

Ancient Rome's Timeline

Iron Age Italy

1. 1200 BC – Beginning of the Iron Age
 - The Latini migrate to Italy and settle the area later known as Latium
2. 1000 BC – Etruscan tribes move into Italy
 - First settlements on the Palatine Hill
3. 753 BC – Traditional Founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus
 - Romulus rules Rome from 753 - 716 BC
4. 700 BC – Etruscan culture dominates northern Italy
5. 700 - 500 BC – Rome prospers under Etruscan rule and grows from a small farming village into a wealthy city
6. 600 BC – Romans build the Forum
7. 578 BC – Romans construct the first sewer – the Cloaca Maxima

Era of the Roman Republic

1. 509 BC – Rome overthrows the Etruscan monarchy and establishes the Roman Republic
 - The temple of Jupiter Capitolinus is built on the Capitoline Hill
2. 496 BC – Romans defeat the Etruscans and Latins at the Battle of Lake Regillus
3. 450 BC – Rome creates the world's first ever, written constitution – the Twelve Tables of the Roman law
4. 396 BC – Rome conquers the Etruscan city of Veii
5. 387 BC – Gauls from the modern Po Valley sack Rome
6. 343 - 275 BC – Rome completes its conquest of the Italian Peninsula
 - 343 BC – Rome declares war on the Samnites, resulting in the First Samnite War; Rome absorbs Campania
 - 338 BC – Rome defeats the Latin League and their city-states are absorbed into the Republic
 - 326 - 308 BC – Rome fights the 2nd Samnite War and wins
 - During 2nd Samnite War, Rome adopts the maniple based army structure
Maniple-based legions would make Rome the greatest fighting force of the ancient world
 - 308 BC – Rome conquers the Etruscan city of Tarquinia
 - 298 - 290 BC – Rome wins the 3rd Samnite War against the Samnites, Etruscans, Umbrians, and Gauls, absorbing the territories of the Etruscans in northern Italy, the Umbrians in central Italy and the Samnites in southern Italy
 - 295 BC – Rome defeats the Gauls in northern Italy
 - 283 BC – The Pyrrhic War begins: Rome loses three battles to the Greek General Pyrrhus of Epirus but wins the war since the battles are too costly to the Greeks
 - 275 BC – Rome conquers southern Italy (Greek colonies)
7. 329 BC – The Circus Maximus is built

8. 312 BC – Appius Claudius Caecus builds the first Roman road from Rome south to near Naples; it is named the Via Appia
 - Appius Claudius Caecus builds the first aqueduct into Rome, the Aqua Appia
9. 287 BC – The *Lex Hortensia* is passed making plebiscites, referenda voted on by the entire electorate, the status of law
10. 280 BC – Rome issues coins
11. 272 BC – A second aqueduct, the Anio Vetus, is built
12. 264 BC – Romans destroy the last vestiges of the Etruscan civilization
13. 264 - 241 BC – Rome and Carthage fight the 1st Punic War
 - 241 BC – Rome defeats Carthage in the naval battle, the Battle of the Aegates Islands, ending the 1st Punic War
14. 218 - 202 BC – Rome and Carthage fight the 2nd Punic War
 - 218 BC – Hannibal invades Italy and defeats three Roman armies under Publius Cornelius Scipio, Tiberius Sempronius Longus and Gaius Flaminius
 - 216 BC – Hannibal defeats a 100,000 man Roman army at the Battle of Cannae, inflicting the single worst defeat of a Roman Legion Army
 - 214 BC – War machines designed by Greek mathematician Archimedes save the city of Syracuse, an ally of Carthage, from a Roman naval attack
 - 202 BC – Roman army under Scipio Africanus Major defeats Hannibal in the final Battle of the 2nd Punic War
 - Rome annexes Spain
15. 196 BC – Rome defeats Macedonian King Philip V
16. 189 BC – Antiochus III, king of the Seleucids, is defeated at the battle of Magnesia and surrenders his possessions in Europe and Asia Minor
17. 149 - 146 BC – Rome wins 3rd Punic War and destroys Carthage
18. 146 BC – Rome conquers Greece
19. 133 BC – The whole Mediterranean region is under Roman control after Attalus III of Pergamum wills his kingdom to Rome
20. 106 BC – The Romans defeat Jugurtha, king of Numidia
21. 88 BC – Italians are granted full Roman citizenship
22. 83 BC – Lucius Sulla becomes dictator of Rome
23. 74 BC – Cicero enters the Senate
24. 73 BC – Spartacus leads the revolt of the gladiators
25. 71 BC – Marcus Crassus puts down Spartacus' revolt
26. 70 BC – Marcus Crassus and Gnaeus Pompey are elected consuls
27. 65 BC – Horace, the leading Roman lyric poet during the Age of Augustus, is born
28. 64 BC – Syria is conquered by Pompey and becomes a Roman province
29. 63 BC – Pompey captures Jerusalem and annexes Palestine
30. 60 BC – Crassus, Pompey and Julius Caesar form the First Triumvirate to rule Rome
31. 59 BC – Julius Caesar is elected consul
 - Roman historian Livy is born; he writes *Ab Urbe Condita*, which follows Rome's history from its founding in 753 BC through the reign of Augustus

