

Exploring Rome & Campania

Day 1 Departure From London To Rome (3 Nights)

Fly from the UK to Rome, on arrival you will be met by your tour guide who will welcome the group and assist you on your transfer to your hotel. After check-in, our introduction to the city will be a Walking Tour from Castel Sant'Angelo over the River Tiber to Piazza Navona, which is an elegant square built on the site of Emperor Domitian's ancient stadium. In addition to admiring Bernini's fountains and the local artists works, you may also wish to sample the world famous 'tartufo' ice cream for your first taste of Rome.

Day 2 Rome (City Of The Caesars)

We will begin this morning's sightseeing with a visit to the great Colosseum, which is the symbol of Rome's eternity. We will then enter the ruins of the Roman Forum, with its many temples, basilicas and triumphal arches. After lunch we will view Trajan's Column and markets, and the dazzling white marble Vittorio Emmanuele Monument, before we walk into the quiet recesses of the oldest known Jewish Ghetto. You will pass some of the oldest ruins in Piazza Largo Argentina such as the tombs of the kings of Italy. You will then make your way to the best-preserved monument of ancient Rome, the Pantheon which is a masterpiece of architecture with its huge hemispherical dome. It also contains the tombs of the kings of Italy and that of the artist, Raphael.

Day 3 Rome (City Of The Popes)

Our day at the Vatican City will begin with a visit to the Vatican Museums, which house one of the most impressive collections of art in the world. After a break for lunch just outside the Vatican walls, we will continue to St. Peter's Square. The majesty and size of St. Peter's Basilica upon entry is unforgettable. It contains many treasures and masterpieces, including the famous Pieta by Michelangelo, the tomb of St. Peter and Bernini's magnificent Baldacchino

Day 4 Rome - Cassino - Sorrento (4 Nights)

Today you will head south outside Rome's ancient walls, through the Porta San Sebastiano and onto the Appian Way. Our first stop is the Catacombs of San Sebastiano, one of the underground Christian cemeteries that were in use from the 2nd century AD. We then continue by private coach to Sorrento. En route we stop near Cassino to view the imposing Abbey of Monte Cassino. At the romantic cliff top town of Sorrento, which overlooks the Bay of Naples, you will enjoy some of the most beautiful views in Europe.

Day 5 Option A Pozzuoli Area - Solfatara - Herculaneum - Sorrento

This morning we will tour the ancient sights at Pozzuoli, such as the Amphitheatre, one of the largest in Italy, and the Temple of Serapis. As we leave town, we will stop at the Solfatara Crater that still emits the streams of steam that have been used for medicinal purposes since Roman times. We also visit Herculaneum, buried in mud in the same cataclysm that destroyed Pompeii and whose ruins poignantly reveal a vanished civilization.

OR

Day 5 Option B Day Trip To The Amalfi Drive & Paestum

This morning we will drive south along the Spectacular Amalfi Drive, undoubtedly Italy's most spectacular coastline. On route we will make a stop at the picturesque town of Amalfi before continuing to Paestum, founded by the Greeks around 600 BC, and one of the most impressive archaeological sites in the world. The Temple of Neptune was built in the 5th century BC in a pure Doric style and is among the best preserved temples in either Italy or Greece. Other highlights include the Basilica, dedicated to Juno and the fascinating Museum.

Day 6 Day Trip To Mt. Vesuvius & Pompeii

This morning we make a visit to the top of Mt. Vesuvius itself before we head south to the magnificent Roman ruins at Pompeii, which give a fascinating glimpse into Roman life. In 79 AD, the fury of nearby Mt. Vesuvius was unleashed upon this prosperous city, killing its 2,000 inhabitants and burying it under pumice and ash. Today, the excavations reveal the ruins of the city's amphitheaters, forum, baths, streets and splendid houses, some with their frescoes still visible. Finally we explore the Villa of the Mysteries outside the city walls.

Day 7 Day Trip To Capri: 'The Island Of Dreams'

Today we make an early start to the port of Sorrento for an excursion to the beautiful Island of Capri, which has always been so attractive to visitors that have included emperors and kings, writers and artists. Next we take a boat trip to the Blue Grotto before taking the funicular up the steep cliff side to the town of Capri and the famous Piazza Umberto. From there we will take a Walking Tour through the narrow passageways to the other side of the island to the Belvedere di Tragara, which overlooks the majestic Faraglioni rocks. There will be some free time to visit one of the perfume factories, and to browse around the market, before we hike up to the Villa Jovis.

Day 8 Sorrento - Naples – London

Today we will return to Naples Airport. En route, time permitting, we will visit the National Archaeological Museum, with its Roman and Greek sculpture. This museum contains one of Europe's most valuable archaeological collections particularly notable are the select Farnese acquisitions and the mosaics and sculpture excavated at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Your enjoyable and rewarding tour will come to an end as your tour guide accompanies you to the airport for the return flight home.