



Welcome to the Away Goals guide to Rome. We're here to give you the low-down on the Italian capital, from advice on how to get around the city to tips on where's best to eat and drink. We've also got matchday information which you'd do well to familiarise yourself with.

We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable trip, but should the worst happen we've also got the details of who you should contact if you get into any difficulties.

Don't forget that your extremely helpful Fans' Embassy volunteers will be on hand to offer top-notch assistance in answering any questions you may have. We're available on our 24 hour helpline - +44 7956 121 314

THE STADIUM



The Stadio Olimpico is located in the north of Rome, in the Foro Italico Sportpark around 6km from the city centre. It was commissioned by Italy's fascist dictator Benito Mussolini in the 1930s (the complex was initially known as the Foro Mussolini), and the stadium officially opened in 1938. Thankfully the ground has undergone several renovations since then, and now boasts a total capacity of 72,700, with some much-improved facilities within. Home to both Rome's clubs, AS Roma and SS Lazio, it is the scene of some of the most fiercely contested derby matches in Europe.

Manchester United fans have been allocated the Curva Nord (North End) of the stadium. They have an

allocation of 19,500 tickets out of the reduced matchday capacity of just over 66,000. These are priced between €65 and £183 depending upon their location. Barcelona have the same allocation at the Curva Sud (South End), and there were 10,000 tickets available through UEFA.com's public ballot. We suspect, as in previous years, that a large number of these so-called 'neutral' tickets will end up on the black market come matchday. Around 17,000 tickets were given over to the 'football family': UEFA and their sponsors, media and broadcasters, and national associations.

This year is the fourth time that the venue will decide the European Club Champions. The Stadio Olimpico was the scene of 2 of Liverpool's European Cup final victories, in 1977 against Borussia Mönchengladbach and in 1984 against the home side AS Roma. Most recently it hosted Juventus' Champions League victory over Ajax in 1996.

Perhaps ominously, 2 of the 3 previous finals here have gone all the way to a penalty shoot-out.

>> HANDY HINTS

If you're feeling poorly, then look out for '**farmacia**', which is the Italian for chemist. These are open 24 hours on a rota system – the address of the nearest on-duty pharmacy will be posted on the door of chemists when they are closed.

If things are more serious, you'll need to look for an '**ospedale**' or hospital, the largest and most central of which is the **Santo Spirito** hospital on **Lungotevere in Sassia**, not far from the Vatican on the west bank of the river.



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GROUND RULES



The stadium is typically open 3 hours before kick off for a Champions League Final, although times were not confirmed when we went to press. Check with our Fans' Embassy team in Rome for more information on the day of the game.

The usual UEFA stadium rules will apply for the final in respect of prohibited items, so things like knives, fireworks, large flagpoles, sharp objects and bottles will not be allowed into the Stadio Olimpico. Phones and cameras (although not video cameras) should be fine.

UEFA have stressed in the build-up to the match that every ticket holder must present photo ID or be refused entry to the ground. Similar noises are made before all major finals and international competitions and we're yet to see

any large-scale implementation of this rule. Spot checks on some individuals could be carried out, however, although in our experience 'random' checks are never truly random. If you're misbehaving or otherwise drawing attention to yourself around the ground it could give the authorities the chance to enforce this rule and prevent you entering the stadium if you have bought a ticket from a tout or are not in possession of valid ID.

We don't anticipate any problems with this rule, largely because it would be a logistical nightmare for the Italian authorities to check the identity of 66,000 people, but be warned that it may be enforced. This is the first final where a 'smart card' has been issued instead of the usual ticket, and so the authorities are clearly getting more serious about touting.

>> HANDY HINTS

Possession of a match ticket entitles you to free public transport in Rome (metro, bus, tram) from the 26th to the 28th May. It will also allow free entry to the **Musei Capitolini** and the **Ara Pacis**.

There will likely be an initial ticket cordon operating a hundred yards or so away from the ground on the Foro Italico Sportpark on matchday – this is a primary check to make sure that fans have valid tickets, and to ensure that ticketless fans can not get as far as the turnstiles. Fans and their bags will also be searched going through this cordon. This may well take some time and create a 'bottleneck', so we advise fans to head to the ground earlier than you ordinarily would.

Being a UEFA game, no alcohol will be sold inside the Stadio Olimpico. There are refreshment kiosks inside the stadium, however, selling food and soft drinks.

Unlike other 'normal' European games, fans will not be held back after the final whistle as there are no 'home' or 'away' supporters – the winning team usually stay in the ground for some while celebrating while the defeated team's fans slope off quietly into the city, so we expect no problems outside the ground, apart from the inevitable traffic jams.



