

# Rome and Tuscany Private Journey

HIKING AND CULTURAL ADVENTURES ON ITALY'S PILGRIM TRAIL



Wilderness Travel





## Rome and Tuscany Private Journey

### WHEN TO GO

January to December

### ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and enjoy the WT touch on all aspects of the journey.

Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!

You'll get an "insider" view of the unrivalled heritage of Rome and sublime beauty of Tuscany on this delightful private journey. With your own private guide, head out on foot to see Rome's lesser-known sites, hike an ancient Roman road, and discover the treasures of Tivoli, where Roman emperors built lavish villas. Moving to the heart of Tuscany, you'll be based in the phenomenal medieval city of San Gimignano, a World Heritage Site. It's the perfect base for village-to-village hikes across Tuscany's luminous landscape, familiar from a thousand Renaissance paintings, with its rolling vineyards, olive groves, rows of cypresses, and backdrop of hill-perched medieval towns. Every day, you'll have your choice of activities so you can tailor the day to your own taste, whether you want a deep dive into culture or a beautiful hike on an ancient trail. A fun add-on option includes a private cooking class at a local vineyard in San Gimignano, where you'll learn to make a typical Tuscan meal with fresh local ingredients. Your Trip Leader knows this land as home and will unlock its secrets for you!







# Itinerary

## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 7 days
- Arrive:** Rome, Italy
- Depart:** Florence, Italy
- Lodging:** 6 nights hotels
- Meals:** All meals included except 5 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activity:** Hiking / Trekking, Walking
- Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
Cultural explorations and walking tours, optional easy to moderate hikes of 2-5 hours

## DAY 1 ROME / FULL-DAY EXPLORATION / CLASSIC SITES AND HIDDEN TREASURES

Meet your Trip Leader in the hotel lobby at 9:00 am. Today’s full-day walk brings you across Rome on foot, with visits to some of the city’s most important sites as well as lesser known gems. Whether this is your first time in Rome or your tenth, your Trip Leader will show you the city with a new set of eyes, and you can tailor the day to your personal preferences.

Your walk begins with a visit to one of the most extraordinary masterpieces in the city, the colossal marble statue of Michelangelo’s Moses. Michelangelo’s work sits within the Chiesa di San Pietro in Vincoli, a church in the heart of Monti, one of Rome’s most beautiful neighborhoods. Continuing on foot to one of the “seven hills of Rome,” Campidoglio, you’ll explore Piazza del Campidoglio, one of the most elegant squares in Rome, masterfully designed by Michelangelo and still considered a superior example of urban design. Here you’ll see the huge equestrian statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, created in 157 AD and placed here in 1538 by Michelangelo (this rare bronze equestrian statue, one of the few that survived from Roman times, is now located indoors for conservation reasons).

Descending the ancient marble staircase from Piazza del Campidoglio with your Trip Leader, you arrive at the Victor Emmanuel II Monument, a massive building that was inaugurated in 1911 and is sometimes called “the wedding cake” for its sheer abundance of columns, reliefs, and frescoes. From here, continue your walk to the Jewish Ghetto (Quartiere Ebraico) along the Tiber River. The Jewish part of Rome dates to the 2nd century BC. Today, it’s a fascinating district that is central to the history of Rome. You can admire the enormous ancient “portico” structure, the Portico d’Ottavia, rising from 20 feet below street level. It once held Roman temples



to Jupiter and Juno. Here also is the open-air Teatro Marcello, named after Emperor Augustus's nephew and completed in 13 BC. It's sometimes called the Jewish Coliseum for its resemblance to the original Colosseum. You'll also see the charming Fontana delle Tartarughe (Turtle Fountain), a gem of the late Italian Renaissance, and step inside the Tempio Maggiore (Great Synagogue), opened in 1904. Its rounded domes are a distinctive part of the Rome skyline.

After a short visit to tiny Tiber Island in the Tiber River, walk back to the hotel by way of an array of Rome's most famous sights: the Piazza de Capo dei Fiori, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, and Piazza di Spagna ("The Spanish Steps"). Your memorable day will finish at Piazza del Popolo, the last great achievement of papal Rome. Freshen up at the hotel, then join your Trip Leader for a Welcome Dinner and a trip briefing to discuss details of the upcoming options for Days 2 and 3. Overnight at hotel...LD

Note: Because of the 9:00 am start today, you will need to arrive in Rome the day before the trip starts (an "on your own" expense).

