



## **Eduqas Latin GCSE**

Resource material for Component 3B:  
Roman Civilisation

# **The City of Rome**

(Examination in 2024-26)

## Acknowledgements

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## Introduction

This booklet on The City of Rome is intended to support teachers and students preparing for the WJEC Eduqas GCSE Latin Component 3B examination in Roman Civilisation in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

### Important notice: the purpose and status of this booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to provide teachers with a wide range of sources for their teaching. It should therefore be considered only as a teaching support publication. Such booklets are not intended to be definitive catalogues of sources which may be used in the examination and students should not attempt, nor be encouraged, to 'rote learn' the sources contained within. Although examiners may use some of the sources in the booklets, other similar sources may also be used in the GCSE examination.

Likewise, teachers should feel under no obligation to study any or all of the sources contained herein with their students.

### Additional Support Resources

Teachers may find additional support materials in the following textbooks which are endorsed by WJEC Eduqas.

- The Cambridge Latin Course – Books I, II, III IV and V  
<https://www.clc.cambridgescp.com/course>
- Subarani - Books 1 and 2. <https://hands-up-education.org/textbook.html>

## The Beginnings of the City

- Foundation myths (Aeneas, Romulus and Remus)

Jupiter is outlining to the goddess Venus the future of Aeneas, a Trojan prince. It is his destiny to found a city which will eventually be the home of the Romans.

'Do not be afraid, [Venus], and be assured that the destiny of your descendants is the same. You will see the city of Lavinium and its promised walls and take great-hearted Aeneas to the starry heavens. No argument has changed my mind. But because anxiety is troubling your heart, I shall reveal more to you, unrolling the secrets of the scroll of the Fates. Aeneas will wage a great war in Italy and crush its fierce people, building great walls for his people and establishing laws until three summers of his reign in Latium have passed and a third winter after the defeat of the Rutulians. But the rule of his son, Ascanius, now given the name Iulus, will last thirty years and he will transfer his kingdom from Lavinium, building mighty walls at Alba Longa. In this place will the kings from Hector's race reign for three hundred years, when Ilia, the priestess queen, heavy with child by Mars, will give birth to twins. Wearing the tawny pelt of the wolf which nursed him, Romulus will continue the race: he will build the walls of Mars and give his own name to the people, the Romans. There will be no limits of place or time for them and I have given them a never-ending empire..... From this noble family will come a Trojan Caesar whose fame and boundless empire will reach to the stars. His name will be Julius, a name passed down from the great Iulus, and in time he, too, will be worshipped when he has been received by you into heaven'.

Aeneid Book 1, lines 257 – 279, 283 – 292:

- The first city will be called Lavinium.
- Aeneas' son's name will be changed from Ascanius to Iulus (foreshadowing the important future Julian clan).
- Rulers descended from the Trojans will rule for 300 years.
- Jupiter foretells the birth of twins, Romulus and Remus, whose father will be the god Mars.
- Romulus' city, named Rome after him, will have a great empire.

Image of the wolf suckling Romulus and Remus



<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-capitoline-she-wolf-v-century-bc-or-medieval-age-bronze-75-cm-with-77761481.html?imageid=B2A773AD-3656-4F93-ACDF0809D73A074&p=16611&pn=2&searchId=36cd6c1aaab5b28827fb345ae5ee8942&searchtype=0>

Romulus and Remus observe the flight of birds



Alamy: Image ID 2G455F7

The Roman historian Livy describes the quarrel between Romulus and Remus.

As they were twins and no claim to precedence could be based on seniority, they decided to consult the tutelary deities of the place by means of augury as to who was to give his name to the new city, and who was to rule it after it had been founded. Romulus accordingly selected the Palatine as his station for observation, Remus the Aventine. Remus is said to have been the first to receive an omen: six vultures appeared to him. The augury had just been announced to Romulus when double the number appeared to him. Each was saluted as king by his own party. The one side based their claim on the priority of the appearance, the other on the number of the birds. Then followed an angry altercation; heated passions led to bloodshed; in the tumult Remus was killed. The more common report is that Remus contemptuously jumped over the newly raised walls and was forthwith killed by the enraged Romulus, who exclaimed, 'So shall it be henceforth with everyone who leaps over my walls.' Romulus thus became sole ruler, and the city was called after him, its founder.

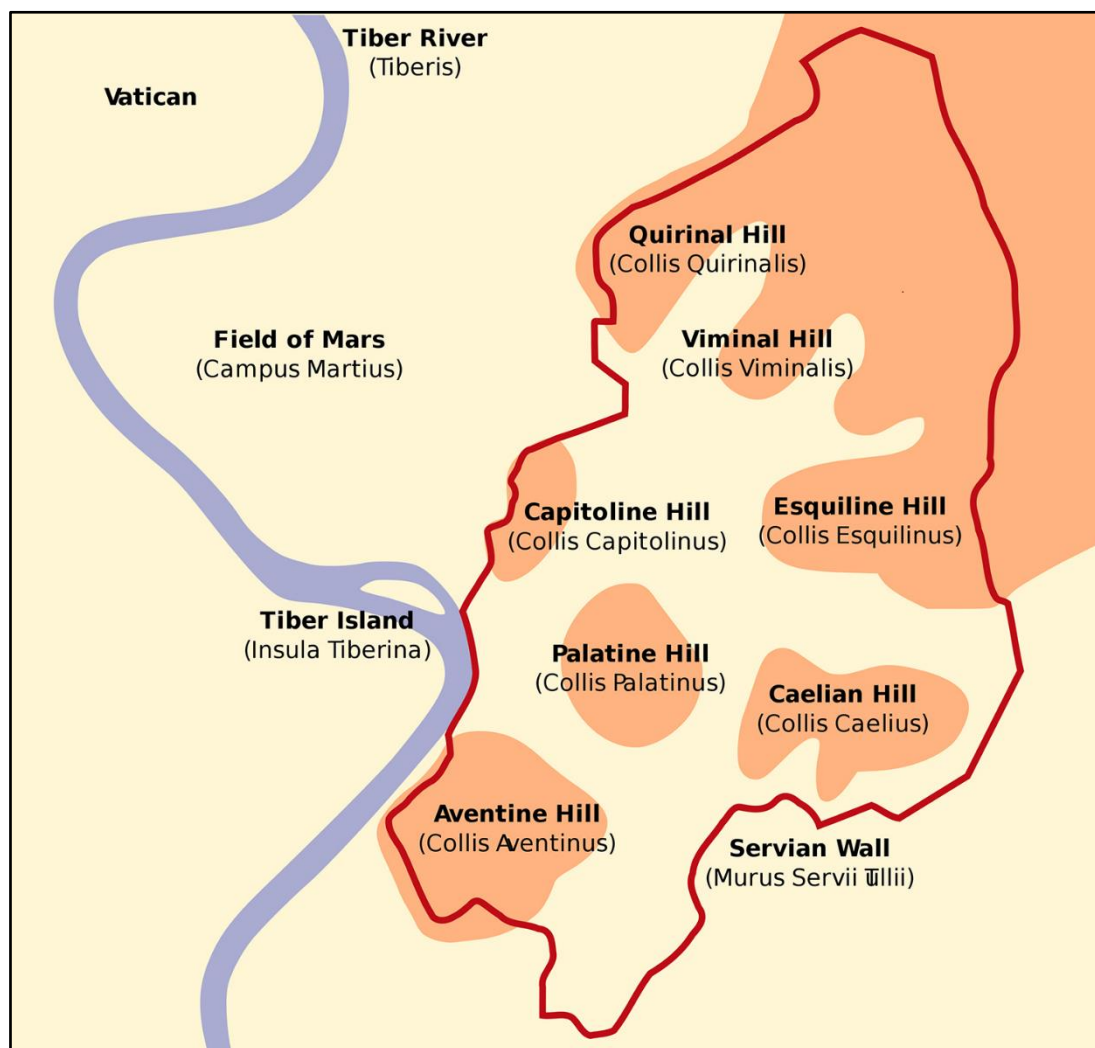
Livy I, 6

- **Location and growth of city**

The area where the future city of Rome would be built was chosen by the earliest settlers taking account of its natural features.

- The hills provided protection.
- The surrounding area was fertile with grassy pastures.
- The river provided a source of water, travel to the sea and also protection on the west side.
- Travellers could cross the river south of the island where the water was shallow.

### Map of Ancient Rome



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map\\_of\\_ancient\\_Rome.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_ancient_Rome.svg)

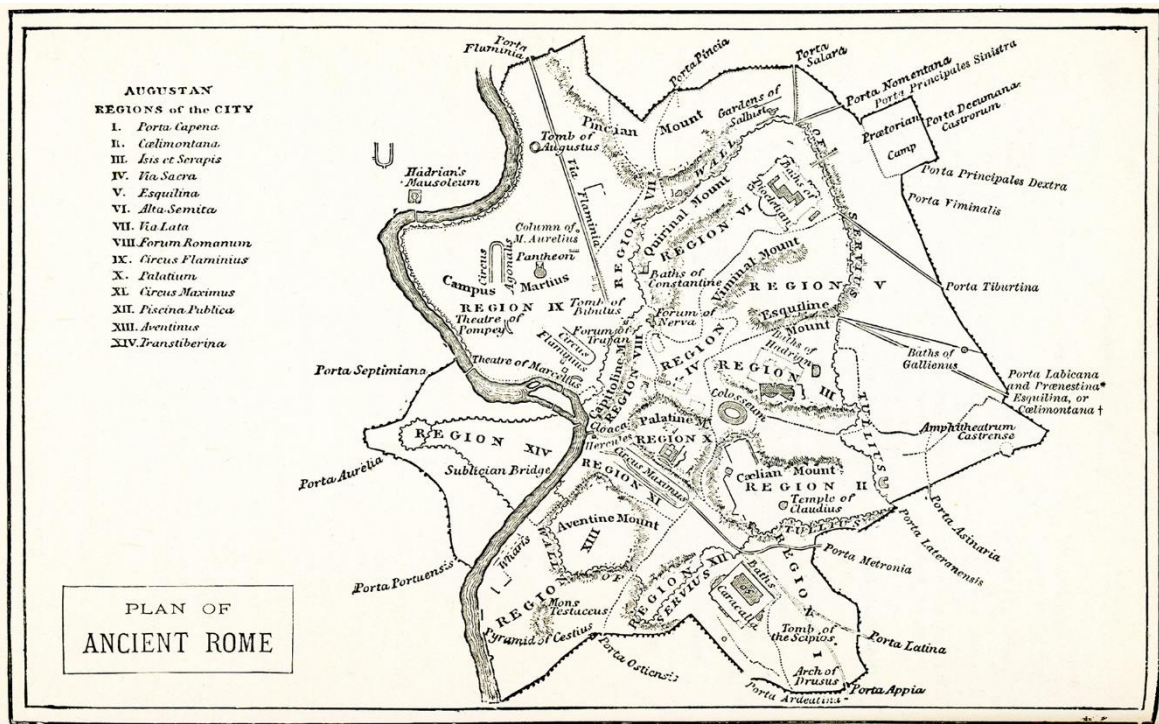
Cicero, writing in 54BC, commends Romulus for his choice of site for the future city of Rome.

How, then, could Romulus have acted with a wisdom more divine, both availing himself of all the advantages of the sea and avoiding its disadvantages, than by placing his city on the bank of a never-failing river whose broad stream flows with unvarying current into the sea? Such a river enables the city to use the sea both for importing what it lacks and for exporting what it produces in superfluity; and by means of it likewise the city can not only bring in by sea but also obtain from the land, carried on its waters, whatever is most essential for its life and civilization. Consequently, it seems to me that Romulus must at the very beginning have had a divine intimation that the city would one day be the seat and hearthstone of a mighty empire; for scarcely could a city placed upon any other site in Italy have more easily maintained our present widespread dominion.

As to the natural defences of the city itself, who is so unobservant as not to have a clear outline of them imprinted upon his mind? The line and course of its walls were wisely planned by Romulus and the kings who succeeded him, being so placed on the everywhere steep and precipitous hillsides that the single approach which lies between the Esquiline and the Quirinal hills was girt about by a huge rampart facing the foe and by a mighty trench, and our citadel was so well fortified by the sheer precipices which encompass it and the rock which appeals to be cut away on every side that it remained safe and impregnable even at the terrible time of the advent of the Gauls. In addition, the site which he chose abounds in springs and is healthful, though in the midst of a pestilential region; for there are hills, which not only enjoy the breezes but at the same time give shade to the valleys below.

Cicero, De Republica II, 5-6

### Plan of Rome at the time of Augustus



Alamy image ID 2D8E5XP

In his own words, the emperor Augustus outlines some of the building work he achieved in Rome.

I built the senate house and the temple of Apollo on the Palatine with its porticoes, the temple of the Divine Julius, the Lupercal, the portico near the Flaminian Circus, the state box near the circus maximus, the temples of Jupiter Subduer of Enemies and Jupiter the Thunder, the temple of Romulus, the temples of Minerva and Queen Juno and of Jupiter of Liberty on the Aventine, the temple of the Lares at the top of the Sacred Way, the temple of the Divine Penates, the temple of youth, the temple of the Great Mother on the Palatine.

I restored the Capitol and the theatre of Pompey, both things at great expense without inscribing my own name on either. I restored the channels of the aqueducts, which were falling into disrepair in many parts due to age, and I brought water from a new spring into the Aqua Marcia, doubling the supply. I finished the Forum of Caesar and the basilica between the temples of Castor and Saturn, tasks that my father began and almost finished, and when that same basilica was destroyed by fire, I began to rebuild it on an enlarged site, to be dedicated in the name of my sons, and in case I do not complete it in my life time, I have given orders that it should be completed by my heirs. In my sixth consulship I restored eighty-two temples of the gods in the city on the senate's authority, neglecting nothing that required restoration at that time. In my seventh consulship I restored the Via Flaminia from the city to as far as Ariminum (modern Rimini), together with all of the bridges except the Mulvian and the Minucian.

On private ground, I built the temple of Mars the Avenger and the Forum Augustum from spoils of war. I made the theatre at the Temple of Apollo under the name of Marcellus who was my son-in-law.