32. 57 BC – Caesar conquers all of Gaul
33. 53 BC – Marcus Crassus is defeated and killed by the Parthians at the Battle of Carrhae in Syria
34. 51 BC – Caesar crushes revolt of Vercingetorix in Gaul
35. 49 BC – Caesar crosses the Rubicon River with his army
36. 48 BC – Caesar defeats Pompey in Greece and becomes sole dictator of Rome, taking the title of Imperator, Commander in Chief of the Roman armies
37. 47 BC – Caesar invades Egypt and proclaims Cleopatra queen
38. 45 BC – Julius Caesar revises old Roman Calendar and institutes 12 month Julian Calendar
39. 44 BC – Caesar is assassinated in the Roman Senate on the Ides of March
 - Marc Antony and Caesar's nephew, Octavius, defeat Senators who tried rule following Caesar's death
40. 43 BC – Octavius, Mark Antony and Marcus Aemilius Lepidus form military dictatorship known as the Second Triumvirate
41. 31 BC – Octavius defeats Antony at the Battle of Actium and becomes sole ruler of Rome
 - Octavius accepts the title Augustus and becomes Imperator; reforms military
42. 27 BC – Augustus takes the title of First Citizen and leads Rome
 - 27 BC – The Republic is dead, the Empire begins

The Roman Empire

1. 23 BC – Augustus initiates a period of peace known as the *Pax Romana*
 - Cities throughout the Roman Empire have water and sewage systems, theaters, and public baths
 - Provincial government improves
 - The Roman alphabet became the basis for the western world alphabet
 - Latin, the Roman language, became the basis for French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian
 - 180 A D – The Pax Romana ends with the death of Emperor Marcus Aurelius
2. 19 BC – Virgil writes *The Aeneid*
3. 16 BC – Ovid writes *Amores*
4. 13 BC – Augustus expands the borders of the Roman Empire in Europe to the Danube
5. 8 BC – Ovid writes *Metamorphoses*
6. 4 BC – Jesus is born in Judea (Palestine)
7. 0 – Traditional date of the birth of Christ
8. 1 AD – Rome's population reaches nearly 1 million people
9. 2 AD – The Forum of Augustus is built
10. 6 AD – Augustus expands the borders to the Balkans
11. 14 AD – Augustus dies
12. 14 - 68 AD – Julio-Claudian Dynasty Begins
 - Tiberius (14 - 37)

- Caligula (37 - 41)
 - Claudius (41 - 54)
 - Nero (54 - 68)
13. 14 AD – 5 million people live in the Roman Empire
 14. 25 AD – Agrippa builds the Pantheon
 15. 36 AD – Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
 16. 43 AD – Claudius invades Britain
 17. 46 AD – Thracia becomes a Roman province
 18. 50 AD – Romans found Londinium in Britain
 19. 58 AD – Romans conquer Armenia
 20. 64 AD – Rome burns and Nero blames the Christians for it
 21. 68 AD – Nero commits suicide
 - 3 Emperors rise and fall - Galba, Otho and Vitellius - until the final accession of Vespasian, first ruler of the Flavian dynasty
 22. 68 - 96 AD – Flavian Dynasty
 - Vespasian (69–79)
 - Titus (79–81)
 - Domitian (81–96)
 23. 77 AD – The Romans conquer Wales
 24. 79 AD – Mount Vesuvius erupts and Pompeii and Herculaneum are buried
 25. 80 AD – The Coliseum is completed
 26. 96 - 180 AD – The Era of the 5 good Emperors
 - Nerva (96–98)
 - Trajan (98–117)
 - Hadrian (117–138)
 - Antoninus Pius (138–161)
 - Marcus Aurelius (161–180)
 27. 97 AD – Rome forbids human sacrifice throughout the Roman Empire
 - Chinese general Pan Chao sends an embassy to the Roman Empire
 28. 98 AD – Trajan becomes Emperor
 29. 100 AD – The city of Rome has over 1 million inhabitants
 30. 105 - 117 AD – Tacitus writes *Historiae*, (*The Histories*) and *Ab excessu divi Augusti* (*Annals*) a record of the Roman Empire from the death of Augustus to Domitian
 31. 112 AD – The Forum of Trajan is built
 32. 113 AD – The Trajan column is erected
 33. 116 AD – Trajan conquers Mesopotamia
 34. 117 AD – Trajan dies on his way to the Persian Gulf and Hadrian becomes Emperor
 35. 122 AD – Hadrian's Wall is built along the northern frontier of Britain to protect from the Barbarians
 36. 132 AD – Palestine revolts against Rome
 37. 136 AD – Emperor Hadrian crushes Jewish resistance
 38. 139 AD – Hadrian's mausoleum, Castel Sant' Angelo, is built
 39. 161 AD – Marcus Aurelius becomes Roman Emperor
 40. 164 AD – The plague spreads throughout the Roman Empire

