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From
€5,584 EUR

Single Room
€6,346 EUR
Twin Room
€5,584 EUR

Prices valid until
30th December 2024

15 days
Duration

Italy
Destination

Level 1 - Introductory to Moderate
Activity

Discover Rome | Cultural and History Small Group Tour for Seniors



Dec 23 2024 to Jan 06 2025

Discover Rome: Small Group Cultural and History Hour

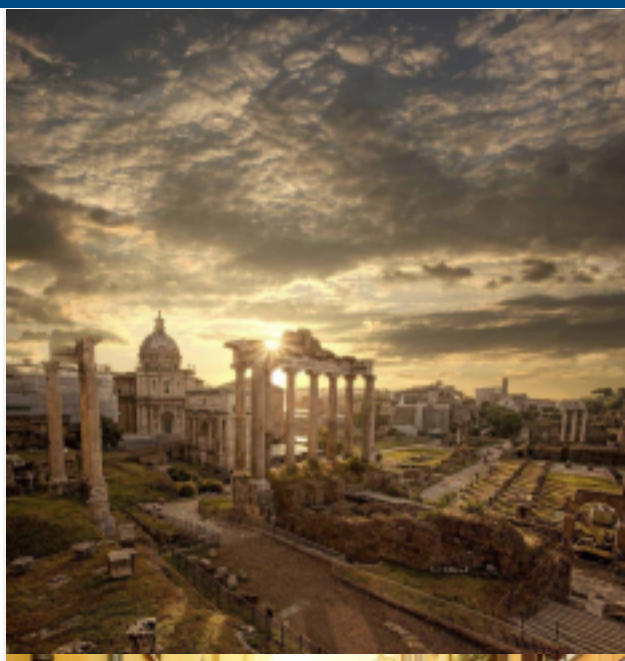
Odyssey offers easy, convenient, and relaxed escorted small group tours across Italy, Western Europe and beyond. We explore Italy's fairy-tale natural beauty, its ancient Roman, and Imperial heritage, its World Heritage Sites, and this world famous city all with some truly spectacular scenery along the way. This and more is all waiting to be explored on

one of Odyssey's small group tours of Italy, foccussed on Rome, designed for the senior traveller, and led by experienced, and enthusiastic like minded people.

On this 15-day small group winter tour, you experience the wonders of Rome, arguably the most fascinating city in Italy in December and January. As the capital city, the home of the Papacy, and the once-grand centre of a vast, ancient empire, Rome remains a cultural and historical mecca for the discerning traveller. This is great time to be in Rome both for Christmas and for New Year's Day.

Discover the cultural beginnings of faith, art, war, and technology with visits to the capital's churches, monuments, and museums on this fully escorted small group tour. Be inspired by everything Rome has to offer. From ancient Roman monuments through to early Christian basilicas to modern exhibition spaces. Explore Renaissance palaces, Baroque churches, and the Neo-classical architecture of post-unification Italy. Experience artistic wonders such as monuments Hadid's MAXXI exhibition space.

Exploring Rome in winter provides the opportunity to enjoy the 'Eternal City' without the buzz and distraction of the hordes of tourists who visit during Rome's hotter months. This small group tour also allows us to take advantage of shorter queues in the off-season and enjoy the hidden gems of Italy's capital. You have time to meet the locals and revel in this magnificent city's culinary delights. Unlike other tours of Rome, you will have the opportunity to really do as the Romans do and eat in local trattorias, sampling some of the finest cuisine of the city.







Discover Rome Tour Itinerary

Our program begins with a walking tour of Rome, taking in many ancient Roman sites. During this tour you visit the Piazza Augusto Imperatore, the Pantheon, the Baths of Diocletian, and the Marcello Theatre. We also visit the Colosseum, Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, and Domitian's Stadium. Significant monuments you see along the way include the 'Vittoriana,' and the Monumento Nazionale a Vittorio Emanuele II. This was built in honour of Victor Emmanuel, the first king

of a unified Italy. We will finish the day with a visit to the beautiful Piazza Navona, where we can see Bernini's magnificent Fountain of the Four Rivers. The remainder of our small group tour takes in other similar sites significant to Rome's history and culture.

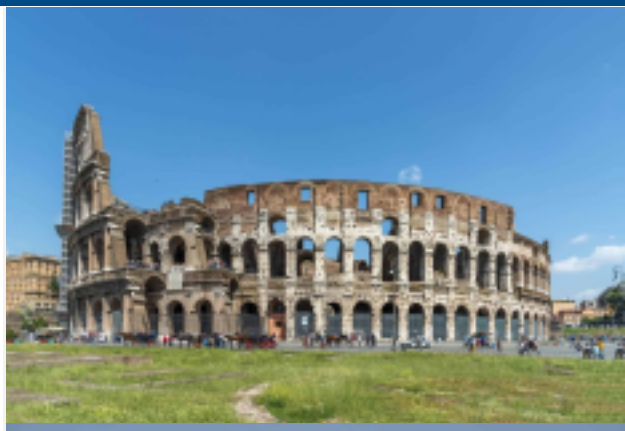
This tour is in Rome for December 25th. This will be the third day of the tour and we will make sure that it is a celebration for everyone. Rome has a unique feeling on this day and we will get time to walk via Trastevere to St Peter's for the Pope's 12.00pm address. Regardless of your religion, this is a special experience and will give you an insight into how the Papacy and the Vatican continue to shape this city.

