





## A Roman town

A Roman town had wide streets laid out in a grid pattern around a central meeting square, called a forum. The town had a temple, a basilica (town hall), public baths, an amphitheatre and a circus (race course). There were also lots of shops, bars, restaurants and craft workshops.

Roman citizens were divided into two groups. Those descended from noble families were called patricians. Everyone else was a plebeian. Some wealthier plebeians—bankers or merchants—were known as *equites*. The wealthiest Roman families lived in elegant townhouses, while others lived in apartment blocks, called *insulae*.