

Travel





Italy Tactical: Pride Parade to begin at Piazza della Repubblica in Rome at 14:30 (local time) on June 14; maintain heightened vigilance

Current Situation

- The Rome Pride Parade, known as "Romapride", will begin at Piazza della Repubblica starting at 14:30 (local time) on June 14.
- The parade route will proceed via Viale Luigi Einaudi, Piazza dei Cinquecento, Via Cavour, Piazza dell'Esquilino, Via Cavour, Largo Corrado Ricci, Via Dei Fori Imperiali, Piazza del Colosseo, Via Celio Vibenna, Via di San Gregorio, and Piazza di Porta Capena, concluding at Via delle Terme di Caracalla. The exact route can be found <u>here</u> (in Italian).
- Further details regarding Pride events in Rome are available here (in Italian).

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Source: Romapride

Assessments & Forecast

- 1. Based on precedent, the pride parade is likely to attract a turnout in the mid-to-high tens of thousands.
- 2. With the organizers including a "political manifesto" for the parade, along with heightened sentiments surrounding LGBTQ+ rights regionwide, the parade is likely to attract activists from civil rights and left-wing groups. Additionally, climate activists and pro-Palestinian groups may seek to leverage the event, potentially joining the parade to promote their respective agendas.
- 3. While protests authorized by organizers are unlikely to see any unrest, as these are more likely to take form as part of the parade itself, unauthorized demonstrations will carry a latent potential for unrest and are likely to be forcibly removed by police. Such protests, especially those organized by conservative groups, may see unrest in the form of localized clashes between protesters, parade participants, and police.
- 4. Considering the expected crowds, the risk of opportunistic crimes, including pickpocketing and bag snatching, is expected to increase during the parade. Criminals are liable to target the parade itself and are liable to increase their activity on public transportation, given the increased number of individuals traveling to the parade.
- 5. Separately, considering the overall increased threat of terrorism across Europe, there is a latent threat of radicalized Islamist lone actors attempting to target pride parades as well as locations associated with the LGBTQ+ community in Western Europe, including in Italy, with pride also viewed as a symbol of Western values. Further, the threat of far-right extremist attacks on the parade and establishments associated with LGBTQ+, such as bars and clubs, cannot be ruled out, given that the LGBTQ+ community remains a key target for such actors.
- 6. Considering these risks, bolstered security measures are expected along the parade route and throughout the city, particularly at public transportation hubs like Termini Station. Moreover, security barriers should be expected along the parade, including security checkpoints at entry points. Further, armed police are also likely to be deployed as a precautionary measure.
- 7. Extensive disruptions to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic are likely in central Rome, given that the parade will cross through central areas. Multiple roads are expected to be cordoned off, with

public transport diversions also likely. Road closures are likely to be put in place already on June 13 and will likely be maintained through the overnight hours of June 14-15.

Recommendations

- 1. Those operating or residing in Rome on June 14 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance along the slated Pride Parade route due to the potential risks listed above.
- 2. Allot for disruptions to travel due to the slated event and seek alternate routes to minimize delays.