

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary **Roman Holiday**

7 DAYS: Saturday, November 5 – Friday, November 11, 2022

THE ANCIENTS WERE RIGHT! ROME IS THE ETERNAL CITY and its 3,000-year heritage is evident on every street of this historic and cultural masterpiece where modern life blends with the antiquities of a lost empire. By member request, we've chosen accommodations at the Hotel Medici (an elegant 19th-century building)—just a short walk from Rome's Villa Borghese Park and Porta Pia, an area full of local restaurants. While our independent programs are designed for you to experience Rome on your own, we have a few suggestions! Don't miss the Borghese Museum—the art, the gardens and the building are extravagantly beautiful. Head to the Campo dei Fiori outdoor market at Piazza Navona— buy your wine, bread, cheese and enjoy a picnic as you people watch. We've included "jump-the-line" tickets for the Vatican Museum. (Tip: mail your postcards from inside Vatican City for the unique stamps and postmark.) The weather in November is perfect for sightseeing and you're likely to encounter more Romans than tourists! You'll also discover that the historic treasures of this immense open-air museum go hand-in-hand with Rome's more tangible pleasures—legendary cuisine, cutting-edge fashion and shopping!

INCLUDES

- Round-trip, non-stop, regularly scheduled ITA Airlines flights from Boston to Rome
- Five nights' three-star accommodations: Hotel Medici
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome dinner with wine at local restaurant
- Half-day guided panoramic motorcoach tour
- Half-day tour of Vatican museum, St. Peter's Basilica and Sistine Chapel
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers

RATES

\$2,199 per person double occupancy

Includes round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees.

Single supplement is \$245. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just \$175. Call to reserve.

Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300

This program is designed for the independent traveler. There will not be an escort with you during your stay.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Medici

Via Flavia, 96, 00187 Roma

Tel: 011 39 06 482 7319

Hotel Medici is in an elegant 19th-century building, a short walk from Rome's Villa Borghese Park. The rooms are modern, spacious and stylish, and provide free Wi-Fi. The Medici features a nice garden with a patio. Medici Hotel is 300 feet from Porta Pia, an area full of characteristic local restaurants. City tours and public buses stop 150 feet away. The Spanish Steps are a 15-minute walk away. Termini Train Station is just under a mile from this property. Via Veneto is a great choice for travelers interested in food, city walks and sightseeing.



Day 1: Depart Boston

Depart Boston, Logan Airport, non-stop, direct service to Rome. Dinner is served with complimentary wine/beer. Relax and enjoy the inflight entertainment while crossing the Atlantic.

Day 2: Arrive Rome

Continental breakfast will be served before landing. After passport control and immigration, proceed to baggage claim and retrieve your luggage. We will then pass through customs and meet our representative, who will be carrying a TRAVEL CLUB sign for identification and who will assist with boarding the transfer vehicle to the Hotel Medici in central Rome. After receiving room assignments, we'll enjoy a welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. **(D)**

Day 3: Half-day guided panoramic coach tour

Today we'll enjoy our half-day panoramic coach tour featuring the Piazza della Repubblica with the Fountain of the Najads, with the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels in the background. Continue to Via Veneto and Piazza Barberini with the Triton fountain by Lorenzo Bernini which depicts Triton, son of Neptune God of the seas. Later we cross the Tiber and drive on Lungotevere. We view the Circus Maximus, Colosseum, Arch of Constantine, Capitol Hill. We reach Piazza Venezia and marvel at the Victor Emanuel Memorial a splendid white marble monument with the tomb of the unknown soldier. **(B)**

Day 4: Half-day tour of St. Peter's Square, the Basilica, the Vatican Museum

Enjoy buffet breakfast at the hotel and depart on our first half day tour to Vatican City. As we approach the Vatican we see Castel Sant'Angelo. We enjoy a visit of the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Square and Basilica and the Sistine Chapel **(B)**

Days 5 & 6: Explore Rome on our own

Enjoy buffet breakfast each morning and afterward have two days at leisure to explore the Eternal City on our own. **(B)**

Day 7: Return to Boston

This morning we'll transfer by private motorcoach to the Rome Airport for our return Alitalia flight to Boston. **(B)**

Closest Landmarks

- Gardens of Sallust 0 miles
- Porta Pia 0.2 miles
- Piazza Fiume 0.2 miles
- La Rinascente 0.3 miles
- Piazza della Repubblica 0.3 miles

Most Popular Landmarks

- Roma Termini 0.4 miles
- Piazza di Spagna 0.8 miles
- Trevi Fountain 0.9 miles
- Roman Forum 1.2 miles
- The Colosseum 1.2 miles
- Piazza Navona 1.4 miles
- Campo de' Fiori 1.6 miles
- Castel Sant'Angelo 1.7 miles
- St. Peter's Basilica 2.2 miles
- Vatican Museums 2.3 miles

PREPARING FOR YOUR TOUR

Identification U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity beyond the date of your return to the U.S. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

Make several copies of your passport. Carry one copy with you and leave one with someone at home. If your passport is lost or stolen, having a photocopy will make replacement easier.

