Rome (Civitavecchia)
Italy Port Guide

INCLUDES Rome tourist sites + Tarquinia, Tuscania, Villa Lante, Lake Bolsena, and Orvieto
Civitavecchia is a small, attractive port city that serves as gateway to Rome (50 miles southeast) and many other tourist sites. This guide covers ten popular tourist sites in Rome. Detailed maps are included showing location of tourist sites with nearby metro, tram and bus stops, and the four major train stations. Passengers using the ship's excursion bus or private tours will board buses or vans next to the ship and arrive in Rome in 60 to 90 minutes depending on traffic.

For self-guided touring, plan on 30 minutes from the ship to the Civitavecchia train station plus 60 to 90 minutes on the train depending on which train you take and where you exit the train in Rome. Keith Henderson has written an excellent summary on travel by train for this port guide.

Rome is ALWAYS crowded. If you are returning to the port by train, don't wait for the last train and risk not being able to get on. If your return train departs from Roma Termini Station, you should get a seat if you are at the station early. After the train departs Termini Station, it picks up many passengers and may be so full that it might not stop at San Pietro Station, near the Vatican, where many Cruisers board the train.

If you've already visited Rome, consider exploring the picturesque Lazio Region. I've included six popular tourist sites outside Rome in this guide. Most of these sites involve long travel distances and/or destinations that are not close to train stations. Hence, it is probably better to travel via a ship's or private tour excursion. Tarquinia is an exception because it is very close to the port.

CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan

NOTE: I would like to thank Keith Henderson and Jim Kurovsky for their help on this port guide.
Getting to the Civitavecchia Train Station from your Cruise Ship

In 2014, the free shuttle buses from the cruise ships to the city of Civitavecchia changed the bus route/stop. I would like to thank Mike Harper, Colin Kathryn Gregg, Jianming Miao, and Nathasha Swaminathan for calling this to my attention.

The NEW shuttle bus stop
GPS = 42.097167, 11.788861

The OLD shuttle bus stop was at Fort Michelangelo
GPS = 42.090528, 11.792250

Civitavecchia Train Station
GPS = 42.088139, 11.797917

Note: The city bus from the free shuttle bus stop to the train station does NOT operate before 8:00 AM.
Civitavecchia (chE-vE-ta-vek-ya) Port

Civitavecchia has a population of 47,000 and serves as the major cruise/ferry port and the main starting point for sea connection from central Italy to Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Tunis and Barcelona. The massive Forte Michelangelo (near the security gate in photo below) was completed in 1535 to defend the port for Rome. Turn left in front of the McDonald’s to head into town and the Farmers Market. If you are headed to the train station, restaurants, cafes, WiFi sites, or interested in a scenic views, walk straight through the security gate and along the shoreline. Some people go swimming along the beach.

Fort Michelangelo is a key landmark as shown on the aerial photo above.
- For bank ATM's and some nice cafes, head north up the street in front of the Mc Donalds as shown by the arrow towards the Farmers Market.
- Across from Mc Donalds is an Internet Cafe which also sells train tickets. The local HopOn bus stops in front of the Internet Cafe. Free WiFi cafes shown on the map. Mc Donalds has free WiFi, when it works.
- The train station is southeast. Walk straight out of the security gate along the sea. It's 2000 feet from the security gate to the train station on level, flat sidewalks, except for curbs at intersections. The street divides and the sea side of the road goes downhill beginning at Hotel de La Ville. If you are on the sea side, cross to the north side of the street to avoid climbing stairs to the train station.

Exploring Civitavecchia (see http://www.civitavecchia.net/)

If you have some extra time and want to relax, explore Civitavecchia.

I like Civitavecchia and enjoy walking around and relaxing. Take your camera to photograph the monuments, flowers and trees in bloom, and sites in town. Enjoy a cappuccino at an outdoor cafe or lunch. There are not many places to shop nor many things to do, this is a small town for locals, not tourists!

There is a new statue “The Kiss” at the port near the beach (photo at right). This area is being renovated. It was under construction when we visited in May 2012.

It's a short walk from the cruise ship shuttle bus stop to the open air and Farmers Market. I'm not sure when they are open, check at the local shops and hotels. The market is a large complex with lots to see such vegetables, fruit, baked goods, meat, fresh fish, flowers, etc.
As you exit the port, turn left in front of Mc Donalds. It's 1050 feet on level walkways. Turn left at the roundabout in the street to the Farmers Market complex which spans parking lots and several buildings.
City-Sightseeing is the largest HopOn bus company in the world. I've used their service in many locations and found that it was good.

They've introduced a new service in Civitavecchia. You can buy tickets and board the bus in front of the Internet Cafe next to the port security gate or you can board the bus at the Civitavecchia train station.

Apparently the route is around Civitavecchia to/from Tarquinia as shown by this sign (photo – left).

The [www.City-Sightseeing.com](http://www.City-Sightseeing.com) website does not describe this route. Since it is generally accepted that there is not a lot to see in Civitavecchia, I view this HopOn bus primarily as means of transit to/from Tarquinia.

Tarquinia is one of Italy's most important archaeological sites. I describe it on pages 36-39 of this port guide.

### Six Step Checklist for Planning Your Excursion to Rome

There are so many things to see and do in Rome that you'll have to chose. But some of the sites you wish to visit may be closed the day your ship is in port. Throughout this port guide I've provided detailed information to help you efficiently create your plan by providing sources of information, web-links, maps, and advice based on my experience. Please take note of these six steps for planning your visit – this is important stuff for self-guided touring.

1) **Check the days museums and tourist sites are open.** The Vatican Museum is closed on Sunday and the Pope usually says Mass outside on Wednesday morning. The Basilica is closed during mass. Check the open days and hours for the sites you wish to visit. I have included links to the official websites in this guide.

2) **Buy admission tickets to museums on the internet BEFORE your cruise to avoid waiting in long lines.**
3) Italian holidays can be a problem for the traveler:
   - April 25 – Liberation Day
   - May 1 – May Day: For a full week, Italy shuts down and traffic can be unbelievable!
   - June 2 – Festival of the Republic
   - June 29 – Rome honors Saints Peter and Paul

Around the first week of May, local trains between Civitavecchia and Rome can be so full they do not stop to pick up passengers at Civitavecchia station. The main intercity trains may run an hour late during holiday and heavy traffic periods. This can be a problem for the self-guided traveler taking a train from Civitavecchia to Rome. In May 2010, the only passengers on our Princess ship who got a seat on the local train to Rome were those on the first train early in the morning; later trains were full.

Princess chartered a special train car to/from Rome. Although ship sponsored tours and private tours can be expensive, you will be assured to get to/from your destination. When reliable travel is important, I believe it's wise to schedule travel via the cruise line such as in the first week of May in Italy.

4) Check how crowded the port will be-

The Number of Ships and Passengers in Civitavecchia Port

Civitavecchia is a very busy port for cruise ships because Rome is a very popular cruise destination and it's the departure point for many cruises. In May 2010, our Princess ship announced there would be 14,000 passengers at the port, public transit would be crowded, and that travelers should plan on a 4 to 6 hour wait for taxis to Rome unless they had made previous arrangements. The trains were so crowded they did not even stop to pick up passengers. Princess arranged a special train car to take passengers to/from Rome.

I believe it is wise to check the number of ships and passengers the day you ship will be in port. Go to this website [www.cruisett.com](http://www.cruisett.com) This site lists all cruise ports and the schedule of all ships in port by date.

Below is the opening screen top menu for this website, click on “Ports”

Select Italy from the list of countries and click on “Civitavecchia (Rome)” port.

The schedule for Civitavecchia shows two years by month. I clicked on May 2012.
Below is the schedule for May 2012

“Port Load” is the total number of people on all cruise ships. The number of people in port on cruise ships was 14,487 on May 11th and 16,572 on May 28th. Imagine that many people trying to get to Rome from the port at the same time!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Port Load</th>
<th>Ships in port</th>
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<tr>
<td>01-May-12</td>
<td>5110</td>
<td>Norwegian Spirit, Adventure Of The Seas</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-May-12</td>
<td>2052</td>
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<td>3080</td>
<td>Ruby Princess</td>
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<td>MSC Sinfonia, Celebrity Silhouette</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-May-12</td>
<td>4375</td>
<td>Liberty Of The Seas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5) Prepare for pickpockets - they are everywhere, including in churches, in Rome

The risk of being pick pocketed increases dramatically when you travel to a big city, crowded tourist sites, use public transportation, etc. From the moment you enter the train station in Civitavecchia until you return to the cruise ship, you are at risk. See page 55 of this port guide for more information.

