It’s important to plan/book your transfer from Civitavecchia Port to Rome long before your cruise ends at Civitavecchia Port. When our ship docked in Civitavecchia, passengers who had not booked a transfer were told they would have to wait 4 to 6 hours for a taxi to Rome. Disembarking passengers have to be off the ship by 10 am. There’s no cruise terminal at Civitavecchia, no place to sit down, coffee bar, nor public toilets. You’re in a parking lot under a tent with your luggage. That’s a heck of a way to end your cruise if you haven’t planned and booked a transfer to Rome!

Civitavecchia is the huge cruise port for Rome with docks for 7 cruise ships. On a busy day, there can be thousands of passengers disembarking ships and taking shore excursion to Rome. Taxis will be in high demand and public transit e. g. trains to Rome will be very crowded.

This guide emphasizes the need to Plan Ahead for your transfer to Rome, the issues, and transfer options. I also discuss the possibility of combining a tour to some of the best sites in Italy with your transfer to Rome as a way of extending your cruise vacation for one more memorable day on a relaxing shore excursion that ends with you being dropped off at your hotel in Rome. And I describe a “quaint fishing village” with small hotels along the Tiber River, just a few miles from Leonardo da Vinci International Airport. We stayed there the night before our flight home to USA and loved the area and our hotel.

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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
PLAN AHEAD – Consider how many ships and passengers will be in Civitavecchia Port

Civitavecchia is the huge cruise port for Rome with docks for 7 cruise ships. On a busy day, there will be thousands of passengers taking shore excursion to Rome. Many of these passengers will take early morning trains from Civitavecchia to Rome. If you are disembarking your ship, you’ll be traveling beside them, but unlike them, you’ll be dragging your luggage.

Use the www.CruiseTT.com website to estimate the number of ships in port and the “Port Load” i.e. the total number of passengers on all the ships docked.

If your cruise ends at Civitavecchia on July 9, 2017, the port, the trains, and local taxis will be very crowded because many of the 9477 people will be using taxis and trains from Civitavecchia to Rome.

PLAN AHEAD – for travel on holidays and feast days

Be aware of potential travel delays on roads, buses, and trains on National Holidays and Feast Days.

ALL businesses close on National Holidays. LOCAL businesses close when cities/towns celebrate Feast Days. National holidays are Easter Sunday & Monday, Liberation Day (Apr 25), May Day (May 1), Assumption of the Virgin (August 15), All Saints Day (Nov 1). Two important religious festivities in Rome are celebrated on June 29th Sant’i Pietro & Paolo patrons of the city and the Immaculate Conception on December 8th

Roads and trains are also congested when many Italians take vacation Aug 15-30.

For a calendar of all holidays and feast days in Italy, see https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/italy/

If you are traveling by train on a holiday or feast day, make a reservation for an “assigned seat”. Otherwise, you might have to stand the entire train ride, or you might not even be able to get onto the train.
If you will be traveling by taxi on a holiday or feast day, reserve your taxi early as it is unlikely you’ll find an available taxi on the street. Also, determine whether or not your taxi charges for delays in traffic. You’ll want a “fixed” taxi price for your journey.

A better alternative to trains and taxis on holidays and feast days is a private transfer between Civitavecchia Port and Rome with an agreed cost for the transfer regardless of traffic delays on the highways.

**PLAN AHEAD – if you need to arrive at your destination at a specific time e.g. for a plane**

Arrival at your destination at a specific time depends on how early you can get off the ship and the time required for travel to your destination.

**How early can you get off your ship?**

*Your cruise line/ship will provide the time your cruise ship will arrive in Civitavecchia Port.*

This is NOT the time you can get off the ship! The ship has to secure lines to the dock, set up ramps, and get clearance from customs and immigration to disembark passengers at the port. *This process takes at least one hour. Check with your cruise line/ship regarding when passengers can disembark from your ship.*

**Cruise lines have specific policies re early disembarkation**

These policies depend on how your luggage is handled.

- Princess allows passengers to “walk off” the ship with all their luggage ~ one hour after the ship arrives at the port. If the ship arrives at 5 am. I can walk off with my all my luggage at 6 am.
- If I have the ship move “any” of my luggage off the ship to the port area, I am assigned color coded luggage tags with a specific disembarkation time between 8 and 10 am. Work with Passenger Services to get the proper color code to disembark the ship at your desired time.

