

Early Christian Rome

Educational and pastoral leaders from a variety of faith traditions – Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical and Reformed - continue to remark that there are few places that surpass Rome for bringing to life the first generations of Christians. Over the centuries, archaeologists and scholars have unearthed countless monuments, catacombs, early house churches, frescos, and sarcophagi that give us a rich window into the life, times and traditions of early Christianity. This heritage is accessible and set within the context of well-preserved ancient and medieval Roman monuments. The city of Rome is a living museum with multiple layers of art, history, and religion.

Illume invites you to bring students, members of your congregation and other constituencies to Rome. Whether you take advantage of one of our thoughtfully crafted itineraries or customize your own, you will enjoy unparalleled expertise from our local guides who combine advanced graduate work in art history, Christian archaeology, church history, Roman history, and are eager to share an insider's knowledge of restaurants, cafes, galleries and venues for artisanal food, art, and music.

Program Objectives

Unearth the life and times of ancient Rome

Walk with local archaeologists through historic streets and past temples, courthouses, shops, baths and apartments. With local experts recreate the daily life of ordinary citizens and glimpse something of the world of the earliest Christians.

Be moved by early Christian art & architecture

The human urge to express faith in symbolic and artistic form was deeply alive in the early Christian community. Rome boasts the most extensive collection of early Christian art. Trace the development of Christian art and architecture through the centuries as it evolved from primitive etched panels in the catacombs and simple rooms in private homes to the genius of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and monumental basilicas built by Constantine.

Awaken a love for Church and Biblical History

Transform adult education and faith formation programs with on-site visits to places where important change took place and where history was shaped by visionary men and women. Worship in unique historical venues. Learn about the development of liturgy, traditions and institutions over the centuries. Meet the men and women who challenged the Church to stay true to its roots.

Faith Heritage Foundations Series and Custom Programs

Illume offers a suggested 7-day program with included visits to the Forum, Palatine, Colosseum, archaeological site at San Clemente, Ara Pacis, catacombs, early Christian basilicas – St. Paul, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran and its baptistry, St. Peter's and its 1st century excavations, the Vatican Museums, S. Praesede, early Christian diaconie, and other cultural sites. Prices from \$2125.

Or work with our in-house scholar to customize a program to Rome and places beyond – including Assisi, Pompeii, Greek sites in Sicily, Renaissance Florence, Byzantine Ravenna, and the ever-enchanting city of Venice. Contact us to see sample itineraries:

Info@travelillume.com 800-368-6757 ex 131