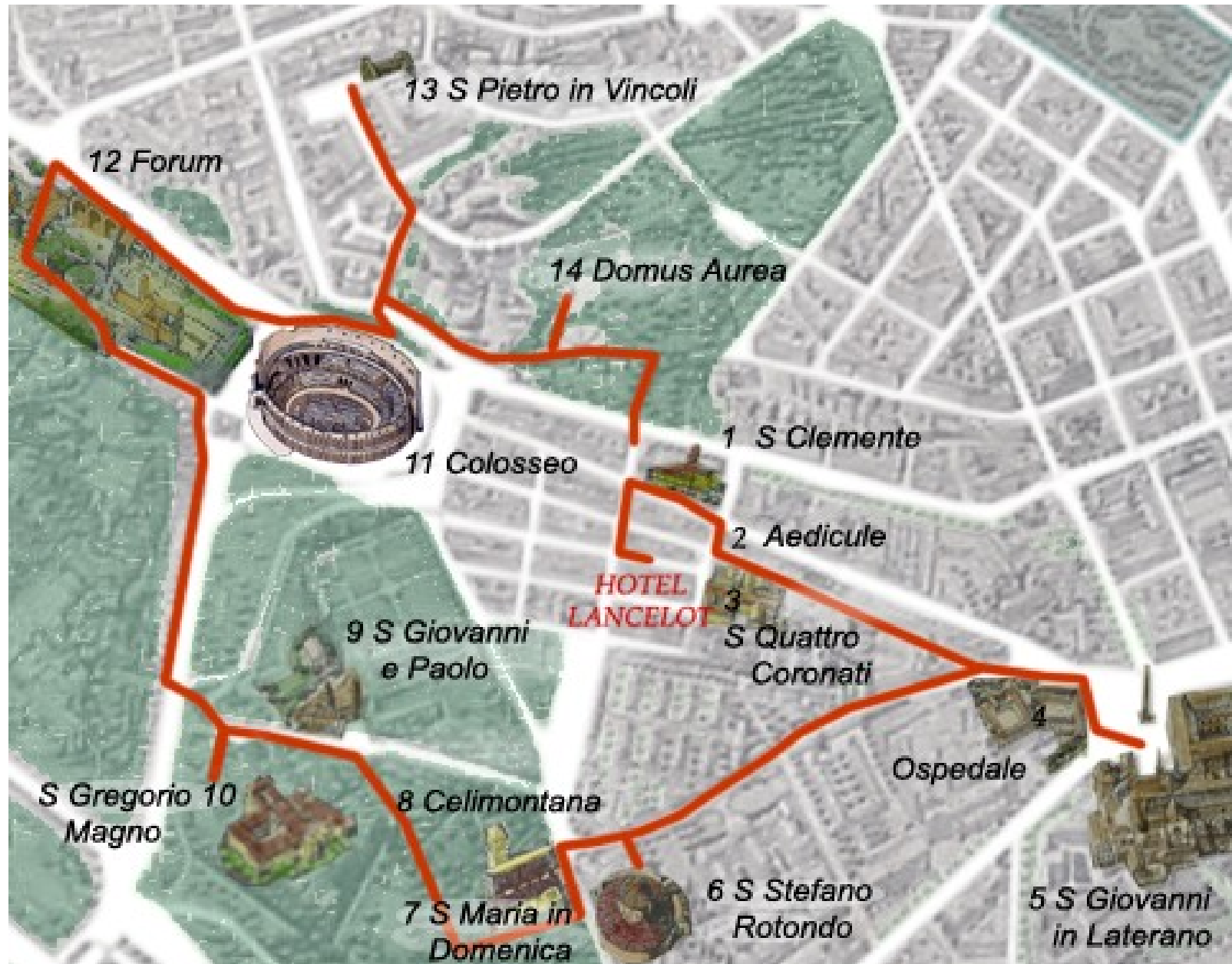


Hotel Lancelot Walks & Itineraries

Neighbourhood Walks



The churches, parks and monuments of this walk are all within easy walking distance of the Hotel. Each site can be visited individually or all together in a circuit route. The circuit route is about 2 kms.

