



WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL FROM MALTA TO ROME

OCTOBER 18-28, 2024

Day 1 – Friday, October 18, 2024

Arrival in **Valletta**. Transfer to the hotel. Rest. Dinner and orientation.

Day 2 – Saturday, October 19, 2024

We will start our day with a visit to the hilltop **fortress of Mdina** which was established as the colony-settlement in the 8th century BC by the Phoenicians. In the period of Roman domination, it was renamed to Melite by the Romans. According to tradition, it was here where Apostle Paul was taken after he was shipwrecked on Malta. In the Book of Acts, Chapter 28, it is said that the governor of Melite, Publius, greeted the Apostle, and the Apostle cured the official's sick





of the most ancient religious sites on Earth. Archeologists suggest they were built sometime in the 4th Millennium BC. For dinner and overnight we will return to the hotel.

Day 3 – Sunday, October 20, 2024

After breakfast, we will explore the city of **Valletta** - the capital of Malta. Her history is closely related to The **Order of Knights Hospitallers** as the city started rapidly developing under their rule in the 16th century. The city has a very charming Baroque character, as well as some additional fine examples of architectural styles. Among other sites, we will visit the St. John Cathedral, the Church of St Paul's Shipwreck, and Domus Pauli. To enhance your experience in Valletta, we will offer a cruise through the Harbor Cruise of the charming city that was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list in 1980. At the end of the day we will transfer to the airport for an hour and a half flight to **Rome**.



father. Further traditions state that the population of the city converted to Christianity and the governor of Melite became their first Bishop. Next to the city, we will see the **grotto** that is believed to be Paul's prayer refuge and the **catcombs** where for centuries Christians, Jews, and pagans were buried side by side. Not far from Mdina, there is a church dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The church that is commonly known as the "**Dome of Mosta**" was built in the first part of the 19th century with a design based on the Pantheon in Rome. The dome of the church is considered one of the largest unsupported domes in the world. Another spectacular visit of the day will be to the **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Megalithic Temples** which are recognized as some

Day 4 – Monday, October 21, 2024

Our visit to the Eternal City will start with an iconic site – the **Flavian Amphitheater**, better known as the **Colosseum**. The largest 'entertainment' center of the Ancient World was commissioned in 70 AD by Emperor Vespasian, and in just ten years, his son Titus inaugurated the new structure with 100 straight days of games. This gigantic center got the name Colosseum due to the bronze statue of Emperor Nero that stood near the site and outlived the ill-fated



"original" by centuries. According to historical sources, the height of the statue was nearly 100 feet, hence the name Colossus of Nero. The infamous emperor erected this massive monument in the courtyard of his Golden Palace. Not much is left of the palace, as soon after Nero's assassination much of it was destroyed and the remains were covered by dirt. However, in recent years, access to some of the structures of the palace that seem like an underground maze is available to the public and there we will go next.

After our lunch break, we will ascend the Palatine Hill to see the remains of the **Imperial Palace** and gaze at the remains of the **Roman Forum** on one side and the

Circus Maximus, an ancient Roman chariot-racing stadium, on the other. From there we will proceed to see the house of Augustus and Livia, Cryptoporticus, and the Senate building, together with the vestiges of the multiple temples that once adorned the Forum. By Via Sacra we will exit the Forum, making our last stops at the Arches of Titus and Constantine. The overnight will be spent in **Rome**.



Day 5 – Tuesday, October 22, 2024

During our second day in Rome, we will see one of the other few well-preserved Roman cities – **Ostia Antica**. Initially, it developed around the port, and then took a life of its own and grew in size and importance. Not quite analogous to Pompei, the city of Ostia still contains incredible wonders. Here you could see the marketplace with early black-and-white mosaics, several-storied apartment buildings, taverns, temples, and baths – all in an incredible state of preservation. Near Ostia, there are two very interesting sites. The first is **Isola Sacra** with a fascinating cemetery that contains streets of the mausoleums of the rich families that resided in the area. The second is a museum dedicated to ancient Roman ships that were discovered during the building of Rome's airport. The overnight will be spent in **Rome**.



