

ROME: Secret Palaces and Hidden Art 2020

ITINERARY

INTELLIGENT ADVENTURE TRAVEL



DAY	DATE	MORNING Leaving after breakfast	AFTERNOON Leaving after siesta	EVENING After dinner events	Meals	
1	Weds June 10	Today your journey starts with your flight from your point of departure with arrival tomorrow morning in Rome, Italy.				
2	Thurs June 11	Morning Arrival in Rome	Urban Orientation: Aventine Hill neighborhood	Evening Garden Conversation	D	
		After your morning arrival at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport you'll transfer to the beautiful Foresteria on the Aventine Hill operated by the Camaldolese Benedictine nuns. This afternoon we'll discover the secrets of the Aventine Hill, enjoying the views over the city from the Orange Garden. In Santa Sabina we explore one of Rome's earliest churches. We will also discover the location of public transportation, shops, ATM, and nearby restaurants.				
3	Fri June 12	Breakfast Orientation Rome On/Off Bus City Tour Site Visit: City Rose Garden, Circus Maximus Site Visit: Capitoline Hill/Roman Forum views	Rome On/Off Bus City Tour Site Visit: Piazza Barberini Museum: Palazzo Massimo alle Terme – National Roman Museum	Evening Garden Conversation / Domus Aurea/Colosseum Orientation	D	
		Join your guides for a "round the city" tour on Rome's Hop On-Hop Off bus with views of St Peter's, the Colosseum, and other important sites, with a stop at the Capitoline Hill. Visit the piazza designed by Michelangelo followed by lunch on the rooftop terrace with spectacular views of the city. After lunch look out over the remains of the Roman Forum while your guides explain the grandeur that was once there. Back on the Hop On-Hop Off bus we ride the inner city loop with stops to view fountains by Bernini and a visit to one of Rome's best museums: Palazzo Massimo. This evening learn more from your guides about Imperial Rome, its historical intrigues and its architecture as we prepare for the next day's adventure.				
4	Sat June 13	Breakfast Orientation Site Visit: Forum Boarum Temples, Tiber River, Tiber Island, Roman Artisan Market	Site Visit: Legacy of Nero: Domus Aurea (1:30 PM tour) Site Visit: The Colosseum in context Optional: Colosseum interior	Evening Garden Conversation / Orientation	D	
		Join your fellow travelers for a breakfast orientation followed by a walk through the city Rose Garden to the nearby Temples of the ancient vegetable and cow market. At the church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin view the famous Mouth of Truth. Our walk along the Tiber River brings us to Rome's oldest bridges and Tiber Island. We end our morning at the Artisan Market where you can lunch on locally sourced meats, cheeses, fruits and more! Afterwards join your fellow travelers to experience the history and architecture of the Golden House the Emperor Nero built after the Great Fire of Rome in 64 CE. After his death the giant Colosseum was constructed on the site of his lake. View and discuss the exterior of the Colosseum and its surrounding monuments and temples. Tour inside if you wish.				
5	Sun June 14	FREE	Museum: Crypta Balbi – National Roman Museum Urban Site Study: Largo Argentina, Theater of Pompey Dinner at da Pancrazio	Evening Garden Conversation / Orientation	L D	
		This morning is free for religious services or your personal exploration. This afternoon we enjoy Sunday in the Campo Marzio. We begin by visiting the Crypta Balbi, a National Roman Museum that includes the ruins of a theater built in the late Roman Republic. We tour the ruins and learn how the ancient city was incorporated into the construction of later ages. Nearby we explore the remains of 4 Republican-era temples and discover the spot where Julius Caesar was assassinated. We then explore the Medieval streets and alleyways built on top of the remains of Ancient Rome's largest theater, The Theater of Pompey. Your guides then host a dinner in the underground vaults of the theater.				
6	Mon June 15	Site Visit: San Clemente, St John Lateran, Porta Maggiore	Excursion: Palestrina	Evening Garden Conversation	D	
		Today's adventures lead us to an exploration of religious sites both pagan and Christian. An early morning tram ride brings us to the small church of San Clemente excavated three levels to reveal an ancient Roman pagan temple of the god Mithras with a church built directly above. Walking along the route followed by ancient Papal processions, we arrive at St. John Lateran, the home church of the Pope as the Bishop of Rome. Nearby we visit a site where you can view an ancient Roman gate, an aqueduct, and an unusual tomb. Then we are off on an extended visit to the nearby Medieval town of Palestrina, where you can choose to lunch in the town square. Climbing through the winding streets we arrive at the ancient Roman sanctuary of the goddess Fortuna.				

