

Different Types of Gladiators and the Weapons They Used

The Ancient Romans were known for their love of entertainment. They frequently went to circuses, plays, chariot races, and gladiator fights. These fights drew large, boisterous crowds that were egged on by the emperors, who also attended the violent battles.

Gladiators were trained fighters that usually came from the lowest classes of society or were prisoners of war. The Thracian, Gallus, and Samnite soldiers were some of the first gladiators forced to fight in front of a crowd after they were captured from the tribes that the Romans fought and defeated. They wore traditional armor and fought with swords and shields.

The famous gladiator, Spartacus, was, in fact, a Thracian soldier. He led more than 70,000 slaves in a violent revolt against the Roman government, but he and his army were ultimately defeated.

Over the centuries, gladiators were trained to take part in different types of fights. Some of these specialized gladiators included the *bestiarri*, who fought lions, tigers, elephants, and bears brought from Africa, and the *noxii*, who were forced to fight as punishment for committing crimes or for worshipping only one god.

Retiarus, meanwhile, were skilled fighters who were allowed into the arena with only a net, dagger, and trident. Their opponents were the *secutor*, who fought wearing heavy armor and helmets. These fights were set up so that the *secutor* would win.

Other gladiators, like the *equites*, rode horses and only fought each other. There were even some women gladiators, known as *gladiatrix*, who did not wear armor and were allowed only a small dagger to protect themselves.

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<https://listverse.com/2017/04/17/top-10-types-of-roman-gladiators/>
<https://www.thoughtco.com/gladiators-weapons-111732>

Famous Battles in the Colosseum in Rome

Many historians and politicians have written about the unforgettable battles that took place in the Colosseum in Rome. One of the most famous gladiators who fought in the arena was Carphorus, a *bestiarri* who was renowned for having killed over 20 animals with his bare hands in a single battle.

Another famed gladiator, Flamma, was a Syrian soldier who was captured and trained to fight in the arena. He won 21 battles during his 13 years as a fighter. He was offered his freedom multiple times but never accepted, and he eventually died in the ring.

In 80 CE, Emperor Titus ordered the Colosseum to be filled with water. He stationed several ships in the water-filled ring, where soldiers were then forced to reenact famous oceanic battles. Titus also oversaw a battle between two gladiators, Priscus and Verus, who fought for hours before finally surrendering to one another. They were granted their freedom for their display of honor and bravery.

The renowned madman, Emperor Commodus, even entered the arena himself wearing heavy armor. He fought several rigged battles, in which his opponents were often made to fight without armor or weapons.

People also went to the Colosseum to watch animals fight other animals. In one famous battle, an elephant fought a rhino. The elephant won after it picked up a weapon with its trunk and injured its opponent.

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<http://mentalfloss.com/article/53408/7-astonishing-roman-coliseum-fights>

<https://www.ancienthistorylists.com/rome-history/top-10-famous-ancient-roman-gladiators/>