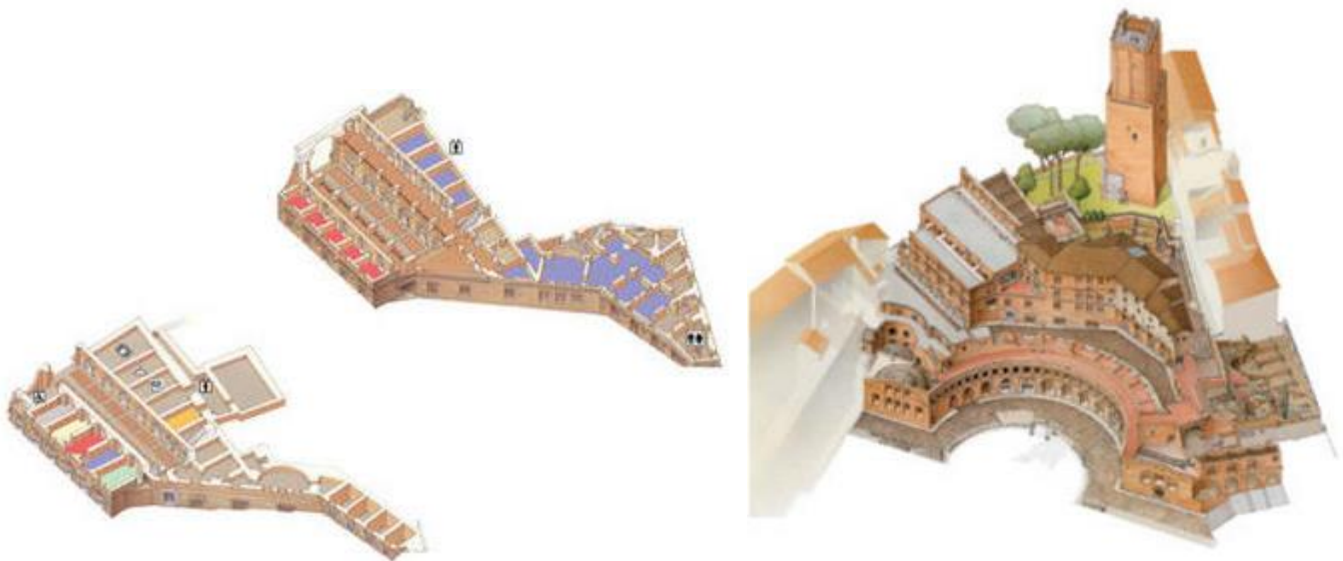
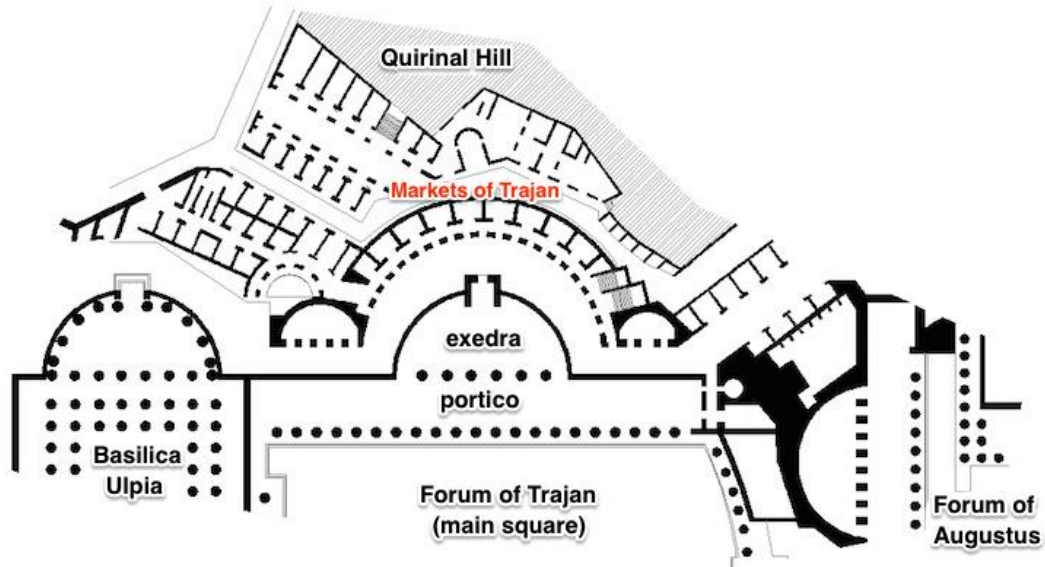


# Mercati de Traianoi Trajan's Market Museo dei Fori Imperiali

Via Quattro (4) Novembre 94, 00187  
(Across from Hotel)  
9:30 AM – 7:30 PM 13 €



Trajan's Market was probably **built in 100-110 AD by Apollodorus of Damascus, an architect who always followed Trajan in his adventures and to whom Trajan entrusted the planning of his Forum**, and inaugurated in **113 AD**. During the **Middle Ages the complex was transformed by adding floor levels**, still visible today, and defensive elements such as the Torre delle Milizie, the "militia tower" built in 1200. A convent, which was later built in this area, was demolished at the beginning of the twentieth century to restore Trajan's Markets to the city of Rome.

Trajan's Market (Latin: Mercatus Traiani, Italian: Mercati di Traiano) is a large complex of ruins in the city of Rome, Italy, **located on the Via dei Fori Imperiali, at the opposite end to the Colosseum**. The surviving buildings and structures, built as an integral part of Trajan's Forum and nestled against the **excavated flank of the Quirinal Hill**, present a living model of life in the Roman capital and a glimpse at the restoration in the city, which reveals new treasures and insights about Ancient Roman architecture.

Thought to be the world's oldest shopping mall, the arcades in Trajan's Market are now believed by many to be **administrative offices for Emperor Trajan**. The shops and apartments were built in a multi-level structure and it is still possible to visit several of the levels. Highlights include delicate marble floors and the remains of a library.

The external brick Roman complex, popularly known as the Markets of Trajan and today found in the heart of the modern city, has been miraculously handed down to us. Sited next to the great squares of the Imperial Forums the monument encompasses almost two thousand years of the city's history. The marks impressed upon its structure through time preserves the memories of the men and women who frequented, used and reused its spaces in so many different ways.

To maintain the cutting made into the side of the Quirinal Hill a **complex system of anti-chambers on six levels was conceived**. The structure **exemplified the construction technique of cement pouring** coupled with various types of vault coverings. Together they made for flexibility in the height difference through "lining" the cutting and at the same time provided the communication links between the monumental public spaces of the Antiquarium Forense (Forum District) and the dispersed residential quarters of the Quirinal Hill and the Subura (suburbs).

Due to the dismantlement of the raised sections, it is now all but impossible to perceive what the construction would have hidden, almost crushed, behind the western perimeter walls of its **Great Hemicycle**. Even with only a partial vision of **the complex, now crowded out by pedestrian pathways and other buildings**, we can only image the impact the 40 meter high Markets of Trajan must have had, especially when placed in its historical context.

### **ROUTE THROUGH THE ROOMS**

The Museum is located at the northern entrance of the archaeological area of the which is why a multi-medial introduction to the entire Fora precinct is located on the ground floor of the Great Hall along with other rooms, each home to a particularly significant piece that symbolizes the Forum to which it is dedicated. The upper floor of the Hall is home to two sections, one (on the via Biberatica side), dedicated to Caesar's Forum, and the other "Memories of the Ancient Past", that features sculptures and architectural elements from the Temple of Mars Ultor that have been known about and reproduced from the 15th century onwards.

On that same floor, the museum route continues through the rooms of the Central Body dedicated to the architectural-sculptural decorations of the porticoes, exedras and Hall of the Colossus in the Forum of Augustus. Items that have been loaned, as well as copies of pieces that no longer exist in Rome are also on display, some of which are only known about because whatever appeared in Rome was frequently, and quite quickly imitated by the Fora in the provincial capitals too.