

DISCOVERING GIANICOLO

Il Gianicolo (or the Janiculum) is not counted as one of the Seven Hills of Rome, but it is actually one of Rome's prime locations. Apart from the spectacular view of Trastevere, and the panorama over the entire old city centre, the hill is also noted for its association with certain episodes linked to the Roman Republic of 1849, signalling the start of the Risorgimento campaign for the Unification of Italy. Here, close to the gate, Porta San Pancrazio, on the Janiculum, Garibaldi's troops halted the French army seeking to defend the Pope. Pope Pius IX managed to reclaim his power the following year. In any case, this episode finally led the State of Italy to turn the area into a "memorial" zone dedicated to the Risorgimento. On the terrace, with its commanding view, stands an equestrian statue of Giuseppe Garibaldi (1865, by Emilio Gallori).

Along the walk leading to the top of the hill we find a number of busts of leading figures in the campaign for the Unification of Italy, such as Carlo Pisacane and Goffredo Mameli. One of the more noted attractions is the cannon. Since 1904, it has fired a blank every day to sound the midday. It was a tradition initiated by Pope Pius IX in 1847. The cannon is featured in the opening shot of the film, with the explosion and the applauding tourists. As frequently occurs in the film, "The Great Beauty", sacred and profane blend seamlessly.

For visitors

Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi

