

## Via Egnatia – The ancient Roman road that connected Rome with Constantinople

All roads lead to Rome, one of the reasons why the Roman Empire became as powerful as it did was because of their ingenious and long-lasting roads. The Romans were famous road builders. Their vast road network laid the foundations for modern day highways across Europe, with many of them being built directly over the ancient ones or running parallel to them. With the help of this network, the Romans were able to transport reinforcements, supplies, and trade goods to even the most distant and secluded parts of their empire. The roads were also crucial for the foundation and development of many cities. One such famous road that brought prosperity to a whole region, built in the second century BC, was called Via Egnatia. It connected Rome with the Eastern provinces of Illyricum, Macedonia, and Thrace. Those provinces are the territories of Albania, Macedonia, Greece and the European part of Turkey. The Via Egnatia was an important part of the Roman road network mainly because it connected Rome with Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). It became a lifeline between the Western and Eastern parts of the huge Empire. This route is a total distance of around 695 miles.

Paul the Apostle (Saint Paul) walked the Via Egnatia during his famous second missionary journey when he traveled from Philippi to Thessalonica. Luke the doctor, who accompanied him on his missionary journey, is assumed to be the author of the Acts of the Apostles (the fifth book of the New Testament) where this famous road is also mentioned.