During your tour you have the chance to explore Renaissance and Baroque churches and palaces associated with Michelangelo, Borromini, Bernini & Raffaello. You also travel to Tivoli, where we visit Hadrian's Villa & Vill D' Este. Participants also have also take in the magnificent collections of the Palazzo Borghese, Barberini, and Doria Pamphili. During the tour you enjoy an opera at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

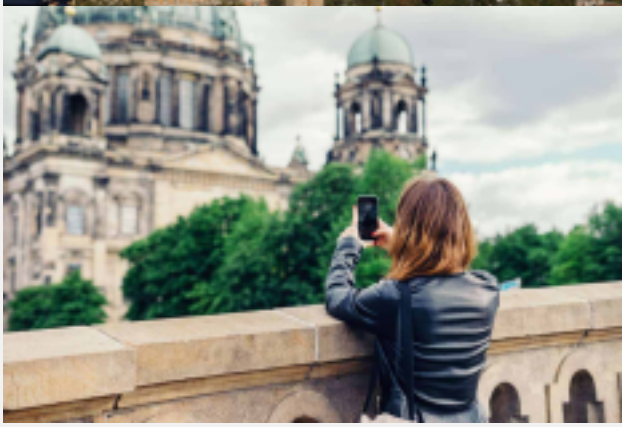
To prepare for the trip, check out our blog post listing 10 great books to read before travelling Italy! You can learn more about Italy with our country profile where all the other tour departures are listed as well.

For more details about this tour, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

Our tour of Rome is just one of the long stay tours Odyssey offers each year. With this tour type, senior travellers stay centrally located for at least a week and up to 21 days in each city and get the chance to experience the life of locals.







Highlights

1. Explore Renaissance and Baroque churches and palaces associated with Michelangelo, Borromini, Bernini & Raffaello.
2. Travel to Tivoli to visit Hadrian's Villa & Vill D' este.
3. View the magnificent collections of the Palazzo Borghese, Barberini, and Doria Pamphili.
4. Enjoy opera classics at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.
5. Trace the hub of Europe's greatest empire through the fascinating Roman culture.







Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Rome

Overview:

On the first night of our Rome Winter Odyssey, we will transfer to our hotel and get settled in before coming together in the hotel for a briefing on the tour, where we will receive an overview of Rome's many attractions, including the Vatican, St Peter's Basilica and Castel Sant 'Angelo, the Pantheon, the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, and Rome's magnificent piazzas and fountains. Following the briefing, we will walk to a local restaurant to enjoy our first local meal for a dinner together.

(D)

Accommodation:

14 nights at Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 2

Locations: Rome

Overview:

On the second day of our Winter Odyssey, we will become acquainted with Ancient Rome on a full-day tour hosted by our local tour guide. The tour will feature ancient Roman sites, including the Piazza Augusto Imperatore, Ara Pacis Augustus Museum, the Portico di Ottavia, the

Pantheon, the Baths of Diocletian, and the Marcello Theatre.

Lunch and dinner are at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 3

Locations: Rome

Overview:

On the third day of our Winter Odyssey, we will walk via Trastevere to St Peter's for the Pope's 12.00pm address on Christmas day.

After St Peter's we walk back, but stopping to visit the beautiful Piazza Navona, where we can see Bernini's magnificent Fountain of the Four Rivers. On Christmas day there is a market in the square.

We enjoy a group dinner locally in Trastevere

(B,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 4

Locations: Rome

Overview:

Day four of our Winter Odyssey will feature a visit to the Castel Sant'Angelo, or the Mausoleum of Hadrian. This site was originally built by Emperor Hadrian as a family tomb, but it was later used by popes as a fortress and castle. It was also the setting for the third act of Giacomo Puccini's 1900 opera Tosca, in which the eponymous heroine leaps to her death from the Castel's ramparts. Today this historical building is a museum.

The tour will include visits to the Colosseum, Palatine Hill, the Roman Forum, and Domitian's Stadium. We will also view the 'Vittoriana,' also known as the Altare della Patria (Altar of the Fatherland), and the

Monumento Nazionale a Vittorio Emanuele II (National Monument to Victor Emmanuel II) which was built in honour of Victor Emmanuel, the first king of a unified Italy.

