Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Saturday, June 24
Depart from the USA, and fly overnight to Rome Fiumicino Airport.

Day 2: Sunday, June 25 (D) - Welcome to Rome
Arrive in Rome and transfer to the Hotel 47. After a welcome reception at 4pm, walk to the Pantheon to experience the “greatest building ever built.” Admire its exterior and urban setting, and be swept into the breath-taking aura of its interior as late afternoon becomes evening. Stop by the Iseum Campense, with the “Obelisco della Minerva” and proceed to the nearby Hadrianeum (Temple of Divine Hadrian), now the Rome Stock Exchange Building, to see the exterior of another second-century Roman edifice that survives through recycling. Enjoy a glimpse of the spiralling lantern of Francesco Borromini’s Sant’Ivo on the way to Piazza Navona (formerly the Stadium of Domitian) where Borromini’s Church of Sant’Agnese in Agone competes for attention with Gian Lorenzo Bernini’s renowned Four Rivers Fountain. Both are examples of a 17th-century Baroque style that developed under the influence of the “baroque extravaganzas” of ancient Roman architecture. From there, gather for our welcome dinner.

Day 3: Monday, June 26 (B, L, D) – Rome Then and Now
This day will focus on Rome’s civic center, what survives and what can be reimagined. In the morning, we will visit the Palatine Hill to explore the surviving foundations of Domitian’s imperial palace -- the official home of Rome’s emperors from the 1st century on--to get a sense of Domitian’s megalomania and the genius of his architect Rabirius. Visit the recently renovated Palatine Museum with its new models of Romulus’ village and examples of the kind of painted and marble decoration that embellished Nero’s Domus Transitoria and Domitian’s Domus Augustana. Descend the hill to the Roman Forum to see the Arch of Titus, Temple of Venus and Roma, Basilica Nova, and the house and temple of Rome’s Vestal Virgins, which in their later form, owe much to Julia Domna, one of Rome’s most influential empresses.

After lunch, the group will take turns visiting 1) the Markets of Trajan and the Museum of the Imperial Forums; and 2) the Domus Romane in Palazzo Valentini. The Markets are the
quintessential example of utilitarian Roman architecture and the way ancient Rome’s greatest known architect, Apollodorus of Damascus, who may also have designed the Pantheon, mastered Roman concrete construction. In nearby Palazzo Valentini, the excavated bits and pieces of the ancient house and bath are dramatically reconstructed through cutting edge digital technology, and the guide will note that the ancient Roman residence was located next to Forum and Column of Trajan.

Day 4: Tuesday, June 27 (B, L) – Rome Expanded and Reinvented

Journey to the ancient port city of Ostia, which was also Rome’s first colony, founded in 350 B.C. Leave at 9am for the one-hour bus ride. Explore the city in depth: its plan, walls, civic center, forum, Piazza of the Corporations, theater, baths, apartment houses, ancient fast food stands, and shops. For lunch, enjoy a sandwich or pasta dish from the Ostia Antica cafeteria. On the way back to Rome along the Via Ostiense, visit the Montemartini Museum. The building, which features treasures formerly in Rome’s Capitoline Museums, began in 1909 as the Municipal Electric Company, now ACEA. We will discuss its reinvention as a museum for Roman antiquities and ask ourselves what we think of it in relationship to Rome’s Museum of the Imperial Forums and the Palatine Museum. Besides the modern machinery that serves as a backdrop, explore a number of works of art, some of which remain shrouded in mystery. Among these are a famous statue of a Roman aristocrat with portrait busts of two male family members, a fragment that may come from the lost Parthian Arch of Nero on the Capitoline Hill, and what may be one of the few surviving portraits of Cleopatra (yes, THE Cleopatra!), made in Rome when she resided in Julius Caesar’s villa across the Tiber.

Day 5: Wednesday, June 28 (B, L, D) – Four of Roman Architecture’s Greatest Icons

Visit by bus four of ancient Rome’s most iconic buildings, beginning with Augustus’ Ara Pacis Augustae. Since the altar’s ancient and modern history are intertwined, consider also the history of the Piazza Augusto Imperatore commissioned by Mussolini. Proceed across the Tiber River to experience the Mausoleum of Hadrian, better known as the Castel Sant’Angelo, one of modern Rome’s foremost signature buildings. Unravel its long storied history and climb the spiral path to the summit. From there, assess the structural additions commissioned by some of Rome’s Popes. From the apex take incomparable pictures of the domes of the Pantheon and St Peter’s and get a sense of the full sweep of the ancient and modern city. After lunch head by bus to the impressive remains of the massive Baths of Caracalla, which reveal as much about their despotic patron as they do about third-century Roman bathing practices. The day will culminate with a dramatic night-time visit to the interior of the ultimate Roman icon—the Colosseum.