Augustus, Res gestae, 19-21 (edited and adapted)

- The Great Fire of AD 64 and subsequent rebuilding

The Roman historian Tacitus describes the great fire that swept through Rome in July of AD64 and which destroyed much of the city.

A disaster followed, whether accidental or treacherously contrived by the emperor, is uncertain, as authors have given both accounts, worse, however, and more dreadful than any which have ever happened to this city by the violence of fire.

It had its beginning in that part of the circus which adjoins the Palatine and Caelian hills, where, amid the shops containing inflammable wares, the conflagration both broke out and instantly became so fierce and so rapid from the wind that it seized in its grasp the entire length of the circus. For here there were no houses fenced in by solid masonry, or temples surrounded by walls, or any other obstacle to interpose delay. The blaze in its fury ran first through the level portions of the city, then rising to the hills, while it again devastated every place below them, it outstripped all preventive measures; so rapid was the mischief and so completely at its mercy the city, with those narrow winding passages and irregular streets, which characterised old Rome. Added to this were the wailings of terror-stricken women, the feebleness of age, the helpless inexperience of childhood, the crowds who sought to save themselves or others, dragging out the infirm or waiting for them, and by their hurry in the one case, by their delay in the other, aggravating the confusion. Often, while they looked behind them, they were intercepted by flames on their side or in their face. Or if they reached a refuge close at hand, when this too was seized by the fire, they found that, even places, which they had imagined to be remote, were involved in the same calamity. At last, doubting what they should avoid or whither betake themselves, they crowded the streets or flung themselves down in the fields, while some who had lost their all, even their very daily bread, and others out of love for their kinsfolk, whom they had been unable to rescue, perished, though escape was open to them. And no one dared to stop the mischief, because of incessant menaces from a number of persons who forbade the extinguishing of the flames, because again others openly hurled brands, and kept shouting that there was one who gave them authority, either seeking to plunder more freely, or obeying orders.

Tacitus Annals 15, 38

The historian Dio Cassius gives details about the great fire and those who might have been responsible.

He (the emperor Nero) secretly sent out men who pretended to be drunk or engaged in other kinds of mischief, and caused them at first to set fire to one or two or even several buildings in different parts of the city, so that people were at their wits' end, not being able to find any beginning of the trouble nor to put an end to it, though they constantly were aware of many strange sights and sounds. For there was nothing to be seen but many fires, as in a camp, and nothing to be heard from the talk of the people except such exclamations as "This or that is on fire," "Where?" "How did it happen?" "Who kindled it?" "Help?" Extraordinary excitement laid hold on all the citizens in all parts of the city, and they ran about, some in one direction and some in another, as if distracted. Here men assisting their neighbours would learn that their own premises were on fire; before they could reach them, they would be told that they were destroyed..... Meanwhile many who were carrying out their goods and many, too, who were stealing the property of others, kept running into one another and falling over their burdens. It was not possible to go forward nor yet to stand still, but people pushed and were pushed in turn, upset others and were themselves upset. Many were suffocated, many were trampled underfoot; in a word, no evil that can possibly happen to people in such a crisis failed to befall to them. They could not even escape anywhere easily; and if anybody did save himself from the immediate danger, he would fall into another and perish.

Now this did not all take place on a single day, but it lasted for several days and nights alike. Many houses were destroyed for want of anyone to help save them, and many others were set on fire by the same men who came to lend assistance; for the soldiers, including the night watch, having an eye to plunder, instead of putting out fires, kindled new ones. While such scenes were occurring at various points, a wind caught up the flames and carried them indiscriminately against all the buildings that were left. Consequently no one concerned himself any longer about goods or houses, but all the survivors, standing where they thought they were safe, gazed upon what appeared to be a number of scattered islands on fire or many cities all burning at the same time. There was no longer any grieving over personal losses, but they lamented the public calamity, recalling how once before most of the city had been thus laid waste by the Gauls.

While the whole population was in this state of mind and many, crazed by the disaster, were leaping into the very flames, Nero ascended to the roof of the palace, from which there was the best general view of the greater part of the conflagration, and assuming the lyre-player's garb, he sang the "Capture of Troy," as he styled the song himself, though to the enemies of the spectators it was the Capture of Rome.

The calamity which the city then experienced has no parallel before or since, except in the Gallic invasion. The whole Palatine hill, the theatre of Taurus, and nearly two-thirds of the remainder of the city were burned, and countless persons perished. There was no curse that the populace did not invoke upon Nero, though they did not mention his name, but simply cursed in general terms those who had set the city on fire.

Dio Cassius LXI, 16-17 (extract)

The emperor Nero was blamed by the Roman people for starting the great fire; there were rumours that he had been singing songs about the burning of Troy. To get rid of these stories, Nero blamed the Christians. The Roman historian Tacitus explains what happened.

But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration was the result of an order. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called 'Christians' by the populace.....Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths.

Tacitus, Annals 15.44.2-4 (edited)

## A city of contrasts

- Different areas of the city and their features

### The Subura

- The Subura was a densely populated area of the city inhabited mainly by the poor.
- The streets were narrow and would have been very crowded, noisy and dirty.
- Many people lived in apartment blocks (insulae) which had several storeys.

### The poet Martial imagines his friend Juvenal walking through the Subura in Rome.

You, my dear Juvenal, are perhaps restlessly wandering in the noisy Subura .....

Martial epigrams 12, 18 (extract) – translation by BR

### Image of a street in Naples today



Alamy Image ID E768TY

Although this is a modern city, living in the Subura may have had a similar feel, with its narrow crowded streets and high buildings.

### Juvenal describes his friend's decision to leave Rome

Though I'm disturbed by an old friend's departure, still  
I approve his decision to set up home in vacant Cumae  
And devote at least one more citizen to the Sibyl.  
It's the gateway to Baiae, a beautiful coast, sweetly  
Secluded. I prefer Prochyta's isle to the noisy Subura.  
After all, is there anywhere that's so wretched and lonely  
You wouldn't rather be there than in constant danger of fire,  
Of collapsing buildings, and all of the thousand perils  
Of barbarous Rome, with poets reciting all during August!

Juvenal Satires III, 5-9

A room in the emperor Augustus' house on the Palatine Hill



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:House\\_of\\_Livia,\\_Palatine\\_Hill,\\_Rome\\_%2821032831286%29.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:House_of_Livia,_Palatine_Hill,_Rome_%2821032831286%29.jpg)

