

DISCOVERING THE TIBER EMBANKMENTS

One of the main reasons the ground level of Rome rose over the years was the flooding of the Tiber, which deposited mud and debris throughout the city. When the river withdrew, the material produced by the destruction and deposits was then used for new buildings.

The flooding occurred very frequently, above all in the areas of the Campus Martius, the Circus Maximus and the Imperial Fora. Still today, on many old buildings, you may find a sign indicating the level reached by the Tiber during one of these frequent floods. Immediately after 1870, it was decided to quell this constant threat once and for all. On 28 December 1870, the Tiber rose to more than 17 metres above its normal level, and its waters even reached Piazza di Spagna.

The Pantheon could only be reached by boat. The new Unity government was faced with an emergency, to which it responded by building imposing embankments to protect the city from all future threats of this kind. These gigantic works, stretching from Ponte Milvio to the Basilica of San Paolo, were designed by the engineer, Canevari. During the summer, the banks host visitors to the Roman summer, or Estate Romana, events. At other times of the year, joggers and cyclists take over, from the early morning on. Jep Gambardella overheard three men engaged in a conversation about their work. Apparently, they chose to engage in their most important business dealings while running...

For visitors

Ramps lead down to the banks of the Tiber from many bridges, such as Ponte Milvio, Ponte Sisto, Ponte Cestio (Isola Tiberina on the Trastevere side) and Ponte Sublicio.