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GETTING TO THE GROUND

Free buses will be laid on to get to the stadium on matchday from **Villa Borghese**, and we advise fans to make use of these as the best and safest way of getting to/from the stadium.

Villa Borghese is the largest public park in Rome, and the main entrance is at **Piazza del Popolo** (at the end of the well-known **Via Veneto** to the north of the city centre), and is around 5 minutes walk north from the Spanish Steps at **Piazza di Spagna**. The nearest metro is **Spagna**, on the Red Line (**Linea A**), from where the coaches are only a brief walk away. These will be running for several hours up until kick-off, and we'd advise fans to head to the ground a little earlier than they normally would for a game in England, as queues and delays around the ground can be par for the course in big matches such as the Champions League Final. The Roman traffic, too, is something to behold.

If however you decide that you would still rather make your own way to the ground by standard public transport, don't forget that a match ticket entitles the holder to free travel on the Rome buses, Metros and trams from May 26th through to the 28th.

The routes to the ground by public transport would involve either heading for the **Ottoviano** Metro station via the red line (**linea A**), and then

from there taking a number 32 bus towards **Tor di Quinto**; or, from outside the Termini railway station taking a 910 bus towards **Piazza Antonio Mancini** to the end of the line: from there it's a walk through the park and across the **Ponte Duca D'Aosta** bridge.

Anyone considering the latter route however would be well advised to take heed of our advice in the column to the right, headed "Staying Safe in Rome".

A taxi to the ground would normally cost no more than €15; however, traffic conditions prior to the game – and immediately after – could make for a long slow ride spent ruefully watching the total on the meter mount up.

We have also been told that free buses will be laid on after the match to take fans back to the airport. If you're on an organised day-trip then this is the best option for you. For full information on the travel arrangements make sure to look up our Fans' Embassy volunteers in Rome on the Tuesday or Wednesday as we'll have full confirmation of all the matchday arrangements.

>> HANDY HINTS

If you're unable to find a programme vendor, then these are also on sale online through www.themagazineshop.com, so you'll be able to get a brand new copy on your return to England.



STAYING SAFE IN ROME

It's no secret that English football fans following their team to Rome in the past have been the victims of violent attacks from sections of the Roma ultras, and have also on occasion received rough treatment at the hands, or batons, of the local police.

Manchester United fans have had their own direct experience of this, but it has by no means been limited to supporters of one club, with Middlesbrough fans in the UEFA Cup and more recently Arsenal fans in the Champions League having also been subject to stabbings and assaults.

Lessons learnt from these experiences include avoiding the Metro station at **Piazzale Flaminio** and the **Ponte Duca D'Aosta** bridge, as this route has often been the scene of unprovoked attacks. Similarly, the **Campo De Fiori** square has on more than one occasion been the scene of problems.

That said, it's also quite possible that the Champions League final could be a different experience. It's a neutral venue for two visiting teams, and there's been no suggestion that locals who turn out looking for trouble at their "home" games will be making a nuisance of themselves this week. To be on the safe side though, avoid the past trouble spots and use the free buses to the ground.



Website: www.fsf.org.uk

FSF helpline: +44 7956 121314



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Rome has an integrated public transport system of metro, bus and tram. Tickets must be bought before boarding, and can be obtained from 'tabacchi' (tobacconist stalls, signalled by a big 'T' sign, which are dotted around throughout the city) or from the machines or booths at major metro and tram stops.

One ticket allows you on any mode of transport, so you can hop from metro to bus to tram as much as you please. There are a few different types of ticket. A 'Biglietto' is a single ticket that costs €1, and is valid on all public transport for 75 minutes. **Giornaliero** and **Turistico** are daily and 3-day tickets which cost €4 and €11 respectively.

Whatever form of public transport you're taking, you must **convalidare** or validate your ticket when you first board – this time-stamps the ticket to show when it was first used, and therefore when it will expire. Daily tickets are valid until midnight. Inspectors travel around the network and will issue fines if you do not have a valid ticket, so beware – they have been known to march offenders to the nearest cashpoint to get them to cough up! If you are in possession of a match ticket, however, you have free, unlimited access to public transport all day from Tuesday 26th to Thursday 28th May.

We'd advise fans to take care when on public transport, as pickpockets are known to operate, particularly on the metro. Store any valuables (wal-



lets, passports, phones) in separate bags or pockets, and keep an eye on your belongings.