Day 6 – Wednesday, October 23, 2024

This day will be dedicated to sightseeing in **Naples** and its vicinity. After a brief sightseeing tour of the city, we will visit the **Duomo** (Cathedral). Adjacent to the Cathedral is an ancient **Baptistry** with some of the most ancient Christian **Mosaics** to be found anywhere. From the Cathedral we'll proceed to the **National Archeological Museum of Naples**, one of the most important archeological museums

worldwide. Here on several floors, you'll see a lot of treasures discovered in the nearby ancient Roman town of Herculaneum. After a lunch break, we will explore the town of **Herculaneum**, a phenomenally well-preserved ancient Roman city. Herculaneum is less famous than tourist overrun Pompei, but it is much better preserved and by far more humane in size. It presents truly a unique feeling of being in an ancient city, and for all visitors inescapably it will become one of the highlights of the trip. Later in the afternoon, we will transfer to **Rome**. The overnight will be spent in **Rome**.

Day 7 – Thursday, October 24, 2024

Palazzo Massimo, an impressively large building near the central train station in Rome is the main part of the incredible **National Roman Museum**. Among the collections here are incredible bronze and marble statuary, mosaics, and frescoes. The remarkable **Fresco Room** from the Villa of Livia, wife of Emperor Octavian, has been cleaned and restored as an exhibit piece within the Palazzo. Among many other incredible discoveries that shed light on the life of Ancient Romans, there are very





special bronze artifacts from Caligula's gigantic Nemi ships, the memorial of which we are going to see on the following day.

Practically adjacent to the museum, there are remains of one of the largest bath complexes in Rome, the **Bath of Diocletian**. Today, in the vestiges of the enormous halls, various sarcophagi and mosaics are on exhibit, but in addition to this, there is a museum of epitaphs. While not as popular as some other museums of Roman antiquities, it is still incredibly unique, as it brings us face-to-face with many famous Romans, whose names and deeds still live on via numerous inscriptions. Also, it provides a bit of insight into the religious life of the antique Roman populace, an aspect of life that is generally overlooked, but

which nevertheless played an incredibly important role in the lives of emperors and common folks alike.

After lunch, we will visit the **Basilica of St. Clement**, situated within a short walking distance, which represents another treasure, as in its archeological zone we could look at the history of Rome as if it were a multi-layered cake. We will see not only the development of sacred Christian space but also one of the best preserved Mythreums, a gathering place of the cult that was at one time a rival to Christianity. We'll also see the remains of an ancient Roman street and nicely preserved rooms of an ancient mint. Our last stop of the day will be at the **Roman Houses of Celio Hill**. Together with the excavations of San Clemente, the Roman Houses of the Celio represent one of the most fascinating places in underground Rome. The extraordinary state of conservation of the frescoed rooms and the very high artistic value and religious interest make the Roman houses of the Celio a fundamental stage in the knowledge of ancient Rome. The overnight will be spent in **Rome**.



