

Image credits: Braden Collum on Unsplash

## 12 Days Itinerary

# Italy Couples Trip - Rome, Puglia, Amalfi Coast

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**Day 2** Private Transfer from Rome Airport to Hotel Dei Mellini Hotel - Rome, Italy (1 Night)

**Day 3** Palazzo Sant'Anna Lecce, Italy

**Day 4** Things to do In Lecce and the Puglia Area  
Private Cooking Class in Cesarina's Home with Tasting in Lecce 5:00 PM (4hr)

**Day 7** Hotel Royal Positano - Positano, Italy (2 Nights)

**Day 8** Private Pompeii And Herculaneum Walking Tour With Archaeologist 10:30 AM (6hr)

**Day 9** Rome - Hotel Degli Artisti (4 Days)  
Private Introduction to Rome Tour 4:00 PM (2hr)

**Day 10** Vatican Highlights Tour: Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museums with the Skip-the-Lines Tickets 8:30 AM (3hr)  
Optional Roman Bath Experience -QC Terme  
Optional Roman Bath - Argiletum Spa

Day 11 Private Colosseum with Forum + Palatine Hill 9:00 AM (3hr)

Day 12 Flight from Rome to Chicago

Connect with Boutique Travel Advisors



## About Boutique Travel Advisors

<https://travelbta.com/>

At **Boutique Travel Advisors**, we believe luxury travel goes beyond welcome chocolates on pillows & first-class seats. Luxury travel can be subjective. To us, the definition of luxury travel embodies having the privilege to explore & experience the infinitely possible wonderments the world has to offer when we decide to mindfully venture outside of our comfort zone in our home environment.

From booking bespoke safaris in South Africa, serenely scenic river cruises through France's waterways, to private wine (+ pasta) tastings on the Amalfi Coast... BTA strives to curate each personalized itinerary with credible expertise, dedicated service & the whole-hearted intention for each traveler to exceed their travel goals and expectations while on the adventure of a lifetime.

BTA is proudly a women-owned & run company. Co-owners and luxury travel curators, Janet Semenova and Angie Rice, use a thorough 5-step process to seamlessly design & tailor YOUR travel experience: explore, imagine, build, journey, reflect.

Your BTA travel itinerary is more than a document of scheduled flights, tours, and dinner reservations. It is the motherboard, the holy grail, the backbone of a transformational journey that turns your individual, subjective experiences into heart-warming, thought-provoking, jaw-dropping, life-changing memories that are worthy of being cherished for a lifetime.

Our purpose is to make your travel dreams come true... We are here to make your every step along the way uncomplicated, stress-free, and wildly exciting. All we ask is, ***where will your journey take you?***



## Covid-19 Related Disclaimer & General Risks of Travel

Cancellations due to fear of travel or restrictions such as the requirement to quarantine due to Covid-19 are not covered reasons for cancellation.

Rules and regulations are changing on a daily basis. While Boutique Travel Advisors is doing our best to stay attuned to the requirements for travel to your travel destinations, the traveler is responsible for knowing and following the travel protocols including entry requirements, restrictions, testing, masking regulations and other.

Travelers are responsible for scheduling all Covid-19 related testing and completing all paperwork to allow for entry into the country of travel and also for the return to the US.

### Flight Preparation:

Boutique Travel Advisors highly recommends that you check your flight for any changes at least 48 hours prior to departure and that you check in prior to arrival to the airport when possible. Particularly during today's environment, we recommend that you arrive at the airport 3 hours in advance of traveling internationally and at least 2 hours prior to flying domestic.

Boutique Travel Advisors is not liable for any travel interruption or disruption.

**Risks of Travel and Release:** Boutique Travel Advisors assumes no responsibility for and shall not be liable for the acts or omissions on the part of any other party not under our control or any acts of God, unsafe conditions, terrorism, health hazards including pandemics, illness, weather hazards, or the suitability for a disabled person of any portion of any trip. We have no special knowledge of dangers during travel or at destinations. For information related to such dangers, we recommend going to the State Department travel website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), click on "Find International travel Information" then click on "Country Information", and fill in the name of the destination country. For medical and health information, we recommend going to the Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel), then click on "Destinations" and scroll to the name of the destination country. It is your personal decision to travel, and you are doing so with full knowledge of current travel recommendations and travel restrictions with regards to the risks of COVID-19.

