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National Geographic Traveler: Rome, 4th Edition



Synopsis

From the beautiful Spanish Steps to the heights of Palatine Hill, Rome experts Sari Gilbert and Michael Brouse guide you through this historic and vibrant city. Illustrated with more than 120 vivid photographs and more than 20 detailed, full-color maps, the 4th edition of National Geographic Traveler: Rome gives you every tool you need to plan a trip to this fascinating city. Starting with an introduction to Rome's storied history and culture, the book then explores each of the city's regions, covering every corner of town in detail. Sites covered include the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Arch of Constantine, the Roman and Imperial Forums, the Trevi Fountain, and the sublime ceiling of the Vatican Museums' Sistine Chapel. These, the many amazing museums that dot the city, and more are covered in lively detail. • Special features and sidebars give comprehensive information on topics ranging from the Roman emperors to the importance of coffee and caf  s to the city's residents. Experiential sidebars abound, including culinary classes on exquisite Roman cuisine, Italian language classes, and archaeological digs that delve deep into the city's past. In addition, the book features six detailed guided walks into the nooks and crannies of some of the city's most fascinating districts. A thorough, updated Travelwise section provides recommendations for shopping, hotels, and restaurants in all price ranges and in all areas. Whether you're planning to visit St. Peter's Square in the Holy See or the richly ornate Galleria Borghese museum, the newly updated National Geographic Traveler: Rome has all the information you need to plan an exceptional stay in Italy's capital city. • The National Geographic Traveler series is aimed at active travelers who want authentic, enriching, cultural experiences and look to a guidebook for expert advice and insider tips from a trustworthy source. We offer ways for people to experience a place rather than just visit, and give the feel of each destination not easily found online. •

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in New York, SARI GILBERT has been a journalist in Rome for more than 25 years. Currently on the staff of the Italian journal *Il Sole*, she has written for the New York Times, The Toronto Star, and The Washington Post, as well as numerous magazines such as Travel and Leisure, Signature, TV Guide, Newsweek, and Connoisseur. Also a longtime resident of Rome, MICHAEL BROUSE writes about art and the great monuments, and takes visitors on much acclaimed walking tours.

Planning a for this fall NG traveler is a great tool loaded with lot of tips and hotel info I would recommend to anyone planning a trip

The travel guide industry is booming. Many firms are publishing detailed travel guides. At one time the definitive authors were Michelin and Frommer. Today there is a virtual cornucopia of travel guides for almost any city or region. Each has its strengths and weaknesses. We are planning a trip to Rome, so when this guide popped up on my Vine list I snatched it. I wanted to compare it to an excellent Rick Steve's Guide to Rome as well as a DK Books Rome Guide. I was equally impressed and disappointed with the National Geographic guide to Rome. First, the good stuff. The National Geographic Guide has, as you might expect, excellent images and photography, on par with what DK offers. In addition, the National Geographic guide has in-depth history for each site it describes, probably more historical narrative than any other guide. Now for the not so great: The National Geographic Guide is so focused on photography and history that it often misses or leaves out important travel tips, like when a site opens, or critical information about when to visit to avoid crowds. There were several key sites where I found it hard to find information on ticket costs, opening and closing times and so forth. These basics are the most important part when scheduling a trip, and I was surprised at the difficulty I had in finding the material. What we are considering to do is to take the Rick Steve's book, which is rich in detail about how to get to the sites and how to navigate the sites, with the National Geographic book, which has rich detail on the history and good photos. Together they'll make an excellent combination. Forced to take only one, however, and I'd take Rick Steve's or perhaps the DK book before the National Geographic guide.

This book begins with the history and the culture Rome. Then the book is divided into eleven different geographic locations to visit, plus a final chapter on excursions. There is so much information in the book...including "Off the Beaten Path," and "authentic Experiences." The book is well researched and covers a great deal of history and modern facts. The book is intentionally lightweight and small so you can use it as a travel companion...you can even carry this inside your handbag. The font size offsets the benefit of the convenient size...these are small words, though line spacing is adequate so the words do not smash together!! I especially liked the "How to Be a Geo-Savvy Traveler" in the beginning of the book, the insider tips and the incredible photographs.

If you're visiting Rome for a couple of days and are more or less unfamiliar with the city...this well illustrated book is an excellent choice for steering you through the city. While it doesn't provide the most in-depth possible coverage of ANY site...it provides sufficient coverage. So for example, let's say you have two days in Rome and you want to visit the Colosseum, Vatican & St. Peter's and perhaps quick visits to the Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Spanish Steps. This book will help get you there and it will give you enough education about those sites that you will feel well-informed. You'll easily deal with transportation (or walking), you'll get good tips on dining and hotels. You'll even get an idea of what other places you might visit: "oh, we're at the Coliseum and it's REALLY near the church of St. Peter in Chains...let's spend 10 minutes there." It's a very thorough, though "surface" level guide. On the other hand, let's say you want to spend two full days JUST at the Vatican Museums. Then you might want a more focused book. But this Nat Geo guide is not intended for the immersive visitor. Don't expect that, and you'll be WELL pleased. I like this book particularly well because it has, I feel, more big, full color photos than you usually get. It's a fun book to look at even if you're NOT going to Rome. It's of durable stock (I point that out, because while I love Rick Steves' guide books, they are on cheap paper that actually smudges sometimes). And I like it because it spends time on more obscure sites. For example, Santa Maria Maggiore, which usually gets maybe one paragraph in most books, gets two pages here. I like that "second tier" sites get enough coverage that you can actually make a more informed decision about whether to add them to your itinerary. Highly recommended!

1. Graphic images that show x-ray cut away, inside important structures
2. Great photography without wasting full pages on it
3. Interesting details about history & place
4. Interesting and sometimes "live like a local" call out boxes that are a nice detour
This book weaves all of those elements together, in a nice, tight, and not too big guide book. I really enjoyed it, and it will live on my

bookshelves for a long time. I'm waiting for wonderful Kindle versions of guide books, but until then, I'm sticking with this format.

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