

ROME WEEKEND



“No city in the world is as beautiful as Rome and few as glamorous...”

Spring 2011

The AIFS Optional Tour to Rome is an ideal opportunity to visit the magical Capital City of Italy. Rome provides a phenomenal mix of ancient history, legend and awe inspiring monuments. Rome was once the centre of the civilised world and this can be seen by many of the ancient ruins found in the city. Though Rome no longer dictates the flow of western history, style, art, food and passion form Rome's new empire, tying the city to the living moment rather than relegating it to the past. In a city that has stood for nearly 3000 years, Rome's glory is not dimmed, merely altered....what's more, today, The Eternal City's ancient monuments and galleries, which for centuries have been a major draw on the international tourism map, are looking more magnificent than ever after an extensive programme of restoration. What more can we say, Rome is waiting for you...

Below is a sample itinerary:

Friday 4th March 2011

- AM** Morning departure from Florence to Rome.
Go directly to hotel to drop off luggage.
- PM** Privately guided tour of the Colosseum and the Roman Forum
- Evening** Free time to explore Rome by night.

Saturday 5th March 2011

- AM** In the morning there will be a privately guided tour of the **Vatican**, including the **Vatican Museums**, the **Sistine Chapel** and **St. Peter's Basilica**
- PM** Free time to visit some of the other famous Roman sites – for example the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona.

Sunday 6th March 2011

- AM** Free time. AIFS Staff will be on hand to direct students to make the most of their free time.
- PM** Travel back to Florence. We aim to be back in Florence by mid evening.

The Weekend Tour to Rome includes: Entrances, Guided Tours where specified, round trip transportation, 2 nights accommodation in a tourist class hotel on a bed and breakfast basis and the services of an AIFS Tour manager who will be with the group for the entire weekend.

Meals other than those specified are at student's expense.

The cost of this Tour will be approximately **€275** based on an enrolment of 25 students. Limited spaces.

Please note the above itinerary is subject to change depending on scheduling and availability.

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Things to see and do...

Vatican City - Città Del Vaticano

Vatican City is officially one of Europe's microstates, which means that although it is right in the middle of Italy it is actually a separate country – the home of the Catholic Church. The Vatican as we know it today was officially created in 1929 by the Lateran Treaty and the Pope or Bishop of Rome is the head of state. The Vatican houses many wonders and treasures including the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo. Perhaps the most amazing of all the Vatican's sights is the vast St. Peter's Basilica; the largest cathedral in all of Christendom and a true wonder.



The Colosseum



Although much changed from the original a visit to this old Roman amphitheatre will give you an instant glimpse back to the glory days of Rome. Once you are inside you will easily be able to imagine the Gladiatorial battles and epic stage performances that took place there.

The Roman Forum

Just a short walk from the magnificent Colosseo is the Roman Forum. Once inside you can walk in the footsteps of the ancient Romans for whom this was the centre of their flourishing city. With the untouched remains of many temples and other public buildings the Roman Forum is able to take you back in time like no other museum could.



The Pantheon



The Pantheon is truly one of Rome's greatest monuments. It is one of the world's oldest buildings with the roof still in tact and has provided the blueprint for many famous domes. What is truly remarkable is the hole in the centre of the roof – be sure not to stand underneath if it's raining!

The Trevi Fountain - Fontana di Trevi

There are numerous legends surrounding throwing coins in to this fountain. Be it one coin, two, three you usually have to sit with your back to the water and throw using your right hand over your left shoulder. Whether this means you will return to Rome, fall in love or be shortly married or even all three what is not debatable is that this is Rome's most striking fountain and a must see for any visitor.



Of course this is just a small glimpse of the many things there are to see and do in Rome. You will surely fall in love with this diverse, vibrant city and all it can offer it's welcome visitors.