YOU HEREBY EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL OF THESE RISKS AND DANGERS, AND YOU HEREBY EXPRESSLY AGREE TO FOREVER RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND HOLD US, AND OUR AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, ASSOCIATES, AFFILIATED COMPANIES, GUIDES, GROUP LEADERS, AND SUBCONTRACTORS HARMLESS AGAINST ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTIONS, SUITS, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS OF ANY AND EVERY KIND AND NATURE WHATSOEVER WHICH YOU NOW HAVE OR WHICH MAY HEREAFTER ARISE OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THESE RISKS AND DANGERS.



## Weather in Italy

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/it/italy-weather>



[Florence, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)

[Milan, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)

[Portofino, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)

[Positano, Salerno, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)

[Rome, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)

[Venice, Italy 10-Day Weather Forecast](#)



## Tipping Recommendations Italy

### TIPPING INFORMATION

Gratuities in Italy, while extremely welcome and appreciated, are not as much 'expected' as they are in other countries and are totally optional.

If you are happy with the service you have enjoyed and would like to show your gratitude to the people who made it a very special experience for you here below you can find the amounts we recommend for Tour Guides, Drivers and other special services:

Tour Guide Half Day Euro 20.00

Tour Guide Full Day Euro 40,00

Transfer (Driver) Euro 15,00

Driver Half Day Euro 20,00

Driver Full Day Euro 40,00

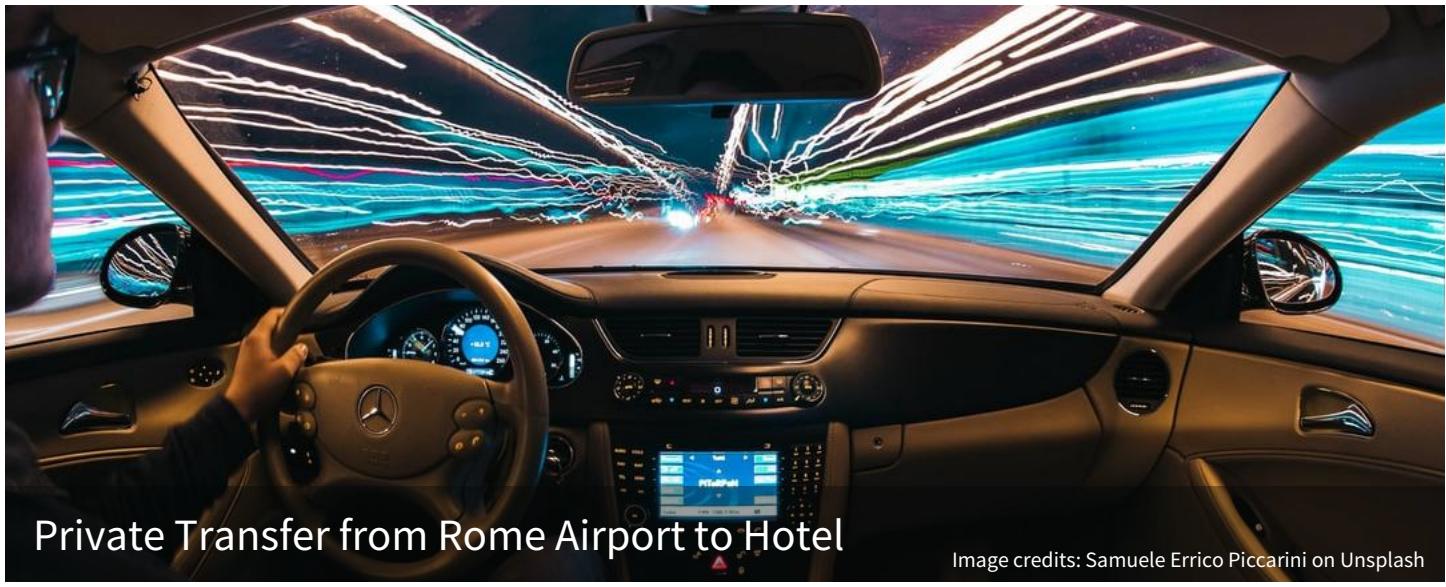
Housekeeping staff 2 Euro/day

Hotel Staff, such as porters, should be tipped about 50 cents per bag for taking your bags to/from your room.

The above amounts are to be considered per service and not per person. Fiscal laws in Italy are extremely tough on this matter and this is the reason why these amounts cannot be included in the service costs and have to be paid **in cash directly to the suppliers**.

