The 2nd century

The height of Rome.

Under the five good emperors, the Empire was at its largest and most prosperous. The Pantheon was built, Ptolemy and Galen wrote the science Europe would use for 1,400 years, and Marcus Aurelius wrote his Meditations.

What rose

117. The Empire reaches its greatest extent under Trajan. Source: Trajan

c. 125. Hadrian's Pantheon. Source: Pantheon, Rome

c. 150. Ptolemy's Almagest. Source: Almagest

c. 170–180. Marcus Aurelius writes the Meditations. Galen practices in Rome. Source: Meditations

What fell or stalled

The Antonine Plague (165–180) killed millions. Source: Antonine Plague

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Version 1, November 16, 2026. Drafted with AI from public sources and checked against the source linked for each entry. Not yet reviewed by Nicholas Niehaus. Corrections are welcome and are logged publicly.
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