The palace of Domitian on the Palatine Hill



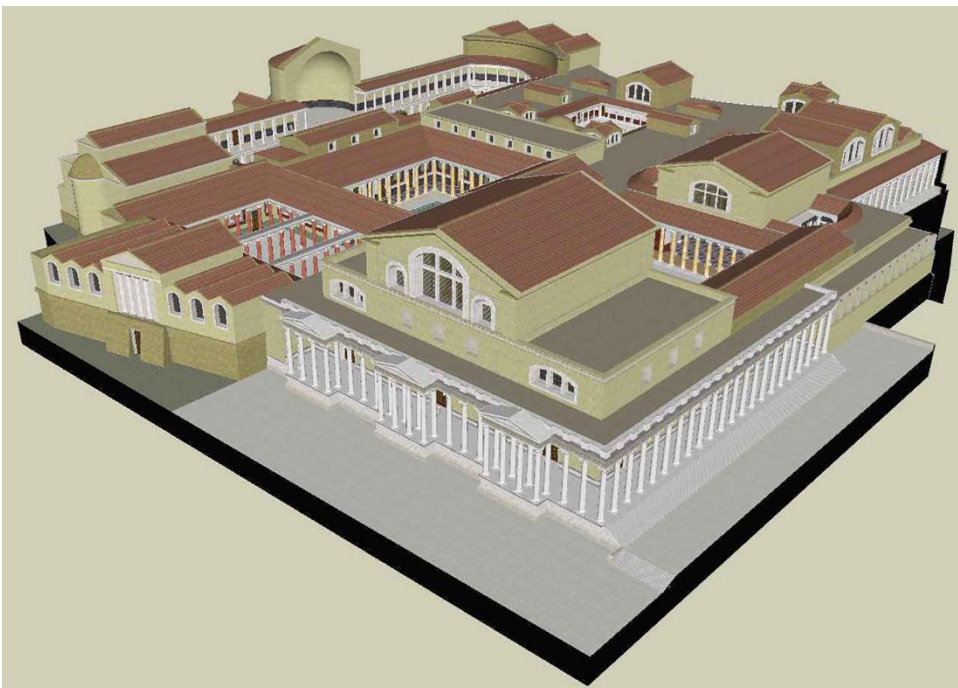
Alamy Image ID HPXBYT

## Domus Augustana on Palatine Hill



Alamy image ID KN9JA

## Diagram of what Domitian's palace may have looked like



<https://3dwarehouse.sketchup.com/user/0577927963115660703512287/LVIIC>

## Model of the Capitoline Hill



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitoline\\_Hill#/media/File:Maquette\\_de\\_Rome\\_\(mus%C3%A9e\\_de\\_la\\_civilisation\\_romaine,\\_Rome\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitoline_Hill#/media/File:Maquette_de_Rome_(mus%C3%A9e_de_la_civilisation_romaine,_Rome).jpg)

- One of the most important buildings here was a huge temple, dedicated to Jupiter Optimus Maximus
- There had been a temple on this site as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC
- This and several later temples were destroyed by fire
- The temple was rebuilt by the emperor Vespasian, then by Domitian, following yet another fire.

- **The Port of Ostia**

- The port of Ostia supplied Rome with food and other goods and had many warehouses.
- Large ships unloaded at the Tiber quays of Ostia
- Small boats could sail up the Tiber to Rome
- In 42 AD, when Claudius was emperor, a huge harbour basin was dug out and connected to the river by channels.
- There was also a huge lighthouse.
- From this time, Ostia was the main harbour of Rome for goods from the western half of the Empire

**A scene showing the port at Ostia**



Alamy Image ID BJW8C5

- A merchant ship is arriving in Ostia
- Another ship is already unloading its wine jars.
- The god of the sea, Neptune, is shown in the centre.
- In the background, the flame from Claudius' lighthouse can be seen.

## Images from Ostia

Mosaic from the office of the captains and merchants on the Square of the Corporations in Ostia.



<http://www.ostia-antica.org/intro.html>

- The mosaic shows a cargo ship with a sail
- The objects either side of the ship are grain measures.

## Mosaic from the Square of the Corporations



<https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/things-to-do/ostia-antica-guide-10-things-you-need-to-see.html>

Aerial view of the centre of Ostia



<https://www.ostia-antica.org/intro.htm>

Large, multi-storeyed apartment building (*insula*), Ostia



<https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/things-to-do/ostia-antica-guide-10-things-you-need-to-see.html>

## The macellum (market), Ostia



<https://www.througheternity.com/en/blog/things-to-do/ostia-antica-guide-10-things-you-need-to-see.html>

## The rich and the poor

I prefer Prochyta's isle to the noisy Subura.  
After all, is there anywhere that's so wretched and lonely  
You wouldn't rather be there than in constant danger of fire,  
Of collapsing buildings, and all of the thousand perils  
Of barbarous Rome, with poets reciting all during August!

Juvenal Satires III, 5-9

## The historian Tacitus describes the effect of flooding from the Tiber on the poorer people, in particular.

The river became hugely swollen and broke down the wooden bridge. Because of the heap of ruins in its path, the water overflowed into not only the low and flat districts of the city, but also many areas that had previously been thought safe from such disaster. Many people were swept away in the streets; many more were cut off in their shops and rooms. The lack of employment and food shortages caused a famine among the people. Apartment blocks had their foundations weakened by the standing water and collapsed when the river retreated.

Tacitus I, 86

## Life in the city of Rome

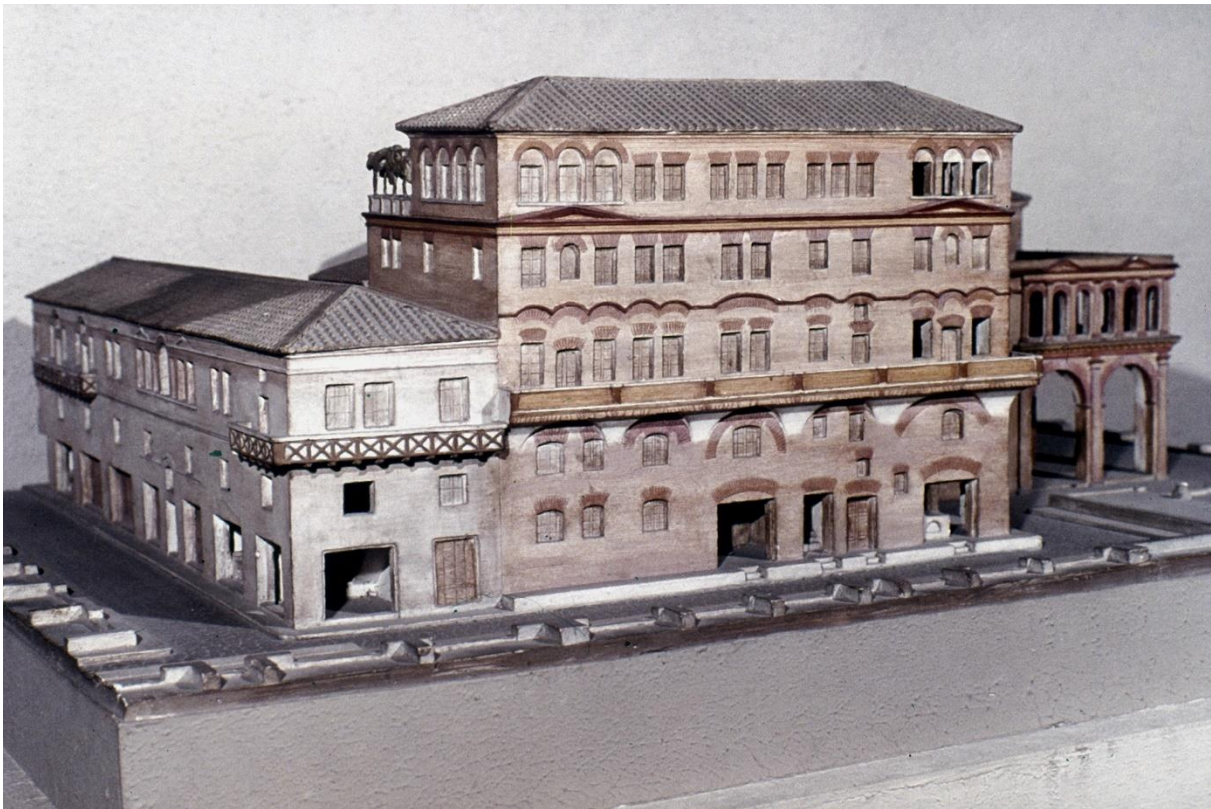
- Houses, apartment blocks and the *domus aurea*

The poet Martial describes how close his apartment block is to the next one.

