

Rome – Friday 2nd September 2011 – 3 days 2 nights

See the remains of the ancient world's greatest empire together with experiencing the oldest continuous and now thriving Jewish community outside Israel, making this an unforgettable week-end. Described as a magnificent ancient museum under the open sky, a multi layered history showcase where you will discover and see signs of Jewish existence dating back 2,300 years.

Flights to be booked by yourselves, RYANAIR www.ryanair.com Friday 2.9.11 at 6.10 am Flight No FR002 landing Ciampino Rome 9.45am - Returning FR3015 - 22.05pm Sunday 4.9.11 at 22.05 landing back to Stanstead at 23.45

Staying at the lovely 4 star Hotel Forum, perfectly positioned overlooking the Forum. 6 minutes walk from the Coliseum and 12-15 minutes from the Jewish ghetto. The hotel's panoramic rooftop restaurant, where we will enjoy breakfast is breathtaking - see www.hotelforum.com

Itinerary :-

Friday 2nd September 2011

10.05am Group will be met at Rome's Ciampino Airport by our guide Stephen Burstin, a resident of Rome. Coach to Rome city centre with a commentary on interesting sites being presented en route. Stop-off at **Fosse Ardeatine**, for guided tour of the memorial site and scene of the 1944 Nazi massacre, including 75 Roman Jews. Proceed to hotel via Ghetto to stock up first on kosher groceries.

2.00pm **Ancient Rome guided** tour, finishing at about 5.00pm whereupon we will be starting on Circo Massimo the ancient Arena the site of the chariot races within the famous Palantine Hill, where we will see the site of the ancient Jewish burial site at Aventine cemetery during the time of the ghetto. We visit the Coliseum with all the accompanying myths and stories and horrors and Jewish connections. We then walk the Roman forum the original shopping centre at Trajan markets stopping at the arch of Titus commemorating the sacking of Jerusalem in 70 CE still in wonderfully condition.

7.15 - Leaving hotel for Minchah and Kabbalat services at the Great Synagogue followed by Shabbat meal in the ghetto

Saturday 3rd September

9 am Shabbat services at the Great Synagogue followed by Shabbat lunch at the kosher restaurant Approx 2pm – Classic Rome escorted leisurely walk enjoying a combination of the City's most picturesque fountains, squares and alleyways with some of her finest architectural and artistic monuments. Sites such as Piazza Navona, Campo de Fiori, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Venezia and the Pantheon with its magnificent dome.

Sunday 4th September

10.00am **Jewish Ghetto guided** tour [3 hours] of the ghetto and surrounding area to discover the incredible 2,200 years history. We see a thriving and bustling community today and visit the great Synagogue to admire its grandeur and the museum [voted one of the best in all Italy] to view amazing relics of Rome's rich Jewish heritage

Monday 5th September (optional) Ostia Antica can be timed to get you back to the Airport in time for flight home. This is a mini Pompeii with an ancient Synagogue and mikva dating back to the 1st Century.

TOTAL COST £545 single room supplement £695 covers:-

- 2 nights bed and breakfast - extra nights are £170 for double or £150 for a single room
- Transport from airport Rome
- All tours guide and museum fees
- Shabbos meals
- Does not include flights, insurance, or return costs to airport - taxi approximately 40 euros