



The Eternal City: Rome for History Addicts!

7 days

Tour Description

This 7 day, 6 night tour can be appreciated by anyone who loves history, young or old! Therefore, school groups, clubs, families or groups of friends can all likely extract ideas from the suggestions below. While the popular expression goes “all roads lead to Rome,” it could just as easily have been “Rome has a zillion monuments.” The magnitude of its cultural sites is so immense that it’s hard to wrap your head around it. That being said, even a history buff has to make choices in Rome! The itinerary below is based on a 6-night stay in Rome with many of the ancient capital’s must-see sights. While the attractions below are plentiful, we recommend striving for a pleasant pace; after all, it is your vacation.

Should you want to extend your historical extravaganza by several days, we recommend you add the following ancient sites in Campania to your itinerary: Pompeii, Herculaneum and Paestum. Alternatively, if you don’t mind catching another flight, Sicily is a paradise for history fans and should absolutely be considered for a longer extension.

Highlights

- ❖ **Tour of iconic Colosseum**
- ❖ **Walking tour of central Rome’s top sights: Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Campo de’ Fiori!**
- ❖ **Visit some of Italy’s best archaeological sites, including the Roman Forum and Ostia Antica**
- ❖ **Spend a morning in the Vatican Museums**
- ❖ **Explore the Emperor Hadrian’s astonishing villa**
- ❖ **Wander Rome’s ancient catacombs**

Sample Tour Itinerary

Rome – 6 nights

Day 1: Arrive in Rome

Upon arrival to the Fiumicino Airport, you and your fellow history addicts will travel by private coach to your hotel in Rome, your epic base for the next six nights. Depending on your group’s flight, should it land well before the hotel’s official check-in time (generally around 3:00 pm), you are more than welcome to store baggage with the hotel staff and begin exploring this fascinating city.

In the late afternoon your group will head to Rome’s historic center for a walking tour of central Rome’s best sights. If need be, transportation can be provided, depending on your hotel’s location. See Piazza Navona, Campo de’ Fiori, the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon before heading to a neighborhood trattoria for a group welcome dinner.



Day 2: Full-day Ancient Rome Tour

After having breakfast, set out on an unforgettable guided tour of Ancient Rome. You'll begin with a visit inside the Eternal City's most recognizable sight: the Colosseum. Then walk to the nearby Basilica of San Clemente, a church with layer upon layer of fascinating history. After free time for lunch, your group will tackle both the storied Roman Forum and Palatine Hill! Please remember that both are archaeological sites and that comfortable shoes are a must – as are water and a hat on sunny days. The tour will finish back at the hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Rome.

Day 3: Vatican City & the Appian Way

After breakfast, a local guide will accompany your group to Vatican City for a guided tour of the Vatican Museums, St. Peter's Square, and St. Peter's Basilica. Please remember that there is a strict dress code to enter St. Peter's: no skirts above the knee, shorts, or bare shoulders. It is also preferable that you don't bring a backpack as you'll be forced to check it (no cost, but potentially time consuming).

Once the tour of Vatican City has finished you have free time for lunch before resuming your sightseeing with a drive down the Ancient Appian Way to visit the Catacombs of Domitilla, a remarkable early Christian site! The tour will finish back at the hotel, where you'll have time to freshen up before a group dinner in Trastevere, one of the few neighborhoods of Rome that has retained a medieval look. Today it is also praised by local Romans for its excellent restaurant scene.

Day 4: Excursion to Ostia Antica

After breakfast, set out with a local guide on a morning excursion to Ostia Antica. Located southwest of Rome, runs the Tiber River, which flows into the Mediterranean Sea. The ruins of Rome's former port, near the Tiber River, are some of Italy's finest. Despite having thrived almost 2,000 years ago by the Middle Ages, Ostia was largely forgotten. Today its ruins are remarkably well preserved. Your group will return to Rome in time for a late lunch, and the coach can drop passengers in the city center or at the hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

Day 5: Excursion to Tivoli

After breakfast, travel east to the outskirts of Rome for a guided excursion of the Villa Adriana in Tivoli. Like many of the elites of his day, the Roman Emperor, Hadrian, desired a relaxing retreat outside of chaotic Rome and, therefore, constructed his villa in Tivoli in the 2nd century. Having widely traveled throughout his vast empire, Hadrian envisioned a grand estate that incorporated elements from his travels to Egypt and Greece. The result, which was more like a city than a "villa," was a masterpiece. Your group will have a guided tour of this ancient marvel, followed by lunch at a restaurant in Tivoli before returning to Rome mid-afternoon. The remainder of the day is free.

Day 6: Rome Free Day

After breakfast in the hotel you are free to spend your last day in Rome as you see fit. We suggest you check out one or two of Rome's excellent museums or visit the Castel Sant'Angelo. Our museum suggestions are the following: the National Etruscan Museum, the Museum of Roman Civilization, and the Capitoline Museums. However, if you're sightseeing-fatigued, you can always take a cooking class, go shopping or spend a relaxing day in the greenery of Rome's Villa Borghese. This evening, your group will enjoy a special farewell dinner in a Roman restaurant (transportation included).



Day 7: Departure

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will travel by private coach to Rome's Fiumicino – Leonardo da Vinci International Airport for its return flight to the USA or Canada.

INCLUSIONS

- Hotel accommodations in Rome for 6 nights
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily (Lunch and dinner as noted in the itinerary)
- Air-conditioned, private coaching
- English-speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary