



Lifelong  
Learning



# ROME IN THE UNCROWDED SEASON

March 13 - 20, 2027

Colosseum



# Lifelong Learning

Dear Washington & Lee Travelers,

We are delighted to invite you on a thoughtfully designed, weeklong exploration of the Eternal City in March 2027. Created especially for Washington & Lee travelers, this program offers an ideal balance of Rome's great artistic and historical landmarks with intimate, behind-the-scenes experiences that bring daily activities and centuries of tradition vividly to life.

Highlights abound. Walk in the footsteps of emperors at the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Stand before some of humanity's greatest artistic achievements in the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica, including Michelangelo's renowned Sistine Chapel frescoes. Beyond the masterpieces, you'll encounter Rome at a more personal scale: by stepping inside the hidden workshop of a local artisan who implements time-honored techniques, and savoring the city's culinary heritage during a private cooking class guided by a Roman chef, beginning with a market visit and ending with a convivial lunch of your own creations.

Throughout the week, you'll be based at the elegant *Hotel dei Mellini*, from which Rome's layers - from ancient to Baroque to modern - unfold effortlessly. Located in the Prati district, *Mellini* is situated near the historic center of the city, affording access to such attractions as St. Peter's Basilica and the Spanish Steps. And with spring just beginning to unfold, March is a particularly rewarding time to be in Rome. The days are comfortably cool, gardens and piazzas come alive, and the city feels refreshingly unhurried. By avoiding peak-season crowds, our group will enjoy easier access to major sites, quieter museums, and more authentic interactions in neighborhoods and markets—allowing us to experience Rome as residents do.

Just as meaningful as the destination is the company. Shared discoveries, lingering meals, and time at leisure foster easy conversation and renewed connections, and offer opportunities to build new friendships with fellow inquisitive, congenial Washington & Lee travelers.

We can't wait for you to join us for this immersive Roman holiday—one that promises lasting memories well beyond the city's seven hills.

Warm regards,

James Lambert  
Director

Lisa D'Amelio  
Associate Director

Danielle Taylor  
Office Manager



Piazza Navona, with its fountains and Baroque palaces



Fresco on Ceiling of the Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli



Spanish Steps and Bernini's Barcaccia Fountain

For more information, please call W&L's Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723



The Basilica of St. Peter faces the spacious St. Peter's Square



Pantheon

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# ITINERARY



Detail of the frescoes painted by Michaelangelo on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel

Saturday, March 13, 2027  
**DEPART THE US FOR ROME, Italy**

Sunday, March 14  
**ROME, Italy**

Upon arrival in Rome, transfer to the *Hotel dei Mellini* (or similar), home for the duration of the program. The afternoon is at leisure. Meet your fellow travelers over a traditional Roman welcome dinner at a local osteria this evening. (D)

Monday, March 15  
**COLOSSEUM/ROMAN FORUM**

After breakfast, dive into the glories of ancient Rome. Begin at the Colosseum, where gladiators prepared for staged battles in front of audiences with up to 50,000 spectators. Explore the Roman Forum, an extensive series of monumental piazzas and buildings constructed between 46 B.C. and 113 A.D. which constituted the hub of political activity in Ancient Rome. The afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration. One worthwhile option is the Capitoline Museums, the world's oldest public museum. Founded in 1471, it houses a rich array of ancient Roman sculptures, Renaissance art, and historical artifacts, including the iconic statue of the She-wolf with Romulus and Remus. (B)

Tuesday, March 16  
**VATICAN MUSEUM/ST. PETER'S BASILICA/ TRASTEVERE/SANTA MARIA**

This morning, the artistic wonders of the Vatican Museums await. Marvel at two of the world's most spectacular masterpieces: the ceiling frescoes of Michelangelo's Genesis and his Last Judgment altar fresco. Continue to St. Peter's Basilica, the most important church in all Christendom, followed by an independent lunch in the vibrant, authentic Roman neighborhood of Trastevere. Reconvene in the afternoon to visit the hidden workshop of a local craftsman, whose knowledge and skill bring centuries-old techniques to life. Cap off the day by admiring the stunning 12th-century mosaics in Santa Maria, one of Rome's oldest churches, followed by dinner at a local trattoria. (B,D)