Day 6: Thursday, June 29 (B, L) – Coastal Villa and Mountain Sanctuary at Sperlonga and Terracina

As if the Domus Transitoria and Domus Aurea were not enough, Nero collected so many seaside
vacation homes that Suetonius reports that Rome was ringed with the villas of Caligula and Nero. Remains at Capri and elsewhere also attest to Tiberius’ fixation with villas. Experience the sybaritic life of Rome’s Julio-Claudian emperors as we visit what may be Tiberius’ villa at Sperlonga. It was especially luxurious with elaborately decorated rooms and fishponds. Experience the dramatic statuary group of Odysseus blinding Polyphemos, a 1st-century A.D. copy of a Hellenistic original. This region was also a magnet for pilgrims who flocked to the Sanctuary of Jupiter Anxur at Terracina atop a mountain with a magnificent view of the sea. Wander its terraced levels, enjoy its picturesque setting, and marvel at its impressive concrete podium, faced with some of the best Roman opus incertum anywhere. Enjoy lunch along the shore and return to Rome in the late afternoon.

Day 7: Friday, June 30 (B, L, D) - What Goes Around Comes Around
On our last official day in Rome, we will focus on an area of Rome that allows us to see the full sweep of the city’s history. Go back to the Republic and explore the oldest forum in Rome, the Forum Boarium or cattle forum, which served primarily as a meat and fish market. The attraction of this location was likely due to its flatness and its proximity to the Tiber River. In this one space, the preserved monuments allow us to range across the centuries, beginning in the Republic and age of Augustus. Assess the two best preserved early Roman temples in Rome, the Temple of Portunus and the Temple of Hercules, noting that they stand near the later Church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, the portico of which displays one of Rome’s most popular tourist attractions, the Bocca della Verità. Across the street is the 18th-century Fountain of the Tritons and various buildings constructed in the Mussolini era line the modern streets. Ponder the early 3rd-century Arch of the Argentarii, honoring the Severan imperial family, and take the measure of ancient Rome’s only surviving four-sided, or quadrifrons, arch. Walk toward the Capitoline Museums where we will share a special lunch on the museum’s roof top terrace. After lunch, we will make a brief visit to the museum to see the foundations of the original Temple of Jupiter OMC, the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, the colossal seated statue of Constantine, and the so-called province series from the Temple of Divine Hadrian. Walk to the Theater of Marcellus and examine its exterior and the annular vaults supporting the structure’s first story. Pass by the Temple of Apollo Sosianus (the pediment of which we will have already seen in the Montemartini Museum) and dip into the Jewish Ghetto to get a sense of its ambiance and to examine the ancient Roman Porticus of Octavia. And finally, we will make one last stop to view the three early Roman temples in the Largo Argentina, also the location of the Senate House where Julius Caesar was murdered. The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. For those who would like to shop for gifts, the nearby Corso has a large array of boutiques and leads to Rome’s premier shopping area and to the Piazza di Spagna or Spanish Steps. The Via Condotti and the Via Borgognona are among Rome’s most famous shopping streets. In the evening, we will reunite for our festive farewell dinner.

Day 8: Saturday, July 1 (B) – Arrivederci or...
the rusticated masonry of Claudius’ Porta Maggiore and examine in detail the idiosyncratic tomb of the master baker and contractor Eurysaces and his wife Atistia. Visit the Tomb of the Scipios and the Columbarium of Pomponius Hylas, with its splendid interior decoration. Have lunch in one of the picturesque restaurants along the Via Appia. Then, spend some time taking the measure of the round Tomb of Caecilia Metella and, as in the baker’s tomb, the difference in the way men and women were celebrated in a funerary context. Visit the small museum in the tomb where you can also see the sepulcher’s domed interior. Explore the thermal baths at the newly excavated site of Capo di Bove. Complete the experience by visiting the villa of the tetrarch Maxentius and enter the massive round tomb of his son Romulus.