6) Making self-guided touring plans using Using Google and Bing Maps

You can waste a lot of time searching Google Maps for tourist sites because you don't know the street address and the “common name” in English is not the “real name” in Italian. A Google Map search for “Spanish Steps, Rome, Italy” displays a dozen locations including every hotel that lists “Spanish Steps” in it's description.

The fastest way to find any site is to use Map Coordinates, a string of numbers which pinpoint the exact location on the map. Google displays a down pointing green arrow at the precise location and a red balloon at the closest street address. Microsoft Bing Maps show a blue dot at the location. I include map coordinates for all tourist sites throughout this port guide to help you “map” your vacation itinerary.

To illustrate use of map coordinates, use 42.090642,11.791913 for the Port Security Gate and 42.088161,11.798005 for the Train Station in Civitavecchia. The views are different in Bing and Google aerial and road maps. Try both map programs to find the best view for your use.

I've included some examples on the following page.
Photo at left
This is an aerial view in Bing Maps using map coordinates of 42.090642,11.791913 The blue dot shows the precise location for the Civitavecchia Port Security Gate. I have added an arrow to highlight the blue dot.

Photo below
This is a Google road map view of 42.090642,11.791913 map coordinates. The down pointing green arrow is the precise location. The red balloon “A” is the closest street address i.e. , the closest building to the gate.

I dragged the little man icon onto the map to see a Google street level view looking directly at the security gate. You could also turn the man icon around to look at the Internet Cafe and other buildings on the street near the security gate or you could “walk” the little man icon down the street to preview your visit to the port.

Map Coordinates are really cool and a fun way to preview your shore excursion. I’ve provided map coordinates for all of the sites listed in this port guide and tips on how to use them to create walking directions from train stations to tourist sites and between sites. **NOTE:** map coordinates are **not** GPS coordinates. If you want to change to GPS coordinates, do a web search on “how to convert map coordinates to GPS coordinates.”

You can always buy maps of tourist areas, but by using this technique, you can make your own maps and take them with you as electronic or paper documents for your self-guided tour. Enjoy!
Traveling from Civitavecchia to Rome by Train
Written by Keith Henderson

For those that like to explore ports on their own, traveling from Civitavecchia to Rome is easy to navigate on your own. The most important thing is to have a plan on what you want to see and do in advance so that you do not waste precious time once you get there.

From the port entrance, it is a short 15-20 minute walk to the Civitavecchia train station (stazione).

As you enter the main lobby of the train station, it will be filled with fellow cruisers all looking to buy train tickets to go to Rome. The lobby has agents at windows that sell tickets along with automated machines on the side of the room. But if you go to your right, through an archway, you will come across a variety of shops that have signs saying they sell train tickets. So don’t worry, you do not need to wait in line for the official ticket agents. Just keep on walking to find a shop with little or no line.

From Civitavecchia you will see that there a few options regarding trains that go to Rome. Almost every 30 minutes, there will be a regional train stopping at the station in addition to slightly faster inter-city trains that run only a few times a day.

If you want to go to the main station (Roma Termini) in Rome, the regional train takes about 80 minutes and the inter-city (IC) train takes about 60 minutes. From Civitavecchia to Roma S. Pietro (first stop in Rome) it is about 20 minutes sooner for the regional train with several stops after it on the way to Roma Termini. The inter-city train only stops at Roma Ostiense and Roma Termini.

(Note: if a train is full prior to arriving to Civitavecchia, they will announce that the train will not stop there. But hey, it is Italy. You need to be prepared for delays or inconveniences)

The best option for those that want to DIY is a special ticket offered at the various locations in the station called BIRG. (Biglietto Integrato Regionale Giornaliero)

A BIRG ticket costs 12€ (as of May, 2012) and entitles you to take any regional train from Civitavecchia to any station between Civitavecchia and the main station in Rome (Roma Termini) and then return to Civitavecchia. But, the best part is that you can also use the same ticket with any of the public transportation (ATAC) in Rome for the day. This includes buses, trams, and the subways (Metro). So, once you get to Rome you can use any option to easily get around Rome depending on your plans. The BIRG tickets are not valid on the inter-city trains or trains going to the Fiumicino Airport, only on the regional trains to Rome.

Inside the station, they are large displays of train schedules for the upcoming hours where they will note the train number, arrival time, the track where it is to arrive, and whether it is a regional train or inter-city. Prior to coming to Italy, you can go online with the Trenitalia website to print out a schedule of trains going to Roma Termini from Civitavecchia and vice-versa. This will help you understand your options.

Once you buy a ticket, you will head to the platforms behind the station. To get there, you will need to go down stairs to the tunnel that runs underneath all of the platforms and tracks.

The MOST important thing to remember is that you need to have each ticket validated with a time stamp before going onto a train. Look around the station in the tunnel and near the platforms and you will spot yellow boxes to time stamp your ticket. If you do not have the ticket validated, your ticket is not considered valid.

In Italy, they do not usually have conductors or bus drivers check your tickets. It is an honor system where it is assumed that you have purchased a valid ticket. But, occasionally they will have ticket agents come through the train, buses, and subways to check for tickets and there is a hefty fine of 50€ if they catch you. They will not accept any excuse for being on board without having a time-stamped ticket.

Once you do get on a regional train, you can sit anywhere as they do not have reserved seating like the inter-city...
train that have first and second class seats.

You need to be aware of the train stations that will be just before the one where you want to get off. They do not always make announcements on the train of approaching stations and they only stop for a few minutes before continuing on to the next station. This is where it is helpful to have a printed schedule of the train route with its stations from the Trenitalia website.  http://www.trenitalia.com/

Rome has several train stations
As you enter Rome from Civitavecchia, you will pass Roma S. Pietro, Roma Trastavere, and Roma Ostiense prior to Roma Termini (the main station in Rome). Depending on your plans, you will want to get off at the station that will get you to your first destination quickly. The map below shows the stations and several popular tourist sites.

Each location on this map is indicated by a green arrow.  The arrows are the precise location of the site using
Google Map coordinates. Enter the map coordinates in Google Maps and the map will display a down pointing green arrow at the precise location of the site and a red balloon at the nearest street address. These map coordinates will also work in Bing Maps, but the display will be a blue dot to indicate the location.

**LIST OF SITES WITH MAP COORDINATES**

**Train Stations in Rome**
- Roma San Pietro 41.896216, 12.454687
- Roma Trastavere 41.87275, 12.466012
- Roma Ostiense 41.873152, 12.484224
- Roma Termini 41.901071, 12.501862

**Vatican, Saint Peters Square 41.902235, 12.457273**
Vatican City – Saint Peter's Basilica, 8 museums, 5 galleries and the Sistine Chapel. Flash photography is not permitted in the Vatican Museum, and no photography in the Sistine Chapel. **Visitors wearing; shorts, sleeveless T-Shirts or blouses or are not permitted to enter St. Peter’s Basilica or the Vatican Museums.** Piazza San Pietro can hold 400,000 people and the area is surrounded by 284 Doric columns, designed by Bernini.

**Castel Sant’Angelo 41.902604, 12.466393**
A fortress built by Emperor Hadrian as his mausoleum in 139 A.D.

**Pantheon 41.899068, 12.476773**
In Piazza della Rotonda in the center of the City, it's the most perfect of the ancient monuments. First erected in 27 B.C.

**Piazza Navona 41.898963, 12.473034**
One of the most beautiful squares, dominated by Bernini’s impressive ‘Fountain of the Four Rivers’. Many outdoor cafes.

**Colosseum 41.890225, 12.492238**
(72 A.D.) at Piazzale del Colosseo, is Ancient Rome’s best known monument and was the arena of games and gladiators. Arch of Constantine, next to the Colosseum, was erected in 315 A.D. The Forum, adjoining the Palantine Hill, is now a mass of ruins.

**Piazza Venezia 41.895553, 12.482636**
The huge monument to Victor Emmanuel II, built in 1911 of white marble, the largest outdoor altar in Europe, Italy’s ‘Tomb of the Unknown Soldier’. This site is called “the wedding cake” by Italians.