Wednesday, March 17  
**EXPLORE THE CITY/BORGHESE GALLERY**

Explore the Baroque core of the city. From the Piazza del Popolo to the galleries and ateliers of via Margutta; the iconic Spanish Steps and Bernini's Barcaccia Fountain in the Piazza di Spagna; the Trevi Fountain and Piazza Navona, there is no shortage of historic architecture to admire. The Pantheon presents a sharp contrast as a prime example of the older, Greek-influenced Classical style. After lunch at leisure, visit the striking Borghese Gallery, housed in a splendid 17th-century villa. Along with bas reliefs and ancient mosaics of outstanding quality, the Borghese preserves works by Titian, Caravaggio, Canova, and Bernini. (B)

Thursday, March 18  
**FOOD MARKET/PRIVATE COOKING CLASS**

Begin today amongst the food stalls of a local market. Guided by your Roman chef instructor, select ingredients for a private cooking class



One of the splendid halls in the Vatican Museums

devoted to regional specialties, with special focus on pasta. Feast on your creations for lunch. The balance of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

**Friday, March 19**

**BASILICA DI SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE/BASILICA DI SAN PIETRO**

After breakfast, visit the 5th century Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, one of Rome's four papal basilicas. Renowned for its stunning mosaic scenes and Baroque interior, Santa Maria Maggiore also houses important Christian relics. Continue to the Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli, famous as the site of Michelangelo's iconic Moses statue, also containing the chains that are believed to have bound

St. Peter. The afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration. The Galleria Doria Pamphilj, a private art collection housed in a historic palace, may appeal to travelers seeking further masterworks by Caravaggio, Raphael, and Titian alongside sculptures and tapestries. The gallery offers a glimpse into the opulent life of the Pamphilj family. Tonight, a festive farewell dinner at a local restaurant caps off your Roman holiday. (B,D)

**Saturday, March 20**

**ROME/USA**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)



Street scene in the Trastevere neighborhood



Traditional Italian food

For more information, please call W&L's Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723



The Fontana di Trevi, Rome's most famous fountain



Roman Forum

For more information, please call W&L's Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723

## RATE PER PERSON

\$ 5,690 per person, double occupancy.  
Single room supplement: \$ 890.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at the *Hotel dei Mellini* (or similar) in Rome for six nights.
- Breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- One lunch and three dinners at local restaurants, with soft drinks, wine or beer.
- A private cooking class guided by a local Roman chef.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage on program arrival and departure dates.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and professional English-speaking guide/tour manager.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Entrance fees to museums and other sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and the Program Inclusions.



## REGISTRATION

W&L 27L-0313

I (we) wish to reserve \_\_\_\_ place(s) on **ROME IN THE UNCROWDED SEASON**, March 13 - 20, 2027, with Washington & Lee University. I/We understand that a deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required.

For the ease of registering online, please visit: <https://go.wlu.edu/rome>

I/We wish to pay the deposit by credit card and authorize Thalassa Journeys to contact us for credit card details. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Alternatively, you can make your deposit by check.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) made payable to **Thalassa Journeys**.

Please email your reservation to [lifelong@wlu.edu](mailto:lifelong@wlu.edu) and mail check to:

**Thalassa Journeys:** 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

### Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation

Double Bed

Single Bed

Single accommodation

*Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

DR./MR./MRS./MS.	FIRST	LAST (As it appears on your passport)	
DR./MR./MRS./MS.	FIRST	LAST (As it appears on your passport)	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
GUEST ONE MOBILE	GUEST ONE E-MAIL		
GUEST TWO MOBILE	GUEST TWO E-MAIL		
GUEST ONE W&L AFFILIATION (CLASS YEAR, PARENT YEAR, FRIEND)		Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.	
GUEST TWO W&L AFFILIATION (CLASS YEAR, PARENT YEAR, FRIEND)			
GUEST ONE NAME FOR NAME BADGE	SIGNATURE	DATE	
GUEST TWO NAME FOR NAME BADGE	SIGNATURE	DATE	

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be effected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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