

The MAGI Travelogue

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Welcome to our quarterly newsletter, where you will find destination highlights, featured tours, and travel news!



2025 Wrap-Up

On this Feast of the Epiphany celebrating the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus (Magi Travel's feast day!), we send wishes for peace, joy and health in the coming year.

As we look ahead to 2026 journeys, we want to give an update on how our 2025 concluded. Advent is typically a slower season for Magi Travel, but last month we had two separate groups travel on Christmas Market Cruises on the Rhine River, led by Fr. Tom Fangman from Nebraska and Fr. Steve Binsfeld from Minnesota. They experienced Mass in major cathedrals, local churches (Lucerne, as in the above photo), and onboard their elegantly decorated ship. The groups toured the various ports in all their Christmas splendor and sought out local gifts at the famed Christmas markets.



Fr. Fangman said the gift he returned with was the realization that "you can never celebrate Christmas enough" and was left wondering how he had gone his whole life without visiting the European Christmas markets! Fr. Binsfeld's trip even included a marriage proposal within their group (she said yes!) during their special Chef's Table dinner aboard their AmaWaterways ship.

While Magi Travel used to have two main travel seasons (spring and fall), these trips continued a trend of groups traveling at other times of year. In 2025, we had groups overseas during every month of the year except January. In recent years—in addition to our normal spring and fall seasons—we've had numerous trips travel prior to Lent, throughout the summer months, and now, even into December.



An Insider's Look into the Vatican Museums

One special inclusion for our groups visiting Rome is a private, after-hours tour of the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel. This made all the difference in 2025, as Rome was particularly crowded with tourists and pilgrims for the Jubilee Year of Hope. Instead of entering during normal opening hours with an estimated 30,000 visitors per day, our groups were guided through with Vatican guards locking museum doors behind them, before finishing with the Sistine Chapel all to themselves.

The post-trip feedback we received from passengers included a plethora of adjectives:

“Outstanding”

“Marvelous”

“Over the top”

“A once-in-a-lifetime experience”

“Truly special to be able to stand in awe without having thousands of people next to me.”



For your chance to experience the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel without the crowds, take a look at our 2026 trips here:

[Italy Pilgrimages](#)



Travel Insurance Reminder

With the coming of a new year, now is a great time for our 2026 travelers to double-check their travel insurance coverage. Whether you are purchasing a plan through Magi's recommended provider, Allianz, or through a company of your choosing, travel insurance protects your investment should you have a cancel your trip due to unforeseen circumstances.

Click the button below for more information and to get a real-time quote. All you need to enter is your state of residence, total trip cost, age and travel dates.

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