

Call number

060608

or visit

www.turismoroma.itFor tourist information,
cultural events and entertainment offered in Rome**LIST OF T.I.P. (Tourism Information Points)**

- **G.B. Pastine Ciampino**
International Arrivals – Baggage Collection Area (9.00 - 18.30)
- **Fiumicino**
International Airport "Leonardo Da Vinci"- Arrivals
International - Terminal T - 3 (9.00 - 18.30)
- **Ostia Lido**
Lungomare Paolo Toscanelli corner Piazza Anco Marzio
(9.30 - 19.00)
- **Castel Sant'Angelo**
Piazza Pia (9.30 - 19.00)
- **Minghetti**
Via Marco Minghetti (9.30 - 19.00)
- **Navona**
Piazza delle Cinque Lune (9.30 - 19.00)
- **Nazionale**
Via Nazionale - near Palazzo delle Esposizioni
(9.30 - 19.00)
- **Santa Maria Maggiore**
Via dell'Olmata (9.30 - 19.00)
- **Sonnino**
Piazza Sidney Sonnino (9.30 - 19.00)
- **Termini**
Via Giovanni Giolitti, 34
Inside Building F - Platform 24 (8.00 - 20.30)

ROMA
PASSThe Card that offers you
Transport and 2 Museums free
www.romapass.it

ROMA CAPITALE

DGE SYSTEM

Translated by: Renzo Arzeni

Texts by: Daniela Giovampietro

Great obelisks
on which
famous
architects
have often
worked

there are hieroglyphic inscriptions on its 4 faces. It was brought to Rome by Domitian and placed in the Yseo Campense, after which there was no trace of it until 1665 when it was found in the convent of the Dominicans alongside the church of S. Maria sopra Minerva and was then again erected according to a design by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, through the work of the sculptor Ercole Ferrara.

[This obelisk stands on the back of a little elephant, which is so small in fact that it earned the nickname of "Pulcino".]

The **Obelisk in Piazza Navona**. This forms part of the Fountain of the Four Rivers. Made of granite, it is 16.54 metres in height, but counting its base it reaches 30 metres. A Roman work dating from the Domitian period, it was initially placed in the Temple of Isis; then Maxentius had it transported to his Circus on the Appian Way, where it was recovered by Innocent X and the architect Gian Lorenzo Bernini raised it in the centre of Piazza Navona, in his Fountain of the Four Rivers.

The **Obelisk in Villa Celimontana** is a small obelisk, 12.23 metres in height. Dating from the times of Ramses II and coming from Heliopolis, it was brought to Rome by Domitian and placed in the Temple of Isis at Campo Marzio. It was donated by the Roman Senate to Ciriaco Mattei in 1582 and he erected it in the gardens of his villa on the Caelian hill, where it remains.

Monoliths
that at
times reach
up to
almost 50
metres

The **Lateran Obelisk**, situated in Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano, this is the oldest and tallest obelisk in Rome (32.18 metres, reaching 45.70 metres counting the base and the cross). It was made out of a single block of porphyry at the behest of the Pharaoh Thutmose III (15th century BC). Originally it was in the Temple of Ammon at Thebes (Karnak) in Egypt. Brought to Rome by the Emperor Constantius II in 357 AD and initially placed in the Circus Maximus, it owes its present location to Sixtus V who commissioned Domenico Fontana to erect it at San Giovanni instead of the statue of Marcus Aurelius, wrongly considered to be of Constantine and subsequently transferred to the Capitol.

The **Esquiline Obelisk** is in Piazza dell'Esquilino and was the second obelisk erected in Rome by Pope Sixtus V. It is about 25.50 metres high and dates probably from the times of Domitian; without any hieroglyphs, it was original-



The Obelisk in Villa Celimontana

The Lateran Obelisk, basement



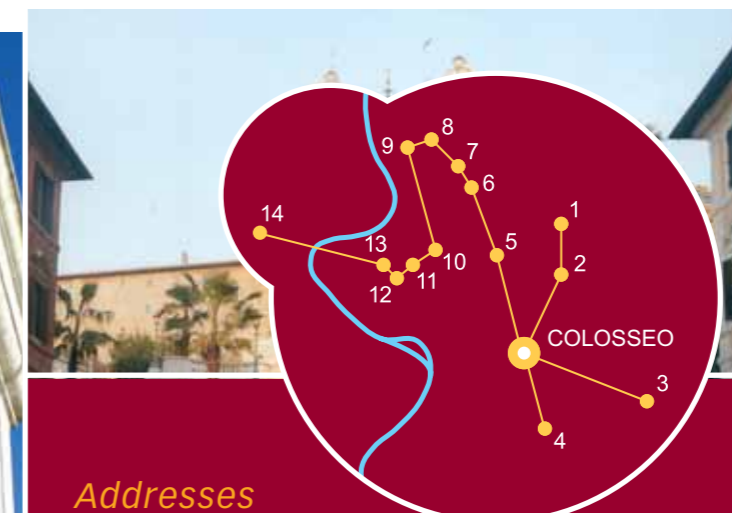
ly placed in front of the Mausoleum of Augustus at Campo Marzio together with the other obelisk that now stands in Piazza del Quirinale. It was found in the vicinity of Via Ripetta buried and broken into several parts.

