1. We got into Rome the day before Easter and woke up early Sunday to try and find our way into the Vatican. We were met by quite a large crowd
2. St Peter’s
3. St Peter’s. We were redirected from the first gate we tried to go through, but regardless we still ended up being right up near the front of the standing section for the service. All those seats in front were reserved months in advance, but we had to have the next best option. Only a row or two of people standing between us and the gate
4. We also realized that we were standing in Italy, looking into the Vatican across the border
5. Easter mass at St Peter’s
6. Easter mass at St Peter’s
7. Easter mass at St Peter’s
8. The bishops starting to take their seats
9. That’s Pope Francis up on the balcony if you look really closely
10. This is the crowd behind me. Glad we got there when we did
11. Left mass and walked around, there’s St Peter’s in the background still
12. The River Tiber
13. Castel Sant’Angelo
14. Piazza Navona
15. Piazza Navona
16. Piazza Navona
17. Piazza Navona
18. Piazza Navona
19. The Pantheon
20. The Pantheon
21. The Pantheon
22. The Pantheon
23. The Pantheon
24. The Pantheon
25. The Pantheon
26. The Pantheon
27. Trevi Fountain. Absolutely swamped with tourists
28. Trevi Fountain
29. Trevi Fountain
30. The Spanish Steps. Also so crowded with people sitting on them that you could hardly see the stairs
31. The Spanish Steps
32. The Spanish Steps
33. The Spanish Steps
34. .
35. Piazza del Popolo
36. Piazza del Popolo
37. Piazza del Popolo
38. Piazza del Popolo
39. Pincio Promenade. I really loved the trees with the really high branches with the clean looking top. They were all over the city
40. They sell (cheap) wine by the plastic container here, I have never seen this before
41. The remains of an aqueduct
42. Arch of Constantine outside the Colosseum
43. Colosseum
44. Colosseum
45. Colosseum
46. Colosseum
47. Colosseum
48. Colosseum
49. Colosseum
50. Colosseum
51. Colosseum. You can see the top level where some of the outer brick has come off
52. Colosseum
53. Colosseum. A tough climb up the steps
54. Colosseum
55. Colosseum
56. Colosseum
57. Colosseum
58. Colosseum
59. Colosseum
60. Making our way over to Palatine
61. Palatine
62. Palatine
63. Palatine
64. Palatine
65. Palatine. Love the trees
66. Palatine
67. Palatine
68. Palatine with the Colosseum in the background
69. Palatine
70. The Colosseum from Palatine
71. Palatine
72. Some nice ivy-covered walls
73. The Roman Forum (what is left of it)
74. The Roman Forum
75. The Roman Forum
76. The Roman Forum
77. A line of statues at the Roman Forum
78. This guy has seen better days
79. The Roman Forum
80. The Roman Forum
81. The Roman Forum
82. The Roman Forum
83. The Roman Forum
84. The Roman Forum
85. The Roman Forum
86. The Roman Forum
87. The Roman Forum
88. Julius
89. Trajan’s Markets, a popular shopping destination during the second century
90. .
91. Altare della Patria. They had a large tomb of the lost soldier and terrace
92. Altare della Patria
93. Altare della Patria
94. Altare della Patria
95. Altare della Patria
96. Altare della Patria
97. Altare della Patria
98. Campidoglio, a square designed by Michelangelo
99. Campidoglio
100. Campidoglio
101. A nice skyline view
102. Ducklings learning how to swim from their mum in this fountain
103. The terrace of the Vatican Museum. It was about a three hour wait for us to finally get in, but it was well worth it
104. An old Roman coffin
105. An old Roman coffin
106. Vatican Museum
107. The room of busts in the Vatican Museum
108. The room of busts in the Vatican Museum
109. The room of busts in the Vatican Museum
110. The room of busts in the Vatican Museum
111. Vatican Museum
112. Vatican Museum. This room was lined with some pretty impressive full-sized personal statues
113. View over the city from the Vatican Museum
114. Vatican Museum
115. Vatican Museum
116. Vatican Museum
117. Vatican Museum
118. Vatican Museum
119. Vatican Museum
120. The museum seemed to have a very distinct order that you would go through all the rooms in, and at one point we became locked in with the mass of people that we could only move one direction
121. Vatican Museum
122. Vatican Museum
123. Vatican Museum
124. Vatican Museum
125. The famous School of Athens
126. In between this picture and the last, we went through the Sistine Chapel, where photos weren’t allowed. The place was absolutely incredible. Every square inch of the ceiling had some intricacy to look at. Very impressive
127. Vatican Museum
128. Back at St. Peter’s, this time to go inside. All of the chairs from mass two days earlier were still out as well
129. The line to get into the Basilica stretched around the entirety of St. Peter’s Plaza. This one was moving much quicker though and it only took about an hour and a half to get inside
130. The line to get into the Basilica stretched around the entirety of St. Peter’s Plaza. This one was moving much quicker though and it only took about an hour and a half to get inside
131. An international border
132. Inside St. Peter’s Basilica. It was the most extraordinary house of worship I have ever been into. Not only was it massive and had plenty to walk through and see, but the ceilings, columns, and domes were all unreal
133. St. Peter’s Basilica
134. St. Peter’s Basilica
135. St. Peter’s Basilica
136. St. Peter’s Basilica
137. St. Peter’s Basilica
138. St. Peter’s Basilica
139. The names of every saint buried in the basilica, beginning with St. Peter himself
140. St. Peter’s Basilica
141. The dome
142. St. Peter’s Basilica
143. St. Peter’s Basilica
144. St. Peter’s Basilica
145. St. Peter’s Basilica
146. The view of the Plaza from the Basilica. Pope Francis would have been standing right about here days earlier
147. An impressive pulpit
148. This is St. Peter’s resting place in the center of the Basilica under the altar. Two sets of stairs leading down to its own little sanctuary. On the lower level, where most other tombs were, his was by far the grandest and the only one we couldn’t get close to
149. St. Peter’s Basilica
150. The balcony where Pope Francis gave his address from
151. St. Peter’s Basilica
152. Pretty slick outfits