If you would like to ‘tip like a local’ at bars and restaurants then we suggest just leaving the change ie if your meal costs Euro 56 then just leave Euro 4; if the meal costs Euro 92 then just leave the Euro 8 change.

## Day 2



2:00 PM

Check In

12:00 PM

Check Out

1 Night

Duration

Hotel housed in 19th century building in the historic city center - Rooms furnished in modern English-style inspired by Art Deco.

#### Room Selection

Room Category	Bedding
Suite	King

#### Room Description

Buffet Breakfast  
Welcome Experience includes:  
Welcome Card or Letter from General Manager  
Fruit basket and spumante bottle for each suite paid



3:00 PM

Check In

10:30 AM

Check Out

#### Room Selection

#### Room Description

Palazzo Sant'Anna is in the heart of Lecce, within the walls of the old city near Porta Rudiae. In a few steps you can enjoy all the atmosphere of a city that has been able to make its charm its most precious resource. Palazzo Sant'Anna is less than 700 meters from Lecce railway station and 47 kilometers from Brindisi airport (Salento Airport). Our staff is at your disposal in case you need a transfer. We are in the historic center of Lecce. If you reach the palace by car, we remind you that this is a pedestrian area. It is possible to access for loading and unloading and then the car can be moved to one of the numerous car parks that surround us, even by our staff if you wish.

## Day 4



### Things to do In Lecce and the Puglia Area

#### LECCE

##### What to do in Lecce?

Lecce, city of the Sun, the Sea and the Wind, hides in its streets traces of the past, revealing the richness of the Baroque period in its squares and palaces. Its historical relevance has allowed it to be nominated for European Capital of Culture 2019. Its breathtaking artistic beauty makes it one of the cities to visit.

##### Lecce Information

Likely founded by the ancient Greeks, the city was conquered by the Romans around the 3rd century BC, and remained under the rule of the Eastern Roman Empire until the 11th century. By the 16th century, Lecce had become one of the most important cities of southern Italy and was enriched with opulent Baroque monuments beginning in 1630. The Piazza Sant'Oronzo depicts nearly the city's entire history, from the ruins of the Amphitheatre to the 17th-century column that was constructed using some of the Roman columns. Representing the Renaissance, the Palazzo del Saggio hosts important art exhibitions, and the nearby Basilica di Santa Croce, with its richly decorated facade, is a masterpiece of masonry, once compared to a lunatic having a nightmare.

##### Lecce: places to visit

Palazzo Sant'Anna is wedged between the lanes of the historic center and, just a few minutes' walk from the hotel, you can visit the most evocative places in Lecce. The access to the historic center closest to Palazzo Sant'Anna is Porta Rudiae, of medieval origin and rebuilt in 1700.

Moving towards the center, you immediately come across the majestic Piazza del Duomo and the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta from which the 72 meter high bell tower stands. A few more steps in Via Vittorio Emanuele II and you reach Piazza Sant'Oronzo: the real center of Lecce where the nightlife is concentrated and where you can observe and visit the Column of Sant'Oronzo, the Roman Amphitheater, the Palazzo del Seggio , the church of San Marco and Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Via Templari connects Piazza Sant'Oronzo and the Basilica of Santa Croce: the result of the contamination of the Renaissance and Baroque style, the maximum expression of which is evident in the rose window and in the other architectural elements that make up the facade. The next destinations? The Castle of Lecce - a fortress built by Charles V in the 16th century - and the Villa Comunale, the Giuseppe Garibaldi public gardens, a meeting point for the people of Lecce and a place not to be missed for the guests of Palazzo Sant'Anna.

##### Visit Alberobello, Italy

Trulli is a traditional style of the house found only in Puglia. Made from local limestone, with thick walls and conical roofs, their design allows residents to control the interior temperature - an ingenious solution from the days before air conditioning. Founded in the 16th century, visitors can wander around the town, admiring the unique architectural style that dates back to pre-history. Several have been converted into museums or shops to further educate visitors about the tradition. The history behind Alberobello's settlement and their choice of using Trulli is particularly humorous - the houses could be dismantled at a moment's notice to fool the authorities into thinking Alberobello was not an inhabited settlement so locals could evade taxes.



