



## ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- Colosseum
- Pantheon
- Trevi Fountain
- Roman Forum
- Arch of Titus
- Trajan's Column
- Catacombs
- Spanish Steps
- Capitoline Hill
- Jewish Ghetto
- Vatican Museum
- Sistine Chapel
- St. Peter's Basilica
- Piazza del Popolo
- Piazza Navona
- Galleria Borghese
- St. Peter's Square
- Basilica of St. John Lateran
- Day trip to Assisi

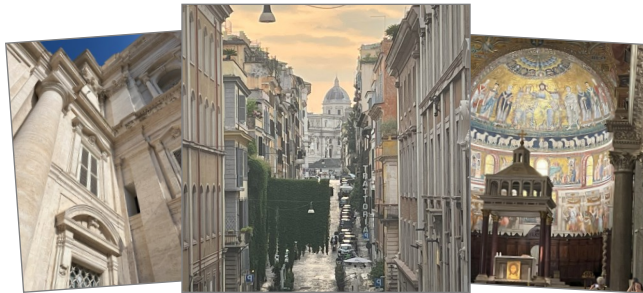


Dear Friends,

Along with Independent Presbyterian Church, I am delighted to announce our upcoming trip to Rome. Through centuries of stewardship under kings, senators, emperors, and popes, Rome came to exercise extraordinary influence over the western world. Our laws, institutions, language, and architecture all bear the stamp of this aptly named "Eternal City." Balancing mind and heart, our journey to Rome will offer an incredible opportunity to delve into the history, culture, and religion of this great urban center. As a special bonus, we will also take a day trip to Assisi, the home of beloved St. Francis.

Explore the famous Roman Forum. Walk through the ancient Christian catacombs. Say a prayer at St. Peter's Basilica. Marvel at the artistic treasures of the birthplace of the Renaissance. And so much more!

Join us for the trip of a lifetime!



For further information or to request a trip application, please visit:

**[biblicalexplorations.com](http://biblicalexplorations.com)**

or contact:

**[jeff@biblicalexplorations.com](mailto:jeff@biblicalexplorations.com)**

**(205) 335-7698**

INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AND  
BIBLICAL EXPLORATIONS  
INVITE YOU TO

# ROME

EXPLORE THE ETERNAL CITY

HOST: REV. SUSAN CLAYTON

GUIDE: DR. JEFF LEONARD



**MAY 31-JUNE 8, 2025**

**\$3599 (LAND ONLY)**

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT - \$1090**





# Explore the Eternal City of Rome

May 31 - June 8, 2025

Rev. Susan Clayton of Independent Presbyterian

Dr. Jeff Leonard of Biblical Explorations LLC

## ABOUT THE TRIP:

- Cost: \$3599 per person in doubles. Single supplement: \$1090. Deposit: \$500 per person. Final payment due by April 1.
- All tips, taxes, transportation (except airfare), hotels, entry fees, and guides included in trip fee. Daily breakfast, welcome luncheon and three dinners included.
- Travel by bus and Metro (within Rome) and modern motor-coach (to Assisi).
- Use of Whisper Device for easy listening.

**MAY 31 (SAT): ARRIVAL.** Our trip begins at **Fiumicino airport (FCO)** on the outskirts of Rome, where we meet up and board our coach for the forty-five minute drive into town. As we arrive in the city, we kick off our program with a **welcome luncheon** at a local Roman restaurant. Next is our introduction to the Eternal City's bus and Metro system. We'll practice riding both as we head to the historic heart of the city for a walking tour of

**Piazza Navona, Largo di Torre Argentina, the Pantheon, and Trevi Fountain** (bring your coins!). The rest of the evening is yours to catch a nap, enjoy dinner at a restaurant that catches your eye, and relax.

**JUNE 1 (SUN): ROME'S FOUNDING.** Today we visit sites associated with Rome's founding. We start with a trip to early Rome's cattle market, the **Forum Boarium**. Here, we can see the famous **"Mouth of Truth"** (following in the *Roman Holiday* footsteps of Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn, of course!) and consider temples dedicated to **Hercules Victor** and the river god **Portunus**. Next, we cross some of Rome's oldest bridges to explore **Tiber Island**. After lunch, we skip ahead several centuries in time to visit the site of Rome's **Jewish Ghetto** where a modest Jewish community continues to live today. We bring our day's activities to a close with a visit to the famous **Capitoline Museum**. The rest of the day is yours to find a spot for dinner and shake off that last bit of jet lag.

**JUNE 2 (MON): DAY TRIP TO ASSISI.** As Rome's streets fill with revelers (and its transportation system grinds to a halt!) for the Festa Della Repubblica, we escape by motorcoach for a day trip to the lovely town of **Assisi**. Our journey takes us up into the Apennine mountains to the hilltop village where St.