Following our visit to the Castel Sant'Angelo, we will explore the wonderful Piazza di Spagna and the Trevi Fountain.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 5

Locations: Rome

Overview:

Our day today will be spent exploring some of the oldest churches and basilicas in Rome. We will visit Santa Maria Maggiore (a major basilica) which is the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the nearby Santa Pudenziana and Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, a minor basilica). We continue on to the Basilica di Santa Maria in Travestere (Our Lady in Travestere Basilica), one of the oldest churches in the city. Among the highlights of today will be the visit to the Catacombs of St Callixtus, possibly the greatest and most important crypt of Rome.

Lunch and dinner are at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 6

Locations: Rome

Overview:

Our study of Christianity in the Middle Ages will continue this morning as we join our local guide for a tour of San Paolo Fuori le Mura (Saint Paul Outside the Walls), another Major Basilica which was founded by the Roman Emperor Constantine I over the burial place of Saint Paul. We

will also visit the Basilica of Santa Prisca on the Aventino Hill.

Afternoon is at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Lunch and dinner are at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 7

Locations: Rome

Overview:

On our seventh day, we will commence our exploration of the Renaissance and Baroque periods in Rome. This exploration will include visits to churches and palaces built by the greatest architects of the time and decorated by the most important artists of the time. With our local guide, we will visit the Piazza Del Capidoglio, the Musei Capitolini, the Church of Saint John in Lateran (another Major Basilica), and Santa Maria degli Angeli e Dei Martiri. These fine examples of architecture by the greats such as Borromini and Michelangelo are sure to be unforgettable sights to behold.

We enjoy a group dinner locally.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 8

Locations: Rome

Overview:

Today our visits will take us to the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo, which houses a wonderful collection of paintings by the Renaissance masters. Following our visit to Santa Maria del Popolo, we will visit the Church of Sant'Andrea from the Baroque period and admire the architecture of the Palazzo Farnese, the most important high

Renaissance palace in Rome.

Lunch and dinner are at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 9

Locations: Rome

Overview:

We will set out again today to discover more of Renaissance and Baroque Rome. Today our visits will include the Palazzo Spada Museum, where we will get to see major works by artists such as Titian, Andrea del Sarto, and Gentileschi, among others. We will visit the churches of Sant'Agostino and Santa Maria della Pace, both of which house paintings by Michelangelo and Raffaello.

Lunch and dinner are at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 10

Locations: Tivoli

Overview:

The tenth day of our Winter Odyssey will feature a change of pace with a full-day excursion to Tivoli, which is about thirty kilometres outside of Rome. Against the backdrop of breathtaking views that Tivoli offers, we will visit the palace and garden of Villa d'Este, which has been described by UNESCO as one of the most remarkable and comprehensive illustrations of Renaissance culture at its most refined. Afterwards we will visit Hadrian's Villa, a complex of classical buildings created in the second century A.D. by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. We will say our goodbyes to the beautiful town of Tivoli with lunch at a local

restaurant.

When we return to Rome, we will enjoy a group dinner before attending a performance at the Teatro del'Opera di Roma.

(B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 11

Locations: Rome

Overview:

The eleventh day of our Winter Odyssey will feature visits to some of Rome's astonishing palaces. Our visits to the gorgeous Villa Borghese and Palazzo Barberini are sure to take your breath away with their grandeur and magnificent art collections.

Lunch and dinner are at own arrangements.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 12

Locations: Rome

Overview:

On our twelfth day, will will reconvene with our local guide to explore the remarkable Vatican Museums. The Vatican Museums feature art collections built over centuries by the Popes. The Vatican Museums' most notable feature is the Sistine Chapel, which features artwork by Michelangelo and Raphael.

We enjoy group dinner locally.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 13

Locations: Rome

Overview:

The last 2 days of our Winter Odyssey will feature sites that hearken to a more contemporary Rome. Our 13th day will commence with a visit to one of the most symbolic sites associated Mussolini, the Palazzo Venezia. The day will continue into the twenty-first century with a visit to the MaXXI Museum (National Museum of the 21st Century Arts), which was designed by the Anglo-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid and completed in 2010. Our afternoon will feature a visit to the 16th century Galleria Doria Pamphili, which houses a fantastic collection of paintings, furniture and statues.

(B)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 14

Locations: Rome

Overview:

Our last day in Rome will feature a half-day tour including visits to the Macro Museum (Museum of Contemporary Art) and the GNAM (Galleria Nazionale D'arte Moderna), both dedicated to modern and contemporary art.

This evening, we will join together for a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

(B,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Mercure Centro Colosseo or similar.

Day 15

Locations: Rome

Overview:

Tour will conclude after breakfast.

(B)

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 14 nights of hotel accommodation.
- 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 6 dinners.
- Ticket to the opera.
- Applicable entry fees and services of local guides.
- Entrances and tipping.
- All travel is in modern, air-conditioned coaches.
- Services of a Tour Leader.

What's not included in our Tour

- International airfares including taxes.
- Comprehensive International Travel insurance.
- Airport transfers.
- Items of personal nature such as table drinks, laundry and telephone calls.

Level 1 - Introductory to Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, moderate walking on uneven surfaces for 3 - 5 kilometres per day. Suitable for most fitness levels.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.