	Tues June 16	Site Visit: Palatine Hill / Roman Forum/ FREE	Urban Site Study: Theater of Marcellus and Jewish Ghetto			
7	<p>Today we explore the life of the ancient Roman emperors during our visit to the Palatine Hill and Roman Forum. Find the site of the Bronze Age huts marking the founding of Rome. In the House of Augustus walk in the footsteps of the first emperor. In the Palatine Museum you can view artifacts collected from around the hill. From the beautiful Farnese Gardens look down over 100' into the Roman Forum. Descending to the Forum, visit the House of the Vestal Virgins and stand near the spot where Marc Antony orated over the body of the slain Julius Caesar. Your afternoon is free for rest or personal exploration. This evening we walk the archeological site of the Theater of Marcellus into which was built the medieval palazzo of the Orsini family. In the nearby streets we discover the stories of the Cenci and Mattei families and their palaces as well as the historic Jewish Ghetto. You may wish to sample the unique local culture and cuisine by dining here.</p>					
	Weds June 17	Site Visit: St Peter's - Exclusive Guided Tour: "Top to Bottom"	FREE	Roman Life: Digestivo Orange Garden Sunset Party	D	
8	<p>This morning we join our private guide for a complete tour of St Peter's from the dome to the underground Necropolis excavations if access is available. The rest of the day is free for your personal shopping or touring. After dinner this evening we take a short stroll to the Orange Garden where your guides host you at an al fresco sampling of select Italian liqueurs and dolci as we enjoy the sunset from the best vantage point in Rome.</p>					
	Thurs June 18	Italian Life: Early Morning Cappuccino Urban Site Study: Piazza del Quirinale, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Campo Marzio art treasures Roman Life: Giolitti's Antica Gelateria	Roman Life: Pasta Cooking Class (3-4 hours)	Evening Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel Orientation	L D	
9	<p>Today's early morning adventure will take us to find ancient Rome and hidden art in the streets of the Campo Marzio neighborhood before the tourist crowds arrive. Highlights are the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon built as a Temple of all gods. Art treasures include paintings and sculpture by Michelangelo, Bernini, Fra Lippo Lippi and Andrea Pozzo. We take a break and sample some delicious Italian gelato at an authentic early 20th century ice cream parlor. For lunch we enjoy a private Italian cooking class. This evening your guides help orient you for your visit to the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel tomorrow.</p>					
	Fri June 19	"Skip the Line" Vatican Museum Guided Tour	Urban Site Study: Campo Marzio Palazzos Roman Life: Piazza Navona	Roman Life: Rooftop terrace aperitivo		
10	<p>This morning we rejoin our private guide for a tour of the famous Vatican Museum including Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. After siesta we visit the Baroque sculptural and architectural wonders of Piazza Navona and nearby churches. Marvel at masterworks by Bernini, Borromini, and Caravaggio. Sample the best coffee in Rome before visiting the piazzas and courtyards of the great Renaissance Palazzos. This evening your guides will host you for an aperitivo on a rooftop terrace overlooking the city. You may wish to sample the unique local culture and cuisine of the Campo Marzio.</p>					
	Sat June 20	Urban Site Study: Spanish Steps, Piazza del Popolo Site Visit: Santa Maria del Popolo	Urban Site Study: Borghese Gardens Museum: Borghese Gallery (3 pm)	Evening Garden Conversation	D	
11	<p>Today we explore the grandeur and theater of the Baroque city. Highlights are the Spanish Steps and Piazza del Popolo. We enjoy a Saturday stroll through the Borghese Gardens. At the Borghese Gallery we marvel at the sculptural masterpieces of Bernini and the paintings by Caravaggio.</p>					
	Sun June 21	Excursion/Site Visit: Tivoli, Villa Gregoriana and Villa D'Este		Evening Garden Conversation	L D	
12	<p>Today we take an Italian train to the nearby hilltown of Tivoli to enjoy the cool waterfalls and fountains of Villa Gregoriana and Villa d'Este, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Tivoli we enjoy a Sunday lunch feast at our favorite restaurant in the heart of the old medieval town.</p>					
	Mon June 22	Site Visit: Palazzo Colonna	FREE	Farewell Dinner Evening Garden Conversation	D	
13	<p>Today we have a private visit to the palace and art treasures of Palazzo Colonna where the aristocratic family still lives. This afternoon is free for your personal touring or packing. Tonight we share the highlights of our adventure with our fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.</p>					
14	Tues June 23	Today your adventure ends with your return flight from Rome to your home destination.				
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