

TO ROME WITH SONG

Day 1 – Depart USA

Depart on your international overnight flight to Rome.

Day 2 – Arrive In Rome – City Driving tour

Arrive in Rome, where our local representatives will greet you and take you on a driving tour of the Eternal City of Rome. Learn the history and layout of the city, and then check into your hotel. Enjoy leisure time before dinner this evening.

Day 3 – Ancient Rome

Then it's on to ancient Rome and the Forum. History is woven through the streets and neighborhoods of Rome as in no other city. Today you'll explore the many wonders of ancient Rome like the Pantheon. From the most sacred hill of ancient Rome, Campidoglio, you'll view the Forum. You'll also view the Circus Maximus, the Arch of Titus, the famous Baths of Caracalla and the Arch of Constantine. You'll see the Victor Emanuel Monument and the Monti Region, Rome's most ancient neighborhood that spreads over three of her seven hills. This afternoon, you'll tour the Vatican Museum, home to some of the world's greatest masterpieces. And, of course, you'll enter the Sistine Chapel and view Michelangelo's frescos, which have been restored to their full, colorful glory. You'll tour St. Peter's Basilica where Michelangelo's "Pieta" -- the only work signed by the master -- will be just one of many highlights. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4 – Sant' Angelo Methodist Church, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps

This morning, visit and worship together with the people of the Sant' Angelo Methodist Church, an English speaking congregation in Rome. After the service we will go on a walking tour of Rome that will include the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. Legend says those who toss a coin into the fountain will one day return to Rome to toss another into the waters of Trevi. This afternoon, the group will visit a local orphanage or children's hospital, where the choir will perform. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Choir performance at the Sant' Angelo Methodist Church

Choir performance at orphanage or children's hospital

Day 5 – Churches of Rome, St. Paul Within the Walls, Leisure Time

Wander the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls. Said to contain the sarcophagus of Paul, the church is encircled with the portraits of each Pope around the top of the walls, with the present Pope's photo illuminated. Visit the St. Peter in Chains Church, said to house the chains that once held the disciple and home to Michelangelo's statue of Moses. The Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore was founded in the 4th century when Christianity was first legalized. Enjoy the services at St. Paul's Within the Walls church, an Anglican Church. After the service, enjoy leisure time this afternoon to revisit sights and explore new ones, before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Some may want to return to St. Paul's for their Opera Aria evening performance.

Performance at St. Paul Within the Walls Church

Day 6 – Christian Rome

Near the Forum is the Colosseum, begun under Vespasian and completed by Titus. Capable of holding more than 50,000 spectators, it was home to gladiatorial contests and public spectacles. Early Christians were part of the entertainment, as they were martyred in sport here. Also near the Forum is the Mamertine Prison. It was the site where Romans kept their high profile prisoners until they died or were executed. It is revered as the place Peter was held before his crucifixion. We'll journey on the Appian Way from the heart of Rome to the Catacombs. Walk through the Catacombs and experience what early Christians faced before Constantine made Christianity legal.

Day 7 – Leisure Day

Today is yours to explore and shop on your own in the eternal city of Rome. Return to places you have already seen, or chart new paths. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 - Return to USA or Extension

Return home with memories of the people and places of Rome, or continue on to see more of Italy!