

Our Christian and Western Heritage Cruise Package

Istanbul • Seven Cities of the Apocalypse • Athens • Corinth • 8-day Mediterranean Cruise • Naples • Rome (with Optional 4-night Extension in Rome)

Proposed Itinerary (with Istanbul)

August 23-September 9, 2025

Rome 4-Night Optional Post-Tour

September 8-13, 2025

Sat.-Sunday, August 23-24 Depart USA/ Istanbul
Days 1-2 Meals: in flight, Dinner at hotel

Monday, August 25
Day 3 **Istanbul Full Day Tour**
Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey and is generally regarded as the most important city in terms of cultural and historical interest. After an early breakfast, start the day transferring to *Sultanahmet*, effectively Istanbul's old town and is the home of many of Istanbul's iconic sites, including Hippodrome and Egyptian obelisk near the Blue Mosque (*Sultan Ahmet Mosque*), the *Hagia Sophia*, *Topkapi Palace*, the Basilica Cistern, and a short cruise on the Bosphorus Strait. Our day will end at our hotel with dinner and overnight. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Tuesday, August 26
Day 4 **Istanbul Bazaar & City Tour, Evening Flight To Izmir (ancient Smyrna)**
After breakfast, we checkout of our hotel and we are going to visit a historic and vast indoor market, as well as explore a different part of the city and take in many more wonderful sights before going to the airport for an evening flight to Izmir (ancient Smyrna and one of the seven cities of the Apocalypse). Sites and experiences will include: Istanbul's Grand Bazaar (61 streets and over 4,000 shops), the *Süleymaniye Mosque*, the Spice Bazaar (*Mısır Çarşısı*), and, as time permits, the *Dolmabahçe Palace*. We will head to the airport to take an evening flight to Izmir, arrive at our hotel and have dinner before retiring for the night. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Wednesday, August 27
Day 5 **Izmir • Bergama (ancient Pergamum) • Izmir**
We will visit Smyrna, "the suffering church" and the ("Do not be afraid of anything that you are going to suffer. Indeed, the devil will throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will face an ordeal for ten days"); also, home of great 2nd century Bishop Polycarp who was a disciple of John, the Revelator and was burned alive at the age of 85 for his testimony. Then we will continue to Pergamum, "the compromising church"; Revelation 2:12-16 describes the city as "where Satan's seat is", a reference to the altar of Zeus. After the tour we will return to Izmir for dinner and overnight at our hotel in Izmir. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Thursday, August 28
Day 6 **Sardes • Thyatira • Philadelphia**
Depart for the visit to Thyatira, "the adulterous church" that, as mentioned in the Revelations, tolerated the false prophets, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29). Proceed to Sardes, "the dead church", another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardes, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3: 1-6). After visiting "the faithful church" of Philadelphia, we will stay overnight in Pamukkale. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Friday, August 29

Day 7

Pamukkale • Laodicea • Izmir

We will visit Pamukkale and Laodicea, the church chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. After the tour transfer to our hotel in Izmir for dinner and overnight. [If time does not permit this, we may see it on Monday, Sept. 1, before boarding the cruise ship.] **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Saturday, August 30

Day 8

Izmir • Athens

After breakfast, depart for flight to Athens, Greece. Depending on the flight time arrival, visit the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. The National Archaeological Museum of Athens is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art. It was founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, thus displaying their historical, cultural and artistic value. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight in Athens. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Sunday, August 31

Day 9

Athens • Corinth

After breakfast, we will meet our bus and travel to ancient Corinth, the Athens Acropolis, and Mars Hill. Our first stop will be in the ancient city of Corinth to discuss the work of Paul where he spent more than 2 years of his missionary journeys. We will walk through the market and see one of the earliest Greek temples as well as the museum. Following the Corinthian Canal on our return to Athens, we will retrace Paul's footprints on to Mars Hill, where Paul gave his sermon to the Athenians. We will continue on to the Acropolis, where Athena was given her temple robes. We will see the *Erechtheum*, commemorating the site where legend claims Athena had a contest with Poseidon. Our dinner and overnight will be in our Athens' hotel. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Monday, September 1

Day 10

Athens • Piraeus (Begin Royal Caribbean Cruise to Greek Isles and Rome)

After a late breakfast, we will have tours of other sites and shopping in Athens. Board the Royal Caribbean Cruise ship before 5:00 pm. At the port of Piraeus near Athens. Dinner and overnight is onboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday, September 2

