Travel with The Met

Rome

with Page Knox

Lecturer and Educator

March 16–22, 2020
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

I am thrilled to invite you on Travel with The Met’s second Met Classics program, an immersion in the culture, sights, cuisine, and fashion of the world’s most iconic cities, including London, Mexico City, and others. On our first trip this fall, we will explore enchanting Paris, and with spring flowers blossoming in 2020, we will head to Rome. Even if you have experienced the Eternal City before, this art-focused program has been designed to surprise and delight you as well as deepen your insights into Rome’s abundant treasures.

On this classic tour of Rome, we’ll focus on the great masters from the Renaissance to the Baroque, whose works define the opulence of this incomparable city. Stroll through lively piazzas, walk down cobbled streets in charming neighborhoods and step inside palatial residences that reveal a consummate eye for collecting great art. Experience the awe-inspiring Papal enclave that is the Vatican, whose world-class museum collections showcase the city’s power to attract the greatest artists of their times, from Michelangelo to Bernini.

We’ll meet a Carmelite monk to tour the oldest pharmacy in Rome, breathing in the perfumed air of herbal remedies that nursed city residents to health for centuries. Revel in an exclusive after-hours tour of the Villa Farnesina, whose interior is decorated with frescoes from artists including Raphael. We’ll enter the world’s oldest academy, which counted Galileo among its members. And wander around the dramatic fountains at the dazzling 16th-century estate of Villa d’Este.

Even our home over this five-day trip is a palace: the centrally-located Hotel Splendide Royal is a 19th-century Baroque masterpiece that overlooks the Villa Borghese gardens. We will enjoy our farewell dinner at the hotel’s Michelin-starred restaurant, Mirabelle, which is among Rome’s finest and boasts stunning rooftop views of the city.

March in Rome is pleasantly mild without the humidity and crowds of summer, providing an ideal atmosphere to bask in the Eternal City’s majesty. I hope to greet you there next spring.

Sincerely,
Page Knox
Lecturer and Educator
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Trip Highlights

— Admire the monumental works of Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and other Italian masters with the guidance of famed Renaissance art expert Page Knox

— Explore Rome across its Golden Ages, from the venerable Forum to the palatial Vatican

— Enjoy exclusive private and after-hours visits to villas and palazzos that preserve the art and grandeur of Renaissance and Baroque Italy

— Stroll among the fantastic fountains and marvel at the stunning frescoes at the 16th-century Villa d’Este

— Tour the 16th-century pharmacy of the Papal Court, replete with the herbs that healed “Urbi et Orbi,” with a Carmelite monk

— Browse ancient manuscripts at Galileo’s famed Accademia dei Lincei during a private tour with the head librarian

— Savor a farewell dinner at a Michelin-starred rooftop restaurant with stunning views of the Eternal City

Rome
March 16–22, 2020

 Departure
Monday, March 16
Depart on an overnight flight to Rome, Italy.

Rome, Italy
Tuesday, March 17
Arrive and transfer to our elegant hotel. Store luggage until check in-time, then enjoy lunch at leisure. Gather in the afternoon for an overview of ancient Rome. Discover the Roman Forum—the commercial, religious, and civic heart of the ancient city—and the Circus Maximus, an ancient Roman stadium where the people of Rome watched sports spectacles. Enter the majestic Colosseum, the grandest arena of its day and still the largest amphitheater ever built. Afterwards, a priest will welcome us into his church, which has amazing views of St. Peter’s Basilica, for an exclusive visit. Return to the hotel for a welcome drink and dinner at a nearby restaurant. 

Rome
Wednesday, March 18
Cardinal Scipione Borghese built the Villa Borghese to house one of Europe’s most impressive private art collections. View this amazing assemblage of masterpieces including works by Raphael, Titian, Caravaggio, Canova, and Bernini. Then, head to the neighborhood of Trastevere, filled with cobbled streets and authentic trattorias, for lunch. Stop in Santa Maria in Trastevere, one of Rome’s oldest churches, to view its glorious medieval mosaics and gilded octagonal ceiling painting by Baroque master Domenichino. Enter the ancient pharmacy of Santa Maria della Scala, once the pharmacy of the Papal Court. With a Carmelite monk as your guide, admire hand-labeled herbal remedies beneath frescoed ceilings. In the later afternoon, enjoy an after-hours tour of Villa Farnesina, an enchanting Renaissance pavilion whose walls and ceilings are decorated with spectacular frescoes, including Raphael’s famous Triumph of Galatea. Then walk to the nearby Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Palazzo Corsini, the oldest academy in the world, of which Galileo was a member. Meet the head librarian, who invites us to view the academy’s precious collection of ancient manuscripts (pending confirmation). Return to the hotel for an evening and dinner at leisure. 

