

Discover the Heart of the Early Church in the Eternal City

January 13-21, 2027

Land Only price per person \$3448

Hosted By:

*Pastor Craig Donofrio
Redeemer Lutheran Church*

320-235-4685

Please join us!

Highlights of Your Roman Reverie:

- Sacred Sites & Early Church Legacy: Delve into the Vatican Museums' treasures, the Sistine Chapel's divine frescoes, and underground catacombs where early Christians gathered in secrecy. Visit basilicas honoring saints and martyrs, from St. Paul's martyrdom site to the layered ruins of San Clemente, revealing Rome's pagan-to-Christian evolution.
- Culinary Delights: Indulge in 4 three-course dinners, 3 lunches, and an artisanal gelato tasting—think bucatini all'Amatriciana with guanciale (cured pork cheek), crispy supplì rice balls, and Neapolitan pizza. Rome's "quinto quarto" tradition shines in offal dishes like coda alla vaccinara (oxtail stew), paired with local wines (extra drinks at your leisure).
- Luxury & Logistics: 8 nights at Hotel Milton Roma with buffet breakfasts, portorage, city taxes, a 50-seat deluxe coach, English-speaking tour assistant for all days, local guides for key visits, Wi-Fi headsets, and pre-reserved tickets to skip lines. Excludes unlisted meals, tips, and extras—leaving room for spontaneous gelato stops or Trevi coin tosses.
- ****Payment Terms:**** Secure with a 30% non-refundable deposit by August 1, 2026; balance due October 1, 2026.



Discover the Heart of the Early Church in the Eternal City

Rome, the cradle of Western Christianity, invites you on an intimate 9-day odyssey from January 13 to 21, 2027. Trace the footsteps of apostles Peter and Paul through catacombs and grand basilicas, savor authentic Roman cuisine from hearty pastas to creamy gelato, and immerse yourself in the city's romantic rhythm—where every cobblestone whispers tales of emperors, saints, and timeless love. This group adventure promises camaraderie, expert guidance, and memories etched in marble. Reasonably priced at **USD \$3,448 per person (land only) in double occupancy (single supplement USD \$769), based on a 1.25 USD to Euro exchange rate**—all net and tailored for profound cultural connection.

Day 1: Wednesday, January 13 – Arrival in the Eternal City

Meet your fellow travelers at the hotel. Check time is 4:00PM. After free time for a leisurely lunch—perhaps a simple panino with prosciutto in a bustling piazza—embark on a walking tour of Baroque masterpieces. Stroll Piazza Navona's elliptical splendor, alive with Bernini's fountains and street artists; marvel at the Pantheon's oculus, a pagan temple turned Christian church since the 7th century; and toss a coin into the Trevi Fountain's cascading waters for a promised return. As twilight falls, transfer to Hotel Milton Roma for check-in, followed by a welcoming dinner in a local trattoria: three courses of Roman classics like artichokes alla Romana and saltimbocca, washed down with water (Beverages at your expense) and warm hospitality.

Day 2: Thursday, January 14 – Icons of Imperial Glory

Awake to Hotel Milton's bountiful breakfast buffet—fresh pastries, cheeses, and fruits fueling your day. Transfer to the Colosseum, that colossal amphitheater where gladiators clashed and early Christians faced persecution under emperors like Nero. With reserved tickets, explore its arches and arena, then wander the Roman Forum's ruins: temples, arches, and the Senate House evoking Rome's pagan past. Descend to the Mamertine Prison, legendary cell of apostles Peter and Paul, a poignant nod to the church's martyr roots. After free lunch time—try a nearby porchetta sandwich—head to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, a serene shrine to the apostle's burial, rebuilt in gleaming marble. Cap the day with an artisanal gelato tasting; nearby spots like Giolitti or Old Bridge Gelateria offer pistachio and stracciatella scoops that melt like Roman sunsets. Return to the hotel; dinner at your own pace—perhaps carbonara in a cozy osteria.

Day 3: Friday, January 15 – Layers of Faith Underground

Savor another hotel breakfast before transferring to Via Della Navicella for the Basilica of San Clemente: a time capsule with 12th-century mosaics atop 4th-century ruins and a pagan Mithraeum below, symbolizing Christianity's triumph. Next, visit the Church of Santa Pudenziana, home to Rome's oldest mosaics depicting early Christian scenes. Transfer to Testaccio for a three-course lunch—savor trippa alla Romana (tripe stew) or abbacchio (roast lamb) in a lively restaurant. Afternoon brings the Catacombs of Priscilla, ancient tunnels frescoed with biblical tales, where early believers buried their dead in secrecy. Return to the hotel; evening free for dinner—explore Trastevere's cacio e pepe pasta.

Day 4: Saturday, January 16 – Leisure and Worship

Enjoy a relaxed morning after breakfast—perhaps shop for leather goods or sip cappuccino in a café. Lunch on your own, then transfer to Rome's Christ the Victor Lutheran Church for a Confessional Lutheran worship service that bridges nations and traditions. Dinner follows in a restaurant: three courses celebrating Roman flavors, like gnocchi alla Romana baked to golden perfection. Return to the hotel, hearts full.