Day 8 – Friday, October 25, 2024

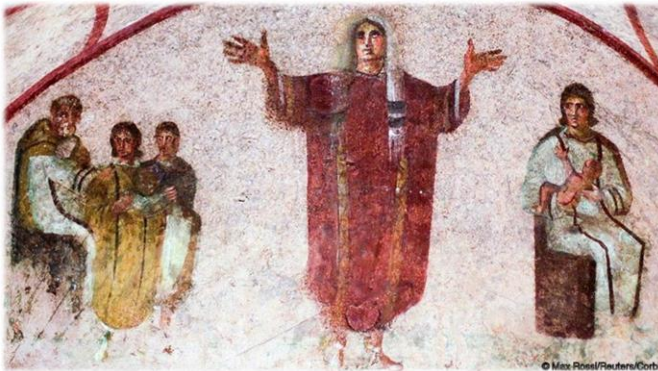
Today we will explore a number of the archeological sites in the heart of Rome. We will start our day-long walking tour with the so-called **Arch of Janus**. Contrary to the name, the arch is not dedicated to that Roman god but is special in its own way. It is the only surviving ancient of that type in Rome: an arch in a cubic shape with a gate on each side. A short distance away there are a couple of nearly intact ancient Roman temples, namely the **Temple of Hercules Victor** at Foro Boario, and Tempio di Portuno. After exploring these architectural gems of Roman antiquity, we will walk to see the fascinating remains of the **Teatro Marcello** with the houses built right into the walls, and the small **church of St. Nicola in Carcere**, built out of the remains of the preceding Roman temples, and a very fascinating archeological zone under the church. Before lunch, we will climb up the Capitoline Hill to visit the **Capitoline Museums**, perhaps the best collection of Roman antiquities to be found anywhere.



After a late lunch, we will explore the **Markets of Trajan, Trajan's Column**, a unique war memorial depicting in great detail the conquest of Dacia, and we will stop by the open area of **Largo di Torre Argentina**, famed for the remains of the Roman temples and cat colony. The next visit will be to the Roman **Pantheon**, one of the most fascinating structures from the Roman period, that still remains in use in the present day. Our last visit of the day will be to the recently restored **Altar of Peace** or Ara Pacis. Originally, that same structure was located on the outskirts of Rome. It was commissioned by the Roman Senate in honor of the return of Augustus from his military campaigns in Spain and Gaul. As it was situated on the flood plain, the structure got buried under meters of sediment. In 1938, upon its excavation, it was moved and reassembled at its current place in the heart of Rome. After prolonged restoration, it was open to the public in recent years.



Day 9 – Saturday, October 26, 2024



The last day of our tour will be dedicated to the exploration of several fascinating Christian sites. Our first stop will be at the **Mausoleum of Santa Costanza**. For a long time, it was believed the mausoleum was built by Emperor Constantine for his daughter Constanza. However, recent excavations proved that there was an earlier building on the site. Still, the current building that survives phenomenally well is dated to 350 AD which makes it a very special example of nearly intact Roman Imperial Architecture. From here we will travel to the **Catacombs of Priscilla**, known as the queen of the Catacombs due to several important burials and the

surviving early Christian art. Not far from the Catacombs, there is a mighty **basilica of St. Paul outside the walls**, from the very antiquity honored as the burial place of the Apostle of the Gentiles. Our further exploration will take us along **Via Appia**, one of the roads that lead to Rome. The Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella and the Mausoleum of the Scipio Africanus family, the Archeological Park of the Aqueducts, and some other amazing remains of Ancient Rome located along via Appia will be waiting for us in the afternoon.

Day 10 – Sunday, October 27, 2024

The last day of our tour will be dedicated to the exploration of two fascinating sites located on the outskirts of Rome. Leaving Rome, in about one hour's driving time we will arrive at the charming hill town of **Palestrina**, home to many spectacular Roman ruins. The most famous site in Palestrina is doubtlessly the **Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia**, built in the 2nd century BC. The sheer size of that well-preserved monument is jaw-dropping. No place was more fortuitous in the minds of Ancient Romans than the sanctuary of the goddess Fortuna. Many famous Romans would come here to consult the oracle about





their activities or military campaigns. As a secondary dedication of the sanctuary was to the Egyptian deity Isis, some Egyptian features were introduced to the site. Perhaps the most famous of them all which still survives is an intricate mosaic of the representation of the **Nile River**, which could be seen at the local archeological museum.