**Fontana di Trevi (Trevi Fountain) 41.901011, 12.483284**
Trevi is the most famous fountain in Rome, located on Via Della Muratte. There is a romantic legend that “whoever tosses in a coin will one day return to Rome”.

**Piazza di Spagna (Spanish Steps) 41.905893, 12.482352**
Named after a palace that housed the Spanish Embassy. The oldest feature of the area is the Barcaccia Fountain, depicting a sinking barge. The 137 steps were built by the French to connect the French Quarter at the top, to the Spanish Quarter below.

**Villa Borghese 41.913831, 12.487239**
The most famous of Rome’s parks, includes the Galleria Borghese, a pleasure palace created by Cardinal Borghese in 1613.
Planning a Walking Route from San Pietro Train Station to St Peter's Square to Castel Sant'Angelo

If you are exiting the train at San Pietro Station, you may wish to map the walking route. Here's the technique:

- Enter 41.896216, 12.454687 for the San Pietro train station in Google Maps
- Click on “Get Directions”. Click the arrow next to the direction box so that the train station is in box “A”. Otherwise, Google will screw up the order for your trip. Enter 41.902235, 12.457273 for St Peters Basilica in the box labeled “B”
- Click on “Add Destination” and enter 41.902604, 12.466393 for Castel Sant Angelo in the box labeled “C”

Your map route should have the coordinates listed as shown in the photo at left to walk from the San Pietro Station to St Peters Basilica to Castel Sant Angelo.

Google has introduced a new route planner for walking. Click on the icon of the man walking to display your walking route as shown below.

I switched from “map” to “satellite” view and saved the walking route – photo above.

It is 1 Km and about 12 minutes to walk from the San Pietro train station to St Peters and an additional 700 meters and 9 minutes to walk to Castel Sant Angelo.

NOTE: HopOn buses stop on the main street near point “B” on the map above. You could board the HopOn...
Rome has many public transportation options run by ATAC. [http://www.atac.roma.it/](http://www.atac.roma.it/) They have a subway system called the Metro that has two lines (the A line and the B line) that almost form an “X” as you look at the map of Rome. Both lines meet at the Roma Termini stazione.

Rome metro map

Rome metro system, simply called Metropolitana by Italians. The metro runs approximately every 7-10 minutes, from 6:30 am until 11:30 pm every day (until 0:30 am on Saturdays). Tickets can be purchased in newsstands, tabacchi, or vending machines. The drivers do not sell any tickets.

Just north of the Vatican are two Metro Stations of the Red A line (Cipro-Musei Vaticani and Ottoviano-S. Pietro). From those stations you can head towards the Termini station with stops for Villa Borghese (Flaminio station) and the Spanish Steps (Spagna station).

Buses allow you to cover a lot of ground in a short time. All buses are clearly marked with a number and each bus stop will have signs showing the bus schedules of each bus that makes stops there by their number. For each bus, there is a display showing the stops on its route that are before and after the stop where you are. In a lot of cases more than one bus will be stopping at a location you may want to go to. Just be aware of the name of the bus stops you want to go to and scan the signs to be sure of all of the bus numbers that can take you there. At the larger bus stops, there are electronic signs showing the approaching buses by numbers and the approximate time they will arrive at your location. There are also a few trams in the public transportation system.
Roma Trastavere train station  (map coordinates = 41.87275,12.466012)
This is the station where you can get off to catch a bus or tram to take you to the area around Piazza Navona and the Pantheon. The Trevi Fountain is about a 10 minute walk from the Pantheon. For those persons that want to take the train to the Fiumicino airport, the Trastavere station is where you can catch the FR1 train to take you there. (The BIRG ticket cannot be used for the FR1 train to the airport)

Roma Ostiense Station  (map coordinates = 41.873152,12.484224)
This is where you can get off to visit the Colosseum and Forum Areas. Next to the train station is a Metro station of the Blue B line called Piramide. You go inside and find the track that heads to towards Rebibbia. You can get off at either the Circo Massimo station or the Colosseo station before the Roma Termini station.
Roma Termini Station  (map coordinates = 41.901071,12.501862)
This is where you can find the hop-on hop-off (HOHO) buses. The main entrance of the station is about a 15 minute walk from where you get off the train.

A great resource with a ton of information on Rome and exploring it on your own is “Ron in Rome”. Ron Philips is an American that has spent quite a bit of time in Rome and his website offers plenty of advice on navigating the public transportation systems, tips about visiting sites, and useful information about Rome itself.

http://www.roninrome.com/

One thing that you should have with you is a map of Rome. They are several companies that offer tourist maps of Rome and other major cities. My personal favorite maps are Popout Maps (www.popoutproducts.com). They are small (approx. 3 ½” x 5”) and open out to show several areas of interest with different maps. They also include a map of the subway systems (if they exist in a city). I have used them for Rome, London, Berlin, and Frankfurt and they saved me a lot of time negotiating my way around those cities.

Another useful item is to have a small Italian/English phrase book. While you can usually get by speaking English in Rome, I always found it helpful to have a book handy if wanted to ask a specific question and or just to be polite. My favorites are Rick Steves’ books and ones published by Fodor. I keep them handy along with a map in my coat pocket or small backpack that I use as a camera case.

Some sites in Rome require tickets for access while others are free. Most of the churches, including St. Peter’s at the Vatican are free. This is true for other popular spots like the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, and the Spanish Steps. Museums, including the one at the Vatican, have tickets requirements along with the Colosseum and Forum Areas. If you have definite plans for the Vatican Museum (includes the Sistine Chapel) or the Colosseum/Forum, go to their online websites and order your tickets in advance. This will allow you to skip the long lines for those waiting to buy a ticket.

Here is one for the Vatican: http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html

This is a good one for the Colosseum and other sites: http://www.rome-museum.com/?gclid=CICe-9zdqLECFSgbQgodUgoAmQ

General tips:

Vatican – If you go to the Vatican and want to visit St. Peter’s Cathedral, you can expect lines of people waiting to through the security checkpoints. At these same stations, they have “Fashion Police” that will not allow entrance into the cathedral if your shoulders and knees are not covered (men and woman). They are very serious about this. Local vendors around the Cathedral do a brisk business selling shawls for women to cover their shoulders or to wrap around their hips as a long skirt. You can bring cameras inside to take pictures.
For the Vatican Museum including the Sistine Chapel, a ticket is required. Cameras are allowed everywhere except you cannot take photos inside the Sistine Chapel. They have plenty of guards that will approach you if they see you trying to take a photo inside there. To get to the Sistine Chapel, you will have to go through a large part of the museum complex first. Also, if you want to visit St. Peter’s after seeing the Sistine Chapel, you are supposed to go back to the entrance/exit area of the museum and then walk all the way around the walls of the Vatican and get into the line for St. Peter’s. If you are lucky and spot a tour group in the Sistine Chapel, you can try to sneak into line with them as they are taken to a back door that leads into St. Peter’s without having to get into the security line.

We spent an entire afternoon one time at the Vatican and did not see everything it has to offer.

**Colosseum/Forum** – If you want to go inside the Colosseum and/or Forum areas, you will need to buy a ticket. One good thing is that a ticket entitles you to visit both sites (with or without a guided tour). There are restrooms to be found inside both. If you do not want to order a ticket on-line in advance you will find much shorter lines for tickets at the entrance of the Palatine Hill that you can use at the Colosseum.

At the other end of the Roman Forum area is the Monte Capitoline hill that overlooks the Roman Forum and Imperial Forum. It includes 2 museums of ancient Roman artifacts called the Musei Capitolino (tickets are required). On the other side of the museums is the Vittoriano that includes the Italian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Again, you can spend several hours here and still not see everything.

On our first visit to Rome, we had a walking guided tour where we quickly visited all of the major sites in Rome (not the Vatican Museums or the inside of the Colosseum/Forum) at a very brisk pace prior to returning to our cruise ship (It was exhausting, but doable if you can walk at a fast pace and take advantage of buses and the Metro). The next time, we had ended our cruise in Rome and spent two days there. One day was devoted to the Vatican Museums and St. Peter’s. The second day was spent mainly at the Colosseum/Forum area before heading over to Piazza Navona for dinner.

