







People-watch on the Spanish Steps.

Free Agents Limited/Corbis

children and refresh your own memory on 3,000 years of Roman history (\$13/50/adults, \$11/kids; [time-elevator.it](http://time-elevator.it)).

**GETTING AROUND**

A good map is a lifeline. One, called Roma, (\$4) is sold at most newsstands. Another, available in Rome at newsstands and bookstores, is Rome Today. It costs more but offers greater detail.

Two public buses offer popular get-on-get-off tours of the major monuments: **ATAC** (about \$16; [atac.roma.it](http://atac.roma.it)) and **Archeobus** (about \$10; [romeguide.it](http://romeguide.it)). The latter tours the Appian Way, the most famous road built by the ancient Romans. Both depart from the Piazza Venezia, just below the massive Vittorio Emmanuel Memorial (it looks like a wedding-cake). Private tour-bus companies, such as **Stop-n-Go City Tours** ([romecitytours.com](http://romecitytours.com)) and **Ciao Roma** ([romeguide.it](http://romeguide.it)), offer day passes (about \$22/pp). A few dollars buys a metro or bus ride.

Or, tour the city by tram. One favorite is the #3, a slow-paced ride through various picturesque neighborhoods and aqueducts, across the Tiber and through the Borghese Gardens (\$2.50).

Older kids might like a walking tour. **Enjoy Rome** has English archaeologist guides, and you'll see the major sights in three hours (\$18/up to age 26, 21 euros age 27 and up; [enjoyrome.com](http://enjoyrome.com)).

Taxis aren't cheap; a speedy exit during toddler breakdowns costs at least \$10 for a 10-minute ride. Yellow or white cabs are official (check for meters); there are technically illegal meters. Luggage is



For the kids, it's always gelato time.

**GETTING THERE**

**Alitalia** ([alitalia.com](http://alitalia.com)) and **Delta** ([delta.com](http://delta.com)) currently offer the cheapest nonstop fares from Newark to Rome's Fiumicino Airport. As of press time, a roundtrip adult fare cost approximately \$568.

Shave off about \$150 for a stopover. Kids under 2 sitting on a lap can usually fly with just a ticketing charge (about \$100); older kids can sometimes get as deep as a two-thirds discount. Ask your carrier for specifics.

For a night out sans bambini, call **Angels** for an English-speaking nanny. This helpful service is run by a British expat; sitters start at just \$5 per hour, plus a one-time agency fee. Book in advance at (39) 06 3600 1724. **J.H.C.**

To get into the city from Fiumicino: Taxis run about \$61, so it's better to book with an airport minivan or limo service to your hotel. Try **Rome Shuttle** (\$55/pp one way; [rome-shuttle.com](http://rome-shuttle.com)) or **Airport Shuttle** (\$36/first person, \$18 each additional, one way; [airportshuttle.it](http://airportshuttle.it)).

**SWEET DREAMS**  
**6 cheap sleeps**

1. **Sant'Anna**, near the Vatican, is a gorgeous "three-star" in a 16th-century building (from \$175/night; [39] 06-688-01602, [hotelsantanna.com](http://hotelsantanna.com)).
2. **Hotel Julia**, near the Spanish Steps, has an elegant façade, clean, minimalist rooms and a low-

- key feel (from \$154 for a "junior" suite; [39] 06-488-1637, [hoteljulia.it](http://hoteljulia.it)).
3. **Hotel Madrid**, also near the Spanish Steps, offers great views from the roof terrace and nice if generic rooms (from \$150/double, [39] 06-699-1511, [hotelmadridroma.com](http://hotelmadridroma.com)).
  4. For a funkier vibe (i.e., vintage-modern furniture and an on-site gallery), consider **The Bee-Hive**

- (from \$95/double, no private bath; [39] 06-447-04553, [the-beehive.com](http://the-beehive.com)).
5. **Albergo del Sole**, near Piazza Navona, is a 600-year-old, restored landmark with patios (from \$110; [39] 06-687-9446, [solealbiscione.it](http://solealbiscione.it)).
  6. Also try an **Italian B&B association**, such as [romaturismo.it](http://romaturismo.it), [bbitalia.it](http://bbitalia.it) and [b-b.rm.it](http://b-b.rm.it). Book with care if it's a family home. **J.H.C.**

**CHEAP EATS**

Neighborhood trattorias and pizzerias offer cozy settings and big portions. You won't find kids' menus, but restaurants will usually make a *mezzo piatto* (half-plate).

Gelato, in hundreds of intense fruit and nut flavors, is worth a daily indulgence. We also carried snacks from home (gummy chews and cereal bars) to use as bribes and fuel.

**Dar Pallaro** offers several large courses and wine for \$25/pp (Campo dei Fiori).

Along the blocks east and west of **Piazza Navona**, you'll find inexpensive, quality restaurants packed almost side by side. And home-style cooking at reasonable prices can be found in the historic **Jewish Ghetto** nabe.

If you're across the river in Trastevere, some say **Pizzeria da Baffetto** is Rome's best. Feed four for approximately \$37; it doesn't get much better than that (Via Governo Vecchio 114).

And **Da Gildo** has multi-course meals for about \$31/pp (Via della Scala 31a).

**INFO**

For more free stuff, visit [toursofrome.com/tourist/cityguide/rome/for.free](http://toursofrome.com/tourist/cityguide/rome/for.free).