

USEFUL ADDRESSES

There's more to Rome than its extraordinary palaces, churches, museums and monuments. The richness and uniqueness of its heritage can also be found in parks or historic villas, a veritable open-air museum. The following examples of walks in some of the city's green spaces are suitable for all ages and seasons.

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ROMA



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VILLA BORGAESE
ACCESS FROM:
PIAZZALE S. PAOLO DEL BRASILE,
PIAZZALE FLAMINIO, VIA DI PORTA PINCIANA

VILLA DORIA PANFILI
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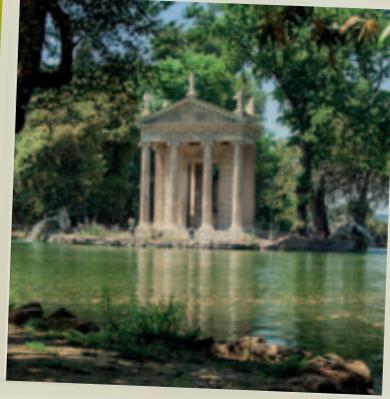
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STROLLING IN THE GREEN OF ROME

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Villa Borghese

The Villa's gardens, which cover 80 hectares, house a rich concentration of landscape and art. A source of inspiration for writers and artists, the gardens continue to offer its visitors a wealth of experiences. The grounds contain an incredible variety of buildings, sculptures, monuments and fountains, as well as museums and cultural institutes: **Galleria Borghese** with one of the most prestigious collections of works of art from the 16th to the 18th century, including masterpieces by artists such as Raffaello, Tiziano, Caravaggio, Bernini and Canova; the **Museo Canonica**, where the artist Pietro Canonica lived and worked; the **Casina di Raffaello (Raphael's House)**, which includes a playroom for children; the **Casina delle Rose (Rose House)** with the **Casa del Cinema**; the **Bioparco**; the **Museo Carlo Bilotti**; which houses works of contemporary art, and the **Globe Theatre**, modelled on Elizabethan theatres. Ancient trees, Italian gardens, domestic pines including some specimens that are over two hundred years old, cedars, firs, holm oaks and plane trees. Not to be missed is the **Giardino del Lago (Lake Garden)** with the **Tempio di Esculapio (Temple of Aesculapius)** situated in the middle of a romantic artificial island that can only be reached by boat.

Villa Doria Pamphilj

The largest park in Rome, at over 181 hectares, is a true paradise and the site of the country residence of the Doria Pamphilj family, scene of fighting between

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Garibaldi's troops and the French army in the mid nineteenth century. Monumental plants such as the pine tree d'Aleppo, in the Botanic Collection area, the cedar of Lebanon and the black poplar near the Great Lake or other natural and architectural gems, such as the **Palazzina Corsini**, an eighteenth-century building now home to the **Casa dei Teatri**, the **Casino del Bel Respiro**, designed by Alessandro Algardi in 1644, which features a secret garden and has been in use by Italian Prime Minister to host important guests and events since 1967, and the **Giardino del Teatro (Theatre garden)**, a place of musical and theatrical entertainment in the seventeenth century.

Villa Torlonia

Villa Torlonia, a nineteenth-century suburban villa, is a truly unique example. The English garden is a must for visitors, planted according to the wishes of the owner, Alessandro Torlonia. During your walk you'll encounter such delights as the **Casina delle Civette (House of the owls)**, with its air of magic and Art Nouveau windows, the **Tempio di Saturno** (not an authentic temple, unfortunately!), the **Casino Nobile palace**, the **Museo della Scuola Romana**, the **Casino dei Principi**, home to temporary exhibitions, and picturesque views like the **Serra Moresca**, the **Campo da Tornei (Tournament Field)** and the **Lago del Fucino**. Last, but not least, is the **Theatre**, built to celebrate the marriage between Alessandro Torlonia and Teresa Colonna.



Gianicolo and Botanical Garden

Enjoy a panoramic view with a historical flavour as you walk to the **Gianicolo** from **Porta San Pancrazio**: from here, a path leads to the belvedere with its statue of **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, and marble busts of the heroes who fought with him in defence of the Roman Republic in 1849. On your right hand side you'll pass **Villa Lante**, today home of the Embassy of Finland to the Holy See, before reaching the famous **Quercia del Tasso (Tasso's Oak)**, a place that was dear to the poet Torquato Tasso during his stay in the **convent of S. Onofrio**, where he died.

A little corner of nature in the Trastevere district, at the foot of the Gianicolo, one of the largest **botanical gardens** in Italy, now part of the Department of Plant Biology of the La Sapienza University of Rome.

From **Viale delle Palme** the path winds through the common and tropical plants greenhouses, before reaching the themed gardens: the rose garden, the valley of the ferns, the bamboo collection. A vantage point offers a splendid view of the mountain plants collection and the Japanese garden.

Parco degli Acquadotti

An unrivalled rural landscape forms the backdrop to an archaeological park of 250 hectares, part of the **Appia Antica Regional Park**, where you can admire the remains of seven aqueducts, on foot or by bicycle; a testament to the extraordinary engineering skill of the Roman Empire, which was used as a place of shelter for displaced persons in the period after the end of the Second World War. Bordering the **Cinecittà Film Studios**, the Acquadotti park features in several films, such as Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, *Mamma Roma* by Pier Paolo Pasolini and Paolo Sorrentino's *The Great Beauty*.

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