Rome
Thursday, March 19
Take a drive outside Rome to Tivoli for a visit to the Villa Adriana, an opulent complex of buildings created by the Roman emperor Hadrian in the 2nd century A.D. This UNESCO World Heritage Site combines the architectural legacy of Egypt, Greece, and Rome to reproduce the ideal city. Have lunch in town, then drive to the stunning Villa d’Este. This 16th-century home of Cardinal Ippolito II d’Este boasts whimsical fountains—engineering marvels that grace one of the most extraordinary gardens of the Renaissance. Return to Rome for dinner at a leisure.

Rome / Vatican City
Friday, March 20
This morning, visit the Vatican complex with a guide. Marvel at the magnificent ceiling by Michelangelo at the Sistine Chapel; admire Raphael’s The School of Athens and Fra Angelico’s Cappella Niccolina; and tour the Vatican Art Gallery to see the masterpieces of some of the world’s greatest artists—from Veronese to Leonardo da Vinci—with Page Knox’s expert guidance. Proceed to St. Peter’s Basilica, whose fusion of Renaissance and Baroque architecture engaged and inspired great artists from Michelangelo to Bernini. Then head to the Spanish Steps, the famous Baroque cascade leading to Rome’s pedestrian luxury shopping neighborhood. Stay in the area for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. This evening, sip an aperitif from a terrace offering some of the best views of Rome. Continue to a local restaurant for dinner.

More Travels with The Met

Met Classics | Paris October 22–28, 2019
Bermuda: Exclusive Collections & Historic Homes December 5–10, 2019
A Journey into Antiquity: Egypt & the Nile December 29, 2019–January 9, 2020
Crossroads of Cultures: Canary Islands, Morocco & Iberia Aboard Sea Spirit April 17–30, 2020

For details and more trip information, please go to metmuseum.org/travel
Rome
Saturday, March 21
Start the day with a short walk to Santa Maria della Vittoria, home to Bernini’s ethereal Pala d’Oro. Then, tour the fabulous 17th-century Palazzo Barberini, designed by two of Rome’s top architects, Bernini and Borromini. The palazzo is now a museum housing masterpieces such as Raphael’s La Fornarina and Caravaggio’s Judith Beheading Holofernes. Afterwards, take an exclusive tour of the Palazzo Colonna, private palaces that have been in the same family for eight centuries. Admire the Galleria, a lavish state room decorated with frescoes celebrating the victory of the Christian fleet over the Turks in 1571. Following lunch, stop at the Pantheon, formerly a Roman temple and one of the best-preserved ancient buildings in the city. If time permits, visit the nearby Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, Rome’s only Gothic church, with frescoes by Lippi, Michelangelo’s Risen Christ, and sculptures by Bernini. Walk to the Piazza Navona, whose shape is inspired by an ancient stadium once on this site. Bernini’s massive Fountain of the Four Rivers dominates this lively square. Finally, visit the Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, with its stunning collections by Caravaggio, Bernini, and Velázquez as well as the magnificent Gallery of Mirrors. Our farewell dinner is at the hotel’s famed Mirabelle Restaurant, whose terrace offers panoramic views over the city’s glittering lights. B, L, D

Rome / Departure
Sunday, March 22
Depart the hotel early this morning for flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Accommodations
Hotel Splendide Royal, Rome
Housed in a 19th-century palace overlooking the Villa Borghese gardens, the Hotel Splendide Royal is elaborately decorated in ornate Baroque style. Close to the Spanish Steps and the boutiques of Via dei Condotti, this impressive hotel is a short walk from all major points of interest. The Hotel Splendide Royal is sumptuously decorated with marble floors, Murano glass chandeliers, gilt mirrors, and oil paintings. The Mirabelle, considered one of the best restaurants in Rome, boasts an elegant terrace with panoramic views.

Program Rate
$5,999 per person, double rate
$7,599 single rate

Rate Includes
— Five nights accommodations as per itinerary
— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
— Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
— Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
— Enrichment program of lectures and special events
— Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate
International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; baggage in excess of one suitcase; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Rome: March 16–22, 2020
Reservation Form
To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address
City State Zip
Telephone (home) (business)
Fax Email

Accommodations

Hospital preference ✣ One bed ✣ Two beds ✣ Single
I wish to share a room with

Program Rate

$7,599 single rate

Rate Includes
— Five nights accommodations as per itinerary
— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
— Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
— Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
— Enrichment program of lectures and special events
— Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate
International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; baggage in excess of one suitcase; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638)
or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org

B_19LNDFC00316_MET
Rome
March 16–22, 2020

Travel with The Metropolitan Museum of Art