## Private Cooking Class in Cesarina's Home with Tasting in Lecce

5:00 PM	9:00 PM	4hr
Start Time	End Time	Duration

### Meeting Point

Centrally located house in Lecce

### Highlights

- Immerse yourself in a private cooking class at the Cesarina's home
- Learn the secrets of the most famous dishes of Apulia cuisine
- Taste the fruit of your labor accompanied by a glass of local wine

### Description

Immerse yourself in a private cooking class at the Cesarina's home, learn the secrets of the most famous dishes of Lecce cuisine and taste the fruit of your labour accompanied by a glass of local wine.

During the lesson the Cesarina will reveal the tricks of the trade of 3 authentic Lecce recipes. Have fun putting your cooking skills to the test. Each participant will have a workstation equipped with utensils and all the ingredients to make the dishes. Then, taste everything you have prepared accompanied by a selection of red and white local wines.

Cesarine is Italy's oldest network of 700+ home cooks all over the country in more than 120 cities. They are passionate and welcoming hosts that open the doors of their own homes to curious travellers for immersive culinary experiences.

## Day 7



### Hotel Royal Positano - Positano, Italy

39 089-875000

Via Pasitea 344, Positano, Italy 84017

2:00 PM

Check In

10:00 AM

Check Out

2 Nights

Duration

Modern - 1 mi from beach.

#### Room Selection

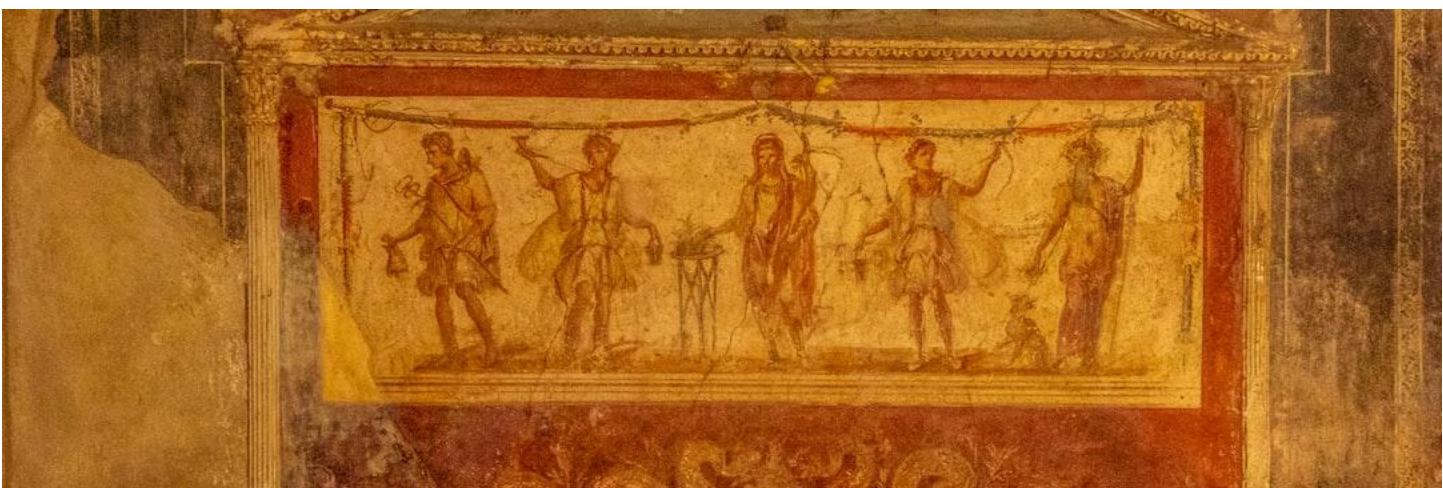
##### Bedding

King

##### Room Notes

Car Park is nearby.

## Day 8



### Private Pompeii And Herculaneum Walking Tour With Archaeologist

Image credits: Nick Fewings on Unsplash

<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>6hr</b>
Start Time	End Time	Duration

### Meeting Point

Meet up at the main entrance of Pompeii ruins called "Porta Marina Superiore".

### Highlights

- Explore the Pompeii
- Discover Herculaneum
- Learn how the Romans lived before the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

### Description

A walking tour to learn about Pompeii and Herculaneum history. Of all the ancient Rome tours, a visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum is a must while staying in Italy.

Nowhere else will you see history so well preserved. The story behind this famous place is laid bare as you wander around the streets between former houses and brothels. You will see the last moments in the lives of the people of Pompeii that were captured by the erupting volcano.

Herculaneum is much smaller but better preserved. While Pompeii had been covered in four/five meters of ashes, an avalanche of muds 20 meters thick had buried Herculaneum.

It is still possible seeing second stories, carbonized wooden objects, intact paintings, and mosaics. Visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum is a daily life experience to be enjoyed through a detailed tour.

## Day 9



### Rome - Hotel Degli Artisti

+39 06 4201 4991

Via degli Artisti, 18, 00187 Roma RM, Italy

<https://www.hoteldegliartisti.com/en>

**4 Days**

Duration

Hotel Degli Artisti is an **urban oasis hotel of cutting-edge technology** blended with classic style located in the heart of Rome. It will impress you with its wonderful views of the Eternal City, its bright rooms fully equipped with elegant fittings, accurate and modern details, its sensational indoor areas and its spoiling breathtaking views.

All the new hotel rooms and areas have been endowed with a sound proof system to guarantee rest and a quiet stay for our customers.

The quiet and elegant 4 star hotel Degli Artisti hosts its guests with a unique and spacious **Lobby**, an intimate bar and a **wonderful courtyard** in which guests can relax surrounded by greenery. This new 4 star Hotel offers free superfast WiFi connection in all the building areas.

From the lobby to the breakfast room, every space of the hotel is a little heaven to rest.

After a long day visiting the Eternal city the customers will certainly appreciate the perfect cozy hangout for relaxing or reading a book in the lovely modern and comfortable lobby or retreat in the **terrace with inspiring stunning views over the city**.



4:00 PM	6:00 PM	2hr
Start Time	End Time	Duration

#### Tour Description

Discover Rome with a local historian on our 2-hour introductory tour. Designed to provide a perfect introduction to Rome for first-timers, or to reorient returning travelers to the Italian capital, this tour will offer a comprehensive look at the city's history and culture, different neighborhoods, and most famous sites.

#### Sites Visited

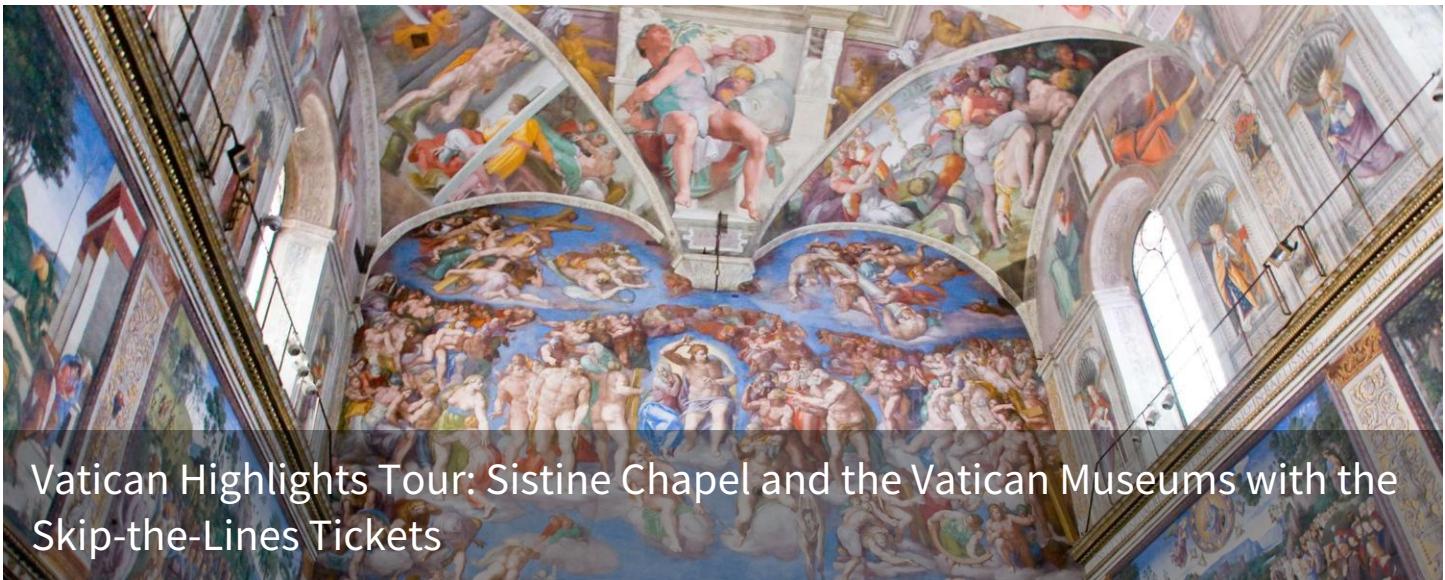
- Piazza del Popolo
- Palazzo Borghese (exterior)
- Spanish Steps
- Trevi Fountain
- Pantheon (interior and exterior)

#### Itinerary Details

We'll start our journey in the elegant and stately Piazza del Popolo—the “People’s Square”—where the three main streets of Rome’s historic center meet. We'll explore the neighborhood known commonly as Tridente, or “Trident,” and what remains of its imperial tombs and obelisks, medieval churches, and Renaissance palaces, including Palazzo Borghese. As we make our way to the Spanish Steps, we'll discuss the history of this Roman icon, from its origins—ironically as much French as Spanish—to its present-day popularity.

At the Trevi Fountain, we'll admire and discuss its creation and design, as well as what water represents to the city of Rome. We'll end the tour by exploring the Pantheon, one of Italy's greatest architectural wonders. Throughout our time together, you will learn about Rome's different neighborhoods, fantastic sites, and general life and culture. We will also be sure to provide you with top-notch recommendations, answer any questions you may have, and ensure you're oriented before we part ways.

## Day 10



### Vatican Highlights Tour: Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museums with the Skip-the-Lines Tickets

8:30 AM	11:30 AM	3hr
Start Time	End Time	Duration

#### Meeting Point

TBA

Our Vatican Collections Tour with skip-the-line tickets allows us to explore one of the most sacred sites of Christendom, enriched by a highly knowledgeable tour guide. We will focus on the Vatican Museums, which opened in the 16th century and are visited by 6 million people a year. These hallowed halls contain a world-class collection of artworks. On this three-hour tour, we will get an immersive look into the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's rooms, and more. We recommend pairing this with our [St. Peter's Tour](#) for an in-depth Vatican experience.

#### Sites Visited

- Vatican Museum
- Sistine Chapel

#### Included

- Skip the line Admission Tickets
- 

With approximately 4 miles of halls and corridors to choose from, at the discretion of our guide and your preferences, we will be selective in the exhibitions we see. We often begin in the chronologically arranged picture gallery known as the Pinacoteca. The broad collection of paintings and other artworks included here provide an excellent overview of art history from the late medieval to high Renaissance periods. From here, we'll traverse the halls of the Vatican palaces, with the option to visit the Museo Gregoriano Egizio (Egyptian Museum). Here you can see pieces taken from Egypt during the Roman times, a sarcophagi from around 1000BCE and a mummy are on display. Another option is the Museo Gregoriano Etrusco which contains artifacts unearthed in Etruscan tombs and Roman antiquities. You will see a range of impressive craftsmanship and artistic endeavors which span the Iron Age to the fifth century BC.

After seeing some of the highlights of the Vatican Museum, we will make our way to the famous Sistine Chapel. We'll discuss the cultural, religious, and artistic climate that influenced the various artists who worked on the numerous frescos. You will hear about the tenuous relationship between Michelangelo and the then cardinal Carafa as well as the techniques, materials, and processes that brought his incredible accomplishments to life.

At the conclusion of this tour, you would have seen some of the highlights from the Vatican Museums' world-class collection where our expert tour guide would have contextualized these masterpieces with stories of the cultural, political, economic, and religious climates in which they evolved. You will have experienced the majesty of the world-famous Sistine chapel and have an appreciation for the immense skill and effort involved in bringing this artwork to life.

This tour is often coupled with our [St. Peter's Tour with Historian](#), a three-hour tour of the Basilica and Treasury museum. Together they create a more in-depth, 6-hour experience.



## Optional Roman Bath Experience -QC Terme

+39 02 8974 7209

Via Portuense, 2178, 00054 Fiumicino RM, Italy

<https://www.qcterme.com/it/roma/qc-termeroma/orari-e-prezzi>

A 35-minute drive from Rome to have a day of Roman Bathing and Spa. [Directions](#) from your hotel in Rome

### Yesterday Caracalla, today QC Termeroma

The QC Termeroma resort and wellness centre is located on a historic estate on the Roman coast.

Pools, sunbeds and waterfalls set in a majestic, centuries-old garden for a revitalising experience just a stone's throw from the capital.

A place where the ancient imperial tradition of salus per aquam meets modern wellness technology

### Indulge in otium

Built according to the philosophy of Ancient Rome, which placed water at the centre of the gratification of body and spirit, the wellness pathway at QC Termeroma winds through the fascinating underground of the historic buildings until it reaches the enchanting park, where you can relax in a regenerating bath, surrounded by the majestic nature of the Oasis of Porto.



