



Rome

Follow in the Footsteps of the Popes
Who Marked History

A Lively Exploration in the Heart of the Vatican

Luxaviation's Cultural Experiences combine elite private jet services with La Fugue's bespoke exceptional travel experiences in Europe, and well beyond the old continent, to open hidden doors to culture, art, music, architecture, history and heritage.

Since 1980, La Fugue has offered an original and demanding travel concept centered on art, classical music and opera...

From 30 October to 1 November 2020



LA FUGUE

The smallest independent state in the world, the Vatican is a place of universal power – like the Kremlin, the Forbidden City and the White House. Its political influence is undeniable.

This 2000-year-old institution embodies the principle of secrecy: Vatican terminology is a source of mystery and questions, encompassing “secret” archives, the title of “secret” chamberlain, and the “secret” consistory.

Unsolved enigmas and secret events abound... Elements of transcendence, the supernatural and the irrational only fuel these mysteries.

So, what exactly is the “work” performed by the Pope – the only religious dignitary that is also a head of state? How does he manage to govern both the immaterial and the material?

Independent since 1929, this city-state must manage its ministries, courts, police force and army in a perfectly maintained unclear, opaque system. It all begins with the curious way of electing the Pope: the Conclave. Literally “Con Chiave” – under lock and key.

Our exploration will follow in the footsteps of these Pontiffs who changed history, made headlines, defied critics, and were able to adapt the duties of the church to an evolving world.

Your Trip | *Day 1*

Friday, 30 October - Prelude to Papacy, the Foundation of an Empire

After arrival into Rome, you will be welcomed at the airport by our guide and speaker, Francine van Hertsen, a leading expert in the history of Rome, and transferred to start your first days of tours in the City of Popes.

The day's protagonists:

Legendary

Sylvester I
(314 - 315)



Evil

Paul IV
(1555 - 1559)



Dissolute

Alexander VI
(1492 - 1503)



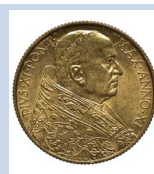
Brave

Paul III
(1534 - 1539)



Decision-Maker

Pius XI
(1922 - 1939)



Silent

Pius XII
(1939 - 1958)



Your Trip | *Day 1 cont.*

From the first century AD, the fates of Pagan Rome and Christian Rome became closely entwined. Indeed, the history of the Popes can be learned just by reading the monuments and admiring the sumptuous backdrop of the Eternal City.

From Capitole Square, where the origins of ancient Rome were transformed as per the will of **Paul III**, we will walk through the Forum to the Arch of Constantine, the Emperor who promulgated the Edict of Milan in 313 – a measure that established religious freedom and tolerance for the first Christians and which, according to legend, gave the territories of Rome to **Sylvester I**. We will then move on to the “Four Crowned Saints” oratory, a place beyond time, where we will admire frescoes telling the story of Constantine’s legendary donation.

The first residence of the Popes, the Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran, will illustrate the living space of the Popes before their departure to Avignon, and will enlighten us as to how the famous Lateran Pacts were negotiated between Pope **Pius XI** and Mussolini, finally resolving the “Roman question”, which had embittered relations between the Papacy (and the Catholics thereafter) and the Italian unitary state ever since the latter had annexed Rome on 2 October 1870, ending the thousand-year existence of the Papal States.

“Da Piperno” lunch in the Ghetto – a must for any initiation into Roman gastronomy.

The Ghetto’s mellow atmosphere, its village-in-a-city feel, and its beautiful side streets are a nose-thumbing to **Paul IV**, who wanted to confine a community within its walls, depriving them of drinking water and mocking its inhabitants by forcing them to join in the Mardi Gras carnival.

This reminds us of the controversy surrounding **Pius XII**’s attitude during the Second World War in 1943.

And by climbing up Janiculum Hill, we will discover what was considered architectural perfection during the Renaissance: the Bramante temple which involves yet another legend, namely that **Saint Peter** (the first Pope) was crucified upside down as a sign of respect for the Christ. From the charming San Pietro Church in Montorio, the view over Rome is uninterrupted, but it is even more magical in front of the “Fontanone” a few metres higher – a monumental fountain built by **Paul V**, uncle of Scipio, a friend of Caravaggio. You will hear the most unimaginable anecdotes.

Your Trip | *Day 1 cont.*

Following this walk, you can rest at your hotel.

Exclusive evening at the **Palazzo Farnèse**.

The **Farnèse Palace** was built by Antonio da Sangallo and Michelangelo for the young Cardinal Alexander, who became Pope **Paul III**. The lovers of his splendid sister Giulia, seduced by the previous Pope **Alexander VI** Borgia, were one of the reasons for his sudden rise to the top, but in no way detract from his clairvoyance. A realist in terms of abuse perpetrated by the Catholic Church, he convened the famous Council Of Trent. Thanks to his generous patronage, we are able to admire the Last Judgment fresco by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel today.