San Clemente - Via San Giovanni in Laterano

This basilica, less than a block away from Hotel Lancelot, is one of the most fascinating sites in Rome: you can time travel through three layers of history, one on top of the other, to experience Rome's long and continuously changing history. The upper level of the current church dates back to the 12th century, the level below to the 4th century and the foundations to antiquity. The excavations under this church provide a dramatic introduction to Rome's living history. (Entrance to the excavations is on the right side of the church)

Aedicule housing an image of the Madonna

At the foot of the slope leading to S. Quattro Coronati there is possibly one of the most ancient sacred images in the streets of Rome. The shrine is located along the pope's procession route to S. Giovanni in Laterano. The madonnella is most likely a 15th century painting though documents from the 10th century refer to the existence of this image.

Santi Quattro Coronati

The Santi Quattro Coronati basilica dates back to the 4th century. The silent and beautiful cloister with delicately carved pillars and 12th century fountain will take you back in time.

The 'Parlatorio' - a tiny chapel with 12th century frescos - is well worth a visit. The chapel is on the right of the inner courtyard. You will need to ask for the key for which a small donation should be offered.

Ospedali di San Giovanni in Laterano

The hospital was founded by Innocentius III in 1204 and was extensively rebuilt by Pope Sixtus V when he rebuilt the area. Pope Sixtus also wanted to build a direct route from S. Giovanni to St. Peter and had ordered the demolition of the Colosseum. Fortunately he was dissuaded from this. S. Giovanni is still one of the main hospitals of Rome. The old ward is now used as the public reception area. Note the medieval entrance to the hospital in the street leading to the Colosseum.

San Giovanni in Laterano

San Giovanni was built around 313, and is Rome's official cathedral. Little remains of the original basilica and additions continued to be made throughout the centuries. The interior was last transformed in 1646 by Borromini, whereas the facade, surmounted by 15 huge statues, was designed by Alessandro Galilei in 1735.

Santo Stefano Rotondo

This church, with its rare circular structure, is one of the oldest in Rome and is interesting for its unusual shape. The marvellous circular hall contains 22 Ionic columns, and the walls are frescoed with graphic scenes of ghastly martyrdoms.

S. Maria in Domenica

The church is one of the oldest deaneries in Rome, rebuilt by Pope Pasquale I in 817. Cardinal Giovanni de' Medici (who later became Pope Leo X) built the portico under Innocentius VIII. The mosaic work inside is worth a view.

The ship or Navicella fountain is a copy of a Roman marble found in the area. The theme of the little ship appears again in the beautiful late Renaissance wooden ceiling of the church.

Villa Celimontana (Villa Mattei).

Villa Celimonana was built in 1582 by Ciriaco Mattei and is also known as Villa Mattei. Today the villa houses the National Geographic Society of Italy. The villa gardens offer many delightful walks and vistas. *proceeding through the arch in the aqueduct.*

San Giovanni e Paolo

The square has hardly changed since medieval times.

The portico dates from the 12th century and is embellished by columns of Roman origin. The chapel with the dome is a 14th century addition. Excavations beneath this church have revealed Roman houses of the first and second centuries used as places of Christian worship.

San Gregorio Magno

The old church built in 575 was thoroughly restored by Cardinal Scipione Borghese in 1633. Giambattista Soria built the steps and a new theatrical (false) façade which leads to an atrium and then to the church.

The Colosseum

This famous monument is at the end of the street from the Hotel Lancelot. Tickets are required. To avoid long queues you could consider purchasing a "combo" multi-site ticket from a less frequented museum or from the Palatine entrance close to the Colosseum.

The Imperial Roman Forum

The Roman Forum and the Palatine hill are next to the Colosseum. Access to most of the Forum area is now free. However, a ticket is required to visit the adjoining Palatine hill.

San Pietro in Vincoli

Houses the mighty Moses by Michelangelo. Conserved in the reliquary on the main altar are the chains said to have been used to shackle Saint Peter in Jerusalem.

Domus Aurea - Nero's Golden Palace

Due to heavy rainfall in December 2005, the site has been closed to the public.