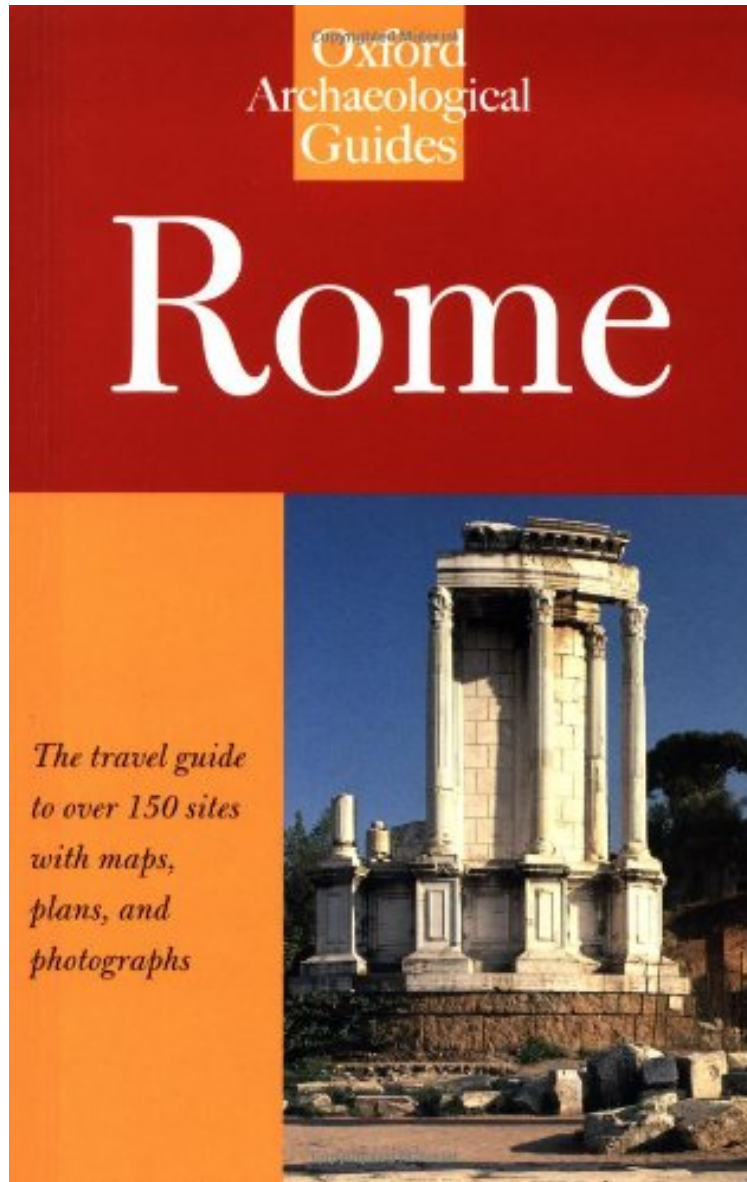


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Rome: An Oxford Archaeological Guide (Oxford Archaeological Guides)