**Returning to Civitavecchia:**
You will need to follow the reverse of the instructions for getting to Rome. You can catch a regional train back to Rome from any of the stations listed previously.

**Here are some tips:**
Getting on the train at Roma Termini will probably allow you to get a seat. By the time the train arrives at Roma S. Pietro, it will be filled by returning cruisers as well as commuters (if it is a weekday) returning to their homes in the suburbs. On our trip from Roma S. Pietro, we had to stand for 45 minutes shoulder to shoulder crammed in the vestibule of train car.

Be aware that there will many cruisers trying to catch the same late afternoon trains to Civitavecchia and there could be a possibility of not having enough room for you to get on, especially at Roma S. Pietro. If the train is full, it will not stop at S. Pietro. Plan on getting a train earlier than the last one with a scheduled time that works for you and gives you a cushion.

Be aware of the train schedules and be sure you allow plenty of time to return to Civitavecchia and the port shuttle back to the ship. There can be train delays, cancellations, and strikes (although those are announced in advance), so you do not want to think that the schedule is 100% reliable.

Plan in advance and you can have an enjoyable day in Rome.

Keith Henderson
Rome Metro and Bus Stop Map

Tourist sites on map above
1= San Pietro Train Station  2 = St Peters Square  3= Castel Sant Angelo  4= Spanish Steps  5= Villa Borghese  6= Piazza Navona
7= Pantheon  8= Trevi Fountain  9 = Termini Train Station  10 = Palazzo Venezia  11 = Colosseum
Tourist sites on map below
11 = Colosseum   12= Trastevere Train Station   13= Ostiense Train Station

Web-links to download FREE metro and public transit maps as pdf files

http://www.atac.roma.it/index.asp?p=18
http://www.atac.roma.it/files/doc.asp?r=3
http://www.atac.roma.it/files/doc.asp?r=2
http://www.atac.roma.it/files/doc.asp?r=4
http://www.atac.roma.it/files/doc.asp?r=7
http://www.atac.roma.it/files/doc.asp?r=5

This lists ALL the maps available for download
Central Rome pdf map of bus and metro
Entire city of Rome huge 17 MB pdf Map file of bus and metro. I used a section of it for the map above
Map of metro and underground railways
Map - Lines host
Tramways map
I have used the City Sightseeing HopOn bus in Rome and really enjoyed it as an easy way to see everything and take great photos.
The HopON bus website for Rome is [http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/italy/rome.htm#tourlandingposition](http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/italy/rome.htm#tourlandingposition)

City Sightseeing is the largest HopOn bus company in the world.

**Buy HopOn tickets ~ 20 euros for 24 hours**
- Inside Roma Termini train station
- Outside Termini train station next to the buses.
- On line at the website shown at the top of this page
- **At any stop along the route**

The HopOn bus is a great way to see major tourist sites and take photos. The full tour loop takes 90-120 minutes and you can ride the bus all day.

The list of bus stops is shown at left. Your ticket is valid for both lines A and B. The frequency of Line A buses is every 30 minutes. Line B is every 60 minutes.

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**TOURIST SITES IN ROME**

**Vatican City**

Vatican City is the smallest independent State in the world with an area of 0.2 square miles and a population of 800, none of whom are permanent residents. Trivia – Most countries have two embassies in Rome. One embassy is for diplomatic relations with Italy, the other is for relations with the Vatican.

**Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel - Open Hours**

Note - the Sistine Chapel is the last part of the museum tour.

Check this website [http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/z-Info/MV_Info_Orari.html](http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/z-Info/MV_Info_Orari.html)

**Open**
- Monday to Saturday: the Ticket Office is open from 9 am to 4 pm. The Museums close at 6 pm.

**Closed**
- Sunday (except the last Sunday of every month, free entrance from 9 am to 12.30 am; the Museums close at 2 pm unless it coincides with Easter Sunday, the 29th of June (St. Peter and Paul), 25th and 26th of December (Christmas and St. Stephen). Free entrance also the 27th of September
- January 1, 6 February 11 March 19 April 24 (Easter), 25 (Easter Monday) May 1 June 29 (St. Peter and Paul) August 14, 15 November 1 December 8 (Immaculate Conception), 25, 26

**STUNNING 360° VIRTUAL TOUR of the Sistine Chapel**

This is a must see web-link [http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html](http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html)

Click your mouse and drag it left/right to pan or up/down to view the ceiling/floor.
Vatican Area Map Showing Bus and Metro Stops

Map coordinates to pinpoint locations on Google or Bing Maps:
St Peter's Square = 41.902235,12.457273
Entrance to the Vatican Museum = 41.907014,12.453582
Castel Sant Angelo = 41.902604,12.466393
San Pietro Train Station = 41.896216, 12.454687

See http://saintpetersbasilica.org/touristinfo.htm for directions on how to get to Vatican sites by walking, bus, or metro. The website points out common mistakes people make such as going to the wrong location for the entrance to the Sistine Chapel. NOTE the dress code at this website!

Download a map of the museum from http://mv.vatican.va/1_CommonFiles/pdf/mappa_musei_vaticani.pdf
It shows location of elevators (lifts) to reduce stair climbing.
It's a 12 minute walk (900 meters) from St Peter's Square (A) to the Vatican Museum (B) (map below)

If you plan to visit the Museum/Sistine Chapel and the Basilica, I would go to the Museum first. **Order tickets for the museum on the Internet to avoid standing in very long lines!** Use this website to order tickets: [http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html](http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/MV_Home.html)

Tickets are 15 euro per person and are sold for a specific date and time (by the half hour). There are a limited number of tickets available. **Order tickets a month or more before your visit; otherwise tickets may not be available for the day of your visit.** You get a voucher which you redeem for tickets. It only takes a few minutes. Then you pass through security and enter the museum which leads you to the Sistine Chapel.

You can take photos in the museum, but flash is prohibited in some areas. You cannot take any photos and must remain silent in the Sistine Chapel.

**TIP:** The museum tour ends at the exit from the Sistine Chapel. Signs direct guided tour groups to the Basilica which is next to the Sistine Chapel. But visitors who are not with a guided tour are directed to walk back to the Museum entrance, exit the building, walk 900 meters around the building back to St Peters Square, and stand in line (up to an hour) to get into the Basilica. Hogwash! I suggest you stand near, and walk with, a guided tour group pretending to be part of that group. This allowed us to walk directly into the Basilica and avoid walking a half mile around the building and waiting in line for an hour to get into the Basilica.
STUNNING 360° VIRTUAL TOUR of Saint Peter's Basilica
Click on this web-link http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/index-en.html

Saint Peter's Basilica is the largest church in the world. Admission is free. The Pope usually says mass outside on Wednesday morning. When the Pope is saying Mass outside, you can't get into the Basilica.

Before the Pope says mass, he rides around in the “Pope mobile”. Everyone stands up to cheer and applaud. If you plan to take a photo, be prepared to stand on your chair and hold the camera high above the crowd who are all standing on their chairs in front of you. It would help if your camera had an articulated viewer so you could hold it over your head.

There is no restriction on photos in the Basilica, but attendants will stop you from carrying a camera to the side altars when a priest is saying mass. If you have a telephoto lens, you can photograph the altar from a distance. There is generally low light. Flash does not work at long distances and tripods are not permitted. A camera with low light capability is important.

See this website for beautiful photos of the Basilica

There are many beautiful things to photograph, my favorite is the Pieta' by Michelangelo (Photo left).
Swiss Guards Protect the Vatican (photo below)

National Museum of Castel Sant Angelo  (map coordinates = 41.902604,12.466393)  
From Saint Peter's Square; it's a 9-minute, 700 meter walk.  See the map on page 12 of this guide.

This is a 6-story fortress built by Emperor Hadrian as his mausoleum in 139 A.D.  It was used as a papal residence and served as protection, an escape route, for the Pope via a covered passageway from the Vatican.  It has exhibits of Renaissance paintings, sculpture, antique military weapons and pottery.  It has a huge spiral ramp to ascend to the top and offers beautiful views from the terrace.

See the official website for details  www.castelsantangelo.com

Opening hours:  
April-September 9am-7pm  
October-March 9am-2pm

Admission fee:  
Adults €8, Reduced ticket €6  
(last admission 1hr before closing time), closed on public holidays.

