

## Perfect Score Tasks – Travel Articles

I was asked to write an original travel article about what to do with one day in Rome.

I also finished a second article for this same client on what to do with one day in Lisbon.

I received perfect scores on both tasks.

### What to do with one day in Rome

Twenty-four hours in one of the world's most fascinating cities is a tall order because, you know, Rome wasn't built in a day. In fact, there are so many things to see and experience that you might be better off if you make that decision not to see everything in one go. You can see the major attractions with some time management and planning, or plan an easier, less jam-packed day.

It is possible to see most of the major attractions in one eight to nine-hour day, spending an hour at each attraction and walking from one to the next.

If you can start fresh in the morning from your hotel, visit the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Square, and St. Peter's Basilica in the morning. Once you arrive at the Sistine Chapel, you'll be walking everywhere, so wear comfortable shoes. And before starting the day, consider grabbing breakfast at a cafe. There are cafes on nearly every street in Rome, so chances of finding one nearby are good. Who am I to tell you to stay away from the cappuccinos or pastries? As a side note, don't wear tank tops to the Vatican. Believe it or not, there is a dress code at churches, chapels, and some crypts. If you want to dress for hot weather, bring a shawl or something to cover your shoulders. And while you're at the Sistine Chapel, don't try to sneak a few pictures in. They're not allowed. Besides, your selfie won't be nearly as good as the picture books in the gift shops.

Next on the agenda is the Castel Sant'Angelo. This is an often-overlooked destination, but it has a fascinating history as it evolved from a mausoleum to a prison, papal citadel, and a museum. The Piazza Navona is our next stop. The Piazza is a public square lined with cafes, restaurants, and places of entertainment. This might be the perfect place for a quick lunch. By the way, Romans, most Italians, actually, don't drink coffee in the afternoon. You can order it, but be prepared for some raised eyebrows or frowns. Another social blunder would be to order water in a restaurant. Rome has plenty of public water drinking fountains where you can get a drink or fill a water bottle. Don't worry, the water is safe.

Now head over to the Pantheon then to one of the lesser known and visited squares - the Piazza Venezia. You can cut this a bit short if you're running short on time and go right on to the Palatine Hill and Palatine Museum. This is one of the famous hills upon which Rome was founded. The final stop on the tour is the Roman Colosseum. If you feel the need to squeeze in

a couple of more attractions, add the Trevi Fountain to the tour right before the Pantheon. You also take a side trip to the Roman Forum before the Palantine Hill and Museum.

It will be a completely full day so be prepared. A few more items from the don't list: don't take pictures with the fake gladiators outside the Colosseum - they're likely to gouge you on the price. Don't splash in the fountains - that's only in the movies! And don't say 'Ciao' to everyone. It's better to say Buon Giorno or Buena Sera.

### **What to do with one day in Lisbon**

Although some of the major attractions are within walking distance, you might want to tour Lisbon a little differently. Perhaps you've heard of Tram No. 28. It travels past or through all of the historical spots. The biggest disadvantage will be the crowds. You can board the tram at any of its stops, but if you want the whole experience, the route starts at Martim Moniz. From there it heads to the Graca quarter and the Church of São Vicente de Fora.

Next is the hilly Alfama district. You can get off the tram and walk a bit to the São Jorge Castle. If you opt to stay on the tram, next is the Chiado hill where there is an almost certain stop outside a famous pastry shop called A Brasileira. Next is Bairro Alto, which hosts some of the exciting Lisbon nightlife. Finally, you will see the Parliament building then the Basilica and Estrela Garden. This the end of the route, but you can ride it back down, which gives you a whole new perspective on the sites.

If the tram is too crowded, you can get off at any point and walk to most of the best attractions. You won't want to pass up the Baixa district and Rossio, the central plaza of Lisbon. You'll also want to see the Elevador de Santa Justa which transports visitors up a steep hill and was designed by the apprentice to the Eiffel Tower designer. In Alfama, get a view from the Lisbon castle and stop for a coffee at Saint Luzia View point.

From there, you'll want to head west of Lisbon to the Belem district, home to parks and museums. Visit the Torre de Belem (a fort) and finish the day with a stop at Casa Pasteis De Belém - home to the original cake.

The most important thing you will find out about a short trip to Lisbon is that you will have to come back and spend more time!