Day 11

Mykonos, Greece

Sailing overnight on the Aegean waters of the Mediterranean Sea that Paul, Timothy, Luke, Barnabas, John, Peter, and other early leaders of 1st Century Christianity sailed, we arrive in the morning to the rocky Greek Island of Mykonos, known for producing manganese, barley, wine, and figs. Our walking tour will start from the port to the island's traditional center. We will take photos of the blue domed *Agios Nikolaos* church, and the famous windmills, see little Venice, medieval two-story houses, and wander in the island's narrow streets. Its narrow lanes provide innumerable ways of losing oneself. Of the many little churches erected from the proceeds of fishing and piracy, the Church of Panagia Paraportiani, near the quay, is typically picturesque. You may also catch a view of the three celebrated windmills with their small triangular sails. **Meals on the ship.**

Wednesday, September 3

Day 12

Ephesus (Kusadasi), Turkey

Again, we sail on the Aegean Sea to the coastline of Turkey and dock at the modern port of Kusadasi, Turkey. We arrive in the morning and transfer to the archaeological site of Ephesus where we will explore the ruins of this great city of the ancient world, which was capital of the Roman province of Asia and a powerful commercial center. This is the last of the seven cities of John's Book of Revelation known as the Apocalypse. The excavated ruins of the city are among the most

extensive and well-preserved in the world. This famous city was home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the great Temple of Artemis. Paul spent more than three years in Ephesus and John also spent time there. This is also considered one of the possible burial sites of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. We will walk through the marble streets of this city and see the ruined library, baths, latrines, marketplace, temples, and the huge theater mentioned in chapter 19 of Acts. The community of Christians at Ephesus was one of the seven churches of Asia addressed by John; from here Paul wrote many of his letters that are contained in the New Testament to the saints throughout the cities of his journeys. After visiting a Turkish Rug Factory and having a lunch at your own expense, we return to the ship for dinner and overnight. **Meals on the ship.**

**Thursday, September 4
Day 13**

Santorini, Greece

Early in the morning we will sail into the flooded volcanic crater of Santorini and disembark on one of the Mediterranean's most spectacular islands. We will have a tour to the ancient city of Thera and see the archaeological ruins before returning to the port where some may choose to purchase cable car tickets to go up to Oya. Others may choose to ride a mule to the top or attempt to walk the high road. Once on top, you will be walking in the famous village of Oya, most famous with its whitewashed houses and blue domed church. After our free time in the village, you will need to the port where tenders will transport visitors to the ship. [Note: The cable car ticket or mules are not included and will be paid on the spot by the guests.] **Meals on the ship.**

**Thursday, September 5
Day 14**

At Sea All Day

This will be a relaxing day for the group as we use the many amenities of the cruise vessel that the Royal Caribbean is recognized for. Also, during this day two optional lectures provided by your knowledgeable historian and scripture scholar will be provided. **Meals on the ship.**

**Friday, September 6
Day 15**

Sicily (Messina), Italy

After your breakfast, embark on a walking tour to visit one of the most ancient cities of Sicily. During this walking tour of Messina, you will see the main sites including the Catalani Church, Palace Zanca and the largest astronomical clock in the world. Some may choose to take longer tours for a full-day exploration of Castelmola, Taormina, and Messina. On this tour you will get great views of Castelmola and stunning panoramas of the bay of Giardini-Naxos and Mount Etna, delight in the seamless blend of old and new as you stroll through the famed Corso Umberto, immerse in Sicilian culture with a taste of traditional sweets and a tour of the impressive Greco-Roman theater in Taormina, and uncover the heart of Messina, home to the world's largest astronomical clock. Others may choose to relax and visit the markets, restaurants, and cultures of Sicily in Messina. Dinner is back onboard our Royal Caribbean Cruise vessel where we sail to Naples overnight.

Meals on the ship.

**Saturday, September 7
Day 16**

Naples (Capri), Italy

Begin your adventure through history at Pompeii, destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. and now one of the world's most prominent archaeological sites, with the city's structures immaculately preserved by the lava and ash that buried it over two millennia ago. Feel history almost come to life, as you follow your knowledgeable guide past the city's landmarks, learning the history of the public baths that contributed so much to Roman culture, the *Capitolium* (Temple of Jupiter) in the shadow of Vesuvius, and the Temple of Vespasian, with its white marble altar adorned by a sacrificial bull on one side and a temple on the

other. After, climb aboard an open-air, double-decker bus and explore the magnificent city of Naples. Discover the sights of Naples that pique your interest, from stunning public squares (such as the *Piazza Dante* and its gorgeous statue of the 13th-century poet) to affluent residential districts (*Posillipo*) and a bustling antique market (*Viale Dohrn*). Return to your awaiting ship with a newfound appreciation for the cultural heritage and natural beauty of Italy. **Meals on the ship.**

**Sunday, September 8-9
Days 17-18**

Fly Rome/USA–Tour Historic Rome • The Colosseum • Roman Forum • Mamertine Prison • Farewell Dinner • Leonardo DaVinci International Airport

Depart from the **Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship** and board your bus for a full day tour of **historic Rome**. Upon arrival in downtown historic Rome, we begin the day with a guided tour of **the Colosseum** which was inaugurated in AD 80. This 50,000-seat amphitheater once staged violent games of fighting gladiators and wild animals, enjoyed by all classes of Roman society. Back outside the Colosseum, our exploration of Ancient Rome continues with a visit to the nearby **Roman Forum**, once the social, political, and commercial hub of the Roman Empire. We will tour around this unrivalled archaeological area and enjoy views of important historical sites including the *Curia*, the **Temple and House of Vestals**, the **Funeral Altar of Julius Caesar**, the **Arch of Titus** and much more. In the afternoon we visit the **Mamertine Prison**, where Paul was arrested, bound in chains, and executed. Before transferring to the airport, a special farewell dinner will mark the end of the main tour. We say “*Arrivederci!*” to Rome as we head to the **Leonardo da Vinci International Airport** in Fiumicino (FCO) for our flight to the USA, expecting to arrive the next day, depending on your night flight. Those choosing the 4-night/5-day Rome option will transfer to their hotel for the night. [Please see a separate itinerary for this option.] **Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner**

Four-night Optional Tour to Rome September 8-13, 2025

Day 1, Sunday
September 8

Rome/USA – Historic Rome • The Colosseum • Roman Forum • Mamertine Prison • Farewell Dinner with Main Tour Group

Depart from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship and board your bus for a full day tour of historic Rome. Upon arrival to downtown historic Rome, we begin the day with a guided tour of the Colosseum which was inaugurated in AD 80. This 50,000-seat amphitheater once staged violent games of fighting gladiators and wild animals, enjoyed by all classes of Roman society. Back outside the Colosseum, our exploration of Ancient Rome continues with a visit to the nearby Roman Forum, once the social, political, and commercial hub of the Roman Empire. We will tour around this unrivalled archaeological area and enjoy views of important historical sites including the Curia, the Temple and House of Vestals, the funeral altar of Julius Caesar, the Arch of Titus and much more. In the afternoon we visit the Mamertine Prison, where Paul was arrested, bound in chains, and executed. Before transferring to the airport, a special farewell dinner will mark the end of the 17-day main tour. Those departing to the airport will go directly to their departure airport, the remainder of the group choosing the Rome option, if time permits, will visit the **Church of San Paolo alla Regola**, believed to be the place where Paul lived which was only later transformed in an oratory and then in a church. It was in this place that Paul the Apostle wrote many of the letters contained in the New Testament. Afterwards, transfer to our hotel for the night.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Day 2, Monday
September 9

Rome • Abasia delle Tre Fontane • Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls • Church of the Domine Quo Vadis (Catacombs)

After breakfast at the hotel, we board our bus for a full day inspirational journey of the early Christian Rome and experience fascinating religious sites connected to the life of the Apostles Paul and Peter. We will visit the *Abasia delle Tre Fontane* (Three Fountains), built on the traditional site of Paul's martyrdom. At the nearby **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls**, we take time to meditate on the Apostle's tomb. Next, we plan to visit the *Church of Domine Quo Vadis (Catacombs)*, one of Rome's sixty Catacombs. It was in these underground tunnels that early Christians hid and buried their dead. Finally, we will transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Rome. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 3: Tuesday
September 10

Rome • Vatican Museums • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Church • Trevi Fountain • Pantheon • Piazza Navona

In the morning, after breakfast, we transfer by motor coach for a guided tour of the **Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Church**. At the Vatican, located near the River Tiber and residence of the Roman Catholic Pope, we will find the Vatican Museums. Founded by Pope Julius II in the early 16th century, the **Vatican Museums** boast one of the world's greatest art collections. Apart from art, archeology and ethnology works, such as Egyptian mummies, Etruscan bronzes, the Vatican Museums also contain some of the most artistically significant rooms like the ones frescoed by Raphael, and the **Sistine Chapel** painted by Michelangelo. Our visit to **St. Peter's Basilica**, one of the largest religious buildings in the world, we will meander along towering marble columns and admire the *Pieta*, Michelangelo's renowned sculpture. Pause for a moment of reflection by the *Confessio*, the sunken area directly in front of the tomb of the Apostle Peter and which is dedicated to the Peter's Confession of faith that led to his martyrdom. In the afternoon we take a walking tour to see the **Trevi Fountain** is one of Rome's greatest attractions, standing 26 meters tall, and 49 meters wide, it is an unmissable sight in the city. No matter how little you know

about this fountain, we can guess you'll know about the coin tradition. Being one of the most popular tourist experiences in all of Rome. The ritual involves visitors to hold a coin, turn away from the fountain, and toss the coin over their shoulder and into the fountain. The legend states that if you throw one coin into the water, it guarantees your return to Rome, whereas two coins mean you'll return and fall in love, and three means you'll return, fall in love, and get married. **The Pantheon** is not only the best-preserved ancient Roman monument in the world, but it's also the most copied. It was constructed as a temple dedicated to the Gods and became the burial ground for several important people including famous artists and kings, such as Raphael, the famed Renaissance painter, and the tombs of the first two kings of unified Italy: Vittorio Emanuele II and Umberto I. In Ancient Rome, the *Piazza Navona* was a stadium built during Emperor Domitian's rule (AD 81 to 96). We will finish the day with a transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Rome. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 4, Wednesday *LDS Rome Italy Temple • Open Day for Personal Travel*

September 11

For those who choose, we will take the opportunity to visit the **LDS Rome Italy Temple** in the morning. The Rome Italy Temple was the thirteenth temple built on the continent of Europe and the first built in the country of Italy. After a memorable journey following the ancient apostles of Jesus Christ's Day, this is a special opportunity for covenant renewals as we visit and participate in sacred ordinances. The time in the afternoon and evening is yours to explore more of the Eternal City on your own. This is also a time to reflect on the many experiences and knowledge one has gained during or 13 days of travel together. Dinner and overnight will be at our hotel in Rome. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 5-6: Sat. & Sun. Rome • Leonardo da Vinci International Airport • USA

September 12-13

Today we say "*arrivederci!*" to Rome as we head to the **Leonardo da Vinci International Airport** in Fiumicino (FCO) for our flight to the USA, expecting to arrive the next day, depending on your flight. **Meals: Breakfast**

Proposed Itinerary (Izmir to Rome)

August 25-September 9, 2025

Rome Optional Post-Tour September 8-12, 2025

Mon.-Tues., August 25-26
Days 1-2

Depart USA/ Izmir (ancient Smyrna)
Meals in flight, Dinner at hotel in Izmir.

Wednesday, August 27
Day 3

Izmir • Bergama (ancient Pergamum) • Izmir

We will visit Smyrna, “the suffering church” and the (“Do not be afraid of anything that you are going to suffer. Indeed, the devil will throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will face an ordeal for ten days”); also, home of great 2nd century Bishop Polycarp who was a disciple of John, the Revelator and was burned alive at the age of 85 for his testimony. Then we will continue to Pergamum, “the compromising church”; Revelation 2:12-16 describes the city as “where Satan’s seat is”, a reference to the altar of Zeus. After the tour we will return to Izmir for dinner and overnight at our hotel in Izmir. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Thursday, August 28
Day 4

Sardes • Thyatira • Philadelphia

Depart for the visit to Thyatira, “the adulterous church” that, as mentioned in the Revelations, tolerated the false prophets, Jezebel (Rev. 1: 11; 2: 18-29). Proceed to Sardes (, “the dead church”, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardes, “I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest, and art dead” (Rev. 3: 1-6). After visiting “the faithful church” of Philadelphia, we will stay overnight in Pamukkale. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Friday, August 29
Day 5