**PLAN AHEAD – for early morning travel from the ship to Civitavecchia Train Station**

Some people walk through the port, but it’s better/safer to ride in a vehicle. If you ride, it must be in a port licensed vehicle. There’s a FREE Port Shuttle Bus (also called Port Mobility) with some room for luggage to Largo della Pace outside the port. This shuttle bus begins running at 05:30 AM. The frequency is 15 minutes and there are two shuttles, one of which is equipped for disabled transport.

The ride to Largo della Pace is only ten minutes, however the Argo public bus from Largo della Pace to Civitavecchia Train Station does not begin running until 8:10 am. There is a bus every 20 minutes. The price is 2 euros one way. You can buy a ticket from the Argo bus office at Largo della Pace. Before 8:10 am, you’ll have to walk to the train station ~ 20 minutes, dragging your luggage. Plan on ~ one hour from the time you get off your ship to the time you’ll arrive at the Civitavecchia Train Station.

**PLAN AHEAD – to get off your ship early to travel directly to your airport**

- Carry all your luggage with you and disembark your ship as early as possible
- Board a pre-arranged private transfer from next to your ship directly to your airport.

Check with your cruise line to get advice re how much time you need to get the airport. Cruise lines know a lot about airport transfers. Take advantage of their knowledge.

**It can be difficult to travel from your cruise ship to the airport for an early flight.**

**Trains from Civitavecchia Port to Rome**

Train options from Civitavecchia to Rome Termini station include low cost, regional trains (5 euros) and faster Intercity trains (12 euros).

From Termini Station, you can connect to trains to the Leonardo da Vinci Airport. The high speed train connection to the airport is 15 to 30 euro. There is also a bus (5.5 euro) from Termini Station to the airport.

Trains can be the most complex method of travel requiring connections, a lot of walking, plus buses and cabs. There are many options, costs, travel times, and amenity options for trains. If you are traveling at a time when you expect trains will be crowded, you may want a ticket that includes a reserved seat to avoid the possibility of having to stand for part of, or all of, the train ride.
Trains from Civitavecchia to Rome Termini Station (typical schedules & prices)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>5 euro</td>
<td>76 minutes</td>
<td>NO reserved seat, minimal space for luggage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort</td>
<td>12 euro</td>
<td>47 minutes</td>
<td>Reserved second class seat, luggage space, WiFi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier</td>
<td>20 euro</td>
<td>47 minutes</td>
<td>Reserved first class seat, free drink, luggage space, WiFi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trains from Rome Termini Station to Leonardo da Vinci Airport (typical schedules & prices)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort</td>
<td>15 euro</td>
<td>32 minutes</td>
<td>Reserved first class seat, luggage space, WiFi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See www.RailEurope.com and http://www.trenitalia.com/ for information on train schedules, time, cost, etc.

Train travel is best for people who travel light and are physically fit to walk with their luggage in train stations, drag the luggage up/down stairs in train stations to change tracks (there are few elevators near the train tracks) and load/unload the luggage onto train cars.

If you travel with heavy, large, or multiple pieces of luggage, you may have difficulty dragging it up/down steps to train cars and the stairs to move to different train tracks at stations. Large suitcases will not fit in luggage racks on trains above the seats or between the seats. You’ll have to find room at the end of the train car.

If you are traveling by train with heavy luggage, you’re more vulnerable to pickpockets posing as “helpers” by taking your luggage and offering to help you. It’s a distraction to pick your pockets. Pickpockets spend a lot of time in train stations, on trains, and in subways. The route to the Vatican is nicknamed “pickpocket express”.

Comments by Avril Cude

We took the train from Civitavecchia station to Rome Termini Station. Based on past experience, the earlier you take the train, the larger the crowds will be. Also, the more ships in port, the more people will be using the train to Rome early in the morning.

We were in no hurry to get to Rome so we delayed our departure from the ship on purpose. We left the ship about 9:45am and were at the Civitavecchia train station about 10:45am.

We took the free port shuttle bus from our ship to the bus stop (Largo della Pace) outside the port.

There is an Argo Public Bus to Civitavecchia Station for 2 euros/person one way. You can buy tickets from the Argo bus office at Largo della Pace. See the bus schedule below.

The lines for the bus are usually quite long and the wait for a bus may take a long time.
We did not wait; we walked to the train station with a rolling carry on bag each plus a computer bag so walking was not a problem. We followed the sidewalk to the right, along the port fence for most of the way. The walk is approximately 20-25 minutes without stopping. We stopped and sat down for a short break.