Most of the sights in the historic centre of Rome (**Centro Storico**) are within walking distance of each other, but the metro is a handy method of covering longer distances. The Rome metro is pretty simple, as it only has two lines, **Linea A** (Red Line) and **Linea B** (Blue Line). The Red Line runs from northwest to southeast, passing by the **Vatican**, the **Spanish Steps** and the **Trevi Fountain**. The Blue line, runs from northeast to southwest runs past the **Colosseum**. Trains run from 0530 to approximately 2330, and later on Fridays and Saturdays. For full info, see the map above.

If you're getting a taxi in Rome, then you are only allowed to pick these up from official taxi ranks (**fermata**

dei taxi) – hardly any taxis will stop in the street if you try to flag them down. Taxi ranks can be found at all the major squares throughout the city, and at Termini station.

>> HANDY HINTS

If you arrive with no hotel reservation, the APT tourist office at 5 Via Parigi will provide you with a list of hotels - www.romaturismo.com

Between 7am and 10pm, there is a hotel reservation service, costing €6, at Termini station, in the hall parallel to platform 24

Alternatively, the Enjoy Rome tourist information agency at 8A Via Marghera offers a free booking service, finding available rooms for you - www.enjoyrome.com



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 EATING AND DRINKING


Naturally it's pizza and pasta that form the main part of the menus around town, so it's probably a good idea for you to know your *neapolitana* from your *calzone*, and your *rigatoni* from your *gnocchi*.

You should be looking to pay around €15 per person for a meal consisting of bruschetta or other starters, pizza/pasta and a drink or two. There are plenty of reasonably priced restaurants around, so it shouldn't be too hard to look after the pennies. The house wines are usually of a pretty good standard, too – after all, no self-respecting Roman restaurant owner would want to be known for serving poor quality wine. Prices start from around €5 a bottle.

Our advice? 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do'. If the restaurant you find yourself in is packed with locals, chances are you've stumbled upon somewhere worth dining. A general rule of thumb for finding the best in Roman cuisine is not to eat in the immediate vicinity of the major tourist-traps. The food is likely

to be both of a poorer standard and a higher price – not the best combination. If you see a menu translated into 5 or 6 languages, with lots of pictures of the dishes on offer, we'd advise you to swerve it.

When it comes to drinking, there are plenty of Irish bars dotted throughout the city, with a number of them within walking distance of each other in the city centre (**Centro Storico**). Experience tells us that these will all do a roaring trade when the English are in town!

Finnegan's Irish Pub (on **Via Leonina**), along with **Mulligans** (which is located just off the main road **Via Nazionale**) and **The Fiddler's Elbow** (on **Via dell'Olmata**) are all within a couple of minutes walk of Cavour metro, about 10 minutes to the north of the Colosseum, in an area that's dotted with other smaller bars and restaurants.

Elsewhere, **Piazza Navona**, to the west of the Pantheon, also has a great reputation for its nightlife, with the streets around it packed with bars, restaurants and even a McDonald's. The **Via di Monte Testaccio** and the area around it (a couple of minutes walk west of **Piramide** metro) boasts just about the highest concentration of bars, music venues and restaurants in Rome. The **Trastevere** district (west of the river) in particular is noted for its nightlife, and is home to some of the best, and cheapest, *trattorie* and *ristoranti*. There's really no need to worry, though - you're never likely to

be far away from some good food and drink wherever you are in the city.

If you're looking to grab some grub on the hoof during the day, then there are plenty of small outlets around the city selling pizza by the slice, and you should be able to grab some decent takeaway with prices starting from around €2. If you're looking to save some cash, then Rome is full of public drinking fountains, from the famous springs beneath the city. The water is perfectly safe to drink, and carrying round a bottle to fill up throughout the day is a good way of avoiding paying for plenty of soft drinks to keep you hydrated.

 ITALIAN PHRASE GUIDE

A few phrases it may be handy to know when making your way around Rome, so you can hopefully avoid talking English in an Italian accent like that fella from 'Allo Allo'.

Hello/Good day – **Buongiorno**
 Goodbye – **Arrivederci** or **Ciao**
 Excuse me – **Mi scusi**
 Please – **Per favore**
 Thank You – **Grazie**
 Where is..? – **Dov'è..?** (pronounced *doh-vay*)
 Do you speak English? – **Parla Inglese?**
 How much (does it cost)? – **Quanto Costa?**
 I'll have one/two/three/four/five beer(s) – **Prendo uno/due/tre/quattro/cinque Birra(s)**

