

ANCIENT ROME TOUR SATURDAY OCTOBER 22ND 2011

Duration: 3 hours. Operated daily. Departure at 9:00 AM or 2:30 PM.

Highlights: Piazza Venezia, Coliseum, Roman Forum, and driving by the Circus Maximus

- Notes:**
- In case of rain visit of the St. Peter's in Chains Basilica instead of the Roman Forum
 - On Sundays during Mass, the Basilica of St. Peter's in Chains may not be visited.
 - On January the Coliseum closes at 4:30 PM, last entrance is at 3:30 PM

This tour is designed to allow you to discover the ancient part of Rome. According to the legend Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus (the two brothers who were nursed by a she-wolf) over the famed Seven Hills. More reliable sources date the beginnings of the city from the 8th century BC when a small village was founded on the banks of the Tiber river as a meeting place for shepherds and farmers. By luxury motor coach you will be taken to Piazza Venezia, dominated by a large memorial to King Victor Emanuel II (the first king of a united Italy) and you pass by the Capitoline Hill, the site of the City Hall. You will see also two of the oldest bridges in Rome and the island of the Tiber. Driving by the well preserved pagan temples of the 1st Century BC you reach the Aventine, from where you'll admire the Circus Maximus the largest of the Roman circus. It served as a model for all the others. Proceeding by two of the seven hills, you will arrive at the Arch of Triumph of Emperor Constantine, a notable example of the Roman artistic and cultural genius. The arch was erected in AD 315 to celebrate Emperor Constantine's victory over Maxentius three years before. You will then visit the famed Coliseum. It rises majestically in the valley formed by the Esquiline, Caelian and Palatine Hills. It was begun by Vespasian in 72 AD who filled in the man-made lake belonging to Nero's Domus Aurea to make way for it. In 80 AD, under Titus, the Coliseum was inaugurated with 100 days celebrations and spectacles. Fights between men and beasts, races and mock naval battles, gladiatorial contests (Romans' best-loved spectacle) took place in the arena for several years. For centuries it was subjected to a terrible fate: enormous blocks of travertine were hacked off it to be used for other buildings, among them even St. Peter's Basilica. The tour continues by Oppius Hill and to the Basilica of St. Peter's in Chains, where you will admire another Michelangelo's masterpiece: The Statue of Moses. The church was constructed to protect the chains which bound St. Peter as prisoner, sent to Rome from Constantinople. Legend tells us that these chains, once placed next to other chains which held the Saint prisoner in Rome, welded themselves together forming one singular chain which you can see today. The next stop is the Roman Forum, to be seen only from the outside, the oldest of the Fora, which was the first political and religious center of Rome. The Fora were built by Caesar, Augustus, Trajan, Nerva and Vespasian. There are hardly any remains of the latter two. The Via dei Fori Imperiali, laid out in 1932 by Mussolini, divides the imperial forums. The Seven Hills: Capitoline, Caelian, Quirinal, Aventine, Viminal, Palatine, Esquiline.



Roman Forum



Moses in St. Peter's in Chains

Cost for the above tour to include motorcoach transfer, English speaking guide, entrance fees, wireless headphones:

Euro 45,00 per person based on min. 30 full paying guests