Day 5: Sunday, January 17 – Echoes from Ancient Ports

Post-breakfast, journey to Ostia Antica, Rome's ancient harbor town frozen in time—mosaics, theaters, and baths revealing daily life where early Christians mingled with traders. After a guided archaeological tour, lunch in an Ostia restaurant: fresh seafood pasta evoking the Tyrrhenian Sea. Return to the hotel; dinner is independent, try fried artichokes in the Jewish Ghetto.

Day 6: Monday, January 18 – Saints and Sacred Art

Breakfast energizes you for the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls (a deeper revisit if desired), then Tre Fontane Abbey, site of Paul's beheading and miraculous springs. Transfer to Vatican City for free lunch, followed by reserved entry to the Vatican Museums—galleries brimming with ancient sculptures and papal treasures—culminating in Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, its ceiling a symphony of creation and judgment. Return to the hotel; dinner at leisure.

Day 7: Tuesday, January 19 – Neapolitan Excursion

After breakfast, a 3.5-hour coach ride south to Naples. Explore the Catacombs of San Gennaro, early Christian tombs with vivid frescoes, then the UNESCO-listed historic center: winding streets, Baroque churches, and vibrant markets. Savor a pizza lunch, margherita born here—in a traditional pizzeria. Return to Rome for dinner in a restaurant: three courses of soul-warming Roman fare.

Day 8: Wednesday, January 20 – Papal Legacy and Farewell

Breakfast precedes the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome's cathedral with ancient baptistery, and the Church of Santi Giovanni e Paolo, tied to early martyrs. Free lunch, then afternoon at leisure back at the hotel. Culminate with a farewell dinner: three courses in a restaurant, toasting to shared discoveries.

Day 9: Thursday, January 21 – Departure

Enjoy a final breakfast, check out, and transfer to FCO Airport (one group transfer,) carrying Rome's spirit home to Willmar.

Have A Very Pleasant Journey!

SPECIAL NOTE: The tour operator and/or guide reserve the right to alter the sequence of the daily itinerary and make substitutions in order to meet changes brought about by weather, airline delays or as deemed necessary for the best interest and overall comfort of the group.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PRICE PER PERSON LAND ONLY: \$3448 Cash Discount (\$3610 Credit)

(Note: This is a custom tour and the cost quoted above is based on a minimum No. of 21 adult participants. Should tour membership fall below this number, the tour operator reserves the right to re-cost the program.)

PRICE INCLUDES

- Four Star Hotels. Accommodations based on two persons sharing a room
- Full Buffet Breakfast and Dinner Daily.
- Round trip transfers by private motor coach including a qualified, licensed English-speaking guide
- Portage of one suitcase per person not to exceed 50 lbs and 62 inches in total.
- All hotel taxes and service charges are included
- Suggested tips to guide, driver, and hotel staff

NOT INCLUDED

- The cost of obtaining a passport, meals or beverages other than specified, insurance, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, etc. **Airfares not included.**

DOCUMENTS: A valid U.S. passport for 6 months from return date is required. No visas are required for U.S. passport holders.

RESERVATIONS: A nonrefundable deposit of \$300 per person is required to make a reservation. **Balance due on October 1, 2026**

Payments received after this date will be subject to a 3% late fee on any remaining balance. **CANCELLATIONS:** All cancellations must be in writing. **Any cancellations received 91 days or earlier prior to departure will incur an additional \$100 cancellation charge over and above the charges stipulated under the normal cancellations for this tour.**

For individual cancellations received up to:

91 days prior to departure an administrative fee of \$200 will be charged; **90-60 days** prior to departure a \$550 fee will be charged; **59-46 days** prior to departure a \$950 fee will be charged; **45-31 days** before departure are subject to a charge of 60% of the total tour cost; **30-0 days** before departure are subject to a charge of 100% of the total tour cost.

INSURANCE NOTE: We strongly recommend that passengers purchase travel insurance that includes coverage for **Trip Cancellation or Interruption, Medical Expense and Baggage**. An optional travel insurance plan is available to Friendship Tour Participants. Information about this plan is included with the reservation form.

DEVIATIONS: Any change in the basic program will result in a charge of **\$150** per change per person plus any additional charges that may apply for revised air or land arrangements.

VALIDITY: Prices are based on airfares, tariffs and rates of exchange effective 1/22/26. **Exchange rate of Euro 1.00 = USD 1.25**

All airfares are subject to change.

RESPONSIBILITY: Friendship Tours, and their agents act only in the capacity of agents for the passengers in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing, tours and transportation, whether by air, railroad, motor coach, steamship, boat or other means and, as such, hold themselves free of responsibility for any damage(s) from any cause(s) whatsoever. The tour operator will not be responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late air, rail or boat arrivals or departures or by any change of schedules or other conditions; nor will they be responsible for the loss of, or damage to baggage or any article belonging to the passenger. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person traveling under our auspices. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passenger contract used by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this tour and/or the passengers. "This brochure is issued on the sole responsibility of the Tour Operator. It is not issued on behalf and does not commit the airline mentioned therein or any airline whose services are used in the course of the tour." The Tour Operator and their agents and suppliers reserve the right to change the sequence of the itinerary to re-route, substitute or change certain site visits according to local conditions at the time of our stay. **CST # 2069059-40**

CONTACT: 320-235-4685 Email: cdonofrio@redeemerwillmar.org



Your Reservation Form

(Please Complete A Form For Each Traveler)

January 13-21, 2027

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PRICE PER PERSON LAND ONLY: \$3448 Cash Discount (\$3610 Credit)

(Note: This is a custom tour and the cost quoted above is based on a minimum No. of 20 adult participants. Should tour membership fall below this number, the tour operator reserves the right to re-cost the program.)

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$769

REQUIRED DEPOSIT PER PERSON: \$ 3 0 0

PASSPORTS MUST BE VALID FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS FROM DATE OF RETURN

You may pay the \$ 300 per person deposit by check or credit card. There is no extra charge for this.

Visit www.friendshiptours.com and book your trip online. You may also pay your deposit and purchase insurance online.

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Friendship Tours - Trust Account
Please Mail This Completed Form with Your Payment to:

Friendship Tours
P.O.Box 1140
Moorpark, CA 93020
CONTACT: Pastor Craig 320-235-4685

You must register with EXACTLY TO THE LETTER your name as it appears on your passport. Do not register for this tour with a nickname or omit JR or Sr if that is what is on your passport. If you already have a passport, please send a copy of it when you register.

Name (on passport) _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel: () _____ Email Address _____

Type of Room Required: Twin Occupancy Single Occupancy (Additional charge)

I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE OPTION TO PURCHASE TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE FROM ALLIANZ INSURANCE AND I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE TOUR CONDITIONS PERTAINING TO THIS TOUR.

Signature (required) **(SIGN ON REVERSE AS WELL)**

Date

(See Reverse for Form of Payment and Important Insurance Information)
FORM OF PAYMENT

BY CHECK:

FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE OCTOBER 1, 2026

I have enclosed a Deposit of \$ _____ Per Person, for a Total Check amount of \$ _____.

II BY CREDIT CARD: To pay by credit card, please visit our website

www.friendshiptours.com and follow the prompts. We do not accept American Express Cards.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL PASSENGERS PURCHASE TRIP INSURANCE

IMPORTANT - TRAVEL INSURANCE - PLEASE READ THIS ALLIANZ INSURANCE PLAN

For those wishing to purchase the Allianz insurance, please apply directly to Allianz Travel Protection, using the application form included with the insurance brochure.

SPECIAL NOTES:

To receive a preexisting condition waiver please refer to the Allianz brochure or Call (800) 284-8300 Deadlines apply, so study this brochure before registering for the trip.

Please be aware that you may purchase various levels of Insurance Coverage from Allianz. Study the brochure carefully. **OUR ACCAM # F030632 You will be asked for this.**

IMPORTANT

I will be applying for the Allianz Insurance: ___ YES ___ NO

If you decline the insurance you are fully responsible for all losses incurred before and during your trip.

THE UNITED STATES STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES TRAVEL ADVISORIES FOR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES FROM TIME TO TIME. IT IS YOU (the travelers) RESPONSIBILITY TO REVIEW THESE ADVISORIES AND DETERMINE IF TRAVEL TO THOSE PARTS OF THE WORLD IS SAFE. FRIENDSHIP TOURS ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR SAFETY IN THOSE COUNTRIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE DEPART FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RESPONSIBILITY: CASARA Travel Enterprises, Inc, doing business as Friendship Tours, and its agents and representatives act only in the capacity as agents for passengers in all matters pertaining to the tours, trips, and travel arrangements and accommodations, whether by air, rail, motor coach, ship, boat, or other means of travel or transportation, including hotel accommodations, sightseeing, and other accommodations.

As such, Casara Travel Enterprises, Inc., doing business as Friendship Tours, is free of responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, hurt, or harm to or suffered by, the passenger, or the passenger's luggage or possessions.

Casara Travel Enterprises, Inc. is not responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late air, rail or boat arrivals or departures; or by any change of schedule or other condition; nor responsible for the loss or damage to baggage or any article belonging to the passenger.

Casara Travel Enterprises, Inc. also reserves and retains the continuing right to decline to accept any passenger wanting to travel, or traveling with Casara Travel; and to reject any traveler from any traveling group, at the sole discretion of the present on-site tour director.

The passenger contract used by the carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this tour.

The tour operator and agents and suppliers reserve the right to change the sequence of the itinerary to re-route, substitute, or modify visits or stays, according to local conditions at the time of travel.

ACCEPTED, READ and UNDERSTOOD:

SIGNED:

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE