

# EXPANDING THE EMPIRE

By the end of the Republic in 27BC, the Romans already controlled large areas of Europe, as well as parts of Africa and Asia. Conquering new lands brought Rome wealth and slaves, and emperors were always eager to win glorious victories. Over the next 150 years, Roman territory grew even more, until Rome ruled one of the biggest empires the world has ever seen.

## INTO BRITAIN

Britain was first invaded in 55BC by Julius Caesar and his troops, but the native tribes refused to accept Roman rule, and Caesar eventually had to withdraw. In AD43, the Emperor Claudius finally succeeded in conquering the Britons. To celebrate this achievement, Claudius held a grand victory parade in Rome and named his son 'Britannicus'.

## TRAJAN'S TRIUMPHS

The empire reached its greatest extent under the Emperor Trajan, who came to power in AD98. One of the most talented commanders in Roman history, Trajan led his legions on daring campaigns in regions far from the centre of the Roman empire and won huge new areas of land. First, he conquered the mountainous land of Dacia (present-day Romania). Then, he led a dangerous mission to the east, creating three new Roman provinces - Armenia, Assyria and Mesopotamia - in just four years.

By AD117, the empire was at its height. It stretched 4,000km (2,500 miles) from west to east, and was home to more than 50 million people. In Trajan's time, it was possible to travel all the way from the windswept moors of northern Britain to the sunbaked deserts of the Middle East without ever leaving Roman territory.

*A statue of the Emperor Trajan*