Amanda Claridge, Judith Toms, Tony Cubberley
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Amanda Claridge, Judith Toms, Tony Cubberley : Rome: An Oxford Archaeological Guide (Oxford Archaeological Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rome: An Oxford Archaeological Guide (Oxford Archaeological Guides):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Guide to Ancient Rome By R. Alessi I just returned from Rome, using this book as my primary guide. We were able to identify almost every random bit of ancient archaeology sticking out of the ground as we walked about the city, and if you've been to Rome, you'll understand how impressive that is. A major shortcoming that I noticed is that the book treats the ancient-era churches very lightly: while the myths of gods such as Pollux and Castor are frequently referenced in relation to the ancient sites, the C1 AD story of Saint Clement is inexplicably left out of the section on the church of San Clemente constructed by Constantine. Also, as the author states in the beginning, the intent of this guide is to detail ancient Rome only. If you are interested in medieval, Renaissance, or ecclesiastic history, you will certainly need a supplemental guide. Now, for the advantages... The guide systematically presents every ancient structure in Rome (we were never disappointed), providing a very good map at the beginning of each chapter for a major area (e.g. the Palatine, Field of Mars) to help you identify what you are looking at. The site is laid out in a sort of walking tour format and if you begin at the point suggested, you can follow the chapter page by page as it logically guides you through the region. We did find that writing in page references for each location on the map at the beginning made the book much easier to use. For more complicated buildings, additional diagrams are provided in the appropriate subsection where it is further detailed. The Baths of Caracalla are a superb example of this. While Claridge delves a bit too thoroughly into the exact type of marble used in the facing and floors of each building, you find yourself recognizing the materials and envisioning the baths, basilicas, and forums as they might have looked clad in Phrygian red and Numidian yellow marbles. With frequent referencing, we soon became familiar with Caracalla, Domitian, and Nerva as we viewed the great construction projects they enacted. The author presents quite clearly the historical origin and significance of each site as well as its original appearance (if known) and the many refurbishments it went through with the frequent fires of Rome. For our trip, we opted out of taking any tours, and we didn't feel we missed anything. We were often surrounded by tours and gained more information from our book than the guide was sharing with his group. You never know how reliable a guide really is, and with this book, you can be assured of Amanda Claridge's credentials. The trip became a bit of a mystery adventure for us as we excitedly reconstructed the ruins around us into the elegant structures they once were. Even if you do decide to go with a more mainstream guide book for your trip to Rome, you will find this one to be an invaluable supplement for all those tidbits that the major guides just don't have time to cover. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best guidebook to Rome for someone interested in "Rome" By L. S. Reed Wow, what an outstanding, thorough book. It's not going to substitute for the "guidebook," since it doesn't tell you much about the art museums or the Trevi Fountain or the Spanish Steps. But it sure gives a great overview of the Roman era. It does two different things very, very well. First, it gives a meticulous overview of the "big" sites that are listed in all the guidebooks: the Forum, Capitoline Hill, the Column of Marcus Aurelius, etc. It gives details about the specific buildings, eras, etc. in these better-known sites. More information than a person with a casual interest in history needs, but if you want to know more details, this is the book for you. But then it also gives directions to obscure little Roman remains that aren't listed in any guidebook -- this foundation of this house, the basement of this restaurant, etc. For someone with a serious interest in Roman history and archaeology, this is an outstanding trip planning aid. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Superb Guidance By M. Cotone Ms. Claridge's guide is well-organized, superbly illustrated, and bound to make it easier for first-time visitors (and even old hands) to find their way around Rome's ancient monuments and remains. I lived in Rome for several years, had previously taught its ancient history and language, still learned a few new things from this delightful little guide, and plan to recommend as "homework" for the next group of friends and relatives with whom I travel there. My sole negative criticism is that a bit more explanation of why the Romans placed their public buildings where they did (and tended to keep them there over the centuries, even through the shift from paganism to Christianity) would have made this book even more enlightening. That aside, a "bravissimi!" to Ms. Claridge and her collaborators.

The city of Rome is the largest archaeological site in the world This guide provides: * Coverage of all the important sites in the city of Rome from 800BC to AD 600 * 150 high-quality site plans, maps, diagrams, and photographs * Sites divided into eight main areas, with star ratings to help you prioritize your visit: The Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill The Imperial Forums of Caesar, Augustus, Nerva, and Trajan Campus Martius and Tiber Island The Capitoline, Forum Boarium, and Circus Maximus The Colosseum, its Valley, and the Esquiline The Caelian, the Baths of Caracalla, and Via Appia The Baths of Diocletian, the Lateran, Porta Maggiore, and the Pyramid Museums and Catacombs * An introduction offering essential background to the culture and history of ancient Rome, highlighting the nature of Roman achievement, and explaining how Rome came to be the largest city in the ancient world * Information about museums and opening times, a chronology for reference, and a glossary of essential terms

.com The city of Rome is the largest archeological site in the world. If your idea of a good Roman holiday is uncovering the archeological mysteries of the Roman Empire, then Oxford Archeological Guides: Rome is your ideal guidebook. For such a detailed guide, this book is remarkably readable. Of the Field of Mars (Campus Martius), Claridge writes, It is the one part of Rome which continued to be quite densely inhabited after the C9 AD, becoming

the center of the late medieval and Renaissance city, and is still densely inhabited today, an extraordinary blend of past and present even for Rome. The Stock Exchange occupies a Roman temple, the boiler-rooms of the offices of the Senate are set in the ruins of Roman thermal baths, a modern theatre nestles in the shell of a Roman theatre. Many of the streets are on the lines of ancient streets, and the walls of the buildings on either side of them are often balanced directly on top of Roman walls. Among this Oxford guide's special features are 200 site plans, maps, diagrams, and photographs; a cultural and historical overview; a chronological overview; and a glossary of essential terms. It uses star ratings to help you plan your days and divides Rome into 12 main areas: the Roman Forum, Upper Via Sacra, Palatine Hill, Imperial Forums, Campus Martius, Capitoline Hill, Circus Flaminius to Circus Maximus, Colosseum Valley and Esquiline Hill, Caelian Hill and the Via Appia, other sites, museums, and catacombs. Shaded sidebars add anecdotal interest, covering issues such as the Seven Hills, Jupiter's Dining Room, Tomb of Bibulus, the "Province" Reliefs, Madam Lucretia, Nero's New Palace, and Gladiatorial Shows. --Kathryn True`The Oxford Archaeological Guides offer a wealth of detailed, accurate but always readable information, providing anyone who has a serious interest in archaeology with the means to derive the utmost benefit from a visit to an ancient site. They are user-friendly and highly recommended.' Paul Bahn

About the Author
Amanda Claridge was formerly Deputy-Director of the British School at Rome and is currently attached to the Archaeology Department at Oxford University. She has lived and studied in Rome for many years and has developed an intimate knowledge of the archaeological sites in Rome and the surrounding area.