

Cammin Arte

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF THE ROMAN FORUM, THE COLOSSEUM AND THE PALATINE HILL



The political, religious and social heart of one of the most important powers of the ancient world, this is an unmissable visit if you want to discover the Roman city. The archaeological park is of immense value and took shape under the international excavation campaign carried out from the late 1800s to early 1900s under Giacomo Boni, Inspector of Monuments for the

General Directorate of Antiquities and Fine Arts.

Our walking tour will follow the valley of the Forum area, a place where commercial and legal activities took place and where Roman political life first developed, paying particular attention to the Curia and Comitium area, where discussions and voting took place on the fundamental acts of the State since earliest times. All around are key locations of the Roman public administration, such as the Tabularium where the State archives were held and the Temple of Saturn which housed the public treasury. We will also stop at the honorary arches that we meet on our way: in this area stands the Arch of Septimius Severus.

Moving on to the middle of the Forum area which is full of honorary columns, there are two civil basilicas along each side: the Basilica Julia and the Basilica Aemilia. Our route will take us to the Temple of Vesta and the House of the Vestal Virgins, one of the oldest and most important sanctuaries in Rome. From the Arch of Titus (built to commemorate the Romans' triumph over Judea) we climb up the Palatine, the hill that is closely tied to the foundation of Rome: at its foot was supposedly the cave – the Lupercal – where the twins Romulus and Remus were raised by the mythical she-wolf. This very spot has been subject of discussion among famous scholars, such as

Andrea Carandini, in relation to recent discoveries related to underground areas of the hill's building complex. Our walk on the Palatine will take in the imperial palaces that were built there over time: the House of Augustus, the House of Tiberius and the Flavian Palace.



The final stop on our tour will be the piazza of the Colosseum, where you can admire an

area of the city that was exclusively dedicated to games and displays that were held within the Flavian amphitheatre. You will also be able to admire the grandest of the three honorary arches on our walk: the Arch of Constantine, a triumphal monument commemorating his victory over Maxentius in AD 312.

