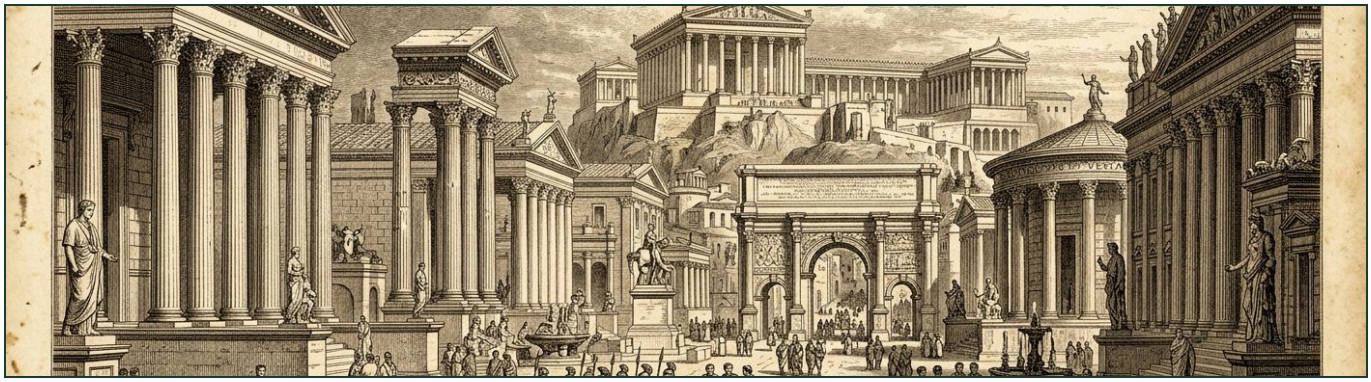


753 BC – AD 476

Ancient Rome Timeline

Ancient Rome grew from a small city on the banks of the Tiber River into the greatest empire of the ancient world, lasting over a thousand years.

753 BC

Rome Founded

According to Roman tradition, Romulus founds the city of Rome on the Tiber River.

> **Why it mattered:** *Whether legend or history, the Romans counted this as the start of their civilization — the beginning of one of the ancient world's greatest powers.*

509 BC

The Roman Republic

Romans overthrow their last king and form a republic governed by elected officials and a Senate.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Republic gave Rome centuries of stable government and became a model that later influenced the founders of the United States.*

264–146 BC

The Punic Wars

Rome fights three long wars against the powerful North African city of Carthage.

> **Why it mattered:** *Victory over Carthage made Rome the dominant power in the western Mediterranean and transformed it from a regional city into a world empire.*

44 BC

Assassination of Julius Caesar

The popular general and dictator Julius Caesar is stabbed to death in the Senate on March 15.

> **Why it mattered:** *Caesar's murder ended the Republic — the civil wars that followed replaced elected government with one-man rule under an emperor.*

Ancient Rome Timeline *continued*

27 BC

Augustus Becomes First Emperor

Caesar's heir Octavian, renamed Augustus, becomes Rome's first emperor, beginning the Roman Empire.

> **Why it mattered:** *Augustus launched two centuries of relative peace and prosperity known as the Pax Romana, during which Roman power and culture reached their peak.*

AD 79

Mount Vesuvius Erupts

The volcano Vesuvius erupts and buries the Roman city of Pompeii in ash and rock in a single day.

> **Why it mattered:** *Preserved almost perfectly under the ash, Pompeii was excavated centuries later and gave historians an extraordinary snapshot of Roman daily life.*

AD 313

Edict of Milan

Emperor Constantine declares that Christians may worship freely throughout the Roman Empire.

> **Why it mattered:** *Christianity, once persecuted by Roman authorities, began its rise to become the empire's dominant religion, reshaping Western civilization for centuries.*

AD 380

Christianity Becomes Official

Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity the Roman Empire's official religion.

> **Why it mattered:** *The empire's embrace of Christianity helped spread the faith across Europe and deeply shaped the history of the Western world.*

AD 395

Empire Splits in Two

The Roman Empire permanently divides into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire.

> **Why it mattered:** *The weaker Western half would fall within a century; the Eastern Empire survived as the Byzantine Empire for another thousand years.*

AD 476

Fall of Western Rome

The last Western Roman emperor is deposed by a Germanic leader, ending the Western Roman Empire.

> **Why it mattered:** *Rome's fall marked the end of the ancient world and the beginning of the Middle Ages — a civilization that had lasted over twelve centuries was gone.*