Novius is my neighbour, and I can reach him by the hand from my windows. Who would not envy me, and think me a lucky man when I may enjoy the company of one so near to me?

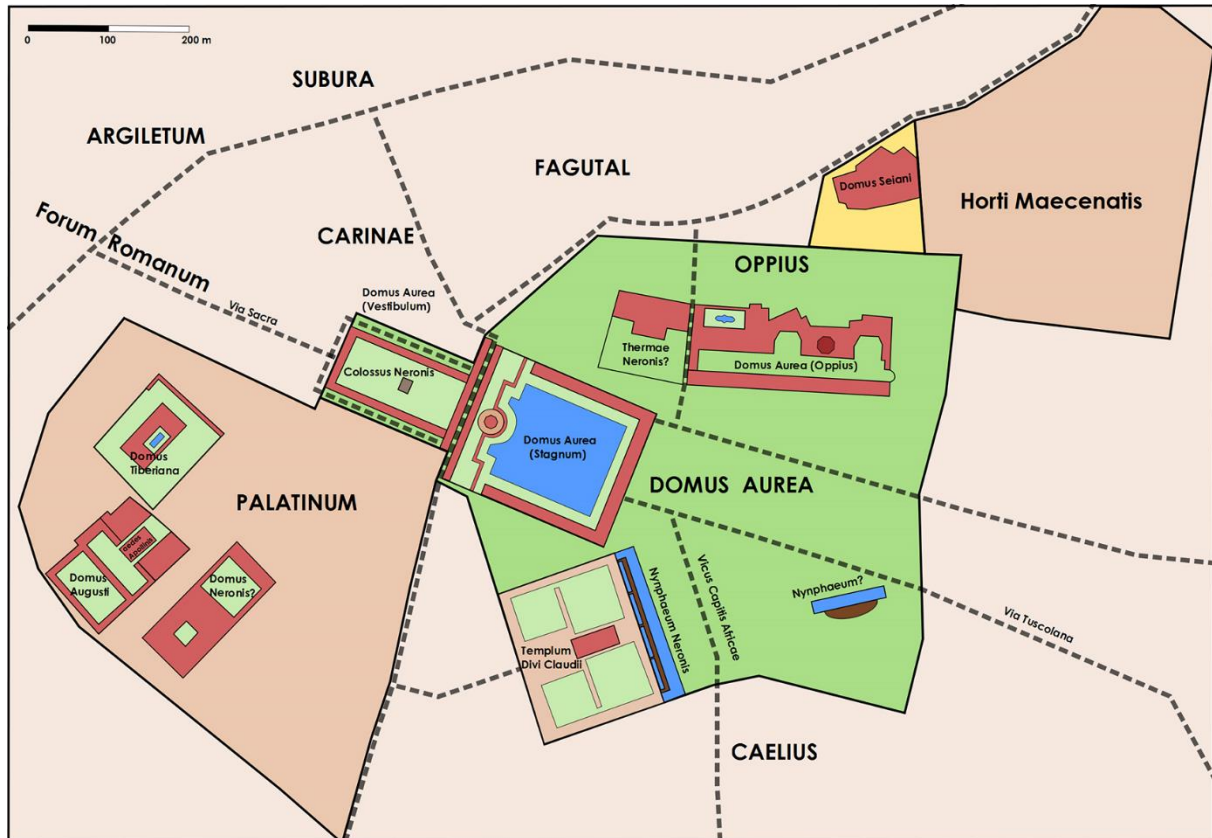
Martial epigrams I, 86, lines 1-2 (edited, translation by BR)

### Model of an apartment block



Alamy Image ID FF8A1K

## Plan of the *Domus aurea*



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=44120540>

- The Domus Aurea (Golden House) was the palace of Roman emperor Nero
- It was built after the fire of 64 A.D.
- It was a vast combination of buildings which were decorated with gold plate and mother of pearl.
- It had a lake surrounded by meadows and vineyards.
- A circular dining room revolved night and day on a four-metre-wide pillar.
- Near the complex was a huge statue of Nero, known as the Colossus.

- Food and water supply

Coin depicting the goddess Annona



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annona\\_%28mythology%29#/media/File:Nero\\_Lugdunum\\_sestertius\\_691535.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annona_%28mythology%29#/media/File:Nero_Lugdunum_sestertius_691535.jpg)

- The coin shows Annona standing on the left with Ceres, goddess of the harvest, seated on the right.
- The Cura Annonae (care of Annona) was a corn dole in which the poorest in Rome were given grain or bread.
- Several emperors used this distribution of food to help feed the citizens and perhaps to avoid civil unrest.
- The poet Juvenal complained that the population cared for nothing except 'bread and circuses', i.e. that they lived off free grain and constant entertainment, such as gladiator shows, which were also free.

### A public toilet, Ostia



Alamy Image ID R065HR

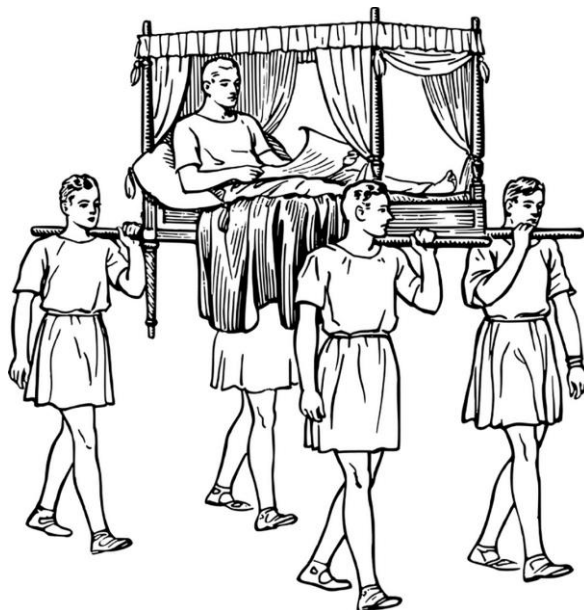
## Ancient Roman Water System, Drains, and Sewers, Roman Aqueducts Uses

- People in Rome originally got their water from springs, wells and the river Tiber but eventually, this was not enough for the growing population.
  - Aqueducts were used to carry water into the city from the surrounding hills. The first aqueduct was built in the fourth century B.C
  - An extensive network of pipes was constructed for the efficient supply of water throughout the city. They supplied water for domestic use, the baths and public toilets before being taken away by the drains and into the sewers.
  - Only the rich had the privilege of water piped into their homes. Most people got water from the public fountains.
- 
- **The inhabitants' experience**

For what lodgings permit any sleep? [Only] with great wealth is it possible to get any sleep in the city. From that [comes] the start of disease. The passing of carriages in the narrow winding alleys and the abuse from a standing herd of cattle will steal any sleep from Drusus and [those] seals! If duty calls, the rich man will be carried along while the crowd gives way; he will run over their faces in his huge Liburnian galley and on the way he will read or write or even sleep inside; for a litter with its windows shut causes sleep. Nevertheless, he will arrive early; when we hurry along, a wave [of people] in front stands in our way, and the crowd which follows in a long line press on our backsides; this man hits me with his elbow, another with a hard pole, meanwhile this man strikes a plank on my head, that man a jar. My legs are thick with mud, soon I am trodden all over by a large foot, and a soldier's hobnail sticks into me in my toe.