[The Esquiline Obelisk was moved to its present site – along what is called the "Happy Road" – by Domenico Fontana on instructions from Pope Sixtus V.]

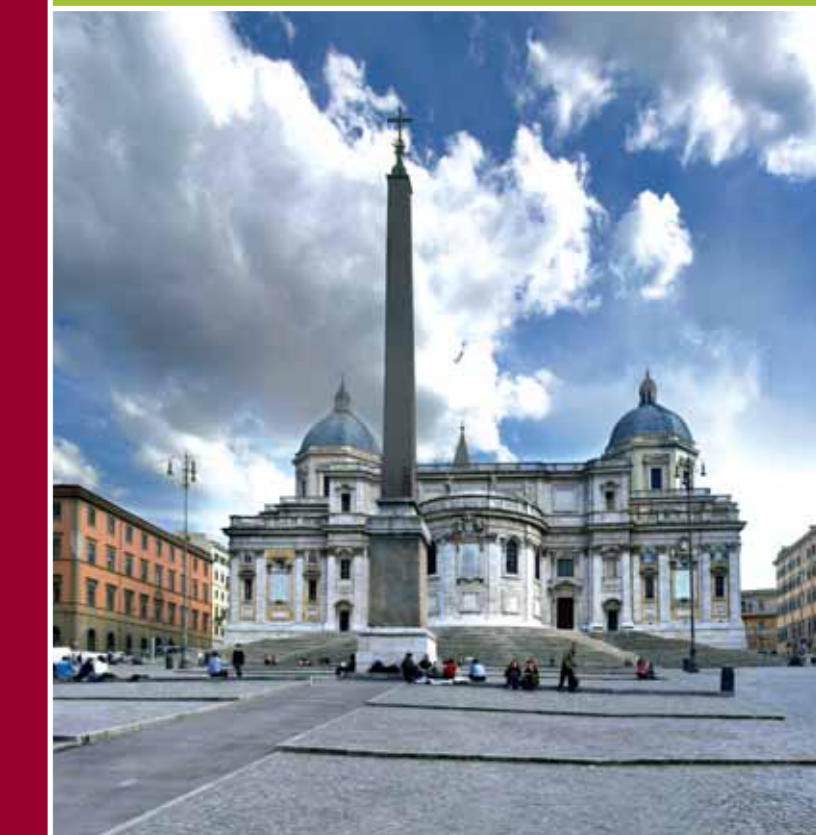
The **Dogali Obelisk** is in Via delle Terme di Diocleziano. It is about 6 metres in height with a base and a star. Erected in the days of Ramses II at Heliopolis, it was found in 1883 by Rodolfo Lanciani at the Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva and was moved close to the Termini station, to commemorate the battle of Dogali in the African war in Eritrea. The Dogali obelisk was subsequently moved to the garden in Via delle Terme di Diocleziano where it was embellished with the bronze Lion of Judas, brought from Addis Ababa. After the war the Lion was returned to Ethiopia.

Addresses

- 1 Obelisk of the Terme di Diocleziano.** Buses: 64, 40 and 86. Metro: line A (Termini or Repubblica stop)
- 2 Obelisk in Piazza dell'Esquilino.** Buses: 714, 360 and 649. Metro: line A (Termini or Vittorio Emanuele stop).
- 3 Obelisk in Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano.** Buses: 81, 85, 87 and 714. Metro: line A (San Giovanni stop).
- 4 Obelisk at Villa Celimontana.** Buses: 714, 87 and 81. Metro: line B (Colosseo stop).
- 5 Obelisk in Piazza del Quirinale.** Buses: 40, 117, and 175. Metro: line A (Repubblica stop).
- 6 Obelisk at Trinità dei Monti.** Buses: 116, 117 and 119. Metro: line A (Spagna stop).
- 7 Obelisk at Villa Medici.** Buses: 81, 628, 117, 119 and 85. Metro: line A (Spagna stop).
- 8 Obelisk in Viale dell'Obelisco at the Pincio.** Buses: 81, 628, 117 and 119. Metro: line A (Spagna stop).
- 9 Obelisk in Piazza del Popolo.** Buses: 117, 119 and 490. Metro: line A (Flaminio stop).
- 10 Obelisk in Piazza Montecitorio.** Buses: 85, 850, and 75. Metro: line A (Spagna stop).
- 11 Obelisk in Piazza della Rotonda (Pantheon).** Buses: 85, 87, 850 and 40.
- 12 Obelisk in Piazza della Minerva.** Buses: 87, 116, 571 and 40.
- 13 Obelisk in Piazza Navona.** Buses: 116, 64 and 87.
- 14 Obelisk in Piazza San Pietro.** Bus: 40. Metro: line A (Ottaviano-San Pietro stop).

Roma *ti* aspetta

THE OBELISKS



There are 14 obelisks in Rome, largely of Egyptian origin, and others from Roman times.

