



St. James Coffee House:

Early Church of Rome

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE

Dec. 1 - 8, 2025



St. Peter's Basilica



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Ostia Antica



Day 1: Monday, December 1, 2025 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our transatlantic flight to Rome, Italy.

Day 2: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 • Rome

Upon arrival at Rome’s International Airport, we meet our local guide and drive to the **Church of Santa Prisca** located in the area of **Circus Maximus** in the valley between the Aventine and Palatine hills. It was here chariot races were held in ancient times. The racetrack was traditionally the property of the Priscii family. At the church, we are introduced to the patron saint and the potential roles she played in the early Christian Church and as a contemporary of Peter and Paul. We also visit the **Church of St Aquila and Priscilla**, two Jewish-Christians who were very dear to the Apostle Paul for their passionate collaboration in spreading the word of Jesus in Corinth and Ephesus. We end our day with Mass and then transfer to our hotel for a welcome dinner tonight. **D**

Day 3: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 • Rome

After breakfast we depart for the **Vatican** and a **Papal Audience** with the Holy Father. Following our audience with the Pope, our sightseeing begins with a tour of the **Vatican Museum** with its magnificent art collection and the **Sistine Chapel** with Michelangelo’s masterpiece and deeply moving interpretation of Christianity. We see Pieta, the Tapestries Gallery and the Belvedere with its marvelous statues. We also tour **St. Peter’s Basilica**, the largest Christian church in the world, and the Scavi excavations beneath the crypt of St Peter. **B/D**

Please be aware that Scavi tours are offered on a limited basis each



St. Peter's Square

Colosseum



day and that the itinerary for December 2025 is subject to change in order to accommodate the Scavi Tours and Vatican bookings. All items included in the itinerary will be included albeit the order may change.

Day 4: Thursday, December 4, 2025 • Rome

Today we visit the convent of the Benedictine Sisters of Priscilla where we enter Rome’s oldest catacombs. The **Catacombs of Saint Priscilla** with the earliest painting of Mary and the baby Jesus, and its two chapels emphasizing frescoes of women, the Capella Greca with its triclinium and the Velation, causes us to ponder what motivated this focus on women. We also see the ancient tombs of Christian martyrs, other thousand-year-old frescoes and awe at the silent beauty of this unique place. Our afternoon begins at the **Colosseum** and includes a walking tour of ancient Rome. We stroll through the **Roman Forum** and the ruins of 2000 years ago imagining what it must have been like as we see the tracks the chariot wheels left behind. We see the Arch of Titus, Constantine’s Arch, San Pietro in Vincoli Church with Michelangelo’s Moses, and Mamertine Prison where we reflect on Paul’s time spent in Rome. **B/D**

Day 5: Friday, December 5, 2025 • Rome

This morning, we visit the **Churches of St. Praxedis and St. Prueniana** and hear the story of the daughters of St. Pudens who were murdered for providing Christian burial for early martyrs in defiance of Roman law. St. Pudens is traditionally identified as St. Peter’s first Christian convert in Rome. We enjoy pranzo (lunch) together. Next, we see the **Milivan Bridge** where the battle Constantine I and Maxentius took place and learn about the



Sistine Chapel



St. Peter's Basilica

beginning of Constantine's conversion to Christianity. We visit the **Ara Pacis Museum**. On display are more than 240 artworks which tell the history from the Roman era of theatrical performance and gives a cultural insight into the production process and the lives of those who passed on the stories of the times. We have the remainder of the day free to explore the piazzas, gelato stands and other sites on our own. **B/L**

Day 6: Saturday, December 6, 2025 • Rome

On our agenda today is a visit to **St. John Lateran**, the Pope's cathedral church where relics of both Peter and Paul remain under the main altar. We see the Scala Sancta and the Shrine of Pope John. We have an opportunity to walk across the **Holy Door** only open in a Jubilee year and symbolizes the passage from sin to grace. We also visit the **Crypts of San Clemente**, one of the world's great treasures and loved by pilgrims, art students and many other visitors from around the world. Later, we follow the ancient **Appian Way**, the traditional pilgrims' route followed by Peter and Paul. We have the remainder of the afternoon free until dinner together. **B/D**

Day 7: Sunday, December 7, 2025 • Rome

After breakfast, we drive to **Ostia Antica** the former port of Rome that was abandoned around 400 A.D. due to disease and silt. Excavations began in 1909 and the ruins now give a fascinating glimpse into everyday life in ancient Rome. We learn how the grain ships came in from Egypt and were off-loaded into silos, or barges to Rome to fulfill the Roman populace every fall. We hear the stories of two of the most famous passengers through this port, Saint Augustine and his mother Saint Monnica. We see her tomb inscription in the church of Saint Aurea and visit, inside the excavation, the city church which Monnica and Augustine probably attended. We see the sculptured sarcophagus of a woman Bible teacher. Tonight we have a farewell dinner and time of reflection together. **B/D**

Day 8: Monday, December 8, 2025 • Return

This morning, we transfer to the airport for our flight home. **B**

Abbreviations for Meals
B=Breakfast D=Dinner

Please note: This tour includes considerable standing, walking and some hiking. Participants should be able to walk at least a mile at a moderate pace and navigate uneven terrain, cobblestone streets, stairs, and hills. Caution is recommended for those with walking or breathing difficulties. Guests requiring mobility assistance must be accompanied by a companion who can provide the necessary support, as Ed-Ventures does not offer personal attendant services.

Tour Price: \$5,549

Prices are *per person, double occupancy* with a minimum of 22 participants

Single supplement: \$1000

Your Tour Includes:

- Roundtrip Coach from Rochester to MSP airport
- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare (\$1,525) from MSP to Rome** and related taxes, fees and fuel charges. The final price will be adjusted up or down based on confirmed airfare. Seat assignment fees may be additional.
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in 3 and 4 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person where available
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, **including tour manager and coach driver**

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and recommended.*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$750 per person is due with reservation.
 Interim deposit of \$1500 due March 28, 2025
 Final payment is due Aug. 4, 2025.

Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 120 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From 119-31 days, a \$300 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling 30 days or less prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

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