Your Trip | *Day 2*

Saturday, 31 October - The Popes, Aesthetes and Forerunners

The day's protagonists:

First

Saint Peter
(1st century BC)



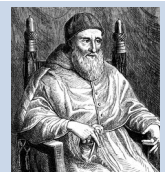
Innovator

John Paul II
(1978 - 2005)



Warrior

Julius II
(1503 - 1513)



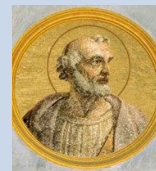
Merciful

Martin V
(1417 - 1431)



Saint

Leo the Great
(440 - 461)



The Colonna Palace, residence of **Martin V** before he was made pope, is equal to the changes he effected. The first pope of the Renaissance sought to reconcile the persuasions of Avignon and Rome, finally succeeding in ending the Western Schism. Merciful towards the faithful, the pope also protected Jews. The artistic and economic reconstruction he effected in Rome led to a more modern city that gradually turned its back on ancient Rome.

Your Trip | *Day 2 cont.*

Lunch at the Palazzo Colonna.

After passing the Swiss Guard, that army created by Julius II, characterised by very specific recruitment requirements and stringent rules (albeit often the subject of news stories), we will descend into the foundations of Roman ruins, reaching Saint Peter's tomb. Thereafter, we will explore the Basilica with its overwhelming extravagance and Baroque aesthetic. The emotion felt at John-Paul II's tomb serves as a reminder that his assassination remains the greatest unsolved mystery of the Vatican.

The exclusive, private tour of the Sistine Chapel and the Raphael rooms will recall the story of Sixtus IV (after whom the Sistine Chapel is named), who wished to reconstruct Constantine's basilica. He was the uncle of Julius II, whose splendid apartments we will visit – complete with frescoes illustrating the actions of several popes.

That is how we will understand, among other things, how Leo the Great, with all his finesse, managed to persuade Attila (the leader of the Huns) to spare Rome in 452. And how Leo IV miraculously managed to put out the fire in the Borgo – the only remaining image of the former Constantine's basilica.

We will then make a secret escape, just like Alexander VI Borgia (who had it built) via the Passetto – a hidden corridor directly connecting the Vatican to the Castel Sant'Angelo, where Clement VII took refuge during the Sack of Rome.

Dinner in a splendid palace of the City of Popes will provide a fine conclusion to an emotionally charged day.

Your Trip | Day 3

Sunday, 1 November - The Papal Patronage

Departure from the hotel with luggage for the final part of your Rome tours (bus available).

The day's protagonists:

Politician

Innocent X
(1644 - 1655)



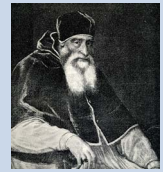
Artist

Leo X
(1513 - 1521)



Hesitant

Clement VII
(1523 - 1534)



The splendour of the Baroque era illustrates the magnificence and luxury of Rome after the Council of Trent. Innocent X transformed the stadium of Domitian into a salon of unique sculptures: Piazza Navona. Its private palace, fountains, the church of Sant'Agnes: the site is the epitome of splendour and magic.

After visiting this residence, the private collection of family paintings in the Doria Pamphilj gallery will reveal the taste and patronage of the pope, completely under the influence of his sister-in-law, Donna Olimpia Maidalchini, who played a key role as Innocent X's puppet-master, so to speak.

The Villa Medici and its gardens will illustrate the eponymous dynasty, which had two popes in its family line – Leo X and Clement VII, respectively son and nephew of Lorenzo the Magnificent.

A private cocktail will be the most romantic "Arrivederci" to the Eternal City.

Airport transport in the afternoon for your return journey.

Your Guide

Francine van Hertsen - Art Historian

After studying at the École du Louvre and the Institute of Restoration in Florence, she worked in the painting conservation laboratories of the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Winterthur Museum. She restored the French artistic heritage in Rome over more than 20 years, and also participated in the restoration of the Sistine Chapel frescoes.

Your Accommodation

Hotel de Russie (5-star)

The splendid park of the Villa Borghese ends in the private gardens of Hotel de Russie.

Located on the corner of Piazza del Popolo, a stone's throw from the Piazza d'Isogna in the vibrant heart of Rome, Hotel de Russie elegantly combines the contemporary and the traditional. Considered the most prestigious hotel of the Eternal City, it is frequented by artists, writers, celebrities and politicians alike. Nicknamed "Paradise on earth" by poet Jean Cocteau in 1917, it is still worthy of that moniker today.



Price Per Person

Double room package: €6,730

Supplement for a single room: €344

The price for this trip includes:

- on-site transfers
- double-room accommodation with breakfast for two nights
- tourist tax
- the tours mentioned in the programme (subject to changes when circumstances so require)
- all meals (beverages included)
- the presence of our guide throughout the trip
- La Fugue's musical surprises
- repatriation assistance

A guide will accompany you on this trip.

The price of this trip does not include:

- extras

Sanitary measures will be followed to protect your safety while ensuring your comfort.