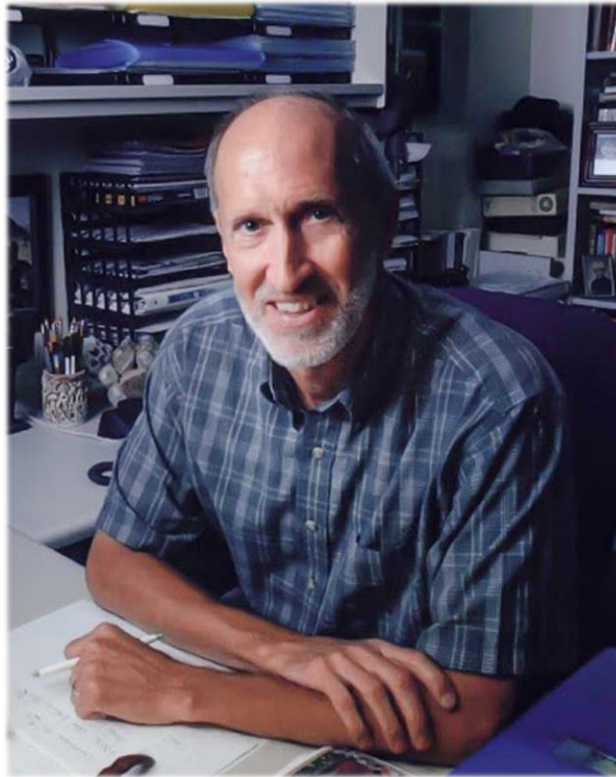
From here we will travel to **Tivoli**, to visit **Hadrian's villa**. The complex of the villa gives us an incredible insight into the magnitude of the Roman palatial structures. It is difficult to imagine the splendor of the Imperial Palace in Rome. Here in Tivoli you could seemingly endlessly wander through the complex that resembles a mid-size ancient town more than a palace. Even with nearly all of the marble and mosaics gone, the very layout of the

palace with its many rooms and halls is still easily imaginable based on the well-preserved remains, and one could certainly feel the glory and power of Ancient Rome. Return to **Rome** for the farewell dinner and overnight.

Day 11 – Monday, October 28, 2024

After breakfast, check out from the hotel, and transfer to the airport for the departure back home.





An honorary leader of the tour is Dr. Mark R. Fairchild (Ph.D., Drew University) is the Luke J. Peters Professor of Biblical Studies at Huntington University. He has visited and researched over 300 ancient sites throughout Turkey that date back to the Hellenistic (Greek) and Roman periods.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Price includes:

- Accommodations in 4-star hotels along the way
- All breakfasts and lunches or dinners (two meals daily)
- Private bus transportation along the way
- Group transfer to from airport on Malta and Rome
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Airfare from Malta to Rome
- Individual audio system aka "Whisper set"
- Professional English speaking [local] tour guides

Price does not include:

- Personal health/accident insurance (strongly recommended)
- Air tickets
- Transportation to and from the airport if traveling separately from the group
- Private activities: transfers, optional tours, tickets to shows or additional museums.

- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places
- Tips to bus drivers and tour guides (Minimal suggested amount per person is \$3 per day for bus drivers and \$5 for local tour guides. Your generosity will be always greatly appreciated)
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

Financial arrangements:

\$ 3600per person, in double occupancy in a group of 30 participants; Single supplement: \$900 extra. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of local currency vs US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY

13850. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. For payment with a credit card; domestic or international bank wires, please contact Palomnik Agency directly.

A deposit of \$900 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is July 18, 2024. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure, July 18, 2024. Failure to pay in full by July 18, 2024, without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to cancel after you signed up, penalty is:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 61 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 31 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 31 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to the Palomnik Agency and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to COVID and associated emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:

Leaders of the tour reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travellers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Organizers assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a

result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveller will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property, possible Covid quarantine and/or hospitalization and treatment
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to COVID hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited.

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by the Palomnik LLC director Ilya Gotlinsky

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Telephone: 001-607-797-1058

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REGISTRATION FORM:

WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL FROM MALTA TO ROME
DATES: OCTOBER 18 – 28, 2024

To register please complete this registration form and return it along with your deposit check for \$800.00 made to PALOMNIK, LLC to: 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Please write "Malta and Rome 2024" on the memo line.

Full Name (as per passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Passport #

Passport expiration date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: