

8-DAY PROGRAM



ROME & THE VATICAN: STUDENT PILGRIMAGE

Walk in the footsteps of saints, encounter living faith at the Vatican, and experience the beauty of Italian culture.



OVERVIEW

Travel to Rome and encounter the heart of the Catholic Church, where faith, history, and culture meet in unforgettable ways. You'll explore the Vatican, pray in historic churches, and walk where early Christians lived and worshipped. Along the way, shared meals, hands-on experiences, and daily moments of reflection help you grow in faith, friendship, and global perspective.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Step inside the center of the Catholic Church at the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica and stand where millions of pilgrims gather each year.
- Explore ancient sites, underground catacombs, and churches that tell the story of the early Christians and the Church's beginnings.
- Make a rosary, learn to cook traditional Italian food, and experience prayer and community in a new cultural setting.



ITINERARY

The actual schedule of activities may vary. The information provided here reflects the typical experiences planned; however, activities and excursions are subject to change due to factors such as weather conditions, community partner availability, and other unforeseen circumstances. Adjustments may also be made to best meet the needs and interests of the student group.

<p>DAY 1 ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive in Rome and meet your TEPA leaders before heading to your Home Base to settle in. • Take an evening walk through the surrounding neighborhood and enjoy your first taste of Italian life. • Gather as a group for opening prayer and participate in an orientation to the program.
<p>DAY 2 THE VATICAN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today, we'll head to the heart of the Catholic Church, the Vatican! • Tour the Vatican Museums and stand beneath Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. • Enter St. Peter's Basilica and see the Pietà while learning about St. Peter's role in the Church. • Pray together in St. Peter's Square.
<p>DAY 3 THE VATICAN & ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join Catholic pilgrims from around the world at a Papal Audience (when scheduled). • Explore the Colosseum and learn about the lives of early Christian martyrs. • Walk through the Roman Forum and imagine daily life in ancient Rome.
<p>DAY 4 ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel beyond the city walls to walk the ancient Appian Way. • Explore the Catacombs and learn how early Christians worshipped in secret. • Visit St. Paul Outside the Walls and see the tomb of St. Paul the Apostle.

<p>DAY 5 ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start the morning with a relaxed visit to a beautiful local church and take time for quiet personal prayer. • Explore a lively Roman neighborhood and then take part in a hands-on Italian cooking class, learning to make pizza or fresh pasta from scratch. • End the day with a simple group reflection on how faith connects to culture and daily life.
<p>DAY 6 ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome, and learn why it is called the “Mother Church.” • Climb the Holy Stairs “Scala Sancta” in prayer, remembering Christ’s Passion. • Take part in a hands-on workshop to create your own rosary to use during the trip.
<p>DAY 7 ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore a local piazza, shop for small souvenirs, and enjoy Italian street life. • Gather for a candlelight prayer service and share reflections on what this journey has meant to you. • Enjoy a farewell dinner together as a group, celebrating the end of your pilgrimage.
<p>DAY 8 ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say goodbye to Rome, and transfer to the airport. • Begin your journey home carrying memories, friendships, and a deeper faith. TEPA staff will accompany your group until airport security.



TEPA HOME BASE

Our group will stay in a secure, well-located hotel or religious guesthouse within the city of Rome. Students will stay in shared rooms with classmates, separated by gender, that have ensuite bathrooms. Our Home Base will be common areas for group activities and reflection time.

FOOD

Students will enjoy hearty Italian meals that provide the energy needed for full days of walking and exploring, with familiar and local favorites like pizza, pasta, grilled chicken, fresh bread, fruit, and, of course, gelato! Most dietary restrictions and food allergies can be accommodated with advance notice.

CLIMATE

Rome has a Mediterranean climate with warm to hot summers, mild spring and fall seasons, and cool, occasionally rainy winters. Students should be prepared for sun, some rain, and temperature changes throughout the day by dressing in layers and bringing comfortable walking shoes.

ABOUT TERRA EDUCATION PROGRAMS ABROAD

Terra Education Programs Abroad (TEPA) partners with schools and private groups to offer pre-designed and fully custom international experiences that align with academic goals while fostering global citizenship. Building on over 20 years of youth development expertise from its parent organization, Terra Education, TEPA delivers transformative experiences for young leaders worldwide.

GET IN TOUCH!

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TERRA EDUCATION'S PORTFOLIO OF TRAVEL PROGRAMS

