Instructions to my Roman Guide

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Show me the Via Salaria
where Gauls marched south,
the valley which glowed
with campfires the night
before they crossed the Tiber
into Rome. Lead me to the boundaries
set by the earthen rampart
of Servius Tullius circling the city
the Gauls sacked and burned.

Take me to the place
where Roman magistrates
sat on ivory chairs awaiting martyrdom
while their people fled. Show me
where the Capitol stood - saved
by the cackle of sacred geese -
and the Sublician Bridge where Albinus
left his wife and children behind,
taking the Vestal Virgins
and their sacred fire to safety
in his ox-drawn cart.

Show me the Pyre
where the Gauls piled
and burned corpses
of fallen comrades
before Rome paid them off
and they returned north
to fight another foe.

Tell me - where are these Gauls
who humbled Rome,
eternal city on the Tiber?