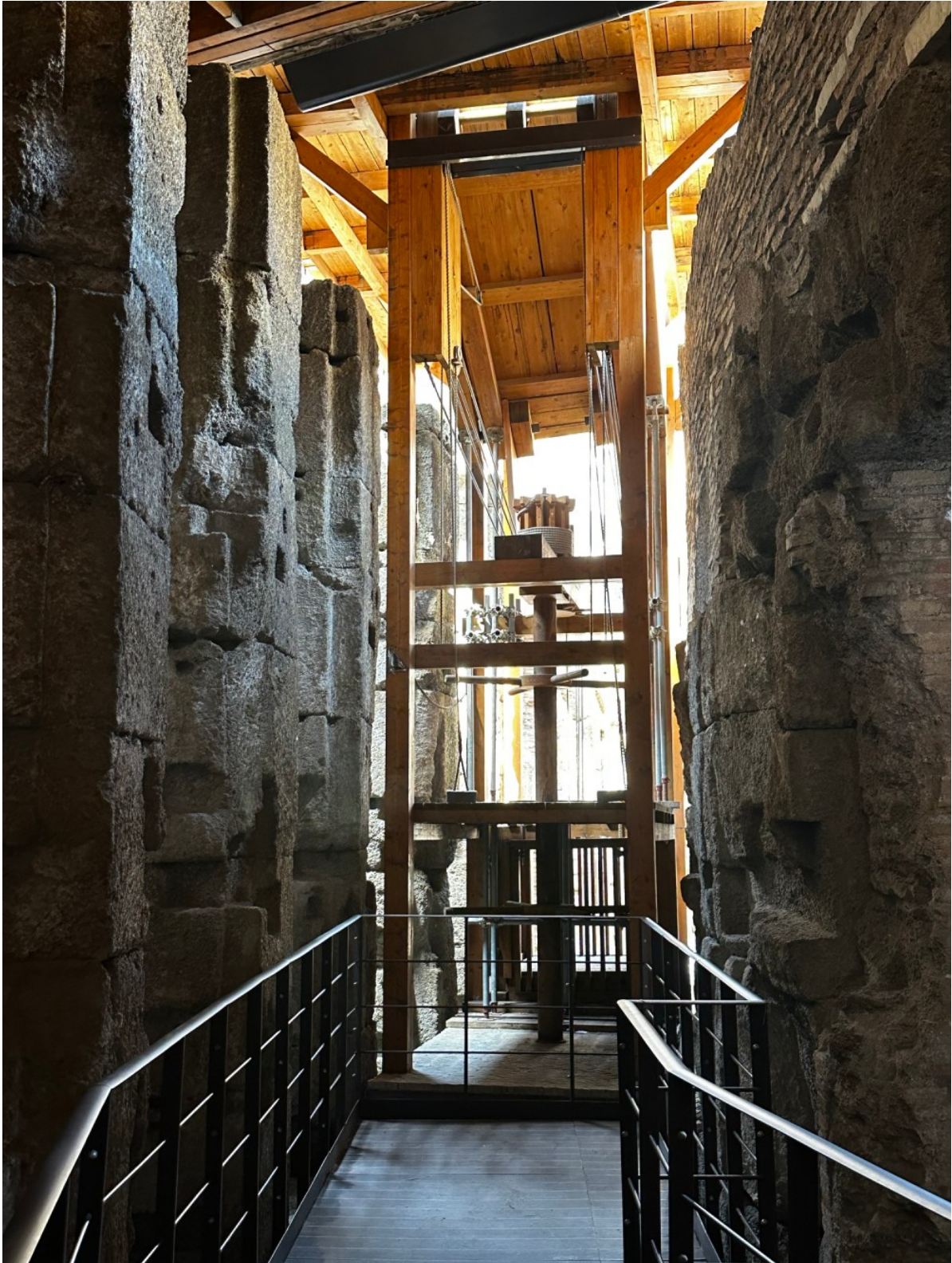
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This tour is worth it for the tunnels alone, but annoyingly, despite our guide speaking fluent English, and there being 8 English speaking guests in her group, she conducted the entire tour in Italian. We used the audio-guide released by the Colosseum but it wasn't in sync with what she was pointing out. Nether the less, it was incredible to be in there and the Colosseum totally blew me away.