JUVENAL, The unpleasantness of city traffic (Satires 3.234-248)

### Image of an ancient Roman litter



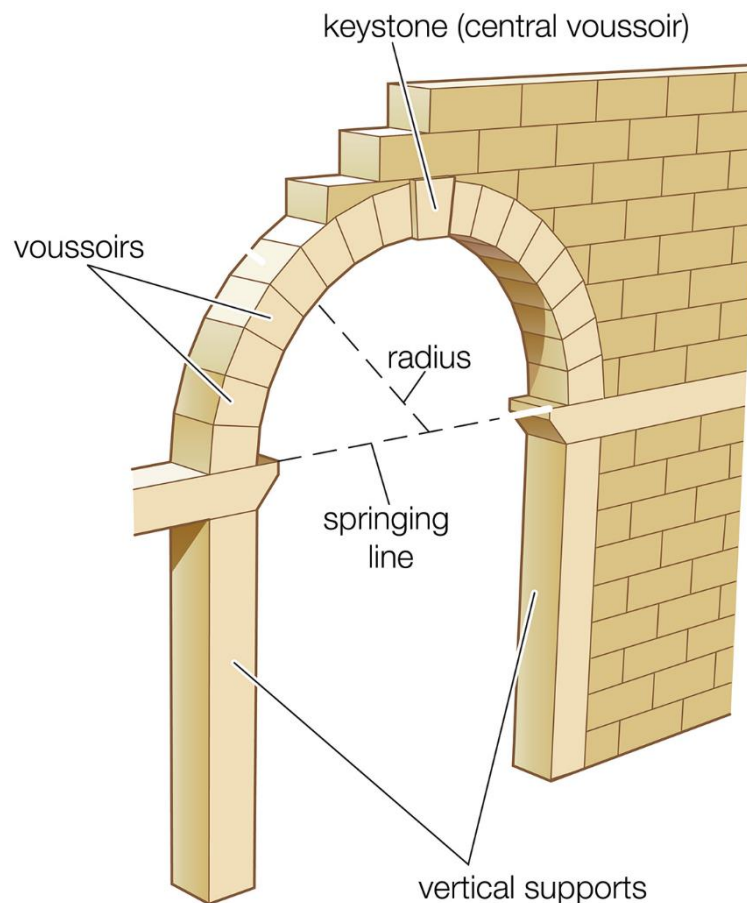
[carriage-2027577\\_960\\_720.png \(693x720\) \(pixabay.com\)](#)

## Buildings and monuments – design, construction and purpose

- Arches, aqueducts and the Cloaca Maxima

Diagram showing how Roman builders used arches

### Parts of a circular arch



<https://c8.alamy.com/comp/BFB272/circular-arch-BFB272.jpg>

### A building revolution

- Roman engineers often used arches to build various constructions, such as aqueducts and amphitheatres.
- A semi-circular wooden frame was built as a foundation for wedge-shaped blocks of stone
- The 'keystone' was inserted at the top.
- This held everything in place when the frame was taken away.
- Not all arch-structures were built of stone
- The Romans also used concrete made from lime mortar, volcanic ash and marble chippings; this was poured into moulds.
- When set, it created an almost indestructible material,
- It could then be faced with marble to make a more attractive finish.

Image of ancient crane (Haterii monument)



Alamy image ID W7EB4C

## Images of the arch of Titus



<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/arch-of-titus-royalty-free-image/152535051?adppopup=true>

## Wall Relief on Arch of Titus



Alamy Image ID RGNKGH

## Images of the Aqua Claudia



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqua\\_Claudia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqua_Claudia)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqua\\_Claudia#/media/File:Aqua\\_Claudia\\_01.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aqua_Claudia#/media/File:Aqua_Claudia_01.jpg)

- To supply its huge population, the Romans built several aqueducts over hundreds of years to bring water into the city.
- These include the Aqua Claudia which was 69 kilometres long and the Aqua Marcia (91 kilometres)
- Most of the water came from the Anio and the Apennine Mountains.
- Similar aqueducts were built all over the Empire, including the Pont du Gard in Provence, France.



- **The Pantheon**

- The Pantheon is situated on the site of an earlier structure of the same name, built around 25 B.C. by statesman, Marcus Agrippa, who was the son-in-law of Augustus, the first Roman emperor.
- It is thought to have been designed as a temple for all the gods.
- It was completed in 126-128 A.D. during the reign of Emperor Hadrian.
- It features a rotunda with a massive domed ceiling that was the largest of its kind when it was built.

**Pliny the Elder describes the decoration of the original Pantheon.**

The capitals of the pillars which were placed by Marcus Agrippa in the Pantheon, are made of Syracusan bronze. [The building] has been decorated by Diogenes of Athens and the Caryatides built by him which form the columns of that temple are considered to be masterpieces of excellence: the same, too, with the statues that are placed upon the roof.

Pliny the Elder, Natural History

**Image of the Pantheon**



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantheon,\\_Rome#/media/File:Pantheon\\_Rom\\_1\\_cropped.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantheon,_Rome#/media/File:Pantheon_Rom_1_cropped.jpg)

## Interior of The Pantheon



<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/pantheon-interior-low-angle-view-royalty-free-image/sb10061711ap-001?adppopup=true>