Money Matters Verify that your credit/ATM cards are valid for the duration of your tour and that they can be used internationally. We suggest that you bring a few days worth of foreign currency with you in case you are unable to get dollars changed or have access to an ATM upon arrival. Notify your bank/credit card companies that you will be traveling abroad so that your overseas purchases are not confused with fraudulent charges.

Tipping Tips to tour managers, drivers, guides and waitstaff are not included in the price of your trip. Tipping should always be at the travelers' discretion and should be a reflection of your satisfaction with the service provided. Following are some guidelines for your convenience.

TOUR MANAGERS: 5E per person per day

BUS DRIVERS: 5E per person per day

LOCAL GUIDES: 2E per person

WAITSTAFF: 10E per person per week

TRANSFERS ASSISTANTS (if different from Tour Manager): 5E each way

Medications Be sure you have a sufficient supply of prescription medications. Obtain written prescriptions for any medication you will be taking on the trip, and for eyeglasses, should replacements be necessary.

Packing Enclosed is a packing "cheat-sheet" to help you get started. Be sure to tape your name and address inside your luggage in case your baggage tag is lost.

Layers are essential when sightseeing on tour as the weather can change significantly during the day and over the course of the trip. Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes.

Accommodations While The Travel Club makes every effort to ensure special room requests, special requests are at the discretion of the hotel and cannot be guaranteed.

On tour Generally, longer programs can be filled with long travel days on a coach (rest stops included), and a lot of walking and standing (possibly on uneven surfaces), and some destinations may

have altitude or other environmental concerns. Please remember that many historic areas, especially in Europe, cannot accommodate large coaches on their streets and walking tours are the only way to see the area. Whenever possible, we specify such information in your pre-departure itinerary. It is also important to be aware that many sites, especially in Europe, are not designed to accommodate wheelchairs or mobility aids.

Flights The Travel Club assumes no responsibility for applying frequent flyer miles. Please be aware that some Frequent Flyer Miles may not be applied toward certain classes of service under which tickets have been issued. However, you may contact the airline directly to attempt this on your own. Information on your tickets cannot be obtained prior to departure, so please remember to retain your boarding passes, as you may need to submit that information to the airline to redeem your miles.

Because we reserve GROUP air space, some airlines will not allow you to check on your reservation or make requests directly with the carrier prior to departure. In some cases passengers cannot make seat assignments prior to check-in at the airport. While we make every effort to ensure your requests, we cannot guarantee them. It is at the discretion of the air carrier to fulfill any special requests. In addition, many carriers do not allow seating to be assigned until check in at the airport.

Travel Insurance

Protecting yourself against unexpected medical emergencies before traveling (your own, a family member's, or a travel companion's) is a smart investment – so we strongly urge you to consider purchasing traveler's insurance. Show of the Month Travel Club recommends CSA Travel Protection for your travel insurance needs. (A brochure was forwarded to you when you reserved this trip.) PLEASE NOTE: You must contact the insurance company directly to purchase a policy and with customer service issues and questions regarding potential or existing claims. They will provide you with the most comprehensive information and assist you with processing.

Top Ancient Rome Sites – Where to See Ancient Roman Remains

The glories of Ancient Rome are easily accessible to the visitor and some can be seen for free while others are part of Rome Passes and Cards. Most ancient sites are in Rome's historic center so you can visit several places in one day. Even if you don't have time to take an in-depth look, just walking by some of these places is incredible and gives you an overview of ancient Rome's history. During the 1990's many of these sites were renovated and updated, making them more user- friendly.

1. The Colosseum of Rome

Ancient Rome's huge amphitheater, holding up to 55,000 people, was built by Emperor Vespasian in AD 80 and was the scene of many deadly gladiatorial and wild animal fights. Today you may see men dressed in gladiatorial costume as you walk between the Colosseum and the nearby Arch of Constantine, built in AD 315. On Sundays, the Via dei Fori Imperiali leading to the Colosseum is closed to traffic so it's a great place for a stroll (if you don't mind the souvenir vendors). Ticket lines can be long but there are ways to buy tickets faster.