How to get there:  
Castel Sant' Angelo is located on the banks of the Tiber close to the Vatican  
Bus service 40 (express) from the main railway station.

Metro - Lepanto (Line A)
Villa Borghese

Villa Borghese is a 200 acre public park. It dates back to 1605 when Cardinal Borghese began to change a former vineyard into one of the most extensive gardens in Rome. Today, it is very popular offering something for everyone. It's a great site for walking, jogging, or picknicking. The gardens are picturesque with tree lined paths, fountains, many statues, artificial lakes, terraced gardens, a theater, and impressive villas, some of which have been converted to museums. Children enjoy the zoo, an old merry-go-round, and the puppet theater.

The park is divided into several sections. Art and history enthusiasts are attracted to the museums:

- Galleria Borghese is regarded as one of the most important art galleries in Rome.
- Villa Giulia, which has served as the summer residence of Pope Julius III, is now the Etruscan Museum (Museo Etrusco).
- There are two modern art museums. One is next to the Etruscan Museum at Villa Giulia, the other is 700 meters away as shown on the map below.

See this website for great museum photos  
http://www.romeartlover.it/Vasi187.html
**Piazza del Popolo** is the “people's plaza”. There is a large obelisk in the center of the square and several churches. Just above the square are the **Terraced Gardens “Terrazza del Pinco”** with great views, an old fashioned merry-go-round, and **San Carlino Puppet Theater “Teatro del Burattino”**.

**Directions to the San Carlino Puppet Theater** (map below). See [http://www.sancarlino.it/](http://www.sancarlino.it/)

**Bioparco (Zoo)** is one of the oldest zoos in Europe. See [www.bioparco.it](http://www.bioparco.it)
Metro, Bus and Tram Lines (2, 3 & 19) Around Villa Borghese

There are several entrances. **Porta Pinciana** gate was built in the 5th century. It served as the primary entrance to Villa Borghese until a new gate, the main gate was constructed at **Piazza del Popolo**.

It's 1200 along a sloped path from **Piazza del Popolo** to the **Terraced Gardens** (Photo left). The gardens are beautiful, “a must see”, and they offer commanding views of Rome.

Note the location of Spanish Steps near the Metro Spagna on the map above.
Suggested websites for more information:
For museum open hours and entrance fees, see  http://www.inrometoday.it/museums/index.htm
For Segway tours, see  http://www.romesegwaytour.com/villa-borquese-segway-tour.html
For Bike rental, see  http://www.reidsitaly.com/destinations/lazio/rome/transport/around_by_bike.html

Map Coordinates to plan your tour and websites for specific info:
Piazza del Popolo = 41.910732,12.476348
Terraced Pincio gardens = 41.911328,12.478311  
http://www.inrometoday.it/phototour/panoramas/pincioterrace/pincio-terrace.htm
Teatro del Burattino Puppet theater  http://www.sancarlino.it/
Villa Giulia Etruscan Museum (Museo Etrusco) and modern art museum = 41.918282,12.474794  
http://villagiulia.beniculturali.it/index.php?it/97/informazioni
Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna = 41.91678,12.481869
   Also see this website for background on Galleria borghese  http://www.romeartlover.it/Vasi187.html
Cinema de Picco = 41.911616,12.487737  http://www.cinemadeipiccoli.it/home.htm
Globe theater = 41.915085,12.486508  http://www.globetheatreroma.com/
Bioparco (Zoo) = 41.916881,12.487849  http://www.bioparco.it/

Piazza di Spagna (Spanish Steps) (coordinates = 41.905893,12.482352)
The steps (aerial photo-right) are named after a palace that housed the Spanish Embassy. The oldest feature of the area is the Barcaccia Fountain at the bottom of the steps, depicting a sinking barge. The 137 steps were built by the French to connect the French Quarter at the top, to the Spanish Quarter, Piazza di Spagna, at the lower level.

The photo-left is looking up to Trinità dei Monti Church at the top. In the spring, the steps are covered with flowers.

The streets around the Spanish Steps offer the most luxurious and expensive shopping in Rome. Every high end designer is represented. For a review and list of the major stores, see  http://www.inromenow.com/site%20templates/ShopFashSpanish.html

The Spanish Steps are close to Villa Borghese. I have shown the location of the Spanish Steps on the Metro, Bus and Tram map for Villa Borghese on the previous page.
Fontana di Trevi (Trevi Fountain)  (map coordinates = 41.901011,12.483284)

Trevi Fountain is Italy’s largest and most famous Baroque fountain. It is a beautiful, highly ornate, massive structure measuring 85 feet high and 65 feet wide. According to legend, tossing a coin into Trevi Fountain will guarantee a return trip to Rome. TRIVIA - About 3,000 euros are collected each night and donated to charity.

A good place to take a photo is from the church steps at the southeast corner of the fountain. The church steps allow you to look “over” the crowd and photograph the entire building and fountain. See “photo spot” on the map below.

Pickpockets: Space is confined and crowds are elbow-to-elbow near the fountain. It's ideal for pickpockets. Don't get a false sense of security when you see Carabinieri policemen. Pickpockets are petty thieves, a low-priority for police. Due to open borders, pickpockets are everywhere. Europe could never hire enough police to catch pickpockets. And many tourists fail to take SIMPLE precautions to prevent being pickpocketed.” See page 55 of this port guide.

The map below shows streets and a good spot for photos. There is a line of restaurants along the street as shown. The food was very good.
The map below shows public transport near popular tourist sites which are close together.

**Pantheon** (map coordinates = 41.899068,12.476773)
In Piazza della Rotonda in the center of the City, it's the most perfect of the ancient monuments.

According to legend, the Pantheon was built at the site where Romulus (the founder of Rome) was carried into the skies by an eagle at his death. The first structure was built in 25 B.C. as a temple dedicated to all Roman Gods. The current circular design was commissioned by Hadrian in 118 AD.

The dome was an architectural masterpiece. It is supported by walls 20 feet thick at the base which taper to 7.5 feet thick at the top. The dome has been imitated in other places of worship and was the largest dome in the world until construction of the Florence Cathedral in 1436.
Design of the Pantheon was changed over the centuries with heavy restructuring. One iteration added two bell towers by Bernini (photo at right above). The Romans referred to the towers as “asses ears”; the towers were removed in 1883.

Walking route map at left.

It's 3.1 Km and 38 minutes to walk the entire route. Create a map for your walking route using the map coordinates I have provided.

You can also take buses or the metro, but if you are only going to a few sites, walking might be faster.

The sidewalks are generally flat so there are not many steps to climb.
**Piazza Navona** (map coordinates = 41.898963,12.473034)
This is one of the most beautiful squares, dominated by Bernini’s impressive ‘Fountain of the Four Rivers’. There are many outdoor cafes.

![Piazza Navona aerial view](image)

**Piazza Venezia** (map coordinates = 41.895553,12.482636)
The huge monument to Victor Emmanuel II, built in 1911 of white marble. It's the largest outdoor altar in Europe and Italy’s ‘Tomb of the Unknown Soldier’. Italians call this site “the wedding cake”.

![Piazza Venezia aerial view](image)
**Colosseum**  (map coordinates = 41.890225,12.492238  point to center of the Colosseum – green arrow)

To avoid waiting in long lines, purchase tickets for the Colosseum BEFORE your vacation. Admission is 16.50 euro per person. See [http://www.rome-museum.com/?gclid=CICe-9zdqLECFSgbQgodUgoAmQ](http://www.rome-museum.com/?gclid=CICe-9zdqLECFSgbQgodUgoAmQ)

The aerial photo above and map below-left show bus, Metro, and Tram #3. NOTE: Stairs to the upper levels of the Colosseum are very steep = not safe for the mobility challenged (photo of sign below-right).
Keyhole View of Vatican  (map coordinates = 41.882977,12.478457)

The famous keyhole is in a massive door at the Priory of the Knights of Malta. When you look through the keyhole, you'll see St Peter's Basilica framed by a row of hedges along a gravel lined path.

It's a postcard picture, but not easy to photograph. The only one in our tour group who took a good photo was Jim Kurovsky.

Jim's photo (at left) is amazing. It is taken 1.76 miles from the Vatican and yet it captures such detail that you can see a bird in flight above the Basilica.