Pamukkale • Laodicea • Izmir

We will visit Pamukkale and Laodicea, the church chastised for being lukewarm, "You are neither cold nor hot" (Rev. 3: 15), and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. After the tour transfer to our hotel in Izmir for dinner and overnight. [If time does not permit this, we may see it on Monday, September 1, before boarding the cruise ship.] **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Saturday, August 30
Day 8

Izmir • Athens

After breakfast, depart for flight to Athens, Greece. Depending on flight time arrival, visit the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. The National Archaeological Museum of Athens is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art. It was founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, thus displaying their historical, cultural and artistic value. Transfer to hotel for Dinner and overnight in Athens. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Sunday, August 31
Day 7

Athens • Corinth

After breakfast, we will meet our bus and travel to ancient Corinth, the Athens Acropolis, and Mars Hill. Our first stop will be in the ancient city of Corinth to discuss the work of Paul where he spent more than 2 years of his missionary journeys. We will walk through the market and see one of the earliest Greek temples as well as the museum. Following the Corinthian Canal on our return to Athens, we will retrace Paul’s footprints on to Mars Hill, where Paul gave his sermon to the Athenians. We will continue on to the Acropolis, where Athena was given her temple robes. We will see the *Erechtheum*, commemorating the site where legend claims Athena had a contest with Poseidon. Our dinner and overnight will be in our Athens’ hotel. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Monday, September 1
Day 8**

Athens • Piraeus (Begin Royal Caribbean Cruise to Greek Isles and Rome)
After a late breakfast, we will have tours of other sites and shopping in Athens. Board the Royal Caribbean Cruise ship before 5:00 pm. At the port of Piraeus near Athens. Dinner and overnight is onboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship.
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship

**Tuesday, September 2
Day 9**

Mykonos, Greece
Sailing overnight on the Aegean waters of the Mediterranean Sea that Paul, Timothy, Luke, Barnabas, John, Peter, and other early leaders of 1st Century Christianity sailed, we arrive in the morning to the rocky Greek Island of Mykonos, known for producing manganese, barley, wine, and figs. Our walking tour will start from the port to the island's traditional center. We will photo blue domed Agios Nikolaos church, and the famous windmills, see little Venice, medieval two-story houses and wander in the island's narrow streets. Its narrow lanes provide innumerable ways of losing oneself. Of the many little churches erected from the proceeds of fishing and piracy, the Church of Panagia Paraportiani, near the quay, is typically picturesque. You may also catch a view of the three celebrated windmills with their small triangular sails. **Meals on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship**

**Wednesday, September 3
Day 10**

Ephesus (Kusadasi), Turkey
Again, we sail on the Aegean Sea to the coastline of Turkey and dock at the modern port of Kusadasi, Turkey. We arrive in the morning and transfer to the archaeological site of Ephesus where we will explore the ruins of this great city of the ancient world, which was capital of the Roman province of Asia and a powerful commercial center. This is the last of the seven cities of John's Book of Revelation known as the Apocalypse. The excavated ruins of the city are among the most extensive and well-preserved in the world. This famous city was home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the great Temple of Artemis. Paul spent more than three years in Ephesus and John also spent time there. This is also considered one of the possible burial sites of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. We will walk through the marble streets of this city and see the ruined library, baths, latrines, marketplace, temples, and the huge theater mentioned in chapter 19 of Acts. The community of Christians at Ephesus was one of the seven churches of Asia addressed by John; from here Paul wrote many of his letters that are contained in the New Testament to the saints throughout the cities of his journeys. After visiting a Turkish Rug Factory and having a lunch at your own expense, we return to the ship for dinner and overnight. **Meals on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship**

**Thursday, September 4
Day 11**

Santorini, Greece
Early in the morning we will sail into the flooded volcanic crater of Santorini and disembark on one of the Mediterranean's most spectacular islands. We will have a tour to the ancient city of Thera and see the archaeological ruins before returning to the port where some may choose to purchase cable car tickets to go up to Oya. Others may choose to ride a mule to the top or attempt to walk the high road. Once on top, you will be walking in the famous village of Oya, most famous with its whitewashed houses and blue domed church. After our free time in the village, you will need to the port where tenders will transport visitors to the ship. [Note: The cable car ticket or mules are not included and will be paid on the spot by the guests.]
Meals on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship

**Thursday, September 5
Day 12**

At Sea All Day
This will be a relaxing day for the group as we use the many amenities of the cruise vessel that the Royal Caribbean is recognized for. Also, during this day two

optional lectures provided by your knowledgeable historian and scripture scholar will be provided. **Meals on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship**

**Friday, September 6
Day 13**

Sicily (Messina), Italy

After your breakfast, embark on a walking tour to visit one of the most ancient cities of Sicily. During this walking tour of Messina, you will see the main sites including the Catalani Church, Palace Zanca and the largest astronomical clock in the world. Some may choose to take longer tours for a full-day exploration of Castelmola, Taormina, and Messina. On this tour you will get great views of Castelmola and stunning panoramas of the bay of Giardini-Naxos and Mount Etna, delight in the seamless blend of old and new as you stroll through the famed Corso Umberto, immerse in Sicilian culture with a taste of traditional sweets and a tour of the impressive Greco-Roman theater in Taormina, and uncover the heart of Messina, home to the world's largest astronomical clock. Others may choose to relax and visit the markets, restaurants, and cultures of Sicily in Messina. Dinner is back onboard our Royal Caribbean Cruise vessel where we sail to Naples overnight.

Meals on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship

**Saturday, September 7
Day 14**

Naples (Capri), Italy

Begin your adventure through history at Pompeii, destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. and now one of the world's most prominent archaeological sites, with the city's structures immaculately preserved by the lava and ash that buried it over two millennia ago. Feel history almost come to life, as you follow your knowledgeable guide past the city's landmarks, learning the history of the public baths that contributed so much to Roman culture, the *Capitolium* (Temple of Jupiter) in the shadow of Vesuvius, and the Temple of Vespasian, with its white marble altar adorned by a sacrificial bull on one side and a temple on the other. After, climb aboard an open-air, double-decker bus and explore the magnificent city of Naples. Discover the sights of Naples that pique your interest, from stunning public squares (such as the *Piazza Dante* and its gorgeous statue of the 13th-century poet) to affluent residential districts (*Posillipo*) and a bustling antique market (*Viale Dohrn*). Return to your awaiting ship with a newfound appreciation for the cultural heritage and natural beauty of Italy. **Meals on Royal Caribbean Cruise ship**

**Sun.-Monday, Sept. 8-9
Days 15-16**

Fly Rome/USA–Tour Historic Rome • The Colosseum • Roman Forum • Mamertine Prison • Farewell Dinner • Leonardo DaVinci International Airport
Depart from the **Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship** and board your bus for a full day tour of **historic Rome**. Upon arrival in downtown historic Rome, we begin the day with a guided tour of **the Colosseum** which was inaugurated in AD 80. This 50,000-seat amphitheater once staged violent games of fighting gladiators and wild animals, enjoyed by all classes of Roman society. Back outside the Colosseum, our exploration of Ancient Rome continues with a visit to the nearby **Roman Forum**, once the social, political, and commercial hub of the Roman Empire. We will tour around this unrivalled archaeological area and enjoy views of important historical sites including the **Curia**, the **Temple and House of Vestals**, the **Funeral Altar of Julius Caesar**, the **Arch of Titus** and much more. In the afternoon we visit the **Mamertine Prison**, where Paul was arrested, bound in chains, and executed. Before transferring to the airport, a special farewell dinner will mark the end of the main tour. We say “*Arrivederci!*” to Rome as we head to the **Leonardo da Vinci International Airport** in Fiumicino (FCO) for our flight to the USA, expecting to arrive the next day, depending on your night flight. Those choosing

the 4-night/5-day Rome option will transfer to their hotel for the night. [Please see a separate itinerary for this option.]

Four-night Optional Tour to Rome September 8-12, 2025

Day 1, Sunday
September 8

Rome/USA – Historic Rome • The Colosseum • Roman Forum • Mamertine Prison • Farewell Dinner with Main Tour Group

Depart from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship and board your bus for a full day tour of historic Rome. Upon arrival to downtown historic Rome, we begin the day with a guided tour of the Colosseum which was inaugurated in AD 80. This 50,000-seat amphitheater once staged violent games of fighting gladiators and wild animals, enjoyed by all classes of Roman society. Back outside the Colosseum, our exploration of Ancient Rome continues with a visit to the nearby Roman Forum, once the social, political, and commercial hub of the Roman Empire. We will tour around this unrivalled archaeological area and enjoy views of important historical sites including the Curia, the Temple and House of Vestals, the funeral altar of Julius Caesar, the Arch of Titus and much more. In the afternoon we visit the Mamertine Prison, where Paul was arrested, bound in chains, and executed. Before transferring to the airport, a special farewell dinner will mark the end of the 17-day main tour. Those departing to the airport will go directly to their departure airport, the remainder of the group choosing the Rome option, if time permits, will visit the **Church of San Paolo alla Regola**, believed to be the place where Paul lived which was only later transformed in an oratory and then in a church. It was in this place that Paul the Apostle wrote many of the letters contained in the New Testament. Afterwards, transfer to our hotel for the night.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Day 2, Monday
September 9

