

FORUM, THEATRUM, CIRCUS, ROMAN DOMUS:

ASSISI HIDES A SMALL POMPEI



Hidden among the medieval remains still lives Today *the Roman*
Assisium.

In the era of ancient Rome, in fact, it was a *Assisium* Important Reference for the territory, was inhabited by rich merchants What possessed luxurious villas and was renowned spa town come.

The Roman domus, discovered and restored in recent decades, have completed a solo setting, including Important exhibits in excellent condition: *two Forum, the amphitheater, the circus, the theater, The funerary Tower of "gens Petronas"* *SOME* monumental water tanks: all this and arrived intact up to us *Bon* Because the medieval city was built on or around the remains of the Roman!



Temple of Minerva

Example of hidden wonders underground nell'Assisi are two patrician houses discovered recently: *the Domus di Propertio* (I cent. A.D.) and *the Domus of Lararium*.

The first is located under the apse of the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, in front of the place where St. Francis renounced his father's wealth. This patrician domus are still visible some frescoed rooms including marble mosaic floor, a covered porch with Pompeian-style decor, consisting of branches and small flowers on which it bases colored birds.



The Propertio's home

The **Domus of Lararium**, always of the imperial era, is located under some historic buildings of Assisi (the seat of the Palazzo Giampé Court, a building used for celebration of May Day and the Cardinal's Palazzo) and has significant size (500 square meters of living space) .

And 'the last in order of time to be discovered and restored. Inside it has the typical structure of the Roman house, with a porch garden (peristyle) on which revolve other domestic environments.

Placed seven meters below street level, the domus has beautiful mosaics and frescoes by the exceptional state of preservation, as you can admire only in Rome and Pompeii.

The wedding images found in the bedroom (cubiculum) of the mistress, and the fine mosaic floor are one example of the huge archaeological importance of the discovery.



Domus Lararium

The center of social, economic and administrative of Assisi was the **Roman Forum**, still visible under the current Piazza del Comune. The place was dominated, then as now, the imposing **Temple of Minerva**, the present church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva.

There were located the monumental court, with the podium and seats for the judiciary, the tetrastyle temple dedicated to the Dioscuri, the cistern and tabernae.

Walking past a small entrance via Portica, it falls below the medieval square, back to admire the rich and refined Roman city; is an experience with a strong visual and emotional.



Roman forum

Many are the Roman ruins located in Assisi, but a visit is a must in the Cathedral of San Rufino, under the multi-storey car park in Piazza Matteotti and Via Amphitheatre, around which an entire medieval quarter was born on the ruins of **Roman Amphitheatre**.



The Roman Forum is an entrance fee (tel. 075-8155077) and the Roman Domus are visited by reservation, the rest is available free of charge.