

The Apostle Paul's Journey to Rome A 12-Day Tour to Italy

Suggested Tour #1 (10 nights/12 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Palermo, Italy

Day 2

Palermo

(D)

Arrive in Palermo

Meet your Faith Journeys Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel for check-in

Afternoon at leisure for relaxation, sightseeing, shopping, or other activities

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Day 3

Palermo / Monreale

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Palermo is Sicily's cultural capital is a city rich in history, spirit, art, and diversity. Our tour this morning will include *San Giovanni delgi Eremiti* (St. John of the Hermits Church), Quattro Canti, Palatine Chapel, and the Cathedral

Lunch, on own

Drive to the small town of Monreale whose name means Royal Mountain. There we will explore the Benedictine Abbey with its splendid mosaics depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments

Return to Palermo for evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Agrigento

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Explore Santa Maria della Catena. As with much of the architecture of Sicily, we'll notice the presence of a multitude of styles including Renaissance and Gothic. The interior includes a canvas of *Nativity with Adoration of the Shepherds* (17th century) from an unknown master

Lunch, on own

This afternoon, we will transfer to Agrigento, an ancient city on the southern coast of Sicily. Here we visit the *Valle dei Templi* (Valley of the Temples), where seven monumental Greek temples were constructed during the 5th and 6th centuries B.C. Visit the largest Doric temple in the world, the Temple of Jupiter

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5

Syracuse / Taormina

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

We will drive along the breathtakingly beautiful Mediterranean coast to Syracuse located in the southeast corner of the island of Sicily. Syracuse is a 2,700 year-old city which played a key role in ancient times and the place where Paul entered Sicily en route to Rome. Visit the Cathedral which houses a statue of the *Madonna della Neve* ("Madonna of the Snow") sculpted by Antonello Gaginia in 1512.

Lunch, on own



Visit the Roman Amphitheatre with the famous Ear of Dionysius and continue circumnavigating the base of Mt. Etna, Europe's largest active volcano, to Taormina, a small town perched on a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea

Enjoy time at leisure for additional sightseeing, shopping, or other activities
Evening dinner and overnight



Day 6**Taormina****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

We will begin the day by visiting the most remarkable monument remaining at Taormina and one of the chief glories of Sicily, the ancient Greek Theatre (*Teatro Greco*). From the still existing fragments of architectural decorations, we learn that this theatre was of the Corinthian order and richly ornamented

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, shopping, or other activities

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 7**Paestum / Sorrento****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

We will take the ferry across the narrow passage between Sicily and the southern tip of Calabria, called the Strait of Messina. We will stop for a visit of Paestum, known as the "Lost City" perhaps because it is renowned for its painted tombs and Greek Temples

Lunch, on own

Continue to Salerno, a small city located on the Tyrrhenian Sea, which became a great center of learning and culture before suffering several catastrophic earthquakes. During World War II, Salerno was the site of the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943. We complete our days travel with our arrival in Sorrento, a town overlooking the Bay of Naples

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 8**Pompeii****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Travel to Pompeii to witness the ruins of one of the most devastating volcanic eruptions in the history of the region. What is left of the city, including some beautiful frescoes and mosaic floors, will give us a glimpse into that era and an idea of what was going on in the lives of Pompeii's inhabitants moments before that catastrophic eruption.

Lunch, on own

Walking the streets of this 'frozen city' helps us experience what Paul must have experienced as he walked through similar streets in his time. We will also visit houses, shops, temples, the "Lupanare" (house of prostitutes) and "Subarbane Therm" with their lurid frescoes. We can understand Paul's anger and loud chastisement regarding the corruption and perdition of the ancient Romans.

Return to Sorrento for evening dinner and overnight



Day 9**Naples / Puteoli****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

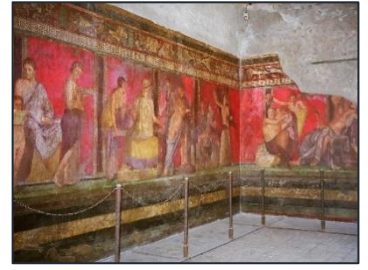
We will head north past the city of Naples to Pozzuoli, known as Puteoli meaning 'little wells', where Paul stayed for seven days before making his way to Rome via the Appian Way. We will continue north past the city of Gaeta to visit Minturno, which also sits along the Appian Way and is known for well-preserved Roman ruins including an amphitheater and aqueduct



Lunch, on own

As we pass the Foro Roman *posta* (a place where travelers could rest and change their horses), it is worth reminding ourselves that Paul would have taken this same route to Rome. We will continue to the day's final destination of Rome

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 10

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning, we will visit Vatican City and explore the Vatican Museum which houses what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include the Tapestry Gallery, the Raphael Rooms, and the Sistine Chapel where we will gaze on Michelangelo's incredible masterpiece. We will also enter St. Peter's Basilica which has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world

Lunch, on own

This afternoon we will visit two of the most important churches of Rome – St. John Lateran and the Holy Cross of Jerusalem. At St. John Lateran we will also see the Santa Scala or the Holy Steps which reputedly are the steps that Christ climbed to meet Pontius Pilate

Time at leisure for relaxation, sightseeing, shopping, or other activities

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 11

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

We will explore what is left of ancient Rome's glorious past and see all about its remnants of its prideful emperors. We will see Trajan's Column with its artistic depiction of wars, travel the Via dei Fori Imperiali, Capitoline Hill, and the Roman Forum

Lunch, on own

Visit Palatine Hill, centermost of the Seven Hills of Rome and site of the earliest history including its famous legend of Romulus and Remus. We see the ruins of the Imperial Palaces and the Arch of Constantine, then cap our incredible experience with ancient Rome by seeing the magnificent Roman Colosseum. We can't argue that it is still the ultimate iconic symbol of Imperial Rome

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 12

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Rome's airport for return flight

For a more detailed itinerary, please visit [our website](#).

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable

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