Jim set his camera for spot metering on the dome of the basilica.

I had my camera set for matrix metering which averages the light in the scene resulting in blown out highlights.

The Bing.com “Birdseye” map (below) shows the Priory. The red arrow points to the door. The blue dot is the location of map coordinates. Note the hedges that frame the view through the keyhole.
The street map below shows the Keyhole, T3 tram stops, and Ostiense Train Station.

The map below shows public transit near the Keyhole.
Tarquinia – an Important Etruscan Archeological Site

Tarquinia is one of Italy’s most important archaeological sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's famous for painted Etruscan tombs at the Necropolis of Monterozzi and the Etruscan Museum in Palazzo Vitelleschi covering 3,000 years of history. We visited on a ship’s excursion tour which also included a stop at the Valle del Marta Vineyard and resort.

Getting to Tarquinia from Civitavecchia:
Tarquinia is only 20 Km and a 30 minute bus ride from Civitavecchia Port so it is ideally suited for self-guided touring. There is a HopOn bus from Civitavecchia for 15 Euro or you can take a public bus for a few euro. I believe it is easier and faster to take a bus than a train from Civitavecchia to Tarquinia.

This website covers info on getting buses at Civitavecchia Port  http://www.civitavecchia.net/ You can download schedules for urban and extra-urban buses at http://www.civitavecchia.net/travellers-autobus.html

See this website for info on Tarquinia  http://www.civitavecchia.net/places-surrounding_area.html#anc

There is a tourist information booth INSIDE Civitavecchia Port (photo below). You may want to stop there to ask the location of the closest shop to buy bus tickets. You could buy a ticket on the bus, but drivers can charge outrageous prices; it's a lot cheaper to buy bus tickets at a tobacco/magazine stand.

To create the photo above, enter 42.090906,11.791564 in Google maps. Then drag the little yellow man icon to the green down pointing arrow and rotate the man icon to see the tourist booth. I added the text in Photoshop.

There are several bus stops along the route. Tell the bus driver you want to get off in Tarquinia at Piazza Cavour next to the Etruscan National Museum - Palazzo Vitelleschi.

Plan your walking tour of Tarquinia by entering map coordinates in the Google Map “Get Directions”

Enter map coordinates to walk from the National museum(A) to town center(B) to the superintendent of tombs(C) to the tombs entrance(D). Then click on the walking man icon (red arrow). Google shows it is 1.2 KM and a 17 minute walk. The map is on the next page.
Walking Route Map from Tarquinia National Museum to Tombs

The National Museum is at Piazza Cavour across the street from the tourist office and a gelato shop. The guide on our ship's tour gave us the choice of spending an hour in the museum or walking around the town. We poked our heads into the museum (to take the photo at right) but decided to walk with our guide.

We walked to the old, private section of town with almost no traffic to the Santa Maria Church. To the right of the church, there are some great views looking down from Tarquinia to countryside below. Then we walked past a few photogenic churches to Town Center and returned to the National Museum where we had free time to explore the shops and cafes in the area.

The last part of our tour was a demonstration of making gelato. They made several flavors and gave us samples of any three types in their store. They have a gazillion flavors and it was delicious.
About 6000 tombs were dug into the soft volcanic tufa and some were painted inside with colorful frescoes. Paintings date from the 6th to 2nd centuries BC. About 15 tombs are open each day for visitors. Entrances to tombs are covered with small buildings as shown in the upper right corner of the photo at right. Our tour did not stop at the tombs. I'm told the stairs can be very steep entering the tombs. There are tombs in an area of 750 acres.


The website above lists the following info:
Ticket price: € 6.00 - € 8.00 ticket museum built over burial
Summer: Tues. to Sun 8.30 - 1 h before sunset  Winter: Tues. to Sun 8:30 to 14:00
Closed: Monday - Closures holidays: January 1 and December 25

For a virtual tour of the the tombs enter 42.249821,11.767585 map coordinates in Google Maps. Then drag the little yellow man icon onto the map and move it around in the area of the tombs. A series of blue dots will appear. If you click on any of the blue dots, you'll see photos of the tombs taken by tourists.

The photo above shows one of the tombs – note the little yellow man icon in the right corner as show on Google Maps. Using this approach, you can decide which tombs you might want to visit.

The Official Town Map is on the next page (the tombs are outside the town).
Valle del Marta – Olive trees, a vineyard, and a hotel/resort

Valle del Marta is 13 miles (21 km) = a half hour drive from Civitavechhia. Your tour might be combined with the ancient city of Tarquinia.

It has olive trees, a vineyard, produces olive oil, wine, liquors, preserves, and has a hotel/resort with gorgeous views. It overlooks Tarquinia's old city walls and fields of many vineyards which lead down to the sea. I'd like to stay there overnight. It would be a fantastic site for a wedding party.

**Trivia question:** Where does virgin olive oil come from?
**Answer:** Ugly olives.

Valle del Marta is a relaxing, scenic area to visit. It's a short walk from the bus parking lot through a tunnel to the resort. Many wines and liquors are available for tasting and sale. We were treated to a good spread of snacks, cheeses, jams, liquors, wines, bread, olive oil, etc. Music was provided for our entertainment.
You can use these map coordinates below to determine the distance and route from the National Museum in Tarquinia to Valle del Marta vineyard and resort.

**Map Coordinates**

National museum in Tarquinia = 42.253625,11.755692  
Enterance to Valle del Marta = 42.255086,11.743644

It is 1.3 Km and 15 minutes walking along the road.

**Route from Tarquinia National Museum to Valle del Marta Vineyard**

_NOTE: My purpose in presenting this map is to show you where the vineyard is located. I am NOT suggesting you walk along country roads where there are NO sidewalks. That could be dangerous! It's also important to note that many vineyards in Italy only open when they know a tour group is arriving. Our private tour guides phone ahead to tell the vineyard when we will arrive because these vineyards are often closed._

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**Tuscania – an ancient walled town with breathtaking views**

Situated in the romantic countryside of Tuscany, you'll find the small town of Tuscania. The population is 8000 and it's only a 1300 foot walk from the town entrance to the scenic overlook of the Basilica of San Pietro and countryside. Tuscania is encircled by massive walls with high towers. The area has several churches and ancient buildings.

Tuscania is 28 miles (45 km) = a 55 minute ride from Civitavecchia. Unlike other tourist sites, it's rare to see crowds here. It's a quiet, peaceful, ancient walled town with breathtaking scenic views. This is not a place to shop, it's a place to take in the beauty of Italy, relax with a cup of coffee, and take postcard shots with your camera.

In the 8th century B.C., Tuscania was a powerful Etruscan town. It was a very wealthy place in the past. Over the centuries, control of the area changed. It flourished in the 4th century and became a Roman town in the 3rd century B.C. It was an important medieval center in the 6th to the 12th century and declined to a modest, but illustrious center of the Pontifical State in the 16th century.
Photos of Tuscania

The building in the left of the photo above is a fortified citadel with two towers and a Bishop's palace from the 11th century.
The building at right is San Pietro Basilica which was built in the 8th century and reconstructed in the 11th century in Romanesque Lombard style.

The photo above is the interior of the church in the center of town near a fountain and cafes to enjoy a cup of coffee.

The photo above is the entrance arch to old town from the inside, looking out.

The photo above is a monastery
How to get to Tuscania from Civitavecchia
The closest train station to Tuscania Old Town is 12 miles away. There are buses, but it would involve complex travel for self-guided touring. I guess you could rent a car, but I would not drive in Italy where the locals consider traffic lights as "suggestions or decorations".

More importantly, you will not be spending much time in Tuscania so the only practical way to visit it is on a ship's or private tour combined with other tourist sites. Some people are strongly opposed to ship's excursions. Actually, the ship's tour is always our starting point when planning a cruise vacation. We select other tour methods when we consider them a better option than the ship's excursion.

