

Geography of Ancient Rome

Italy is a boot shaped country and forms a peninsula into the Mediterranean Sea.

Ancient Rome was a city surrounded by water. The Adriatic Sea lies along the east coast of the boot; the Tyrrhenian Sea borders the west coast. Halfway between the toe and the top of the boot, the Tiber River enters into the Tyrrhenian Sea.

The Tiber River provided the waterway into the Mediterranean Sea.

Natural barriers helped protect Rome from its enemies for many years. The Alps to the north and the Apennine Mountains to the east provided great protection for Rome. As well, Rome was located 15km inland, off the coast. Therefore, it could not be easily attacked by water as it controlled access to the Tiber River. Finally, Rome was surrounded by seven steep hills. Indeed it was no small task attacking Rome without her knowledge.

The topography of Rome varied. The northwest and central sections of Italy are rough and mountainous. The southern part is more level and fertile. The south was used for farming.

The climate was very similar to Greece, as it is quite mild in Italy. Temperatures rarely dip below 15C or above 29C. Rainfall amounts to only 76cm per year.