The Egyptian ones were transported here by Augustus, after Egypt had been conquered. Subsequently the popes were the ones who had these monuments transported to the piazzas of Renaissance and Baroque Rome. It was Pope Sixtus V who first transformed Rome's town-planning aspect, through the work of the architect Domenico Fontana, causing straight thoroughfares to be constructed, running to the basilicas and using the obelisks as points of reference for pilgrims visiting the city.



The most famous legend about this obelisk says that the bronze globe surmounting it contained the ashes of Julius Caesar and even fragments of the cross of Christ. But the restoration carried out in 1740 proved that this was not true.

The Flaminian Obelisk. This is in the centre of Piazza del Popolo. It is 24 metres in height, and counting the base and the cross it reaches 36.50 metres. It takes its name from the ancient Via



The Vatican Obelisk

The Vatican Obelisk was the first one to be erected by Pope Sixtus V. It is a single block of porphyry 25.5 metres high, which with its base (4 bronze lions) reaches almost 40 metres. Raised by the Pharaoh Nencore III at Heliopolis in Egypt in the 7th century BC, it was brought to Rome by the emperor Caligula in 37 AD and placed in the Circus of Nero, where it remained until 1586, when Pope Sixtus V had it moved to Piazza San Pietro, by the architect Domenico Fontana who took about four months for the "removal".

14 large obelisks, the point of reference for the pilgrims' path



Flaminia and is the second oldest obelisk of Rome. It was brought in 10 BC by Augustus from the Temple of the Sun at Heliopolis to celebrate the conquest of Egypt and was placed in the Circus Maximus together with the Lateran Obelisk. It was restored and newly erected in the place where it stands today at the orders of Pope Sixtus V by Domenico Fontana in 1589.

The Pincian Obelisk is in Viale dell'Obelisco at the Pincio. 9.24 metres in height, it reached 17.26 metres with its base and the star surmounting it. It was originally erected by Hadrian but Heliogabalus had it shifted to adorn his residence. All trace of the obelisk was then lost until the days of Bernini, who had it placed temporarily facing Palazzo Barberini. In 1713 the Barberini donated it to Pope Clement XIV who had it moved to the Pigna Courtyard in the Vatican where it remained until Pius VII again had it erected in the Pincian gardens, by the architect Marini.

Obelisk of Piazza Trinità dei Monti. About 30 metres high, this was an imitation of Egyptian style erected in the Roman Imperial Age. It was donated in 1733 to Clement XII by Princess Ludovisi. Only after 50 years did Pius VI have it pla-



Trinità dei Monti

Impressive constructions, several times "shifted" in the course of the centuries



Trinità dei Monti

ced in front of the church of Trinità dei Monti by the architect Antinori.

Standing in the piazza to which it gives its name, this obelisk is known also as the Sallust Obelisk because it came from the Gardens of Sallust.

The **Obelisk of Villa Medici** was in the gardens of the Villa Medici, where the French Academy is situated at the Pincio; Cardinal Ferdinando de' Medici was an art lover and collected various archaeological items, including this obelisk. After his death, in 1790 the obelisk was transported to Florence. In the 19th century a copy of the spire was made in substitution of the original, which was placed in the villa.

The **Obelisk of Montecitorio.** At present this stands in Piazza Montecitorio. It is of granite and is about 34 metres in height (21.79 metres plus the base and the globe). It came from Heliopolis where it was erected in 594-598 BC



Trinità dei Monti

Testimonies of Egyptian and Roman civilization



during the reign of Psamtik II. In the year 10 it was brought to Rome by Augustus together with the Flaminian obelisk, and was initially placed in Campo Marzio as a gnomon of the sun-god.

The obelisk collapsed after a fire and was then buried for many centuries. In 1792 it was restored by the architect Giovanni Antinori, commissioned by Pope Pius VI, who had it erected in Piazza Montecitorio.

The **Quirinale Obelisk**, 28.9 metres high. In all probability it was made in the days of Domitian in imitation of the Egyptian obelisks and was placed together with the Esquiline Obelisk in front of the Mausoleum of Augustus in the year 10 AD. Knocked down by the Goths, it was forgotten for a long period. In 186 Pope Pius VI had it raised at the Quirinal by Giovanni Antinori, alongside two colossal statues of Castor and Pollux, brought from the Terme di Costantino (Baths of Constantine).



The Quirinale Obelisk



The **Obelisk in Piazza del Pantheon** made of red granite. This It is about 6 metres in height, but increases up to 12.97 metres if we include the base and the cross. It was erected by Ramses II (1300-1234 BC) at Heliopolis and was brought to Rome by Domitian to be placed in the Yseo Serapeo at Campo Marzio. It was found in 1665 near to S. Maria sopra Minerva and then shifted to the Pantheon in 1711 by Pope Clement XI, above the fountain by Giacomo della Porta; the work was carried out by the architect Filippo Barigioni who enriched the fountain with numerous decorative elements

The **Minerva Obelisk** is popularly known as the "Pulcino ("chick" or "toddler") della Minerva" and stands in the piazza of that name. It is 5.47 metres in height, but including the base and the cross this comes up to 12.69 m. It was made in Egypt by the Pharaoh Aprie in the 6th century BC, of pink granite, and

The Obelisk in Piazza del Pantheon

