TIMELINE

4000 B.C. Emergence of agriculture
2000 Appearance of copper tools and ornaments
1800–1200 Bronze Age
1400–1100 Mycenaean contacts with Italy and Sicily
  c. 1000 First undoubted traces of settlement at the site of Rome
900–700 Iron Age; Villanovan and Latial cultures
  c. 800 Phoenicians found Carthage
  c. 775 Greeks begin to settle in Italy and Sicily
  c. 750 Formation of first city-states
700s Introduction of writing to Italy
  c. 725–580 “Orientalizing” period in Italy
  c. 700 Gradual adoption of hoplite warfare; cultivation of grape vines and olive trees spreads to central Italy
  c. 700–500 “Princely” burials in northern and central Italy
700–400 Etruscan and Greek cities at their height in Italy (also Greek cities in Sicily)
  753–510 Traditional dates for monarchy at Rome (seven kings in succession)
650–600 Construction of Forum Romanum and associated public buildings and spaces
  c. 580–480 “Archaic” period in Italy
  c. 500 Expulsion of Rome’s last king, and establishment of the Republic; treaty between Carthage and Rome
  c. 500–287 “Struggle of the Orders”
  c. 450 Laws of the Twelve Tables are issued
  c. 396 Romans take over Veii
  c. 387 Warband of Gauls loots Rome
343–290 Samnite Wars: (343–341) First; (326–304) Second; (298–290) Third
341–338 Latin War
  c. 280 Rome first issues its own coins
282–272 Rome at war with Tarentum and other communities in southern Italy; (280–275) King Pyrrhus of Epirus leads their forces
264–241 First Punic War, at the end of which Sicily becomes Rome’s first “province”
  237 Romans remove Carthaginians from Sardinia; (227) it becomes a province with Corsica
  226 Carthaginians in Spain recognize the Ebro River as their limit
218–201 Second Punic War; Romans are defeated by Hannibal at (217) Lake Trasimene and (216) Cannae; (202) final defeat of Carthaginians at Zama
215–205 Rome's First Macedonian War
204 Cult of Magna Mater is brought to Rome
198 Two Roman provinces are formed in Spain (Further, Nearer)
200–196 Second Macedonian War; (196) "Freedom" of the Greeks proclaimed
200 Beginnings of historical writing at Rome; Roman elite engages with Greek literature, philosophy, rhetoric
195 Cato's consulship, and (to 194) command in Spain
192–189 Rome defeats Antiochus III in the Syrian War
186–183 Suppression of the cult of Bacchus in Italy
171–168 Third Macedonian War; end of its monarchy
168 Polybius comes to Rome as a hostage from Achaean League
m id-150s–130s Roman wars with Lusitanians and Celtiberians, ending (133) with capture of Numantia
149 "Extortion" court (quaestio de repetundis) is established
149–146 Third Punic War, ending with the destruction of Carthage; its territory becomes the province of Africa
149–148 After the suppression of Andricus' rising, Macedon becomes a Roman province
146 Destruction of Corinth
130s Secret ballot is introduced in Roman assemblies
136–132 First Slave War in Sicily
133 Tribunate of Tiberius Gracchus
133 Kingdom of Pergamum is bequeathed to Rome and (129) becomes the province of Asia
123, 122 Tribunates of Gaius Gracchus, who (122) attempts to establish a colony (Junonia) on the site of Carthage
121 Senatus Consultum Ultimum authorizes elimination of Gaius Gracchus
121 Province of Transalpine Gaul is formed
113–101 Confrontation with Cimbri and Teutons
112–105 War with Jugurtha in Numidia
c. 107–101 Major reform of the Roman army
107, 104, 103, 102, 101 Consulships of Marius
104–100 Second Slave War in Sicily
100 Tribunate of Saturninus and (sixth) consulship of Marius
91 Tribunate of Livius Drusus
91–87 Social (or Marsian) War; (90–89) extension of Roman citizenship throughout peninsular Italy; (88) tribunate of Sulpicius Rufus and Sulla's first march on Rome
90–85 War with Mithridates in Asia Minor and Greece; Sulla offers peace terms
87–84 After Marius and Cinna had both marched on Rome (87), Marius dies (86), Cinna works to restore stability, but is murdered (84)
86 Financial crisis: three quarters of all debts are cancelled
83–82 Sulla's second march on Rome; Pompey raises forces in support
82–81 Dictatorship of Sulla; proscriptions
80–73 Sertorius in Spain resists Sullan commanders (Pompey among them) until murdered
78–77 Despite marching on Rome, Lepidus fails to overturn key features of Sulla's program
75 Kingdom of Bithynia is bequeathed to Rome
74–63 Lucullus, then (from 66) Pompey, resume war against Mithridates
73–71 Slave revolt of Spartacus
70 Consulship of Crassus and Pompey; Cicero secures the condemnation of Verres for misgovernment in Sicily
c. 70 Earliest known construction of amphitheater in stone (at Pompeii)
67 Pompey suppresses piracy in the Mediterranean
65 Censorship of Crassus
64–63 Bithynia/Pontus, Cilicia, Syria are instituted or reshaped as provinces by Pompey (63); Mithridates dies
63 As consul, Cicero exposes Catiline's conspiracy; Julius Caesar is elected pontifex maximus
61–55 Pompey builds a theater complex in Campus Martius
60–59 Formation of "First Triumvirate" (Caesar, Crassus, Pompey)
59 Consulship of Julius Caesar
58 Tribunate of Clodius
58–57 Cato makes Cyprus a Roman province; Cicero in exile
58–51 Caesar campaigns in Gaul and (55–54) Britain; makes his accomplishments known through "commentaries"
56 "Triumvirs" meet at Luca to strengthen and extend their partnership
55 Consulship of Crassus and Pompey
54 Premature death of Julia
53 Crassus' army invades Parthia and is slaughtered at Carrhae
52 Death of Clodius; sole consulship of Pompey
51–50 Cicero governs Cilicia and Cyprus
50s or whereabouts Development of glass-blowing technology
49 (January) SCU is passed; Caesar crosses Rubicon River to invade Italy; (March) Pompey evacuates Italy; (March to fall) Caesar campaigns against Pompeians in Spain and besieges Massilia
48 Caesar holds (second) consulship, together with one-year dictatorship; debtors' rising in Italy is suppressed; (August) Pompey is defeated by Caesar at Pharsalus, and (September) killed on arrival in Egypt as fugitive

October 48–mid-47 Caesar in Alexandria establishes Cleopatra as ruler of Egypt, and fathers a son by her
47 (summer) Caesar defeats Pharnaces at Zela

Fall 47–mid-46 Campaign in Africa ends with Caesar's victory over Pompeians at Thapsus; Cato commits suicide
46 Caesar holds (third) consulship, and is appointed to ten-year dictatorship; new "Julian" calendar introduced; dedication of Forum Julium in Rome

Fall 46–mid-45 Second campaign in Spain ends with Caesar's victory over Pompeians at Munda
45 Caesar holds (fourth) consulship, and continues as dictator
44 Caesar holds (fifth) consulship, and (February) is made perpetual dictator; he becomes the first living Roman whose head appears on coins; his worship as a god is authorized; (March 15) he is assassinated
44 Lepidus becomes pontifex maximus; (May) Octavian arrives in Rome to claim his inheritance from Caesar
43 (April) Antony is repulsed from Mutina by both consuls, who lose their lives, and Octavian; (August) Octavian becomes consul; (November) formation of Second Triumvirate; Cicero is victim of ensuing proscriptions
42 (January) Deification of Julius Caesar; (fall) Antony and Octavian defeat Brutus and Cassius at Philippi
41 Perusine War; Antony meets Cleopatra, and fathers twins by her
40 Antony and Octavian redivide their control of the Roman world; Antony marries Octavia
39 Agreement is reached between Antony, Octavian, and Sextus Pompey
39–38 Parthian invasions of Syria and Asia Minor are repulsed
38 Octavian marries Livia
37 Second Triumvirate is renewed
36 Sextus Pompey is defeated by Octavian and Lepidus; Lepidus' attempt to eliminate Octavian results in his own exile; Antony's invasion of Parthia fails badly
35–34 Antony subdues Armenia; (34) "Donations of Alexandria"
32 Italy and West swear loyalty to Octavian; Antony divorces Octavia
31 (September) Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra at Actium
30 Octavian captures Alexandria; Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide; Egypt becomes a Roman province
29 Curia Julia is dedicated
27 "First Settlement"; Octavian is renamed Augustus
27–c. 1 B.C. Extension of Roman control in Spain, Alps, and central Europe to the Danube River; Raetia, Noricum, Dalmatia, Pannonia, Moesia are formed as provinces
25 Galatia becomes a Roman province
23 (July) "Second Settlement"; (fall) Marcellus dies
late 20s According to tradition, Vergil reads his Aeneid to Augustus
21 Marriage of Agrippa and Julia
20 Parthia returns legionary standards captured from Crassus and Antony
18–17 Augustus introduces legislation affecting marriage, childbearing, and adultery
17 Augustus adopts Gaius and Lucius; Secular Games
13 New conditions for army service are introduced
12 Agrippa dies; Augustus becomes pontifex maximus following the death of Lepidus
9 Drusus the Elder dies; endpoint of Livy's History; dedication of Ara Pacis
7 Monument at modern La Turbie commemorates Augustus' subjugation of "all the Alpine peoples"
6 B.C.–A.D. 2 Tiberius retires to Rhodes
2 B.C. Temple of Mars the Avenger is dedicated in Augustus' new Forum; title Pater Patriae is bestowed on him
A.D. 2 Lucius Caesar dies
4 Gaius Caesar dies; Augustus adopts Tiberius
6 Judaea becomes a Roman province
8 Augustus exiles Ovid to Tomis, where he remains until his death in 17
6–9 Rebellions in Germany, Dalmatia, Pannonia; (9) three Roman legions are massacred in Teutoburg Forest
14 Augustus dies, and is succeeded by Tiberius; promulgation of Augustus' Res Gestae; legions stationed in Germany and Pannonia mutiny
14–16/17 Germanicus campaigns in Germany
17 Cappadocia becomes a Roman province
17–19 Germanicus is dispatched to the East, and dies in Syria
20 Trial of Piso for the death of Germanicus
23 Drusus the Younger dies
23 Praetorian Guard is grouped together and based in Rome
26 Tiberius takes up residence on Capri
31 Sejanus (Praetorian Prefect since 14) is denounced and executed
33 Financial crisis, which Tiberius attempts to alleviate
37 Tiberius dies, and is succeeded by Gaius Caligula
38–40 Disturbances between Greeks and Jews in Alexandria
41 Assassination of Caligula, who is succeeded by Claudius
40s–50s Claudius constructs new harbor (Portus) north of Ostia
43 Britain and Mauretania become Roman provinces
46 Thrace becomes a Roman province
47–48 Claudius conducts a census
54 Claudius dies, and is succeeded by Nero
59 Nero orders the murder of his mother Agrippina
60 Boudica leads a rebellion in Britain
64 Great Fire of Rome; Christians are persecuted as scapegoats; extensive devastated area is appropriated by Nero for his Golden House
66 Nero crowns Tiridates King of Armenia in Rome
66 Nero visits Greece
66–73 First Jewish Revolt, culminating (70) in destruction of Temple in Jerusalem and (73) capture of Masada