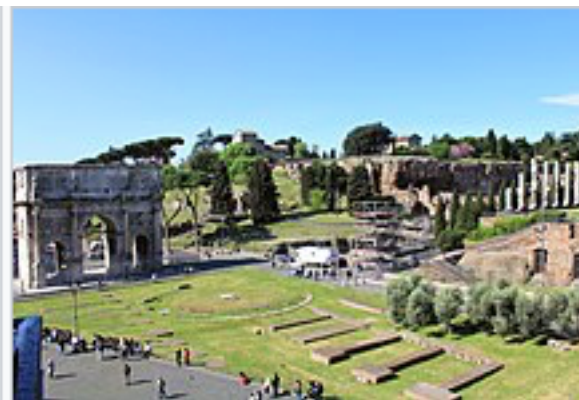


Palatine Hill



View of the Palatine Hill from across the Circus Maximus



Palatine Hill from the Colosseum

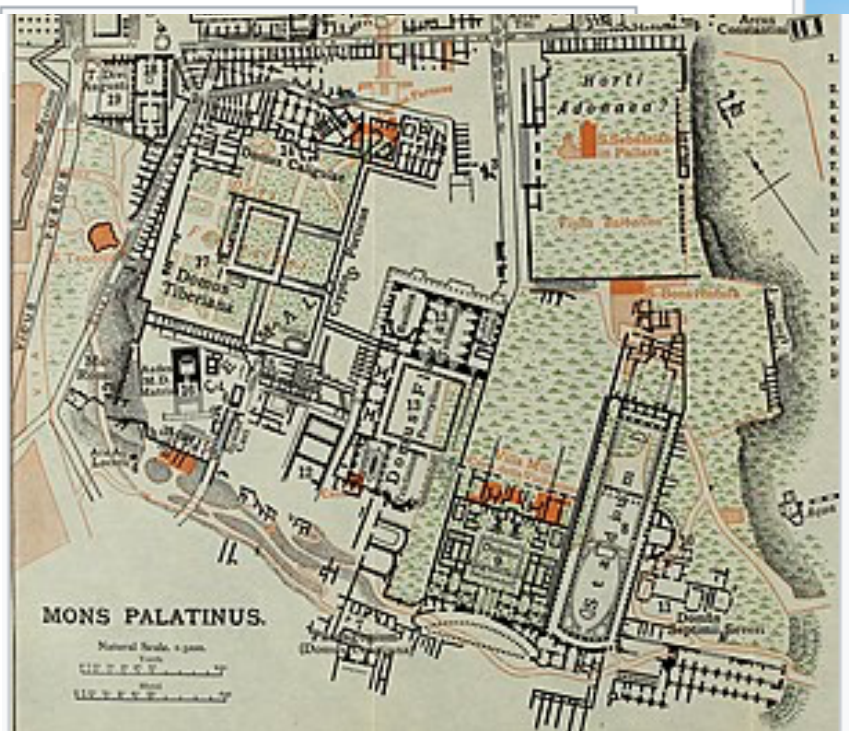


Massive retaining walls extended the area on the Palatine available for the Imperial building complex.

The **Palatine Hill** (*/ˈpælətajn/*; Latin: *Collis Palatium* or *Mons Palatinus*; Italian: *Palatino* [palaˈtino]), which relative to the **seven hills of Rome** is the centremost, is one of the most ancient parts of the city and has been called "the first nucleus of the **Roman Empire**."<sup>[1]</sup> The site is now mainly a large open-air museum while the **Palatine Museum** houses many finds from the excavations here and from other ancient Italian sites.

Imperial palaces were built there, starting with **Augustus**. Before imperial times the hill was mostly occupied by the houses of the rich.

The hill originally had two summits separated by a depression; the highest part was called Palatium and the other Germalus (or Cermalus). Using the **Forma Urbis** its perimeter enclosed 63 acres (25 ha); while the **Regionary Catalogues** of the 4th century enclose 131 acres (53 ha).<sup>[2]</sup>



Plan of the Palatine with modern buildings overlaid