Day 9: Sunday, July 2 (B, L, D) “Urbi et Orbi” – To the City of Rome and the World
Expand our learning experience by contemplating the Roman concept of empire, the kind of empire the port at Ostia made possible. Start early in the morning for the drive to Palestrina, ancient Praeneste, a picturesque hilltown in Lazio that served in Roman times as the location of the spectacular sanctuary to Fortuna Primigenia. It is also one of the most ambitious and sophisticated examples of early Roman concrete architecture faced with opus incertum, as well as the original location of one of the two most impressive surviving Roman mosaics: a masterful representation of the Nile in flood. Exploring the mosaic tessera by tessera, we will marvel at its mastery of its medium and for what it tells us about the close connections between ancient Rome and ancient Egypt in the Republic and age of Augustus. The museum houses other spectacular and informative works that will also spark discussion. Above all, we will relish our ability to climb the ramps and the steps of the original sanctuary and to get up close to the very attractive opus incertum. We will also be struck by the ingenuity of the slanting capitals and the annular vaults with coffered ceilings. And we won’t forget to look to the hills of ancient Praeneste from the sanctuary’s apex. We will depart Palestrina and arrive at Tivoli in time for lunch at the incomparable Sibilla restaurant, with the “Temple of Vesta” on view from our tables. After lunch, we will drive the short distance to Hadrian’s Villa where we will examine the villa model, and experience Hadrian’s architectural version of his three journeys around the emperor, with and without his beloved Antinous. Explore the Temple of Venus, Teatro Marittimo, Canopus and Serapeum, Large Baths, Tomb of Antinous, and the Villa Adriana Museum. At the Canopus, we will stop for photos around the pool and pose with the famous crocodile. Return to the hotel and gather for the farewell dinner.

Day 10: Monday, July 3 – Arrivederci!
Program rates and Payment Schedule
Program rates for this tour are $4,950 per person based on double occupancy, single supplement $1,015. These rates include: Accommodation in the four star Hotel 47, meals (daily breakfast, five lunches, four dinners; water and coffee with lunches; water, wine, and coffee with dinners) as indicated in the itinerary, entrance fees and guided tours, group transfers from/to Rome Leonardo da Vinci Airport, transportation by motor coach within designated itinerary, bottled water on excursions, services of a trip manager throughout the journey, gratuities for guides, drivers, and porters, quiet vox audio system. The program rate does not include: airfare, passport and visa fees, medical expenses and immunizations, trip cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance, meals not specified in the itinerary, dishes and beverages not part of the included meals, personal items.
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to the Association of Yale Alumni, of which $250 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, payable to Via Antiqua Travel GmbH by check or electronic wire transfer, must be received 120 days (Friday, February 24, 2017) prior to departure.

Health
Participants must be in good health and will be expected to be able to walk for relatively substantial distances, up and down hills and stairs possibly without handrails, and on uneven pavement, to stand for prolonged periods of time at sites and museums.

Insurance
Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc. is strongly recommended. Please be sure to carry the details of your travel insurance coverage with you on the trip. Yale provides UHC medical evacuation insurance to all travelers.

Changes in Itinerary and Cost
All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of the brochure preparation and are subject to change without notice. Of course we do our best to provide the tour arrangements as confirmed, but Via Antiqua Travel GmbH and the Association of Yale Alumni must retain the right to make modifications to the itinerary, if unforeseen circumstances beyond our control should arise.

Cancellation Policy
All cancellations must be made in writing to the Association of Yale Alumni, and are subject to a $250 non-refundable administration fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of the deposit. Cancellation from 75 days to 31 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 50% of the entire trip cost per person. Cancellation from 30 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% of the entire trip cost per person. No refunds for any unused parts of the tour program will be given. If the program is cancelled in advance of departure by Via Antiqua Travel GmbH or the Association of Yale Alumni, a full refund will be given without further obligation on our part. Neither Via Antiqua Travel GmbH nor the Association of Yale Alumni accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this program. If the trip is affected by circumstances resulting from force majeure, Via Antiqua Travel GmbH as well as the participants may withdraw from the contract any time. The cost of transportation home will be shared equally by Via Antiqua Travel GmbH and the participant. Via Antiqua Travel GmbH reserves the right at any time to remove from the group (either from the entire trip or from certain activities) a participant who exhibits behavior that creates an unpleasant environment for other group members or trip organizers, or who cannot for any reason keep up with the rest of the group.

Liability
Via Antiqua Travel GmbH nor Yale Educational Travel will not be held liable for financial damages, property damages, bodily injury, dismemberment, or death that are not a direct result of intent or negligence on the part of Via Antiqua Travel GmbH or through intent, negligence or fault of an independent supplier. In the event that Via Antiqua Travel GmbH is held liable, the maximum amount of the award will not exceed three times the cost of the trip. Via Antiqua Travel GmbH and the Association of Yale Alumni assume no liability for any damages resulting from force majeure.

Passports
All travelers are expected to have a current passport with a date of expiry no sooner than six months from the return date, and any required visas.

Baggage and Personal Effects
Baggage and personal effects remain the travelers’ responsibility and risk at all times.

Authority to Use Images
Occasionally Via Antiqua Travel GmbH or Yale Educational Travel obtains photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize Via Antiqua Travel GmbH or Yale Educational Travel, without providing compensation or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings including voice recordings of you in our sales, marketing, advertising, and publicity activities.