



# The Roads to Rome: Routes for Conquest, Trade, and Creativity

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## The Roads to Rome: A few resources of interest

There's a huge amount of information out there about the city of Rome and travel to it. This is a selection of online resources that I've found useful for research or teaching.

First of all, especially for anyone who might be travelling to Rome itself, here's my personal list of ninety sites, some well-known, some off the beaten track, that lead you through more than two millennia of the city's past: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/SQ33qbsYRfCQRspk6>

### Ancient Rome

- A geospatial network model of the Roman World, allowing you to calculate travel times using different forms of transport and seasons: <https://orbis.stanford.edu>.
- A digital map of Augustan Rome: <https://www.digitalaugustanrome.org>.
- The official UNESCO inscription for the Via Appia, with supporting documentation: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1708/>.

### Medieval Rome

- A great guide to the city's churches: <https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/Europe/Italy/Lazio/Roma/Rome/churches/home.html>.
- The official site for the Via Francigena, a medieval pilgrim route to Rome: <https://www.viefrancigene.org/en/>
- The itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela, a twelfth-century Navarrese Jewish traveler to Rome: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14981/14981-h/14981-h.htm>
- The autobiography of Margery Kempe, a fifteenth-century English traveler to Rome: <https://dn790006.ca.archive.org/0/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.186348/2015.186348.The-Book-Of-Margery-Kempe.pdf> (pp. 100-31 for section on Rome).

### The eighteenth century

- Richard Lassels, *An Italian Voyage* (1670; a foundational text of the Grand Tour):  
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A49620.0001.001/?view=toc#backDLPS431>
- The Nolli Plan: Searchable version of a wonderful eighteenth-century map of Rome:  
<https://web.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/nolli/>
- Piranesi print collection: an important resource for the history of Rome's monuments:  
<https://ipervisions.digitalcollections.bsr.ac.uk/piranesi-project-intro/>

### The modern city

- Places of Fascism (in Italian). A project to map sites connected to the Fascist period:  
<https://www.luoghifascismo.it>
- Postcolonial Italy. A project to map sites connected to the modern Italian Empire:  
<https://postcolonialitaly.com/roma-imperiale/>

Enjoy your (armchair) travels!

Catherine Fletcher, January 2025