



# Civitavecchia, Italy

## City Information

It's probably fair to say that, while Civitavecchia is strategically superb as a stepping-stone to inland or offshore sights, there's little else to recommend it to the time-limited traveller. Some cheap and cheerful shops are scattered along the seafloor, and there's a small museum in the centre, but the overall impression is of a stop-on-the-line, where you change trains, board a ferry or catch a coach to somewhere more exciting. The Eternal City with the relics of two thousand years of history liberally sprinkled throughout its urban sprawl is apply described as a mammoth outdoor museum. There is nowhere else on earth with such a wealth of monuments, statues, churches, art, and places of archaeological or architectural interest - yet all are unceremoniously surrounded by busy traffic, cluttered souvenir shops, market stalls, designer stores, cafés, bars, eateries and general metropolitan mayhem. Rome is also unique among cities in encompassing an independent sovereign state. The boundaries of the tiny Vatican territory are now completely imperceptible, and yet it has its own postal service, newspaper and radio station - not to mention the biggest church on the globe and among the richest museums.

## Pol Information

**Language:** The official language is Italian. English is not widely spoken but is often understood.

**Currency:** Euro. Foreign exchange is available with cash only from the Exchange Desk on deck 5. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops, cafés and restaurants. Bank and ATM machines are available in the town centre.

**'Arrival' & 'All aboard' times:** Please check on your Island Chat.

## Transportation

**Walking:** The centre of town is approximately half a mile from the port area. This can differ depending on which berth we are in.

**Shuttle Bus:** The port provides a free shuttle bus service that runs regularly throughout the day to take you from the ship to the port gates.

**Taxis:** Taxis are usually available from the quayside and during the day from outside the train station. Taxi fares are metered. Please enquire with your taxi driver before taking your journey. Remember a 10 minute journey cost approximately €10 per taxi.

**Buses:** Public bus stops can be found outside the port gates along the sea front promenade.

**Trains:** The railway station is at the far end of the main thoroughfare, Viale Garibaldi, with services to most major cities and trains to Rome about every hour. It is a 20 minute walk from the port gates. Train services run directly to Rome from Civitavecchia and will take approximately one hour - one hour and a half. The train station to head for when visiting the Vatican City is San Pietro (St. Peter's Square) and for the cities monuments you should use the Stazione Termini. Please ensure that you check train timetables as public transport can sometimes be unreliable. Please make sure that your return train is running as services can be cancelled at the last minute and give yourself plenty of time to return to the ship.

**In Rome:** There are two Metro lines in the city and a network of bus and tram routes. Full day passes can be bought from the ATAC bus & tram station for unlimited travel, and a 10-ticket Metro book is available from ticket booths.

## Local Services

**Banks:** Banks and ATM machines can be found a short distance from the port gates on Corso Centocelle, open from Monday to Friday, 08.00-14.00 in Civitavecchia. (Those in Rome open 08.30-13.30 and 15.00-16.00.)

**Shopping:** The main shopping areas can be found on Piazza Vittorio Emanuele and Corse Centocelle. Shops are generally open between 09.00-13.00 and 17.00-20.00. There are a selection of shops selling leather goods, clothes and shoes. There is a daily market between 08.00-13.00 on Piazza Regina Margherita. This is 10 minutes walk from the port area.

**In Rome:** Via Condotti to Via Sistina for high designer fashion. Via Vittorio Veneto for extensive and expensive stores interspersed with stylish pavement cafés. Via Nazionale for more affordable shops and stores.

## Places of Interest

**Michelangelo Fort:** It is an imposing fortress that the warrior Pope, Giulio II Della Rovere, ordered to be erected to protect the city. The construction, designed by Bramante, begun in 1508 and was completed in 1535 by Michelangelo. This is located at the port gates.

**Taurine Baths:** Famous for their therapeutic properties since ancient Roman times lies just 5 km north of Civitavecchia and can be reached by local bus or taxi.

You can book a trip to the baths or local water park at the tourist information office at the port gates.

**Church of Prayer & Death:** Built in 1685, this small church constructed in the form of a Greek cross became the sea of the ancient confraternity of Death - an institution that has existed since the mid 1500's.

### In Rome:

**The Colosseum:** It's colossal, it's captivating... and, sadly, it's crumbling.

**The Pantheon:** A church since the 7th century, it houses the tombs of the artist Raphael and of Italian kings.

**The Forum:** One of Rome's classics, an entry ticket here also allows you to visit the villa ruins on Palatine Hill.

**The Trevi Fountain:** At Palazzo Poli, throw in your coin and wish to return to Rome.

**Piazza Navona:** For its pavement artists, obelisk and trio of fountains.

**The Vatican:** They say a lifetime isn't long enough to marvel at the works of art.

**The Sistine Chapel:** With its gloriously restored ceiling by Michelangelo.

**Beaches:** There are stoney beaches and a few small sandy beaches along the main promenade, a 5 - 15 minute walk from the port gates.

**Shore Excursions:** Visit the team at the Shore Excursions desk, Deck 5, if you prefer to let us organise a trip for you.

## Safety Notices

If walking alone you should not encounter any difficulties in this pleasant Italian port, which serves Rome, but be vigilant as in any other town or city.

It makes sense to dress for cool comfort if you're going sightseeing in the city. But bear in mind that beachwear should be restricted to beaches, and most churches in Rome and Vatican will refuse entry to people wearing shorts or with shoulders uncovered.

Please be aware that the local train and tourist sights in Rome are notorious for pick pockets, please be extra vigilant when out and about.