41. 180 AD – The Pax Romana ends with the death of Marcus Aurelius
42. 180 - 192 AD – Commodus becomes Emperor on the death of Marcus Aurelius, ending the reign of the five good Emperors
43. 193 - 235 AD – The Severan Dynasty rules the Empire
 - Septimius Severus (193–211)
 - Caracalla (211–217)
 - Macrinus (217–218)
 - Elagabalus (218–222)
 - Alexander Severus (222–235)
44. 212 AD – Caracalla grants Roman citizenship to all free people who live in the Roman Empire
45. 216 AD – The baths of Caracalla are built
46. 235 - 284 AD – The Period of Military Anarchy nearly leads to the destruction of the Roman Empire
 - Rome is besieged by constant barbarian invasions, civil war, and hyperinflation
 - 25 different Emperors rule Rome
 - 250 AD – Emperor Decius orders the first Empire-wide persecution of Christians
 - 256 AD – The Persians defeat the Romans and conquer Dura Europus in Mesopotamia
47. 284 – 305 AD – Diocletian and the Tetrarchy
 - 284 AD – Diocletian becomes Emperor but rules from Nicomedia in the East
 - 286 AD – Diocletian splits the Empire in half and names Maximian Co-Emperor with the title of Augustus
 - Diocletian Augustus rules the eastern half, and Maximian Augustus is Emperor of the western half
 - 293 AD – Diocletian creates two junior Emperors, further dividing the Empire, and calls them Caesars
 - 300 AD – The population of the Roman Empire reaches 60 million, of which about 15 million are Christians
 - 303 AD – Diocletian orders a general persecution of the Christians
 - 305 AD – Diocletian and Maximian resign in favor of the junior Emperors
48. 308 AD – Licinius is made Emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire
49. 312 AD – Constantine the Great defeats Maxentius to become sole Emperor of the Western Empire
50. 313 AD – Constantine issues the Edict of Milan ending the persecution of Christians
 - Constantine recognizes the Christian church
 - Constantine ends the Gladiatorial Games
51. 324 AD – Constantine defeats Licinius and once more unites the Roman Empire under one Emperor
52. 330 AD – Constantine builds a new city, Constantinople in present day Turkey

53. 337 AD – After Constantine's death, his sons split the Empire: Constantine II - Spain, Britain and Gaul, Constans I - Italy, Africa, Illyricum, Macedon and Achaea, and Constantius II - the East
54. 356 AD – Rome has 28 libraries, 10 basilicas, 11 public baths, 2 amphitheaters, 3 theaters, 2 circuses, 19 aqueducts, 11 squares, 1,352 fountains
55. 359 AD – Constantinople becomes the capital of the Roman Empire
56. 361 AD – Constantius dies and Julian is declared Emperor
57. 380 AD – Theodosius I proclaims Christianity as the sole religion of the Roman Empire
58. 393 AD – Theodosius forbids the Olympic Games
59. 395 AD – Theodosius divides the Roman Empire into the Western and Eastern Empires, with Milano and Constantinople as their capitals
60. 410 AD – Rome is sacked by the Visigoths
61. 410 AD – Roman legions withdraw from Britain
62. 452 AD – The Huns invade Italy
63. 455 AD – Vandals sack Rome
64. 476 AD – This date is generally accepted as the formal end of the Western Roman Empire since it is the date that the last Emperor of the western half of the Roman Empire is deposed