

# The Anglican Centre in Rome

## Practical advice for visitors to Rome and those coming on courses at the Anglican Centre.

### General advice

**Weather:** Rome's weather is unpredictable. May and June can be very warm, though evenings may be quite a lot cooler than daytime. Sunblock and a hat would be a good idea from May through to September, especially if you will be attending a Papal audience outside. In early October it may still be warm during the day, but cooler after dark. It can rain and rain hard at any time of year, though late October through April is the most usual time to find yourself in a violent thunder storm.

**Dress:** Except for the young or the very bold, Italians tend to dress a little more formally than English people or Americans, although this is changing. Visitors to churches should be appropriately dressed, which means no shorts or bermudas, no sleeveless shirts or skimpy tops, no mini-skirts. It is good to remember that in many places you will be seen as representing Anglicans world-wide. For Papal audiences a conservative look can be the key to a good seat and clergy will probably want to wear clerical dress, women as well as men. Rome is a city for walking, so bring comfortable shoes to help you manage the cobble stones.

### Some Useful Things to Bring

Continental electricity adaptors

Fly repellent / bite cream

You may wish to make sure you have a pincode for your credit card before you leave home, as this is becoming more generally accepted than a signature.

---

### Arrival from the airport into the city

#### I. From Fiumicino Airport (Leonardo da Vinci) (30 km from the centre of Rome)

##### Taxis

Make sure you use the official taxi service, located at the taxi stand outside the airport. Do not respond to people approaching you offering a taxi before you reach the taxi stand. They are legal but unpredictably-priced private car hire companies. The Rome Local Transport Authorities guarantee a flat rate of 40€ from Fiumicino airport to the city centre ('inside the city walls'), including reasonable luggage for up to four people. However, just to complicate things, local City of Fiumicino taxis are allowed to charge €60 (to compensate for their return journey to their home base) and there is a sign to say so at the head of the taxi rank. Therefore it is worth checking before you get in a taxi by saying, "Quaranta euro?" or "Forty euros?" Where there is an agreed fare, the metre will not be turned on.

##### Train Service

There is a train station in the airport – follow the signs. You should take the Leonardo Express which goes straight to the central train station ('Termini') with no in-between stops. Trains run at least every half hour and take about half an hour into the city. Tickets cost about 12 € and can be purchased from the automated machines in the train station at the airport or from one of the "tabacchi" convenience stores at the airport. Before you get on the train, make sure you stamp or validate your train ticket by slipping it into one of the yellow machines by the platform.

Once you have arrived at Termini, go out the main entrance to the official taxi stand. If your taxi driver is honest and the traffic isn't too bad, a ride to anywhere in the centre shouldn't cost much more than 10 - 15€. Each piece of luggage in the boot costs 1€.

### **Important Notice about Taxis**

Please use only official taxis (usually white these days). Always be sure to catch taxis at official taxi stands: these exist at airports, stations and at different places in the city, including Piazza Venezia, near the Anglican Centre. Check that the metre is on when you start the journey. The tariff will be slightly higher on Sundays and public holidays, and after 10 pm at night. There is a small extra charge for luggage (1 euro per bag big enough to go in the trunk). Unfortunately even official taxi drivers may take the 'longest route', so a taxi ride can be quite expensive for those who do not know the city and do not speak Italian.

## **2. From Ciampino Airport (15 km from the city centre)**

### **Taxis**

Make sure you use the official taxi service, located at the taxi stand outside the airport. The Rome Local Transport Authorities guarantee a flat rate of 30€ from Ciampino airport into the city centre ('inside the city walls'), including reasonable luggage for up to four people. It can be worth checking before you get in a taxi by saying, "Trenta euro?" or "Thirty euro?" Where there is an agreed fare, there will be no metre turned on.

### **Coach Service (there is no train service from Ciampino into the city)**

Take the shuttle bus from outside the airport to Termini Station, the main train station in the centre of Rome. Bus tickets can be purchased from the kiosk inside the airport or from an attendant outside the bus.

Once you have arrived at Termini station, you will need to walk around to its main entrance to the official taxi stand. If your taxi driver is honest and the traffic isn't too bad, a ride to anywhere in the centre shouldn't cost more than 10 - 15€. Each piece of luggage in the boot costs 1€.

If you are familiar with Rome and your luggage is light, you may use the Metro or buses from Termini station to your destination.

Those staying at the **Domus Internationalis Paulus VI** may wish to see the instructions at [www.domuspaulusvi.com](http://www.domuspaulusvi.com).

---

### **Pickpockets, bag snatchers, etc:**

Rome is generally a very safe place in terms of mugging and physical assault. However thieving is unfortunately very common. Tourists are particularly vulnerable, especially when tired and jet-lagged, and in crowded places such as St Peter's, the Forum and the Pantheon areas, on buses (the 64 bus in particular) and the Metro.

Stay alert!

Before you reach Termini Station, make sure your passport and flight ticket are safely hidden in your handbag or on your person and do not take your eyes off your luggage in the station.

In general:

For women: Ideally handbags should have a long strap so they can be worn across your body.

Close your handbag, place it in front of you rather than behind in crowded places and hold onto its opening. In a café, place it in your lap or under your feet rather than hanging it from your chair.

For men: In crowded places, place your hand on your wallet or valuables. Do not keep items of value in back pockets in particular.

Thieves often work in twos, one to distract and one to do the dirty work. If in trouble, yell!  
Thieves do not like being the centre of attention, and you will attract Italian assistance!

---

## **Finding The Anglican Centre**

To help you find the Anglican Centre, it is strongly recommended that you print off the *Download map and Detailed Directions* from our website. You might also like to look at the photos in the *Where we are* section of the website under 'Our story' to help you recognise the piazza, the building and the door.

**Entering the Anglican Centre:** Wherever you find a closed door, you should also find a key pad. The code for ringing the Anglican Centre is 7 + bell icon. When you arrive for the first time, ring at the street entrance and we will help you up. We will then provide you with instructions on how to manage entry during your stay.

**Courses:** Please make every effort to be punctual for the start of each session, since otherwise someone will have to stay in the library to let stragglers in.

---

**Tuesday Eucharist and lunch:** On Tuesdays we celebrate the Eucharist at 12.45. You are welcome to have a few moments of quiet in the chapel before the Eucharist. The lunch afterwards provides an opportunity for participants in a course to meet some of our regulars, as well as other visitors to Rome.

## **Internet**

You are welcome to use our wireless network with your own computers while in the Centre. We are sorry that we cannot allow visitors and students on our courses to use our office computers to check their email. However, there are many internet cafés around the city, including one very close to the Anglican Centre, where you can keep up with your mail.

**Relaxation:** You are very welcome to make yourself tea and coffee in the seminar room, and to relax in the Salone during free time in the course. The Caffé Doria downstairs may provide you with welcome refreshment at times. It's useful to know that if you stand at any bar in Italy, your coffee will be much less expensive than if you sit at a table. You pay at the cash register before ordering at the bar and it is usual to leave a small tip (10 or 20c).

We will be happy to assist you if we can during your visit, and at the end of your stay we will welcome your feedback. We aim to make your time here as pleasant and fruitful as we can.