BAROQUE ROME

Trevi Fountain: Largest Baroque Fountain in Rome. This beautiful fountain served Rome for over 400 years supplying the ancient city with water. Always a favorite site for tourists, even unto this today.

Pantheon: The most complete building of ancient Rome. Dedicated to “all the gods” (pan theos), the Pantheon served as a place of pagan worship until the Christianization of Rome in 346AD. In 609AD it was consecrated as a Christian Church.

Spanish Steps: Monumental stairway of 135 steps scaling a steep slope to Trinità dei Monti Church draws visitors to this popular Piazza di Spagna. The design for this beautiful structure was chosen as the winner in an architectural competition on in 1717. Many shops and street drama is enjoyed here today.

IMPERIAL ROME

Coliseum: Amphitheatre hosting gladiator and animal games until it was closed for this purpose in 523. Regarded as a sacred place of martyrdom for many including early Christians. A cross near the imperial box commemorates the Christians believed to have lost their lives here.

The Forum: A market place in 6th Century BC where people came to see orators, attend criminal hearings, comment on the games and/or to discuss politics.

Arch of Titus: A 1st Century triumphal arch built commemorating Rome’s capture of Jerusalem. Reliefs depict the procession displaying the spoils including the temple candelabra (Menorah) and other items taken from the 2nd Temple.

Mamertine Prison: Where Rome’s enemies were held and usually died. According to legend famous prisoners included Peter & Paul.

CHRISTIAN ROME

“The Vatican” (Vatican City): The governing center of Catholicism including the home of the Papal palace, St Peter’s Basilica, St Peter’s Square, the Vatican museum, the Vatican publishing house and library.

The Vatican Museum: The museums house extensive artworks from Etruscan, Egyptian, Early Christian, Renaissance and modern periods. Visitors see magnificent artwork by Raphael, Pinturicchio and Michelangelo.

Sistine Chapel: The Sistine ceiling depicts scenes from Genesis painted by Michelangelo. The walls are decorated with frescoes by Renaissance artists with scenes from the Old & New Testaments.

St. Peter’s Basilica and Square: One of the largest churches in the world it is considered by Roman Catholics as the most sacred site after the Holy Land. It centers on the tomb of Peter the Apostle displays beautiful Renaissance monuments and art by greats such as Michelangelo and Bernini. The Square is complete with fountains, an obelisk and statues of Apostles Peter and Paul.

Catacombs: Ancient burial places beneath Rome most famous for Christian burials from 2nd Century AD. Believed to be a hiding place for Christians during times of persecution.

St. Paul’s Church: After his trial in a Roman court, Paul was sentenced to death. Emperor Constantine built St. Paul’s Church over the area of his burial in honor of the apostle. Inside the church visitors will see the stucco decorated ceiling and many mosaics some dating to the 380s AD.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES (partial list)