

New fee to get close to Rome's Trevi Fountain

22nd December 2025



Authorities in Italy's capital city, Rome, have decided to charge tourists a fee to get close to the city's world-famous Trevi Fountain. From the first of February, visitors will have to pay two euros to experience the landmark close up. One reason for

the new measure is to address the burgeoning numbers of sightseers who are flocking to the sight. Similar to many other tourist hotspots around the world, the famed fountain is suffering from the effects of overtourism. There has been serious congestion in the peak months of summer. Large crowds and people vying for selfies have diminished the ambiance of the historic fountain. Visitors have also damaged the stonework surrounding it.

Rome's mayor, Roberto Gualtieri, said the "Trevi levy" was expected to raise 6.5 million euros (\$7.6 million) a year. Gualtieri said that on average, around 30,000 people visited the attraction every day this year. That amounts to over ten million visitors. However, city residents will be exempt from paying the tourist tax. The mayor said: "We believe that culture is a fundamental right of citizenship." He added: "We think it's correct and positive that the citizens of Rome can enjoy our museums free of charge." The fountain was initially commissioned in 1640 and was completed in 1762. It depicts Oceanus, the god of all water, and symbolizes the vast, untamed force of the world's seas and rivers.

Sources: reuters.com / dw.com / abcnews.go.com

Writing

Charging fees to see the world's top sights is a good idea. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Italy / capital city / tourists / landmark / fountain / hotspots / overtourism / selfies / mayor / residents / tourist tax / culture / a fundamental right / museums / rivers

True / False

- 1) The fee to get close to the Trevi Fountain will start in February. T / F
- 2) The fee will be 10 euros. T / F
- 3) The charge will help to deal with overtourism at the fountain. T / F
- 4) Local authorities said they will ban people taking selfies. T / F
- 5) The fee will raise around 65 million euros a year. T / F
- 6) All Italian citizens will be exempt from paying the fee. T / F
- 7) The Trevi Fountain was finished over 250 years ago. T / F
- 8) The god of all water is one of the statues at the Trevi Fountain. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. charge | a. entitlement |
| 2. measure | b. well known |
| 3. burgeoning | c. huge |
| 4. famed | d. action |
| 5. ambiance | e. amass |
| 6. raise | f. skyrocketing |
| 7. fundamental | g. at first |
| 8. right | h. levy |
| 9. initially | i. basic |
| 10. vast | j. atmosphere |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Rome?
- b) What do you think of tourism?
- c) What is your town like for tourists?
- d) What do you think of paying to get close to a famous fountain?
- e) What can we do about the problem of overtourism?
- f) What kind of tourist are you?
- g) What do you think of tourists taking selfies?
- h) What world landmark would you really like to visit?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. decided to charge | a. the attraction every day |
| 2. address the burgeoning | b. to the sight |
| 3. flocking | c. for selfies |
| 4. suffering from the effects | d. of the world's seas |
| 5. people vying | e. citizenship |
| 6. 30,000 people visited | f. tourists a fee |
| 7. residents will be exempt | g. of charge |
| 8. a fundamental right of | h. of overtourism |
| 9. enjoy our museums free | i. from paying |
| 10. symbolizes the vast, untamed force | j. numbers of sightseers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of Italian cities?
- Should cities monetize their famous sites?
- Should city residents be exempt from tourist taxes?
- How proud are you of your country's culture?
- What do you think of the world's oceans and rivers?
- Should we visit sites in our own country and not those overseas?
- What questions would you like to ask Rome's mayor?

Spelling

- address the ruibgnnoge numbers
- sightseers who are lfgkoicn to the sight
- serious ootginecsn in the peak months
- people ngyvi for selfies
- the abimecna of the historic fountain
- damaged the stonework sgdnouiurnn it
- etdexecp to raise 6.5 million euros
- people visited the tcnoaraitt every day
- residents will be xemept from paying
- The fountain was ynitillai commissioned
- It dseipct Oceanus, the god of all water
- the astv, untamed force

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. i	8. a	9. g	10. c

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	When will the fee come into effect?
2.	What does the charge hope to address?
3.	What is the fountain suffering from?
4.	What has diminished the ambiance of the fountain besides large crowds?
5.	What have tourists damaged that surrounds the Trevi Fountain?
6.	How many people have visited the fountain this year?
7.	Who will be exempt from paying the charge?
8.	What did Rome's mayor say people have a right to?
9.	When was the fountain commissioned?
10.	Who is Oceanus?

Speaking – Sites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sites at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| • The Trevi Fountain | • Angkor Wat |
| • The Sydney Opera House | • The Pyramids |
| • The Statue of Liberty | • Machu Picchu |
| • The Taj Mahal | • Table Mountain |

Answers – True False

1	T	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.