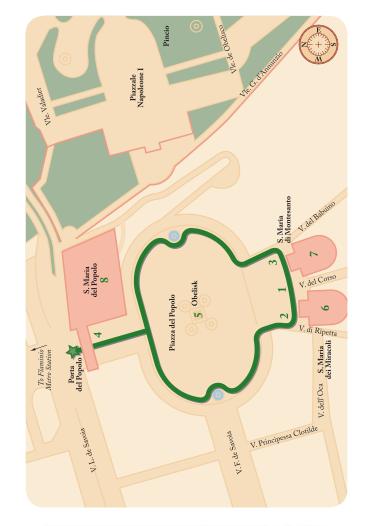


PIAZZA DEL POPOLO

Early in your stay, be sure to take an introductory tour of this grandest of Rome's grand piazzas.

BEGIN AT THE NORTH END OF THE PIAZZA. METRO A, FLAMINIO. BUSES 117, 119.

The Piazza del Popolo is the historic gateway to Rome from the north, and the starting point of the Tridente formed by the ancient Corso (1); V. di Ripetta (2), laid out by order of Leo X in 1518 as a more direct route to the Vatican; and V. del Babuino (3), which was built in 1525, and ends in Piazza di Spagna. From the Porta del Popolo (4), which replaced the original Aurelian gate in 1561, follow the curve of the piazza to the right. Looking back, you can see Bernini's handiwork on the inner face of the gate, redone in 1655 to impress Christina, Queen of Sweden, who had recently forsworn Luther in favor of Rome and was making her first visit to the Holy City. In the center of the piazza stands Rome's second-oldest obelisk(5), which dates to 13th-c. b.c. Heliopolis and stood in the Circus Maximus for 1,500 years before Pope Sixtus V had it moved here in 1589. As you circle the piazza, you will come to the churches of S. Maria dei Miracoli (6) and S. Maria di Montesanto (7) cleverly executed near-twins that add an illusory symmetry to the busy square and form a dramatic second portal to the city beyond. Most worth a visit, however, is S. Maria del Popolo (8). The third church to be built on the supposed site of Nero's tomb, it has beautiful Pinturicchio frescoes, Caravaggio's Conversion of St. Paul and Crucifixion of St. Peter, and other Renaissance works.



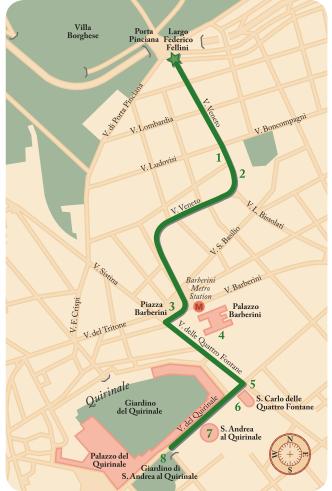


The Via Veneto to Palazzo Barberini

The Via Veneto has seen its day, but it makes an easy start to a tour of the Quirinale.

BEGIN IN LARGO F. FELLINI AT THE TOP OF THE STREET. METRO A, BARBERINI. BUSES 52, 53, 56, 58, 60,61,95,116,175.

The Via Veneto begins outside the main entrance to the Villa Borghese, with whose quiet pleasures it once had more in common than the postwar nightlife immortalized by Fellini in La Dolce Vita. Though lined with grandly titled luxury hotels, the street has a past-its-time feel. Descend along the right side past smart little shops with few customers to the Café de Paris (1) at no. 92, celebrity central in its day and still an elegant place to sip coffee. A few steps along, across the street from the mammoth and well-protected American Embassy (2), a brass plaque honors Fellini's contribution to local tourism. The street loops right at the bottom into Piazza Barberini (3), a crowded square built over the livery stables of the grand Barberini family; cross to V. delle Quattro Fontane on the far side. Halfway up the block on the left is the Palazzo Barberini (4), now part of the national museum system (where you can see Raphael's splendid Fornarina.) Continue to the intersection of V. delle Quattro Fontane and V. del Quirinale (5), framed by the four fountains that give the former its name. On the far corner is the church of S. Carlo delle Quattro Fontane (6), Borromini's first major commission, twinned in commentary ever since with Bernini's masterwork just down the block, S. Andrea al Quirinale (7). Duck into the shady Giardino di S. Andrea al Quirinale (8) before starting Walk 7.



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