## Optional Roman Bath - Argiletum Spa

+39 06 8880 5491

Via della Madonna dei Monti, 109, 00184 Roma RM, Italy

<https://www.argiletumspa.com>

Argiletum Spa is inspired by ancient Roman baths with tailor-made massages, baths and saunas, all designed to facilitate a relaxing escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. You'll find a variety of treatments here designed to be malleable enough to work for your unique needs, including spa treatments and massages.

When you visit this spa, you'll also find a wide range of beauty treatments that can take care of you from head to toe. Hair removal and styling services are offered here, as are manicures and pedicures. Try it out for yourself just a mile southwest of the city centre.

## Day 11



### Private Colosseum with Forum + Palatine Hill

9:00 AM

Start Time

12:00 PM

End Time

3hr

Duration

#### Meeting Point

At the Arch of Constantine, on the corner closest to the Colosseum,

#### Highlights

- Explore the Colosseum, the Forum, and the Palatine Hill
- Learn about the assassination of Julius Caesar and Cicero's tragic end
- Discover the religious rituals of Ancient Rome in front of great temples
- See luxurious Imperial palaces on the leafy Palatine hill
- Hear the distant roars of the beasts in the arena and the screams of enraptured crowds

#### Description

Our private Colosseum tour brings Ancient Rome vividly to life as you embark on an unforgettable journey into the distant past, reconstructing the glory of the antique world's greatest city through its imposing ruins.

Exploring the Colosseum, the Forum, and the Palatine Hill, you'll tread the very ground where mighty emperors, fearsome gladiators, and great orators made their mark on the ancient world and wrote themselves into history. With the help of our expert guide, you'll be able to make sense of what you see, in the spaces that were once the political and religious heart of Rome.

At the heart of our tour is the spectacular Colosseum, a wonder of architecture and a miracle of engineering even today. The deadly spectacles of life and death that took place there were wildly popular, and to understand why we'll have to get into the minds of the ancient Romans themselves. Recreating a day at the games, we'll practically hear the distant roars of the beasts in the arena and the screams of enraptured crowds.

In the magnificently preserved Roman Forum nearby your guide will weave tales of political intrigue, betrayal, and murder worthy of a Hollywood thriller. Learn about the assassination of Julius Caesar and Cicero's tragic end; discover the religious rituals of Ancient Rome in front of great temples, and relive the inspiring speeches of Roman rulers in the Senate.

Wander through luxurious Imperial palaces on the leafy Palatine hill, and learn about the incredible excesses of fabulously wealthy emperors drunk on power. As the spellbinding panorama of Rome spreads out all before us from this spectacular vantage point, see how Rome's past still lives on in the city today.

## Day 12

### Rome, Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport to Chicago, O'Hare International Airport

1-800-864-8331

*Operated By United Airlines*

<https://www.united.com/en/us/checkin>

FCO •

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#### Notes

**United Airlines Reference Number:**

Please find additional details & confirmation of your flight reservation in the Documents tab of your travel app.

**United Airlines**

- [Flight Status](#)
- [Manage Your Booking](#)
- [Baggage Information](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Customer Support](#)

Boutique Travel Advisors is not responsible for flight changes. Please check in for your flights within the permissible time frame (typically 24 hours prior to departure) to confirm the accuracy of your flight information. Flight confirmations are subject to change and/or cancellation by the airlines.

Seat assignments will be assigned if available at the time of booking. If you would like assistance with securing seat assignments after booking, please let us know. Our fee is \$25 per confirmation number to assist with seat assignments. Please note that airlines often charge for seat assignments. If you choose to obtain your own seat assignment please update us with your chosen seat assignments so we can upgrade our records.

***Given the unpredictability of today's environment, BTA strongly recommends arriving to the airport at least 3 hours in advance for international travel and 2 hours in advance for domestic travel.***



**"Travel becomes a strategy for accumulating photographs." // Susan Sontag**

As your dedicated travel curators, nothing fills our hearts quite like seeing beautifully captured moments of your unique experiences and exciting adventures. If you do choose to share and post photos of your journey, please **tag us at @travelbta on Instagram and Facebook!**

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for the thrill & honor of choosing BTA to be a part of your journey. We hope your travels lead you to beautiful destinations and left you with even more beautiful memories.