2. The Pantheon

Rome's Pantheon, the temple of all the gods, was built between AD 118-125 by Emperor Hadrian. In the 7th century it was made into a church by early Christians and now is lined with tombs. Go inside to see the spectacular dome. Admission is free. The Pantheon is the best preserved building of ancient Rome and today is surrounded by a pleasant and lively piazza, a nice place to sit in the evening and enjoy a drink. A good nearby restaurant is Armando's, on a street coming off the piazza.

3. Roman Forum

The ancient Roman Forum is a huge complex of ruined temples, basilicas, and arches. It was the ceremonial, legal, social, and business center of ancient Rome (The food stalls and brothels were removed

in the second century BC). To get a good view, walk up the Capitoline Hill behind the museums. Give yourself at least 2 hours to wander around. Admission is charged.

4. The Capitoline Hill

Above the Roman Forum, the Capitoline Hill was Rome's symbolic center and held the Temple of Jupiter. Today there are two museums, the oldest public museums in the world, the Palazzo Nuovo, with Greek and Roman sculptures, and the Palazzo dei Conservatori, with art galleries, sculptures, and frescoes. One ticket gives you admission to both. Just like in ancient Rome, the hill still has the best view of Rome's center.

5. Piazza Navona

Originally built as a stadium in the first century for athletic contests and chariot races, Piazza Navona is now lined with luxurious cafes and is the home to three lavish Baroque fountains. The much-touted ice-cream dessert, tartufo, is said to have originated here and you can still try it in the cafes as a splurge.

6. The Palatine Hill

The emperors and aristocrats of ancient Rome lived on the Palatine Hill starting in the first century BC. The Domus Flavia and Domus Augustana, built in the first century AD, were the official residence of the emperors for over 300 years. Admission also includes the Palatine Museum.

7. Baths of Diocletian

The Baths of Diocletian, once covering 32 acres, were the largest public baths or thermae in ancient Rome. Although much of the original structure has been destroyed, remains of the baths are now part of the National Roman Museum. Several painted tombs have been moved and reconstructed inside the baths. They can be seen when you visit the baths, open every day except Monday. The baths can be visited with the Four museums ticket and Rome archeology card.

8. Baths of Caracalla

At the foot of the Aventine hill are the monumental ruins of the Baths of Caracalla, used from the Second to Sixth century AD. Taking a bath was a social event for the people of ancient Rome and the huge complex could hold up to 1600 bathers! Besides baths, they held an array of facilities such as a gym, art galleries, gardens, and shops selling food and drinks.

9. Trajan's Market

Thought to be the world's oldest shopping mall, the arcades in Trajan's Market are now believed by many to be administrative offices for Emperor Trajan. The shops and apartments were built in a multi-level structure and you can visit several of the levels. Highlights include delicate marble floors and the remains of a library. The new Museum of the Imperial Forums houses a wealth of artifacts from all of ancient Rome's forums. Trajan's Market is at Via Quattro Novembre 94, closed on Mondays.

10. Via Appia Antica and Catacombs

The Via Appia was once the major road to ancient Rome with construction starting in 312 BC. The Appian Way is now a 10-mile long archaeological park, lined with ruins of tombs and monuments. A good way to visit is by bike, although I enjoy walking it. Some of the catacombs, burial places of the early Christians, are open for public tours - check for the time of the English tour when you arrive. A great restaurant is the Cecilia Metella, especially on a nice day when you can sit on the terrace.

The Squares of Rome

The piazza is the center of life in Italy, so it goes without saying that there are many important public squares in Rome. Here is a list of some of the Italian capital's most important and beautiful piazze and how to get to them.

Piazza San Pietro or Saint Peter's Square

St. Peter's Square, the grand piazza that fronts St. Peter's Basilica, is a significant gathering place for tourists. Piazza San Pietro can be reached from the long boulevard of Via della Conciliazione and from the Metropolitana on the Ottaviano "San Pietro" stop on Linea A.

Piazza Campidoglio

Michelangelo designed this attractive square that unfolds on the Capitoline Hill. Rome's Capitol (campidoglio) is located on this square, as are the buildings that house the Capitoline Museums. Bus lines that stop at or near Piazza Campidoglio include the 44, 46, 64, 70, 81, and 110.

Campo dei Fiori

Formerly a "field of flowers," the Campo dei Fiori is a lively square and site of one of Rome's most beloved fruit and vegetable markets. Numerous cafés, restaurants, and bars circle the Campo, making it an ideal stop day or night. To reach Campo dei Fiori, take bus 40, 64, or 70 to Largo Argentina.