Use these map coordinates to preview a visit to Tuscania
Civitavecchia Port security gate = 42.090642,11.791913
Tuscania Old Town entrance = 42.418352,11.870834
The square for coffee with a fountain near the beautiful church = 42.417362,11.871907
Entrance arch to the gardens overlooking the scenic countryside below = 42.416443,11.87261

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS
It is 1300 feet and less than 5 minutes to walk from the Old Town entrance to the arch leading to the garden for scenic views of the countryside below. You are walking on wide, flat cobblestones. Allowing time to take in the breathtaking views and have a cup of cappicino, your visit will be 30 minutes. This tourist site is tiny, but it really is beautiful and the garden area is often used as a setting for wedding parties. It's off the beaten path and is not frequented by many tourists because it does not have shopping or many things to do. I've been there a few times; it was not crowded.
Villa Lante – a gorgeous Renaissance garden

Villa Lante is 39 miles (62 km) = a one-hour ride from Civitavecchia. Villa Lante is in the town of Bagnaia, Lazio. Villa Lante began as a medieval hunting park. In the 15th century, ownership changed to cardinals who constructed buildings and improved the garden to become one of the best Renaissance gardens in Italy. Renaissance gardens were designed as statements of power and wealth. They were more important than the houses of the time and dominate the landscape. Villa Lante's formal terraces rise up from the town which was redesigned during the same period but which still has a very medieval feel to it.

It's considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. It's a peaceful and beautiful area to walk around. There are many fountains. The symbol of Cardinal Gambara was jaws of a crayfish. The photo at left is called the Fountain of the Chain. At the top, it is shaped like the head and front claws of a crayfish. At the bottom, it has the shape of the crayfish's back claws.

See the official website =
http://www.provincia.vt.it/turismo/SchedeDett.asp?Id=7

Hours:
November 1 - 28 February: 8.30 to 16.30;
March 1 - April 15: 8.30 to 17.30;
April 16 - 15 September: from 8.30 to 19.30;
September 16 - 31 October: 8.30 to 17.30.
Closed on Monday, May 1, 25 December, 1 January.

Admission fee: € 5, free for people aged under 18 and over 65 years, from 18 to 25 years: 2.5 euros.
Getting to Ville Lante from Civitavecchia, use these map coordinates:
Civitavecchia Port security gate = 42.090642,11.791913
Entrance to Villa Lante = 42.426561,12.154795

It's 62 Km and a one hour ride from Civitavecchia. Train travel does not appear to be an option. The schedule I checked showed it was a 4 hour train ride one way from Civitavecchia to Ville Lante.

Ville Lante is only 4 Km and a 5 minute ride from Viterbo which is a major tourist site. I haven't been to Viterbo.
Lake Bolsena (Lago di Bolsena) – (map coordinates = 42.644172,11.986856)

Bolsena is the largest lake of volcanic origin in Europe. The water is clean thanks to a sophisticated purification system in the area and absence of pollution-generating industries.

Restaurants, trattorias, pubs and pizza parlors galore offer the gastronomic delicacies of the area. Fish is outstanding, but meat also has a place. Pork is processed and cooked in countless ways: sausages, chops, ribs, liver, prosciutto and the typical porchetta, seasoned with wild fennel. Lamb is also popular roasted, scottadito (grilled chops) and in stews. Local wine is from the Est! Est!! Est!!! of Montefiascone. And robust wines are produced from various types of grapes that prosper on the slopes of the Volsini hills.

One of our most memorable excursions from Civitavecchia was a Princess tour that included stops at Tuscania, Villa Lante, and Bolsena. The tour began with a drive through country where the bus had to stop for sheep on the narrow road. The scenery was outstanding and the tour was very comfortable i.e., not much walking and a relaxing visit to each area. We did not encounter crowds. The tour included an unbelievable lunch at a hotel in Bolsena with windows overlooking the lake. The food and wine were fantastic!

Official website =  http://www.visitbolsena.it/#

Lake Bolsena is a Major Vacation Destination and Tourist Area. USA Today Travel Tips:
The area offers almost limitless opportunities for sightseeing, with dozens of picturesque villages, and archaeological sites dating back to Etruscan and Roman civilizations.

Lake Bolsena region boasts numerous historic churches, romantic castles and ancient necropolises (tombs). Some of the most notable sites include the neolithic village of Bagnoregio -- birthplace of St. Bonaventure -- the impressive 16th-century Farnesi Palace at Caprarola and the Etruscan remains at Acquapedente. The city of Bolsena is a good spot for sightseeing, with Roman walls, an amphitheatre, necropolises and a medieval castle; and the Basilica Santa Cristina (basilicasantacristina.it; Italian language only) offers beautiful frescoes and a priceless 8th-century altar. Monster's Park, at Bomarzo, is an unusual attraction, with a series of grotesque sculptures displayed in its gardens.

The shoreline of Lake Bolsena offers a number of dark sand beaches that are free to use. The main tourist beaches are at Bolsena and Capodimonte, a beautiful beach that is cleaned every day.

Land-based sporting activities include hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding along the lakeside trails or in the surrounding hillsides. In summertime you can also go paragliding at Montefiascone, or take a jeep safari into the mountains to visit caves and archaeological sites. If you are in the mood for relaxation, enjoy a soak in the thermal pools at the Botanical Garden of Viterbo or take a boat tour of the lake. You can also take a ferry across to Bisentina Island, which is a large natural park just offshore from the city of Capodimonte.

NOTE: There are many festivals and events scheduled throughout the year. It would be extremely crowded during these events. Check the calendar on the official website.

From Civitavecchia it is 87 Km, 1 hr and 20 minutes to Bolsena and another 25 Km and 30 minutes to Orvieto. It is not practical to take a train or public bus to Bolsena considering location of train stations and infrequency of the scheduled trains and limited public bus service.
Orvieto – A Top Tourist Destination

Orvieto is one of the most dramatic hill towns in Italy perched on a plateau atop huge cliffs. It has a “must-see” Duomo. Restaurants and shopping are abundant. And there are many photo opportunities!

The Duomo is one of the most impressive examples of medieval architecture in Italy. Started in 1290, it took almost four centuries to complete. The facade is decorated with mosaic which is stunning after a rain if the sun shines while the facade is still wet. Orvieto is one of the few places outside Rome with a Papal Palace. Several Popes spent time here before moving to Avignon, bestowing Orvieto with a wealthier than normal set of religious monuments.

When we first visited the Orvieto Cathedral in 2009, our Princess tour guide told me I could photograph everything inside. When we returned in 2011, there were signs indicating that photography is not permitted inside the church. Also, there was an entrance fee around 4 euros.
SHOPPING IS EXCELLENT WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF INTERESTING PRODUCTS

Orvieto is the main center for majolica pottery. Also, there is bronze and alabaster. Other handicrafts include lace, wrought iron, and wood products. White wine is produced in the vineyards of nearby hills.

There are many shops selling beautiful pottery. We purchased this large urn (photo at right). It measures about 26 inches high and was shipped to our home without incident.

There are many things to see and do in Orvieto.
You could spend many hours there and not see it all.

CHURCHES AND MONUMENTS – use these web-links below for more information:

Orvieto Cathedral  Church of St. Juvenal  People’s Palace
Church of St Andrew and Bartholomew  Church of St. Francis
Complex of the Papal Palace  Seven of the Palazzo and Torre del Moro
Palazzo Faina - Faina Museum  Necropolis of the Crucifix of Tufo
Church and Convent of San Domenico  Town Hall  Tombe Golini I / II
Municipal Theatre  Palace Ottaviani - Locanda delle Belle Arti
Porto Romano Pagliano  Necropolis Cannicella

• THE UNDERGROUND CITY – see this website below for more information
http://www.orvietounderground.it/index.php/en/services/the-tour

A pleasant guided tour along a very easy route makes it possible to get to know Orvieto’s underground world, created by its ancient inhabitants over about 2500 years of uninterrupted digging. An hour-long tour on a discovery of a millenary, surprising and unexpected “Underground City”.

Orvieto, a millenary city suspended almost by magic between heaven and earth, has revealed another of those aspects that make it unique and extraordinary: a labyrinth of grottoes is hidden in the silent darkness of the rupe (rock). The distinctive geological nature of the mass of stone on which it stands allowed its inhabitants to dig, in the course of about 2500 years, an incredible number of cavities extending, overlapping and intersecting
beneath the modern structure of the city.

**ST. PATRICK'S WELL (POZZO DI SAN PATRIZIO)**  see this link for information  [Pozzo di San Patrizio](#)
It was built in 1537 to protect the city's water supply in the event of a siege. It is 43 feet in diameter and 175 feet deep. It has two, separate spirals and 248 steps to allow mules to descend to the bottom with empty containers which are then filled with water. Then the mules climb up the other spiral carrying the water to the surface. There are 70 window openings to provide natural light. I'd like to walk down that well.

