

What was life like as a wealthy Roman?



# Where did they live?

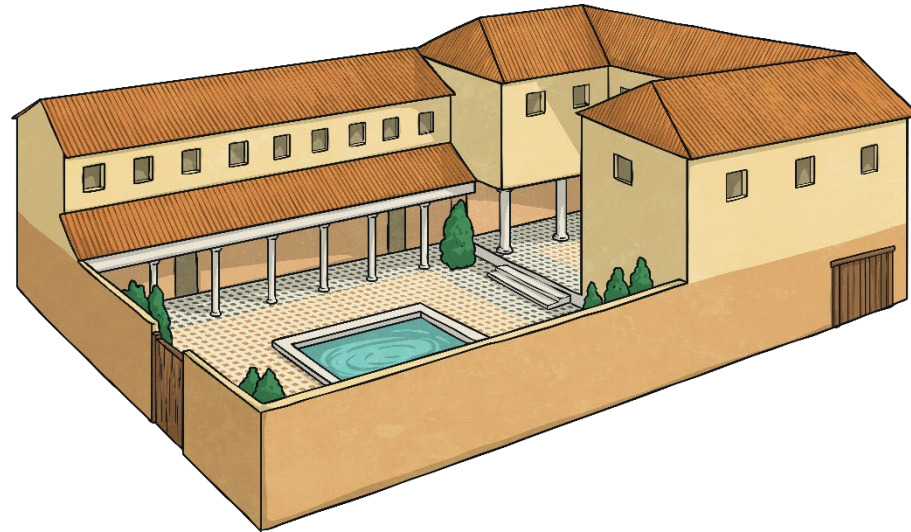
For wealthy Romans, life was good. They lived in beautiful houses - often on the hills outside Rome, away from the noise and the smell. They enjoyed an extravagant lifestyle with luxurious furnishings, surrounded by servants and slaves to cater to their every desire. Many would hold exclusive dinner parties and serve their guests the exotic dishes of the day.

If you lived during the Roman times, the type of house you lived in would depend on:

- How much money you had.
- Whether you lived in town or the countryside

# Domus

A domus was a type of house in the city in which a rich Roman would have lived.

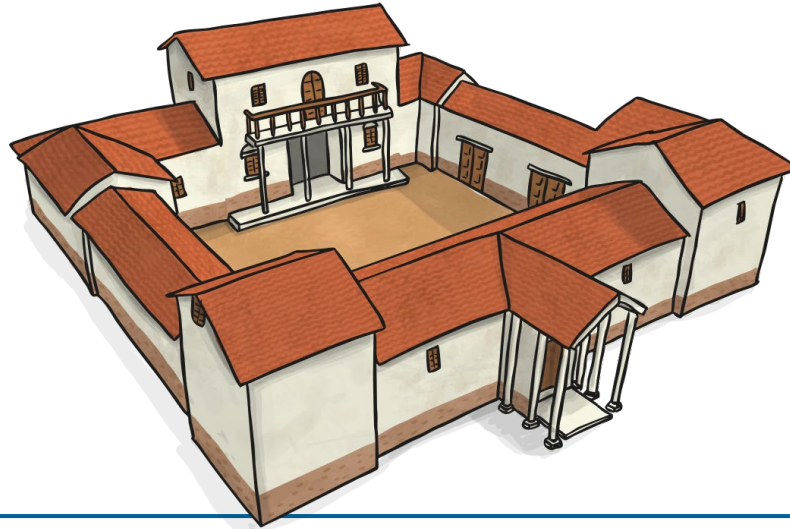


A domus was a very grand single-storey building, often with marble pillars, statues and mosaics on walls and floors.

They would have had multiple rooms, including bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, courtyards, gardens and places to relax and entertain guests.

# Villa

A Roman villa was a luxurious estate for rich Romans in the countryside.



They were much larger and more comfortable than a domus and had even more rooms, including servants quarters and exercise rooms.

Some villas even had underfloor heating! A hypocaust was a system which pumped hot air from a fire around a system of tunnels underneath the villa's main floor.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z7k8q6f>





### Under Floor Heating (hypocaust)

Rich Roman houses had **central heating** which was under the floors. This heating system was called a **hypocaust**. The floors were supported on stacks of tiles (pilae) and hot air was circulated under the floor from a furnace stoked outside the building.



### Mosaic Floors

Mosaic have been found on the floors of many Roman buildings. Rich Romans decorated the floors of their main rooms with **mosaics** - tiny coloured stones (tesserae). These were stuck to the floor with mortar, a type of cement. Each mosaic used thousands of pieces to make a pattern. Mosaic floors were a statement of wealth and importance.



## Baths

The on suite bath room often consisted of three rooms; a hot room (caldarium), a place where bathers could sweat, a room of tepid heat (tepidarium, and a cold room (frigidarium).



## Stone Walls and tiled roofs

Rich Romans built their houses from stone.

The walls were painted in pretty colours or covered with marble.

There was glass in the windows.

They would have tiled roofs with terracotta tiles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCDtk7tWY7w>

# Food

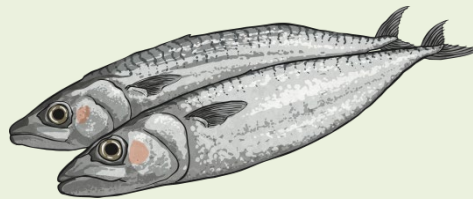
The Romans ate three meals a day. Lots of their diet was similar to food we have today. In fact, many of the fruits and vegetables we know were brought to Britain by the Romans.

Ientaculum  
(breakfast)



- bread
- pancakes
- dates
- honey

Prandium  
(lunch)



- fish
- cold meat
- bread
- vegetables

Cena  
(evening meal)



Poorer Romans would eat vegetables and porridge.

Richer Romans would eat a banquet and drink wine.



# Roman Banquets

As the Empire conquered more areas, the Romans were able to enjoy the foods from those countries too. The rich Romans would have huge banquets (feasts) and eat exotic foods to show off their wealth.

Some of the most extravagant parties served peacock, stuffed dormouse, roast parrot and milk-fed snails!

For a banquet, the Romans would eat almost lying down. They would spread out on couches around a low table. Banquets lasted for several hours.





# Education

Education was very important to the Ancient Romans. The rich people in Ancient Rome put a great deal of faith in education. While the poor in Ancient Rome did not receive a formal education, many still learned to read and write.

Children from rich families, however, were well schooled and were taught by a private tutor at home or went to what we would recognise as schools. In general, schools as we would recognise them, were for boys only. Also, Roman schools were rarely an individual building but an extension of a shop - separated from the crowd by a mere curtain!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p37Dk-aLLKQ>