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We really enjoyed a drink outside the colosseum, a chance to catch our breaths and enjoy the view from a different angle!

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PALATINE HILL & THE ROMAN FORUM: HISTO- RY IN EVERY STEP

After the Colosseum, we moved on to Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum.

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Thanks to a trusty free audio guide (shoutout to **Rick Steves** audiobook series), we navigated the ruins without needing another tour guide mix-up. The history here is mind-blowing—ancient palaces, temples, and political spaces, all in the same spot where Julius Caesar used to walk around.

APPIAN WAY BIKE RIDE: ADVENTURE WITH A TWIST

Our next adventure was a guided bike ride out of the city, and down the Appian Way, one of Rome's oldest and most famous roads. Sounds dreamy, right? Well, plot twist: the guide didn't show up. Turns out they

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changed the start time and forgot to tell us. After some *heated* Italian negotiations, they finally came back to get us. Crisis averted! And we could join the tour - although we missed the catacombs sadly.

Cycling along this ancient Roman road was surreal yet absolutely awesome.

The road was made up of lava stones from a nearby volcano (now extinct).

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We passed aqueducts, historical sites, and even enjoyed a picnic—until a thunderstorm decided to crash the party.



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Honestly, it just added to the experience. Nothing like al fresco eating in a downpour to make you feel *truly alive*. The tour was great despite the stressful start.

DINNER BY THE PAN- THEON: REVIVE WITH ROMAN FOOD BEFORE A NIGHTTIME FINALE AT THE TREVI FOUNTAIN & SPANISH STEPS

After all the excitement of the day, it was time for a well-deserved drink and dinner near the Pantheon. Because, what better place to eat pasta than in the shadow of a

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2,000-year-old temple?

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With a happy food coma setting in, we strolled through the evening streets, basking in Rome's ancient magic. With Rome twinkling under the night sky, we made one last visit to the Trevi Fountain and carried on to the Spanish Steps- by now it was gone midnight and there was barely anyone else around. We were running on pasta, and pure adrenaline.

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48-HOUR TAKEAWAYS:

To enable us to “do” Rome in 48 hours we have the following tips that helped...

- ****Pre-book your tickets!**** Skip the lines, avoid the headaches. Booking the tickets in advance is a headache because everything feels like it's the most sought after ticket in the world. However, the ease of rolling up to each site at an allotted time once in Rome made up for the stress at home of getting the tickets, as we sailed by hundreds and hundreds queuing in 37 degrees heat for hours on end.

Official Vatican tickets booking [Here](#) book 30 days in advance

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Official Colosseum tickets [here](#) book 30 days in advance. We booked the guided underground tour. To get in the underground section you must have a guide hence why we ended up with on an Italian speaking tour. This ticket included entry for The Forum and Palatine Hill.

We didn't pre book pantheon tickets and got in within 10 mins at around 1pm.

The bike tour was this [one](#)

- ****Wear comfortable shoes**** because 15 miles on cobbles is no joke. Neither of us escaped blisters and that was wearing our walking trainers. We saw people with HORRENDOUS blisters in flip flops. Not ideal!

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- **Bring snacks and be prepared to eat on the hoof at lunchtime.** Rome has *a lot* to see, and you'll need fuel to keep going. We enjoyed deli lunches from the supermarket which kept us going both days until 10pm for dinner (which is already later than we'd normally eat but when it cooled down) Picnicking outside the Colosseum was delightful.

-** Make use of the free drinking fountains dotted around the city**. The water is natural spring water and we found it invaluable.

- **Expect the unexpected.** Thunders-
torms? Missing bike guides? All part of the fun. I can only day that now its 2 weeks later lol

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In the end, Rome in 48 hours is a wild, exhausting, and utterly incredible experience. We left with tired legs, a full heart, and a promise to come back (because we definitely tossed that coin in the fountain, right?).

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