- **The Circus Maximus**

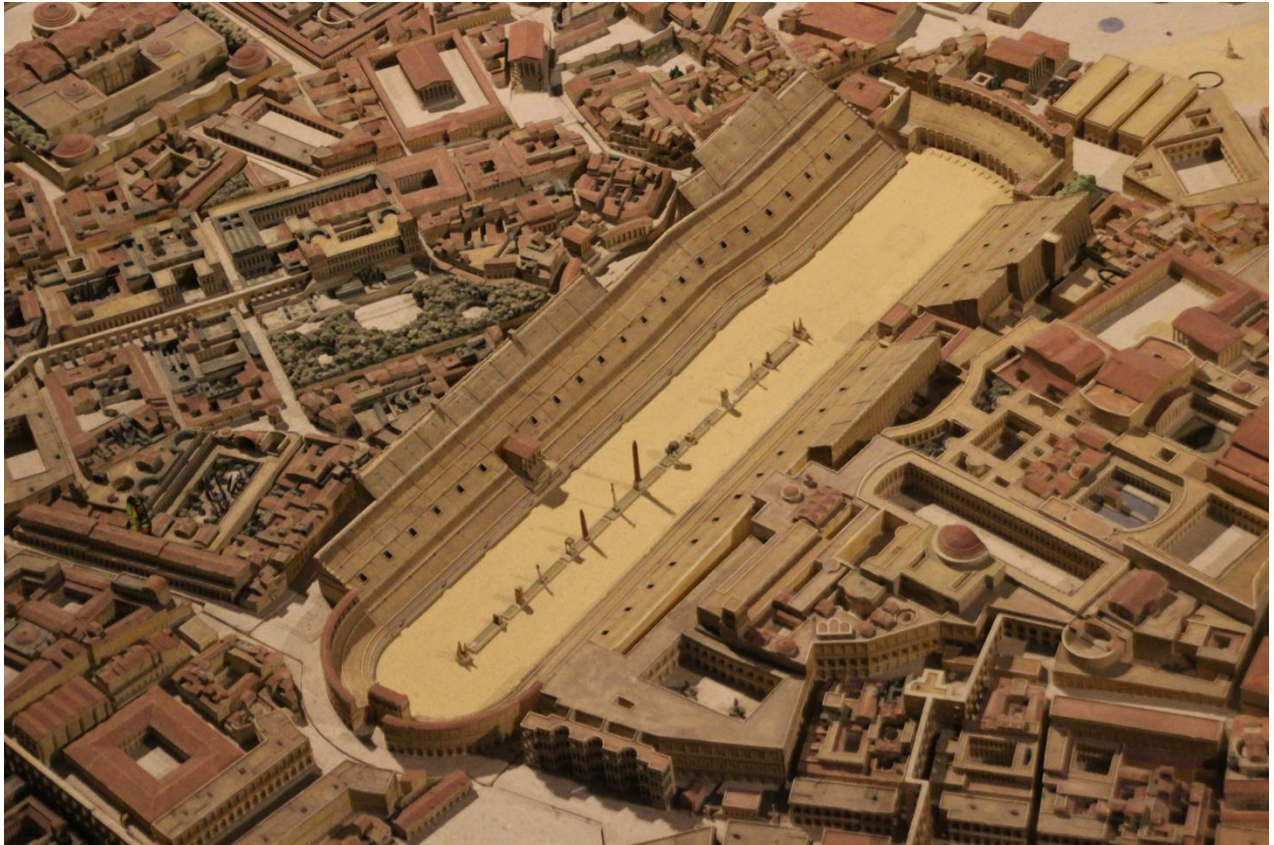
- The Circus Maximus was a stadium built in the valley between the Aventine and Palatine hills in Rome.
- It measured around 600 m by 200 m and could accommodate over 150,000 spectators.
- *Iudi* (public games) were held frequently in Rome and a number of these would have been held in the Circus Maximus.
- Although predominately used for chariot-racing, the Circus Maximus possibly hosted gladiator fights, too.
- The stadium had a spina down the centre around which the chariots raced.
- There was a special box for the emperor and for statues of the gods which were paraded around the stadium before the races began.

### Images of the Circus Maximus



<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/scenic-view-of-circus-maximus-against-sky-royaltyfree-image/643830667?adppopup=tru>

## Plan of the Circus Maximus



The poet Ovid describes going to the circus for another reason.

A great place to pick up a pretty girl is at the Circus. Sit as close as possible to your girl - nothing is out of bounds in the Circus!

Ovid Amores I.139-142.

## The Fora

- The Forum Romanum – buildings, features and importance
  - The Forum Romanum was regarded as the centre of the whole empire.
  - The golden milestone (miliarum aureum) marked the starting point of all the roads that went from the city.
  - The Forum Romanum was also the social and commercial centre of the city of Rome.
  - People would visit the temples there, meet friends and shop.
  - The Senate House was here and a basilica which housed the lawcourt and business centre.
  - The Via Sacra ran through the forum where religious or triumphal processions could be seen.

### Image of the Forum Romanum



<https://pixabay.com/photos/forum-romanum-rome-ancient-italy-4583598/>

### Image of the temple of Vesta



[https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/07/17/21/03/temple-849724\\_\\_340.jpg](https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/07/17/21/03/temple-849724__340.jpg)

Image of the Senate house



Alamy Image ID: E0A3XC

## Image of the rostra in front of the temple of Saturn



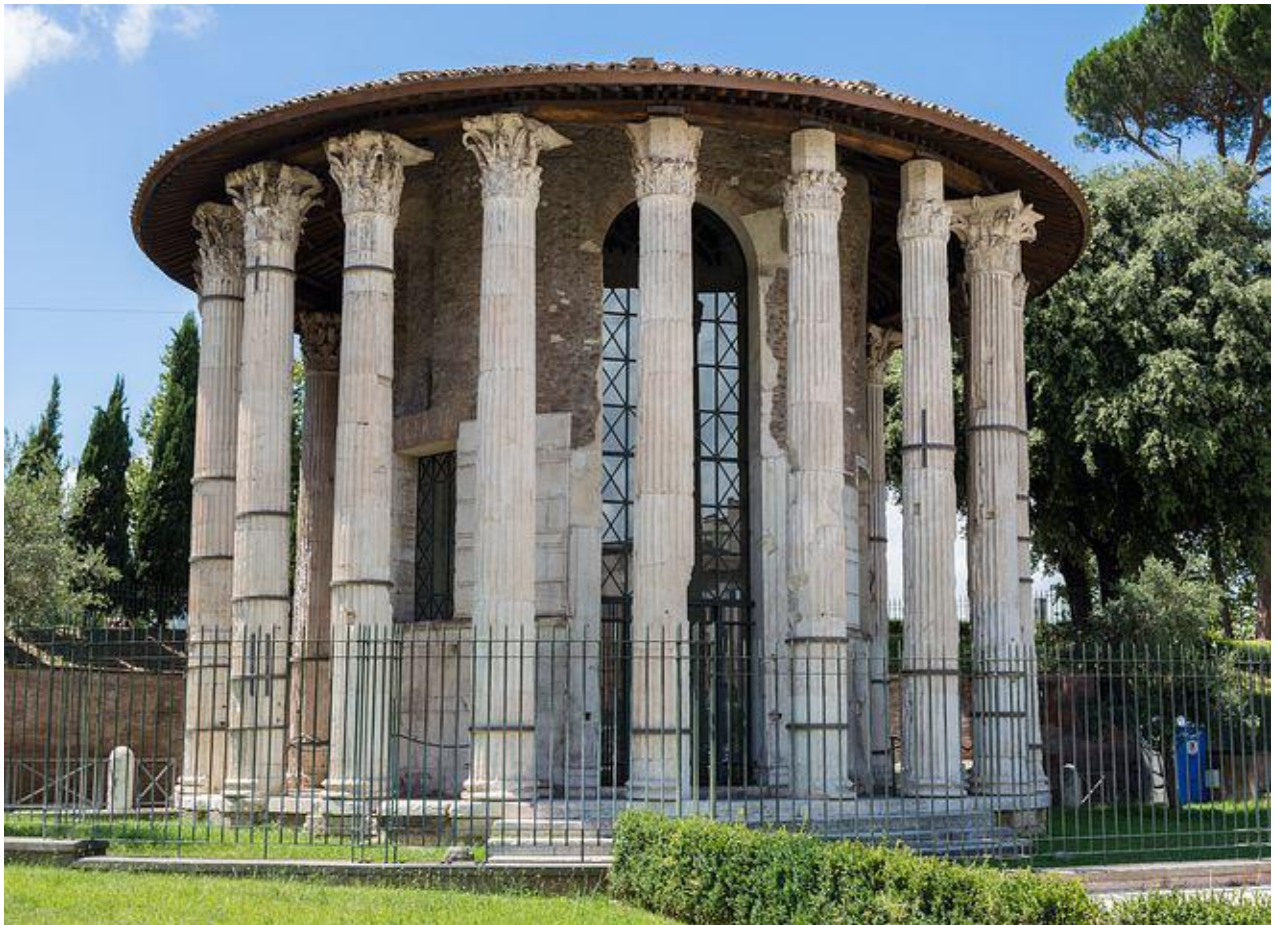
[https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%83%AD%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%E3%83%A9#/media/%E3%83%95%E3%82%A1%E3%82%A4%E3%83%AB:Imagen\\_de\\_los\\_Rostra\\_en\\_el\\_foro\\_romano.jpg](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%83%AD%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%E3%83%A9#/media/%E3%83%95%E3%82%A1%E3%82%A4%E3%83%AB:Imagen_de_los_Rostra_en_el_foro_romano.jpg)

