

TRAVEL TIPS ROME, ITALY

Travel

To travel to Central Rome from the Fiumicino airport the best choice is the direct train from the airport train station. Buses and taxis are slower than the train. The advantage with the taxi is to go directly to your hotel, but be prepared to show the driver the hotel address in print.

There are two kinds of trains going to Rome from Fiumicino: one is less expensive but does not go to Termini, the main central station, and makes many stops; the direct one is called "Leonardo Express" and goes non-stop to Termini.

The non-stop train ticket is currently 14 Euro.

You may buy the ticket from the vending machine, which speaks English and accepts credit cards; at the newspapers', which does not accept credit cards, sometimes does not speak English but understands the request for a ticket to Rome and has no queue; and at the ticket office, which does not speak English and usually has a long line. Buying the ticket on board is NOT allowed. Stamp the ticket at the stamping machine before boarding the train, not doing so will imply a fine of 50 Euro.

Info in English at:

<http://www.trenitalia.com/cms/v/index.jsp?vnextoid=dd2aeb82a8fbf310VgnVCM1000008916f90aRCRD>. Timetable and online purchase at:

<http://www.trenitalia.com/cms/v/index.jsp?vnextoid=47fd1a035296f310VgnVCM1000005817f90aRCRD> (from: Fiumicino Aeroporto; to: Roma termini).

If you want to take the bus to Termini from Fiumicino, they leave from the bus stop in front of terminal 2. The price varies with companies and is about 5-10 Euro. Check with the driver (in Italian) where to buy the ticket.

If you arrive at the Ciampino airport with a low-cost airline, there is a direct bus to Stazione Termini. The ticket is currently 4-6 Euro. There are several companies. In most cases you may buy the ticket from the driver, sometimes with a small extra. Check at the company desks in the airport. Note that with the ticket of one company you cannot travel with another one, so check the timetable before buying the ticket!

If you want to take a taxi from both airports to the city center, the fare is around 40-50 Euros (check the fares at <http://www.agenziamobilita.roma.it/en/taxi-fares-to-from-airports.html>). The meter will show the full fare of the ride. In any case, get a receipt. Payment is usually done cash.

In all other cases, for trips within Rome, on top of the price indicated by the meter there is an extra for a radio call, for every piece of luggage, and for rides to the Termini station. Prices are in line with any major European city.

Please note that all fares are subject to change – check the tariff posted.

Public transportation in Rome is decent but usually crowded, including the metro. If the weather allows, walking is much more pleasant and often faster. If you decide to go on a bus, tram or metro, the ticket is the same, and you can buy it almost everywhere, but ****not**** on the vehicle. The standard ticket costs 1.50 Euro and is valid for 100 minutes but only one metro ride. It must be stamped the first time you use it. There are other tickets with a one-day validity, for the weekend, or for tourists.

Info and route planner at: <http://www.atac.roma.it/index.asp?lingua=ENG>.

If you come from a country outside the Eurozone, get some change at home or at the airport. Credit cards are sometimes not accepted for small sales and by taxis. There are ATM machines ("Bancomat") and change desks within the airport, and everywhere in Rome.

Accommodation

Unfortunately we cannot assist you in hotel reservations, but here are a few suggestions.

October is a high-season period and Rome is an important tourist destination and advanced booking is always recommended. Perhaps you can book now to get good prices and cancel or change later if you change your plans. Hotels in Rome are usually expensive but there is a wide choice. You can also consider the many bed-and-breakfasts that are in every corner of the city and often offer high standard accommodation.

The official Rome tourism website is at <http://www.turismoroma.it/?lang=en>. Using travel portals like Booking.com, Venere.com, and Trivago.com you can also have big deals.