

Where in the world



View from the Tiber River of St. Peter's Basilica



Rome, Italy by Maureen Littlejohn

Rome, founded in 753 BC, is often touted as the birthplace of western civilization. Walk the Eternal City's streets and you'll see they are as layered as lasagna with architectural reminders of its storied history as a republic, empire and ruler of the Papal States. Classical ruins and early Christian places of worship lay beneath Renaissance palazzos and Baroque fountains while the monumental Pantheon, Colosseum and Vatican Museums are iconic testaments to the city's past glory. Although it has been a political power hub for more than two millennia, Rome is far from somber. An agreeable mix of plebian and aristocratic sensibilities infuses inhabitants who embrace a breezy joy of life in the bustling neighbourhood trattorias and friendly cafés.

With more than 1,000 hotels and 120 congress venues, Rome can accommodate just about any size of meeting. Rooftop dinners at well-placed establishments such as the Hotel Fortyseven provide spectacular views of the city, while the elegant splendor of hotels such as Palazzo Brancaccio are fit for royalty. Teatro Argentina and Teatro India are available for exhibitions, receptions and conferences and there are a wide variety of congress centres featuring state-of-the-art technology for every size of event.

This vibrant city begs to be explored, on foot or by bicycle (rentals are readily available). Most importantly, when you are there, do as the Romans do. Savour the sights and sounds and enjoy *la dolce vita*, or the sweet life, all around you.