See the port map on the next page for a walking route from the bus stop to the train station.
Map of Civitavecchia Port showing where cruise ships dock, the Port Shuttle Bus Stop, and Train Station

Civitavecchia Port has space for 7 cruise ships shown as Ship 1 thru Ship 7. The berths are 10, 11, 12, 13, and 25. It doesn’t make any difference where your ship docks. You might walk thru the port, but it’s better/safer to take the FREE shuttle buses between your ship and the Port Shuttle Bus Stop (Largo della Pace) outside the port.

Port Shuttle Bus Stop also called "Largo della Pace"

There are public buses (2 euros) and cabs from the Port Shuttle Bus stop to the Train Station. You can also walk as shown by the dashed yellow line. It's a ~1.4 km (0.87 mile), 18 minute walk.

Civitavecchia Train Station

www.TomsPortGuides.com
When we arrived at the station, we bought our tickets at the ticket window for 5 euros/person and proceeded to the platform. Luckily, we did not have to go up or down stairs. The train for Rome was on the closest platform. Sometimes we have had to take an elevator or stairs down and then take a set of stairs up to another platform. Our train was not crowded but most seats were filled. On a previous trip we had to stand most of the way from Civitavecchia to Rome Termini due to the larger crowd on the train. We kept our bags with us at our seats which limited our leg space. The overhead racks are very small and will not accommodate suitcases, only small carry bags. Large suitcases can be stored at the end of the train car near the entrance/exit door.

**Timing:**
We left our ship about 9:45am and were at the Civitavecchia train station ~ 10:45am. We caught the 11am commuter train that stopped at several stations along the way arriving at Termini around 12:15pm. Our hotel was just down the street so we did not have to take a taxi, or bus. We walked to our hotel.

For those wanting to catch a local bus or a taxi from Termini Station, there is a large bus platform area outside the front entrance of the Termini station. Many bus routes stop at Termini.

When we were ready to leave Rome, we walked from our hotel to the Termini Train Station. We took a bus that leaves right outside the Train station to the airport. The tickets were 5.5 euro/person. The bus ride took ~ one hour and dropped us off at Terminal 3 at the airport.

End of Comments by Avril Cude

For additional information on trains from Civitavecchia to Rome, train stations in Rome, tourist sites, etc. see


**GPS Coordinates**

I provide GPS coordinates for important locations for use with Google maps and GPS enabled devices. The format for my GPS coordinates is Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds ddd° mm' ss.ss" N ddd° mm' ss.ss" E.

**Copy and paste** GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Microsoft Bing maps

**Or type** GPS coordinate numbers and periods into the map search box replacing the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds with spaces.

For example: **The FREE Civitavecchia Port Shuttle Bus stops at Largo della Pace**

GPS coordinates are 42°05'49.8"N 11°47'19.9"E

Type 42 05 49.8 n 11 47 19.9 e to find Largo della Pace on Google or Bing maps

Using these GPS coordinates, you can create walking tour maps from Largo della Pace to the Train Station

- Create travel maps to take with you, see http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html and
- Program your hand held GPS, tablet, or phone with the GPS coordinates. See my web-page at http://www.tomsportguides.com/world-gps-maps.html

You can use the GPS coordinates for the Shuttle Bus Stop with Google maps to see the “street level photo” of where the shuttle bus drops you off and picks you up in a parking lot outside the port (Photo Below).
Taxis to Rome

A taxi is often the best travel method between two specific points, e.g., your hotel and the airport. Taxis can be suitable for long distances such as from Civitavecchia Port to Rome hotels or airports.

**Tips RE Taxi Transfers between Civitavecchia Port and Rome**

Book your taxi transfer before your cruise ends and your ship docks at Civitavecchia. Otherwise, you may encounter a long wait for a taxi. On one of our cruises, our ship docked in Civitavecchia and announced, “Unless you’ve already booked your taxi transfer to Rome, you will have to wait 4 to 6 hours for a taxi”.

Only “licensed” vehicles can drive through Civitavecchia Port. If you take an “unlicensed” taxi from Rome to Civitavecchia Port, you will be dropped off at Largo della Pace where you take the Port Bus to your ship.

When booking a transfer to, or from Civitavecchia Port, specify that you want to be dropped off/picked up “next to the ship”. The Italians say, “under the ship”, which apparently means “under the bridge of the ship.”

Verify space is available for your luggage and determine any additional cost for luggage. Ask if the price is fixed or if there are additional charges for delays in traffic, tolls, etc.

“Shared” taxis are lower cost. However, the taxi may change route to pick up or drop off passengers at other locations that can make your ride an hour or more longer than you had expected.


This website estimates taxi time and cost for travel between any locations in the Rome area. My experience is that the “real” cost a taxi is a bit higher than reported by this website due to additional charges for toll roads, fees for luggage, and delays in traffic.

The ride from “Civitavecchia Port” to “Leonardo da Vinci International Airport” is 70 km (43.4 mi) and 52 minutes. Cost is 118 euros (in heavy traffic) plus cost of tolls and luggage. The website shows the route map.
There is NO fixed taxi rate from Civitavecchia Port to the airport, but there is a fixed taxi rate of 120 euros for taxis from Leonardo da Vinci International Airport to Civitavecchia Port. I assume that many taxis from Rome to Civitavecchia Port drop you off at Largo della Pace where you get the free shuttle bus to your ship.

**Bus and Van Transfers from Civitavecchia Port to Rome**

**The Ship’s Bus Transfer to Rome**

It’s the easiest to book and there’s no planning required. It’s ~ $ 108 USD (97 euro)/person. Not all ships offer a transfer and there may be only one or a few stops in Rome such as an airport or central location in Rome where you hire a taxi to your final destination. Get specific details from your cruise line/ship.

**Private transfer in a van with space for several passengers and their luggage**

This is my preferred method of transfer from Civitavecchia Port to Rome hotels or an airport. It’s comfortable, reliable, and a no-hassle transfer. We often share a private van transfer with others on our ship to reduce cost/person.

The transfer must be booked in advance. The van will be parked next to the ship. Cost for the transfer is shared equally by the number of people in the van.

If you are not a member of Cruise Critic, it’s free to join at [www.CruiseCritic.com](http://www.CruiseCritic.com)

Go to the “Roll Call” section of Cruise Critic for your cruise line, ship, and sailing date to see if anyone has booked a van transfer to Rome and has room for more people. If you join the transfer, it’s a commitment to pay your share of the cost of the transfer. If you decide to cancel your participation, you are “ethically” obligated to find someone to take your place or pay for your share of the transfer. This can be a problem. Some cruise passengers don’t know that the word “commitment” means.

Cruise Critic Roll Calls are an excellent way to meet people who will be on your ship, plan shore excursions together, and make new friends before your cruise.

**Thinking about the “Ideal” Transfer from Civitavecchia Port to Rome**

My vacation doesn’t end when I disembark the ship. I don’t have to settle for a boring transfer in a bus, car, or van from Civitavecchia to my hotel in Rome. I can extend my vacation one more, “memorable day” by hiring one of the best private tour companies to visit some of the most beautiful countryside, vineyards, villages, and towns in Italy en route my transit to Rome.

There are are many historic sites, churches, gardens, and places to visit. It’s the “perfect” place to tour and I have ~ 8 hours from the time I get off my ship until I can check into my Rome hotel in mid afternoon.

Luckily, our good friend Carolyn Rosamilia posted on Cruise Critic “Roll Call” that she had arranged a private van tour ending with each person on the tour being dropped off at their Rome hotel. The private tour/transfer was with Fabrizio Melaragno owner of All Around Italy tours and transfers

**website** = [http://www.allarounditaly.net/](http://www.allarounditaly.net/)  email info@allarounditaly.net  phone +39 3343346131

We know Fabrizio well, he’s our favorite tour guide in Italy. His company provides private cruise ship shore excursions from Civitavecchia, Livorno, and Naples ports, excursions from Rome to every other city in Italy, private walking tours with his licensed private guides inside ruins and museums, and he offers transfers to/from airports and hotels. In the last 9 years, we’ve toured with Fabrizio many times from Civitavecchia, Livorno, and Naples. All of the tours were outstanding.

Fabrizio is a “good talker” and the best, most informative, private tour driver/guide we have ever met. His narrative during the tour is not only very detailed, it is also entertaining. One of the advantages of Fabrizio’s company is that all his drivers/guides are knowledgeable experts on the territory with a lot of information on the tourist sites. They can entertain customers with conversation of daily events or ancient funny events during the roman time, etc.
There were 12 of us in two vans with professional drivers. We met outside our ship with our luggage around 8 am. Each couple was dropped off at their hotel in Rome in late afternoon.

Where possible, the route was a leisurely drive through countryside and small villages as our driver pointed out and explained the sites. He stopped to point out the cherry trees in bloom and other points of interest. The pace of travel was relaxing and fun = zero stress.

Our driver suggested the time we could spend at each site and asked us when we were ready to leave. It was our personal tour to accommodate our priorities unlike the rigid, fixed schedule of a cruise ship bus tour.