**Photos of Orvieto side streets and one of the squares (below)**

There are many side streets, squares, shops, monuments, cafes to enjoy and explore. We loved Orvieto and wanted to spend several hours there.

**Getting to Orvieto**

Orvieto is a 2-hour tour bus ride and 100 Km from Civitavecchia Port. Although there is a train station at Orvieto, it's difficult to travel by train from Civitavecchia because you have to take a train to Roma Termini Station and transfer to a train for Orvieto. This causes you to travel away from Orvieto for up to 90 minutes to get a train for the 1-hour ride from Roma Termini to Orvieto. However, if you are staying in Rome before or after your cruise, go to Orvieto; it's only an hour from Rome by train.

*From a practical standpoint, the only way to Orvieto from Civitavecchia is by an organized ship's tour, private tour van, or a car.*

**Map coordinates**

- Civitavecchia Port security gate = 42.090642,11.791913
- Orvieto Cathedral = 42.717026,12.112683
- Orvieto train station = 42.723781,12.126169
- Orvieto Tour bus stop = 42.721401,12.119753
- St Patrick's well = 42.721771,12.121191
Walk ~100 feet across the square from the Train Station to get the Funicolare to ascend the mountain.

Funicular Running Times  see [http://www.orvietoonline.com/funicolare_orvieto.html](http://www.orvietoonline.com/funicolare_orvieto.html)
   Weekdays: from 7.20 am to 8.30 pm every 10 minutes
   Holidays: from 8am to 8.30 pm every 15 minutes
   Cost is ~ 1 euro

I've shown the route of the Funicolare as a yellow line on the map above. Note the Funicolare runs next to St. Patrick's Well. The top station of the Funicolare is at a large parking area. This is where the ship's tour buses drop off/pick up passengers. It's a short walk from the parking lot to the Cathedral in Old Town. Along the way, you'll pass some churches, shops, etc. It is a pleasant walk on level, flat pavement.
Thinking About Planning Self-Guided Touring

Throughout this port guide, I've provided map coordinates to help you “see” the tourist site on Google and Bing Maps, to calculate distances, and plan walking routes.

But there is more to planning than maps. An important issue is, “How long should you spend at each tourist site?” In some cases it's obvious; plan on 1-hour for each museum, garden, etc. Some sites might take a lot less time than you would expect. For example, Tuscania can be effective as a 15-minute stop. And there are other sites like Orvieto where there is so much to see and do, you'll need several hours to visit the site.

I have tried to provide information to help you decide how much time you might wish to spend at each tourist site.

Another consideration is, “Where are you going to have lunch during your full day tour?” If you are with a group, lunch can take a long time.

Our first visit to Orvieto was on a Princess excursion from Civitavecchia Port. When we arrived in Orvieto, the tour guide took us through the Cathedral and gave us an excellent tours. Then we went to a pre-arranged lunch at a restaurant which catered to tour buses. There were a gazillion people. We ended up downstairs in a “gymnasium like building”.

The restaurant ran out of food. Service was very slow due to the large crowd and inability of the kitchen to keep up. We spent a long time at lunch. Then the gazillion ladies went to the bathroom which took a long time.

As a result, we had NO time to explore Orvieto. We hurriedly bought a large ceramic urn and “ran” to our bus so we could wait 15 minutes for people who were late getting on the bus.

Orvieto is a wonderful city to explore. I don't like to waste my time and deny myself the opportunity to see so many of the really neat sites in Orvieto because I'm in a basement of “gymnasium cafeteria” staring at 4-walls and sitting elbow-to-elbow at crowded tables.

I do not want lunch to compete with my touring time in Orvieto. The next time I visit Orvieto, I will set up a private tour and advertise it on my website seeking 6 like-minded people to join my wife and me on a self-guided tour of Orvieto for at least 2 hours. If we leave the ship at 8 AM, we'll arrive in Orvieto by 10 AM. We can spend 2 hours visiting churches, shopping, visiting the underground, St Patrick's Well, etc..

Then we will leave Orvieto and find a place for lunch that meets these criteria:

   Excellent views such as Lake Bolsena, or a location with views of the countryside,
   A small place that is quiet with the great food Italians love, and
   We order individually or have our tour guide/driver recommend what we order

Our crowded and noisy lunch in Orvieto was substandard compared with fantastic lunches we've had at 1) Lake Bolsena, 2) a small restaurant in the countryside near Pisa, and 3) in restaurants on the Amalfi Coast with great views of the sea. I believe that planning lunch is a big deal and important part of planning a tour!
Planning Excursions to Tourist Sites Outside Rome

One of the advantages of map coordinates is that you can create a travel route in a few minutes in Google Maps and then decide which tour sites are priorities for you. I used the “Get Directions” function of Google Maps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Civitavecchia Port security gate</td>
<td>42.090642,11.791913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Tarquinia Etruscan National Museum</td>
<td>42.253625,11.755692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Valle del Marta Vineyard entrance</td>
<td>42.255086,11.743644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Tuscania Old Town entrance</td>
<td>42.418352,11.870834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Villa Lante gardens entrance</td>
<td>42.426561,12.154795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Bolsena Tourist Office next to main square</td>
<td>42.644172,11.986856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Orvieto train station</td>
<td>42.723781,12.126169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Google calculates driving time between the sites; total time is approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes one way.

Obviously you can't visit all these tourist sites. But you can use map coordinates with the descriptions I've provided to narrow your choice down to the few tour sites you can visit with adequate time at each stop. Propose a private tour on the roll calls to find like-minded cruisers to join/share your proposed tour.

Have a great cruise vacation.
Tom Sheridan
Thieves, pickpockets, and scammers are ubiquitous

Generally accepted safety precautions include:

• Do NOT wear expensive looking watches, jewelry, or carry a lot of cash. Take a copy of your passport unless you “must have” the original.

• Conceal valuables in a security belt and security neck pouch. NEVER carry valuables in your back trouser pockets.

• Buy a money belt and neck security pouch. Distribute valuables in more than one security pouch on your body. Carry coins in pockets; coins are hard to steal.

• When possible, wear a coat as an “extra” layer of protection.

• Travel with a group to “watch” one another's backs and deter pickpockets.

• Be extra vigilant when taking money from an ATM machine. The safest approach is to use machines inside a bank when possible.

• NEVER carry the same credit card account as your spouse. ALWAYS have different credit card accounts so if your wife loses her card, yours still works.

• Buy wire lined straps for cameras, backpacks, and handbags to prevent the strap from being cut with a box knife. Put your backpack in front of you when you are in a high risk area.

The risk is higher at major tourist sites, in crowds, big cities, port cities, train stations, and on public transportation. When you're at the Trevi Fountain or Spanish Steps in Rome, be assured there are pickpockets in the crowd. Don't be comforted that police are present. Police rarely have time to deter petty crime of pickpockets. And don't think you are safe in a house of God. Pickpockets follow tourists into churches.

Signs you are about to be, or have already been, robbed:

You are bumped, someone hands you a flower, a child with an empty cardboard box approaches you, a beggar approaches you, a stranger stops you to ask for directions on a map, greets you as a friend, or offers to help with your luggage. If you participate in street “shell” games, onlooker thieves will crowd around you. Beware of teenagers playing “tag” in a train station. It's a distraction to surround tourists, bump, and pickpocket them.

See this video on pickpockets
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO6CFSosqKE&NR=1

Check the websites below for the latest pick pocket scams before you travel.

• Pickpocket Scams Reported in Rome Italy
• General Pickpocket Scams All Around Italy
• Pickpocket Scams in Florence Italy
• Pickpocket Scams in Milan Italy
• Pickpocket Scams Reported in Naples Italy
• Pickpocket Scams in Sicily Italy
• Pickpocket Scams in Venice Italy
• Child Pickpockets in Venice

The website below has every conceivable safety device you may need to thwart pick pockets
http://www.corporatetravelsafety.com/
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend [www.CruiseCritic.com](http://www.CruiseCritic.com); it's free to join.

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Fortunately, a friend of mine on that ship complained to the purser and the ship stopped violating my copyright.

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Tom Sheridan