

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Rome: The City Experience

7 DAYS: Saturday, March 23-Friday, March 29, 2019 pp/do \$2,589 single \$2,989

Fall in love with Rome.

Step wholeheartedly into the Roman experience and make the Eternal City your home away from home. Explore legendary landmarks, mingle with locals who go about their lives in the shadow of ancient ruins, and enjoy fresh Italian food and wine. We promise, you're going to leave feeling like an insider.

Your tour package includes

- 5 nights in a well-located hotel
- 5 breakfasts
- 2 dinners with beer or wine, including a signature farewell dinner experience with a cooking lesson
- Expert Tour Director, Sightseeing tour with a local guide, 4-day Metro pass

Included highlights

- Trajan's Column, Piazza Venezia, Roman Forum, Temple of Venus and Roma, Colosseum,
- Roman cooking class,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets and dirt paths, with few hills and stairs.

Overnight flight

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Rome today.

Rome

Day 2: Arrival in Rome

Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Italy! Transfer to your hotel and settle in. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: Breakfast

Embark on a guided tour of the Eternal City, uncovering landmarks that were once at the epicenter of an empire. • Pass by Trajan's Column and Piazza Venezia, the city's central hub • Stop at the ruins of the ancient Roman Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials • Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine, the Arch of Titus, and the Temple of Venus and Roma • Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire, and take time to explore on your own Enjoy a free afternoon in Rome or add an excursion. *(Please note: Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs excursion may be offered on day 6, depending on the day of the week.)*

Optional Excursion

Ancient Rome: St. Paul's Basilica & the Catacombs +\$65/pp

Descend into Rome's ancient catacombs, where early Christians buried saints and popes alongside commoners. A local guide will lead you through burial chambers before your visit to St. Paul's Basilica, one of the four most important basilicas of Rome, originally founded by Constantine the Great. The Basilica also houses the tomb of St. Paul. Please note: Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted within the basilica. Also, this excursion involves extensive walking and may be inadvisable for claustrophobic travelers. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$75)

Day 4: Free day in Rome

Included meals: Breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Rome at your leisure or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

A Day in Pompeii +\$169/pp

Travel to Pompeii for a guided tour of the famous ruins. Discover how Roman citizens lived 2,000 years ago, before Mount Vesuvius erupted and smothered the town of Pompeii in a flood of volcanic ash. Visit the excavated ruins of theaters, villas, temples and baths. Lunch is included. Please note: Travel time to Pompeii is approximately 2.5 hours each way. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$179)

Day 5: Free day in Rome

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend another free day exploring Rome on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

A Day in Florence: Renaissance Art & Architecture +\$199/pp

Journey by train on a day trip to Florence, birthplace of Italian language, the Renaissance and opera. Your walking tour of the historic city begins at the iconic Duomo. Explore the legendary cathedral's interior and view Giotto's Campanile, before visiting the Baptistery of St. John with its east doors, which Michelangelo called the "Gates of Paradise." Then, pass the Dante's House Museum en route to the Arno River where you'll see the medieval Ponte Vecchio. Continue along the river through the courtyard of the Uffizi Gallery to Piazza della Signoria and Palazzo Vecchio. Enjoy free time in the city for shopping and lunch before heading back to Rome. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$209)

Day 6: Cooking class & farewell dinner**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Enjoy another free day in Rome or add an excursion. *(Please note: Iconic Sights: Vatican City excursion may be offered on day 3, depending on the day of the week.)* Later this evening, join your group for a special cooking class and dinner. You'll craft handmade pasta with the help of a chef before tasting your creations and raising a toast to your trip with local wine.

Optional Excursion**Iconic Sights: Vatican City +\$105/pp**

This guided tour takes you inside the world's smallest state, Vatican City. Upon arrival, you'll first visit the Vatican Museums, which are over 500 years old and hold many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, where you'll gaze up at what is perhaps Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known, including Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà. Please note: This excursion is not available on Sundays. Backpacks are not allowed in the Vatican and a dress code of no shorts or sleeveless shirts is enforced. Must book 45 days before departure

Day 7: Departure**Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.