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### 4 Endangered Sites

Rome's nickname may be the Eternal City, but that doesn't mean that all of its sights will be around forever. From crumbling ruins suffering from centuries of neglect to little known chapels and under-funded museums, a few sites may not be open to the public in the near future. See them before it's too late! - T.P.

● The tiny chapel of **Santa Maria dei Sette Dolori** in Trastevere is a masterpiece of baroque architect Francesco Borromini, with polychrome marble floors, gilt statues and the artist's ingenious details. But unlike his other churches, it is virtually unknown due to limited opening hours. Until recently it was open only for 7am mass, but the tiny order of nuns that run it have decided to keep it open to the public until noon daily. Put it on your itinerary, because without regular visitors, the chapel risks closing its doors forever. **Via Garibaldi, 27. Open daily. 7am-noon. Free.**

● Recently added to the World Monument Fund's list of the 100 most endangered sites in the world, the **Non-Catholic Cemetery** houses the bones of some of Rome's most famous foreign residents, such as Keats and Shelley. Despite its proud claim to be one of the most important cemeteries in the world, and one of the oldest bu-



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rial grounds in continual use, funds are sadly lacking, leaving the tombstones and grounds sorely neglected. Visit before it falls into disrepair. **Via Caio Cestio, 6 (near Piramide metro). Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm, Sun 9am-1pm. €3 donation suggested.**

of what it once was. It is nevertheless worth a peek for history enthusiasts who know how to use their imaginations. **Piazza Augusto Imperatore.**

● The **Historic Museum of Via Tasso**, commemorating Rome's liberation from Nazism and Fascism is another site at risk. Examine photographs and biographies of the heroes of the Resistance and visit the cells where prisoners were brought for interrogation during the occupation, still in their original state, with goodbye messages to their loved ones scrawled on the walls. Last December, the funds needed to keep this museum alive mysteriously disappeared from the regional budget documents. As restoration is badly needed, make sure to visit before it's too late. **Via Tasso, 145. Open Tue-Sun 10-12:30, Thurs and Fri also 4-7pm. Free.**

● Another monument in peril is the ancient **Mausoleum of Augustus**. A massive round tumulo-style tomb topped with cypress trees, similar to the Mausoleum of Hadrian before it was converted into Castel Sant'Angelo, the monument has lain abandoned for decades. In desperate need of restoration, the mausoleum has been hidden by a fence and forgotten by time, a shadow