## DAYS 2-3 HIKING AND CULTURAL OPTIONS IN AND AROUND ROME

Your program on these two days includes your choice of two of the following private guided options, one each day, with lunches included. The minimum participation in any option is two persons. Dinners are on your own, and your Trip Leader

is happy to make recommendations or reservations for you, if needed. You can add a day to your Private Journey if you want to allow time to enjoy more than two options. Overnights at hotel...BL each day

**The Colosseum, Imperial Forums, Saint Peter's Basilica, and the Vatican Museums:** If this is your first visit to Rome, you'll want to see the city's four major sites. We suggest you visit them all on the same day. It's a full day, but we'll make it extremely interesting and worthwhile, with your Trip Leader helping you avoid lines and crowds. You'll take in the massive Colosseum, the Imperial Forums, with their monumental piazzas built between 46 BC and 113 AD, Saint Peter's Basilica—the center of Christianity—and the Vatican Museums, home to dazzling Renaissance art collections.

**Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este in Tivoli:** An out-of-town trip (just 20 miles) brings you to Tivoli, an ancient town nestled in the hills just outside Rome. Here you'll explore two masterpieces, one from the Roman era and one from the Renaissance period. Both are World Heritage Sites. The Roman Emperor Hadrian built his awe-inspiring Villa Adriana in the 2nd century AD, spreading it over acres of countryside. It includes a theatre, libraries, a stadium, thermal baths, servants' quarters, and underground supply tunnels. The 16th century Villa d'Este, famed for its profusion of fountains, was created by architect Pirro Ligori in 1549 for Cardinal Ippolito d'Este. It's the most beautiful example of the Italian Renaissance garden in Europe.





**Hike the Appian Way, Visit the Catacombs** (moderate 7-mile hike with little elevation gain/loss): The Appian Way, constructed in 312 BC, was the first long-distance road built specifically to transport Roman troops outside of greater Rome. A marvel of Roman engineering, it once stretched to the Adriatic port of Brindisi in southern Italy. The road is still in great shape, built of large cobblestones, now flattened and set firmly in place by thousands of years of chariot wheels and soldiers' feet passing over them. A walk on the Appian Way is a wonderful chance to enjoy an easy hike, breathe the fresh air, and also breathe in 2,000 years of history. Julius Caesar walked this path, and the famous leader Spartacus and his fellow gladiatorial rebels were crucified on it in 71 BC. Monuments along the way include the Circus of Messenzio, where chariot races were held, and the Villa dei Quintili, a large Roman villa complex. You'll conclude the walk by descending into the major Christian catacombs of the Via Appia, the burial sites for many of the early popes. There will be free time to relax or explore Rome on your own at the end of the day.

**Hike on Monte Catillo, Visit Villa Gregoriana** (demanding 8-mile hike, elevation gain 800 feet, elevation loss 1,500 feet): Near the town of Tivoli, we offer a hike up to Monte Catillo through the Riserva Naturale Monte Catillo, with wonderful panoramas over the Roman countryside, the Valle dell'Aniene, and the spurs of the Apennines. Post-hike, you'll visit the lovely town of Tivoli and the Villa Gregoriana, known not so much for its archaeology as for its park-like setting in a thickly

wooded ravine with footpaths, waterfalls, sacred grottos, and a panoramic bridge.

#### DAY 4 SIENA / SAN GIMIGNANO

On your way to San Gimignano this morning, stop in Siena for a private walking tour of this glorious city, one of the most flamboyant examples of medieval architecture in existence, with most of its city walls intact. In the center lies Il Piazza del Campo, the shell-shaped town square and the focus of Siene life since 1340. The 14th century Palazzo Pubblico, a Gothic-style town hall, dominates the Campo. Siena's 17 historic city districts all extend right from this square, where the famous Palio horse race takes place annually. Continue to the quintessential walled Tuscan town of San Gimignano, whose tall watchtowers (14 of the original 70 remain) make it instantly identifiable. Overnight at hotel...BL

#### DAYS 5-6 HIKING AND CULTURAL OPTIONS IN AND AROUND TUSCANY

The program on these two days includes your choice of two of the following private guided options, one each day, with lunches included. Dinners are on your own. Overnights at hotel...BL each day

**Explore Florence:** If you've never been to Florence before, this option will reveal the deep cultural heritage of the capital of Tuscany, home to many of the world-famous masterpieces of Renaissance art and architecture. You'll visit the famous Duomo cathedral, with its tiled dome by Brunelleschi and







Giotto's free-standing campanili (bell tower). The Accademia Gallery showcases Michelangelo's iconic marble sculpture of David, while the Uffizi Gallery houses Botticelli's Birth of Venus and Leonardo da Vinci's Annunciation among its treasures.