Piazza Navona

This large, oblong piazza was the site of an ancient Roman circus. Today, Piazza Navona is a wonderful pedestrian square where many locals take their evening stroll. Within Piazza Navona are two spectacular fountains designed by Bernini and encircling the square is the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone as well as several palazzo and ochre-hued buildings. Piazza Navona is reached by taking bus 56, 60, 85, 116, 492, and other buses to Centro Storico.

Piazza di Spagna

The Piazza di Spagna is the location of the Spanish Steps, one of the most famous landmarks in Rome. This square is dominated by the broad, monumental stairway leading up to the Trinità dei Monti church, but it also features a small fountain by Bernini. Locals, but mostly tourists, utilize the steps as a meeting and resting place, and they are a perfect perch from which to people watch the throngs frequenting the nearby fashion boutiques. Piazza di Spagna is on the Metropolitana Linea A at the Spagna stop.

Piazza del Popolo

The "People's Square" is one of the largest piazze in all of Italy. Located on the north end of Via del Corso and within the ancient Porta Flaminia (Flaminian Gate), Piazza del Popolo is one of Rome's more majestic squares. Three churches and several fountains are located on the edge of the square and it is punctuated with a tall Egyptian obelisk. The gardens of the Pincio Hill and the Villa Borghese overlook Piazza del Popolo and numerous shops and restaurants are a mere stroll from its center. Piazza del Popolo is reached via Metro at the Flaminia stop on Linea A.

Top Churches to Visit in Rome

Rome has many interesting churches with fine art work worth a visit. Many churches stay open all day but some close for a few hours in the afternoon. These churches have free entrance (2006) but some have museums, cloisters, or archaeological areas with a fee. When entering a church you're expected to be quiet and respectful. Men should remove hats. Some churches won't let you in wearing shorts or sleeveless tops. Most churches allow photos inside with some restrictions.

San Giovanni Laterano - Cathedral of Rome

San Giovanni, Saint John, is Rome's cathedral and the first church of the popes, from the fourth century until the papacy moved to France in 1309. The pope's residence was in the adjoining Lateran Palace. This is the site of the first Christian church ever built in Rome. The current church is Baroque and has cloisters and a museum that can be visited. Be sure to visit the baptistery next door and the Scala Santa and Sancta Sanctorum across the street.

St. Peter's Basilica - San Pietro in Vaticano

St. Peter's Basilica, San Pietro in Vaticano, is in Vatican City. San Pietro is the current church of the pope and one of the largest and most important Catholic churches in the world. Inside the vast interior, there's lots of marble, bronze, and gold artwork, including Michelangelo's Pieta. You can visit Saint Peter's for free but you'll have to pay to see the adjoining Sistine Chapel, with its famous frescoes by Michelangelo and Botticelli, and the Vatican Museums.

Santa Maria Maggiore

Another of the four patriarchal churches of Rome, Santa Maria Maggiore, has beautiful 5th century Biblical mosaics. The marble floor, bell tower, and mosaics on the triumphal arch and in the loggia are medieval. Its spectacular ceiling is said to be decorated with gold Columbus brought back from the new world. The fourth patriarchal church of Rome is San Paulo Fuori la Mura, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, a long way from Rome's center.

The Pantheon

The Pantheon, built in the year 118 as the Roman temple of all gods, is the best preserved ancient building in Rome. Its vast dome has a circular opening at the top that lets in the only light. In the seventh century early Christians turned the Pantheon into a church. Inside are many tombs, some holding the bodies of Italian monarchs.

San Clemente

San Clemente, near the Colosseum, is my favorite because of its layers of archaeological excavations underneath, illustrating Rome's interesting history. The current 12th century church sits on top of a fourth century church built over a first century Christian meeting place that's above a first century BC Mithraic cult chamber.

San Pietro in Vincoli - St. Peter in Chains

San Pietro in Vincoli, also near the Colosseum, was founded in the fifth century to hold the chains that are believed to be those that held St. Peter captive in Mamertine Prison. According to legend, one set of chains was sent to Constantinople and when it was returned to Rome, the two parts miraculously fused together. The church is also home of the famous statue of Moses by Michelangelo, the center of the work known as the tomb of Julius II.

Santa Croce in Gerusalemme

Basilica di Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, Holy Cross in Jerusalem, is one of Rome's popular pilgrimage churches. Santa Croce is a beautiful Baroque church known for its collection of relics. There's also a replica of the Shroud of Turin, the shrine of a young girl being considered for sainthood, and 15th century frescoes in the apse. Santa Croce started as a church in the fourth century and still has granite columns from the original church. It's been remodeled several times and the church we see today is from the 18th century remodel. The monastic and archaeological complex includes gardens set in the Castrense amphitheater. There's also a hotel run by the monks, Domus Sessoriana. Santa Croce is near San Giovanni in Laterano (see above).