Francis was born and where he founded his order of friars. Along with visits to the **Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Claire**, and the **Piazza del Comune**, we have plenty of time for strolling Assisi's picturesque streets, savoring the local cuisine, and perhaps even doing a bit of shopping.

**JUNE 3 (TUE): IMPERIAL ROME.** Back at our home base in Rome, today's itinerary focuses on the heart of Republican and Imperial Rome: the **Forum**. We begin with an exploration of the **Palatine Hill**, one of the famous "seven hills" of Rome and the most exclusive address in all of the city. It was here that tradition claims Romulus first founded Rome and here where the Roman Caesars built their own lavish palaces. From the Palatine, we head down into the Forum itself, exploring the remains of **temples** to the Roman gods, triumphal **arches**, and **basilicas** built by notables ranging from Julius Caesar to Constantine. We also take note of the building that once housed the all-important **Roman Senate**. After a break for lunch, we journey down **Via dei Fori Imperiali** and on to **Trajan's Column**. The rest of the day is free for you to do more exploring on your own (the **Vittorio Emanuele** monument is nearby), to shop, and to enjoy dinner.

**JUNE 4 (WED): ART AND ARCHITECTURE.** Today we visit some of the Rome's greatest architectural and artistic treasures. Our first stop is the incomparable **Colosseum**, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The source of the colosseum's fame is readily apparent as we examine the massive arches that supported the structure (along with its 80,000 spectators) and the intricate works that lay beneath the arena. Even today, it is difficult to fathom the combination of such beauty and such barbarity in one edifice. After lunch and a brief visit to the **Museo Nazionale Romano**,

we head to the woodland gardens of the former **Villa Borghese Pinciana**. A stroll through the gardens leads us to our real destination, the world renowned **Galleria Borghese** and its stunning collection of Caravaggios and Berninis. Once you have had your fill of the Gallery, the rest of the evening is yours. The Piazza del Popolo and the famous Spanish Steps are nearby as are a host of delightful dinner spots.

**JUNE 5 (THU): EARLY CHRISTIAN ROME.** Today, we visit key sites from Christianity's advent in Rome. Our first stop is at **St. Agnes Outside the Walls**, a basilica first built at the behest of Constantine's daughter Constanza. Here, we also take a guided walk through the labyrinthine **catcombs** that lie deep beneath the church. Next, we visit the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels and Martyrs**, which Michelangelo constructed on the ruins of the enormous

**Baths of Emperor Diocletian**. This church has hosted many of Italy's most important weddings and state funerals. After lunch, we journey to the **Basilica of St. Sabina on the Aventine Hill**, which still looks much as it did when it was founded sixteen centuries ago. We conclude our day with a visit to the nearby

**Terrazza Belvedere Aventino** for one of the best overlooks in all of Rome. Linger as long as you like at the terrazza and consider finding a dinner spot in nearby Trastevere, the cozy neighborhood whose name means, literally, "across the Tiber."

**JUNE 6 (FRI): THE VATICAN.** No trip to Rome would be complete without a visit to the world's tiniest independent state and the heart of Roman Catholicism, **Vatican City**. We begin our visit with a guided tour of the **Scavi Vaticani**, the underground foundations of **St. Peter's Basilica** and the traditional burial site for Peter himself. As we make our way upstairs, we marvel at the beauty, sanctity, and sheer enormity of the basilica. Not to be missed are works like Bernini's bronze **Baldacchino**, which towers above the church's altar, and Michelangelo's stunning **Pietà**. After lunch, we tour the priceless treasures of the **Vatican Museums**, ending our journey at the famous **Sistine Chapel**. For dinner, consider one of the many restaurants in the area or in the nearby Prati district.

**JUNE 7 (SAT): CHRISTIAN ROME.** On our last full day together, we begin by visiting the **Archbasilica of St. John Lateran**, the church that serves as the official seat of the Bishop of Rome, the pope. The doors of the church are actually those that once graced the Roman Senate. Just across the street, we visit the **Sancta Scala**, the "sacred stairs" that millions of pilgrims have ascended on their knees as part of their pilgrimage to Rome. Our last official stop is at the **Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore**, one of the seven "pilgrimage churches" in Rome and the largest dedicated to the mother of Christ. With our exploring complete, the afternoon is **free** for you to soak in one last day in Rome before we all regather for a **final farewell feast** in the evening.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wander through the ruins of the Roman Forum.
- Marvel at the size and scale of the Colosseum.
- Toss your coins into the famous Trevi Fountain.
- Visit Rome's most ancient and most important churches.
- Make a pilgrimage to St. Peter's Basilica.
- Explore ancient Christian catacombs.
- Savor artworks by Michelangelo, Raphael, Caravaggio, Bernini, and countless others.
- Marvel at the incomparable ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.
- Explore Rome's most important cultural sites.
- Window shop in one of Europe's great cities.
- Find a special restaurant to enjoy true Roman dining.
- Ample free time built in for you to explore on your own.
- Day trip to the hilltop village of Assisi.