Rome • Abasia delle Tre Fontane • Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls • Church of the Domine Quo Vadis (Catacombs)

After breakfast at the hotel, we board our bus for a full day inspirational journey of the early Christian Rome and experience fascinating religious sites connected to the life of the Apostles Paul and Peter. We will visit the *Abasia delle Tre Fontane* (Three Fountains), built on the traditional site of Paul's martyrdom. At the nearby **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls**, we take time to meditate on the Apostle's tomb. Next, we plan to visit of the *Church of Domine Quo Vadis (Catacombs)*, one of Rome's sixty Catacombs. It was in these underground tunnels that early Christians hid and buried their dead. Finally, we will transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Rome. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 3: Tuesday
September 10

Rome • Vatican Museums • Sistine Chapel • St. Peter's Church • Trevi Fountain • Pantheon • Piazza Navona

In the morning, after breakfast, we transfer by motor coach for a guided tour of the **Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Church**. At the Vatican, located near the River Tiber and residence of the Roman Catholic Pope, we will find the Vatican Museums. Founded by Pope Julius II in the early 16th century, the **Vatican Museums** boast one of the world's greatest art collections. Apart from art, archeology and ethno-anthropology works, such as Egyptian mummies, Etruscan bronzes, the Vatican Museums also contain some of the most artistically significant rooms like the ones frescoed by Raphael, and the **Sistine Chapel** painted by Michelangelo. Our visit to **St. Peter's Basilica**, one of the largest religious buildings in the world, we will meander along towering marble columns and admire the *Pieta*, Michelangelo's renowned sculpture. Pause for a moment of reflection by the *Confessio*, the sunken area directly in front of the tomb of the Apostle Peter and which is dedicated to the Peter's Confession of faith that led to his martyrdom. In the afternoon we take a walking tour to see the **Trevi Fountain** is one of Rome's greatest attractions, standing 26 meters tall,

and 49 meters wide, it is an unmissable sight in the city. No matter how little you know about this fountain, we can guess you'll know about the coin tradition. Being one of the most popular tourist experiences in all of Rome. The ritual involves visitors to hold a coin, turn away from the fountain, and toss the coin over their shoulder and into the fountain. The legend states that if you throw one coin into the water, it guarantees your return to Rome, whereas two coins mean you'll return and fall in love, and three means you'll return, fall in love, and get married. **The Pantheon** is not only the best-preserved ancient Roman monument in the world, but it's also the most copied. It was constructed as a temple dedicated to the Gods and became the burial ground for several important people including famous artists and kings, such as Raphael, the famed Renaissance painter, and the tombs of the first two kings of unified Italy: Vittorio Emanuele II and Umberto I. In Ancient Rome, the *Piazza Navona* was a stadium built during Emperor Domitian's rule (AD 81 to 96). We will finish the day with a transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight in Rome. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 4, Wednesday September 11 **LDS Rome Italy Temple • Open Day for Personal Travel**

For those who choose, we will take the opportunity to visit the **LDS Rome Italy Temple** in the morning. The Rome Italy Temple was the thirteenth temple built on the continent of Europe and the first built in the country of Italy. After a memorable journey following the ancient apostles of Jesus Christ's Day, this is a special opportunity for covenant renewals as we visit and participate in sacred ordinances. The time in the afternoon and evening is yours to explore more of the Eternal City on your own. This is also a time to reflect on the many experiences and knowledge one has gained during or 13 days of travel together. Dinner and overnight will be at our hotel in Rome. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day 5-6: Sat. & Sun. September 12-13 **Rome • Leonardo da Vinci International Airport • USA**

Today we say *arrivederci* to Rome as we head to the **Leonardo da Vinci International Airport** in Fiumicino (FCO) for our flight to the USA, expecting to arrive the next day, depending on your flight. **Meals: Breakfast**