Santa Maria in Cosmedin

Santa Maria in Cosmedin, between the river and the Circus Maximus, is the most important Greek church in Rome and has some beautiful Byzantine mosaics. In front you'll see lots of tourists sticking their hands into the Boca della Verita, mouth of truth, a medieval drain cover sculpted to look like a face. According to medieval legend, if you've been untruthful the mouth will snap shut and cut off your hand. Try it at your own risk!

Santa Maria in Trastevere

Trastevere is the neighborhood across the Tiber River from Rome's historic center. Santa Maria in Trastevere is one of Rome's oldest churches and believed to be the first church in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It originally dates from the late third to early fourth century but was rebuilt in the twelfth century. The church is famous for a Byzantine mosaic behind the altar and a number of 13th century mosaics. The piazza has a beautiful octagonal fountain.

Santa Maria del Popolo

Santa Maria del Popolo, in Piazza del Popolo, was one of the first Renaissance churches in Rome. The church features Caravaggio's Martrydom of St. Peter and Conversion of St. Paul. In the Chigi Chapel, created by Raphael, are ceiling mosaics and pyramid-like tombs as well as statues by Bernini.

Fountains of Rome

Almost every square in Rome and the Vatican City is adorned with a beautiful fountain at its center. Like so many other elements of Rome, these fountains are pure works of art and several are tourist attractions in their own right. Following is a list of some of Rome's most famous and most lovely fountains.

Trevi Fountain

The most famous fountain in all of Italy is the Trevi Fountain, an over-the-top Baroque masterpiece completed only in 1762. At all hours of the day, the Fontana di Trevi is thronged by tourists who visit it to throw coins into its pool in the hopes that this practice will ensure a return trip to Rome. Other than the cost of a coin or two, it costs nothing to see the Trevi Fountain, making it one of Rome's Top Free Attractions.

Bernini Fountains

One of the most prolific artists in Rome was Gianlorenzo Bernini, who was active artistically from 1622-1680. In addition to breathing life into the marvelous marble creations in the Museo Borghese, Bernini sculpted several fountains in the city, the most famous of which is the Four Rivers Fountain in Piazza Navona. Other Bernini fountains appear across the city, including the Fontana del Tritone in Piazza Barberini and the Fontana della Barcaccia just below the Spanish Steps.

Fontana delle Naiadi

Dating from the 19th to the early 20th centuries, the Fontana delle Naiadi, or the Fountain of the Nymphs, is perhaps Rome's most sensual fountain. The large fountain which decorates the Piazza della Repubblica, features a central pool on which Glaucus, the Water God is perched surrounded by four naiads – nymphs – which represent the four types of water: the rivers, the oceans, the lakes, and the underground waters.

Fontana delle Tartarughe

A diminutive fountain in an out-of-the-way square, the "Turtle Fountain" is worth seeking out. Designed by Giacomo della Porta, who also designed the fountains on either end of Piazza Navona, this playful fountain features four male figures propped up on dolphins and assisting tiny turtles into the small pool above them. Located in Piazza Mattei in the Jewish Ghetto neighborhood, the fountain is a nice diversion not far from Campo de' Fiori.

Where to Shop in Rome

Shopping for High Fashion in Rome

Some of the biggest names in Italian fashion – Fendi, Valentino, Bulgari – hail from Rome and you will find their flagship stores, as well as boutiques by Prada, Armani, Versace, Ferragamo, Cavalli, Gucci, and many others, along the grid of streets near the Spanish Steps. Via Condotti is Rome's main drag for haute couture and "aspirational" window shopping, though you'll also find high fashion beckoning from the boutiques on Via Borgognona, Via Frattina, Via Sistina, and Via Bocca de Leone.

Chain Stores and Mainstream Shopping in Rome

If you want to shop where regular Romans shop, there are several good places to go.

Via del Corso, and the streets that radiate from it, is the most obvious shopping area. The mile-long street which runs from Piazza Venezia to Piazza del Popolo has all manner of shops, including the Ferrari flagship store, numerous shoe stores, popular fashion brands like Diesel and Benetton, and department stores (Rinascente, COIN).

Another area popular with Romans is Via Cola di Rienzo in the Prati neighborhood. This long street north of the Vatican has a similar assortment of stores to those on Via del Corso but has far fewer tourists crowding the sidewalks.



St. Peter's Square



The Colosseum



The Trevi Fountain



The Roman Forum



Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid passport to travel; with at least 6 months' validity. All non-US citizens should check with the appropriate foreign consulate for additional entry requirements. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.