**Explore Pisa and Lucca:** The delightful city of Lucca, on the banks of the Serchio River, is known for its intact Renaissance-era walls and cobbled streets. On your visit, you'll walk the wide, tree-lined promenade atop the city walls and explore the labyrinth of pedestrian-friendly streets and squares, with a visit to the birthplace of the great composer Giacomo Puccini, now a museum. In Pisa, a city that straddles the Arno River before it empties into the Ligurian Sea, you'll walk in the vast Piazza dei Miracoli, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the iconic Leaning Tower. The tower's 18-story-high white marble cylinder is none other than the bell tower of the marble Romanesque cathedral that stands nearby in the square. The same square also hosts the monumental Camposanto and the Baptistry, where non-professional singers test themselves every day with the famous acoustics.

**Hike from San Gimignano** (easy 5-mile hike, 700 feet elevation gain/loss): Walk down through San Gimignano

toward the 13th century Chiesa di Santa Croce (Church of the Holy Cross), then hike along a path with fantastic views back up to San Gimignano's stone towers crowning the hilltop. Crossing the bridge at Ponte Ai Mattoni, hike the old road

to Poggibonsi, which brings you back up to San Gimignano, where you'll have the afternoon to explore around town.

**Hike the Ancient Via del Sale from Volterra to San Gimignano** (moderate 8-mile hike, 600 feet elevation gain/loss): Hike a portion of the Via del Sale, the centuries-old network of paths that was once a trade route for salt and other goods. As you hike between the Etruscan town of Volterra and San Gimignano, discover a serene part of Tuscany where the landscape of rolling hills, olive groves, cypresses, and farms seems like a painting in golden hues softened by pastel brushstrokes. The views are panoramic, and hilltop Volterra is fascinating, with its two Roman gates, Roman theater, and sturdy Etruscan walls from the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

**Hike from San Gimignano to Monteriggioni** (moderate/strenuous 11-mile hike over rolling hills, 900 feet elevation gain/loss): This hike follows a portion of the Via Francigena, Italy's medieval pilgrim trail to Rome. You'll begin the hike





from San Gimignano and end in the fortified village of Monteriggioni, which holds an absolutely unique place among medieval Tuscan villages. The grandeur of this small hamlet must have seemed remarkable even in the Middle Ages, so much so that in the Inferno section of his Divine Comedy, Dante mentioned Monteriggioni's crest of 14 watchtowers to evoke the sight of the ring of giants encircling Hell. The hike passes through Badia a Coneo, where there is a splendid Romanesque church, and Abbadia in Isola, with its 11th century abbey.

### **Optional Add-On Hike and Cooking Class**

On this special add-on tour, hike in the rolling hills behind San Gimignano for 2 hours (3 miles) to arrive at Gattoria San Donato, where owners Umberto and Federica produce wine, oil, saffron, and many vegetables. Federica will direct the cooking class based on local products and typical Tuscan specialties. Cooking is a wonderful way to become a true traveler and immerse yourself in authentic local culture.

*See "Trip Cost" section for additional costs*

### **DAY 7 DEPART**

After breakfast at the hotel, a 1-hour transfer with your Trip Leader brings you to the airport in Florence. If you prefer to return to Rome for departing flights, your Trip Leader will take you to the "bullet train" station for the 2-hour train ride to Rome...B

# Trip Details

## DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

#### Prices are per person, valid through 2025

\$5,995 (9-14 members)

\$6,695 (4-8 members)

\$6,995 (2-3 members)

Single supplement: \$785

Optional Cooking Class: \$150

*Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.*

#### Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Hotel accommodations as noted
- All meals included except 5 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Land transportation and activities as noted

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, airport transfers, any meals not specified after each itinerary day in the Detailed Itinerary, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, etc.)

### SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Europe Manager or email us at [europe@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:europe@wildernesstravel.com) with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: 25%

90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE\*

Minimum fee: 25% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

<http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance>



# Accommodations



## HOTEL FORUM

*Rome, Italy, Days 1 to 3 (3 nights)*

The location of the Hotel Forum can't be beat—it's right in the heart of Rome's centro storico, directly across the street from the Forum and just steps from the Colosseum and other monuments of the Eternal City. Watch Rome come to life in the morning as you enjoy breakfast at the rooftop restaurant and marvel at the stunning views (you can even see the spot where Caesar was assassinated). Several good restaurants (and gelaterie!) are located nearby. Guest rooms vary in size but offer a comfortable place to rest after a busy day of exploring this enchanting city.



## HOTELS IN SAN GIMIGNANO

*San Gimignano, Italy, Days 4 to 6 (3 nights)*

In San Gimignano, we stay at one of the following properties:

### HOTEL LA COLLEGIATA

Set in a beautiful park-like location just outside San Gimignano, this former 16th century convent for Capuchin friars and, later, a private family summer residence, is a wonderful retreat that retains an air of quiet elegance. Each of the 20 guest rooms are individually decorated in Tuscan country style, but offer all the amenities you would expect in a fine hotel. After a busy day exploring, take advantage of the outdoor swimming pool and relax in the lovely gardens.



### LA MORMORAIA FARMHOUSE

Once a convent, La Mormoraia is now an elegant agriturismo 15 minutes from San Gimignano, perched on a hill with wonderful views of the San Gimignano towers. With a quiet and relaxing setting amid vineyards, the property has 30 guest rooms with typical Tuscan rustic details including handmade terra cotta floors and stone walls. The view of San Gimignano from the breakfast terrace and swimming pool is magical and the onsite restaurant serves excellent fresh Tuscan cuisine.



# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Rome, Italy

**Suggested Airport:** Leonardo da Vinci International Airport (FCO)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Arrive in Rome anytime prior to Day 1

**Meeting Place:** On Day 1, meet with the Trip Leader in the hotel lobby at 9:00 am.

## DEPARTURE

Florence, Italy

**Suggested Airport:** Amerigo Vespucci Airport (FLR)

**Suggested Date & Time:** On Day 7, transfer on your own to the airport for flights departing Florence.

Note: If you would prefer to return to Rome, we can help you arrange a 2-hour ride on the bullet train.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Italy. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.



# What the Trip is Like

## TRIP LEVEL

This trip is rated a Level 2-3 (Moderate) according to our trip grading system, and offers a choice of in-depth walking and cultural tours and easy to moderate optional hikes.

### How Tough Is This Trip?

This trip has a good blend of hiking and cultural exploration. The cultural walking tours will keep you on your feet for 4 to 6 hours over a mix of streets and stairs. If you choose the hiking options, you must feel comfortable hiking 3 to 5 hours, with recent experience hiking five miles in a day. You need to be able to hike on uneven surfaces, occasionally downhill over loose rocks, so good balance is important. The hikes explore a mix of terrain, from dirt roads to paths across rolling hills to ancient stone staircases, which can be quite steep.

## GETTING IN SHAPE

For your own enjoyment of travel, we recommend you make a special effort to be in good physical condition. Daily brisk walking and/or regular hiking (or using a stair-climbing machine at your gym) are excellent preparatory exercises.

## WEATHER

The weather in Rome and Tuscany in late spring and early fall is usually very pleasant, with temperatures in the 70s°F (80s°F in Tuscany) during the day, and in the 50s°F and 60s°F at night. There can be cool breezes and occasional showers at any time during these seasons.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794

and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at [europe@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:europe@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

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## TOUCAN CLUB / TRAVEL AGENTS

Please note that travel agent commissions and Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular expeditions. For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at [wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club](http://wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club).

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rome	55/39	57/40	60/42	64/47	72/53	78/60	84/65	84/65	79/60	72/54	63/47	57/41
San Gimignano	47/35	49/37	56/41	64/46	69/49	78/56	85/61	86/62	76/56	67/50	56/44	49/38
Rainfall - Inches												
Rome	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	1.3	2.7	3.7	4.3	3.5
San Gimignano	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.5





## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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