**Our first stop was on a hill overlooking Civita di Bagnoregio**  
GPS = 42°37′33.14″N 12°6′21.65″E

It’s Italy’s Jewel on the Hill”, a medieval town high on a hill connected to the surrounding hills by a narrow bridge across a deep ravine. We spent half an hour on a hill overlooking Bagnoregio, admiring the spectacular views, taking photos, and relaxing under trees at a small coffee shop. Public toilets were next to the coffee shop.

**Bagnoregio is only accessible by walking over a long, narrow bridge. (Photo below)**

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**Orvieto GPS = 42°42'58.8"N 12°06'49.2"E**

Our second stop was at Orvieto. It’s one of the most dramatic hill towns in Italy 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 that 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.

Unlike the ship’s bus tour to Orvieto where the buses park 1.4 km and a 19 minute walk to the Cathedral, Fabrizio parked the vans right next to the Cathedral in the center of town!
And unlike the ship’s bus tour to Orvieto that has a fixed time schedule, we had flexibility to stay in Orvieto. It was our personal tour. We decided to spend 2 hours and 45 minutes in Orvieto. It was time well spent shopping, taking photos, enjoying an excellent lunch with great wine, and visiting the cathedral (photo below).

The drive to Rome involved some high speed roads. I felt comfortable in the van because Fabrizio drives at a reasonable, responsible speed.

During the ride, he provided a narrative on where we were, pointed out important sites, and explained what they were. As we drove through Rome to our hotel, he called our attention to historic sites with a brief explanation. He could answer all of our questions because he lives in Rome and knows the city like the back of his hand.

Our private transfer/tour from Civitavecchia to Rome was the “perfect and memorable way” to end our cruise vacation. I have asked Carolyn Rosamilia to describe how she set up and organized this private transfer/tour from Civitavecchia to our Rome Hotels.

Comments by Carolyn Rosamilia

My relationship with Fabrizio and All Around Italy began almost ten years ago on my first trip to Italy. On our cruise in May 2017, I booked private van tours with Fabrizio from Livorno, Naples, and for our disembarkation in Civitavecchia. All of the tours were excellent.

The reservation manager Mary took care of everything, even adding the second van for Civitavecchia with no problem after so many people from our Cruise Critic roll call expressed interest in a private tour/transfer from Civitavecchia to our Rome hotels.

The plan was to tour the countryside, visit Civita Bagnoregio and Orvieto, and eventual drop off at our hotels in Rome at the end of the day.

The day of disembarking, we ended up with six people per van plus all our luggage. Fabrizio and his brother Valentino were waiting for us and whisked us away from the chaos. It was a fun relaxing day and I highly recommend Fabrizio's team from All Around Italy.

End of comments by Carolyn Rosamilia
Small hotels in a quaint fishing area along the Tiber River near Leonardo da Vinci Airport

Usually we stay at an expensive hotel near the airport where there’s nothing to do and we’re held captive to the hotel’s restaurant, or in center city where we have to deal with heavy traffic in the morning en route the airport. My wife discovered a quaint fishing area on the Tiber River in the town of Fiumicino, a few miles from the airport. It was a great find!!

There are many hotels in the area, we stayed at

**Domus Lina Hotel Via Della Spiaggia 5, 00054 Fiumicino, Italy**

**GPS = 41°46'17.6"N 12°13'44.0"E**

Our room was spacious, well appointed, and spotless.

The location was fantastic. It was only a few steps to the Tiber River lined with restaurants, shops, and an ice cream parlor across the street from the fishing boats. This area is scenic, quiet, and we enjoyed an excellent seafood dinner with wine on the patio of a restaurant.

We met people who had disembarked from cruise ships and had an enjoyable conversation about our cruises.

If you are interested in a relaxing evening before your flight home, consider a hotel in Fiumicino.

Map of Fiumicino showing our hotel near the airport

There are many hotels and 16 restaurants in this scenic area. The area is clean, comfortable, and a great place to explore on foot. The hard decision is which restaurant to choose because there are so many options.
Map of the town of Fiumicino near the Tiber River

Fiumicino Town has many hotels and 16 restaurants in this area

Photos of shops, restaurants, and fishing boats in this area

It’s a colorful area with flower shops, a few stores, and many different types of restaurants with seating inside or outside the restaurant.
The fishing boats were across the street along the Tiber River.
Photos of our room at Domus Lina Hotel
We had a great breakfast on the third floor of Domus Lina Hotel.

The hotel was excellent. I highly recommend Domus Lina Hotel. Tom Sheridan
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; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website
The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

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