- The Rostra was a large platform from which speeches were made.
- The original Rostra was built as early as the 6th century BC. This Rostra was replaced and enlarged a number of times.
- What remains today stands in front of the temple of Saturn but during its history, the Rostra occupied various positions.
- The platform was given the name Rostra after a naval victory in 338 BC when the prows (rostra) of six of the enemy's ships were attached to it.
- During the late Republic, the Rostra was used as a place to display the heads of defeated political enemies.
- After the orator Cicero was executed in 43BC, Mark Antony ordered Cicero's hands and head to be displayed on the Rostra.
- Brutus and Cassius spoke from the Rostra in the Forum after the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC.

- **The Forum Boarium & Trajan's Forum**

- The forum Boarium was originally a cattle market, located on a level piece of land near the river Tiber.
- As it was close to the docks, it developed into a very busy commercial area.
- The site was also a religious centre with several temples such as the Temple of Hercules Victor.
- This forum was also the site of the first gladiatorial contest in Rome. This took place in 264 BC when Marcus and Decimus Junius Brutus Scaeva put on a gladiatorial combat with three pairs of gladiators in honour of their dead father.

**Image of the temple of Hercules Victor**



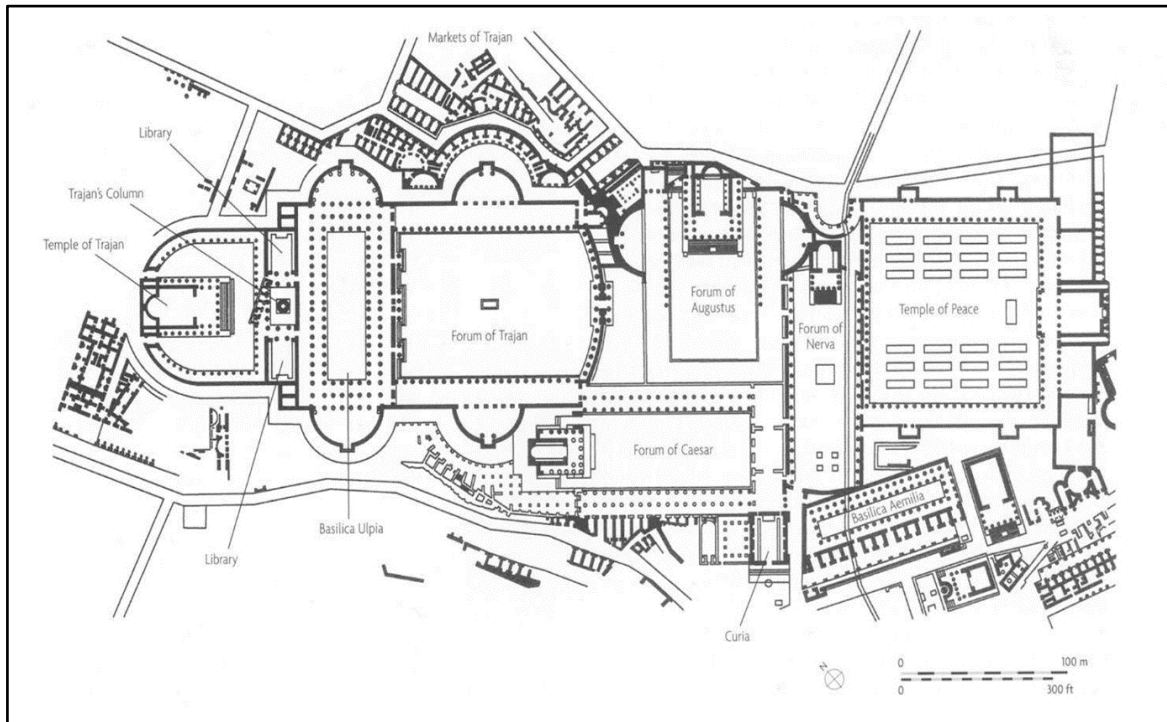
[https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/05/10/14/21/temple-760943\\_\\_480.jpg](https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/05/10/14/21/temple-760943__480.jpg)

Image of the temple of Portunus



<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/temple-of-fortuna-virilis-or-temple-of-portunus-inroyalty-free-image/670745498?adppopup=tru>

Plan showing several fora including Trajan's forum.



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45452846>

## Trajan's Forum

- The Forum consisted of open and enclosed spaces.
- It had a vast courtyard measuring 300 metres by 185 metres.
- The main entrance was through a triumphal arch which commemorated Trajan's victory over the Dacians.
- Close by was the three-storeyed Trajan's Market, and Trajan's column (38 metres high) depicting Trajan's campaigns in Dacia (modern Romania).

## Images of Trajan's column



<https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/trajan-column-inrome-royalty-free-image/626850558>

## Scenes on Trajan's Column depicting Trajan's campaigns



Alamy Image ID CN6TX4

- **Reasons for construction of *fora* and their impact on the city of Rome.**
  - The original forum, the Forum Romanum, was the site of several important ancient government buildings at the centre of the city. Citizens of the ancient city referred to this space, originally a marketplace, as simply the *Forum*.
  - It was the venue for triumphal processions and elections, public speeches and criminal trials. Statues and monuments were put up to commemorate great statesmen. It was a place for people to meet and socialise while surrounded by reminders of Rome's greatness.
  - Subsequent leaders constructed their own fora, many with magnificent buildings, to display their own power and achievements.
  - Julius Caesar's forum was built as an extension to the Roman Forum. It had a temple dedicated to *Venus Genetrix* (Caesar's family claimed to descend from Venus) and a statue of Caesar himself riding Bucephalus, the legendary horse of Alexander the Great, symbolising Caesar's absolute power.
  - The Forum of Augustus included the Temple of Mars Ultor (Mars the Avenger) commemorating Augustus' victory over Brutus and Cassius, the leaders of Caesar's assassination, at the battle of Philippi in 42 BC.
  - Trajan's Forum celebrated his army's conquest of Dacia.