

DISCOVERING MUSEI CAPITOLINI

Since the time of the founding of Rome, the Capitoline Hill has always hosted a number of the city's most notable buildings. The essentially religious role of this site dates back to the time of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus. In the Middle Ages, the location assumed a political and administrative role, when, in the twelfth century, the Conservatori moved here. The Conservatori were the counsellors, with both administrative and judicial functions, who worked alongside the Pope in the city's government. In 1471, the Conservatori received four bronze statues – the gift of Pope Sixtus IV to the people of Rome. These works are the She Wolf, the Boy with Thorn, the Camillus and the colossal head of the Emperor Constantine. The Capitoline Museums find their beginnings here, with what is believed to be the first public museum or gallery recorded by history. The donation was followed by the creation of an extraordinary collection of statues and paintings that, harmoniously and with equal dignity, blend in with the beautiful buildings and the frescos of renowned masters. The itinerary includes the Palazzo dei Conservatori, with its Gallery (including works by Caravaggio, Pietro da Cortona and Guercino) and one of the antiquities sections (including the original bronze sculpture of Marcus Aurelius), as well as rooms with frescoes by Cavalier d'Arpino and ancient floor mosaics. Passing through the underground portion of the Tabularium, or records office – over which stands the Palazzo Senatorio (the senatorial palace and seat of the offices of the Mayor of Rome and key city councillors, and of the Aula Giulio Cesare hall in which the City Council meets) – we then reach the Palazzo Nuovo, or new palace. The palace was chosen as a set by Paolo Sorrentino for a part of Stefano, Jep and Ramona's night-time walk in his film, "The Great Beauty". Here, the characters admire a number of the most famous works of the collection – the Marforio, an ancient statue of the River Tiber in the courtyard, the busts of philosophers, the Capitoline Venus and the Galatian.

For visitors

Piazza del Campidoglio

tel. 060608 www.060608.it

